

# CREATION FOR KIDS

**Russell Grigg**

**A**FTER ADAM AND EVE were expelled from the Garden of Eden for their rebellion against God, they began having a family. Their first child was a boy, whom they named Cain. Then they had another boy, whom they named Abel. When the boys grew up, Cain became a farmer and grew crops, and Abel became a shepherd.

## *Making an offering to God*

One day, the two of them offered a sacrifice to God. Cain brought some of the crops he had grown, but Abel offered the very best lamb in his flock. We can imagine that they each made an altar out of stones, put some wood on it, set fire to the wood, and placed their offerings on top of the fire. God was pleased with the offering of the lamb that Abel had made, and He was

pleased with Abel because he had done the right thing in making this offering. However, God was not pleased with the offering of crops that Cain had made, and he was not pleased with Cain.

Why the difference? The Bible says that 'without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins' (Hebrews 9:22). This is because the punishment for sin is death. In the Old Testament, when a



person killed and sacrificed an animal, they showed that they understood this.

Perhaps their father, Adam, had told them about when he and Eve had disobeyed God—how God had made clothes of skin for them to replace the fig leaves they were wearing. This meant that at least one animal had died because of their sin. Perhaps God had told the family what He wanted them to do, that is, to offer a blood sacrifice when they came to Him.

Jesus called Abel a righteous man (Matthew 23:35) and a prophet (Luke 11:50–51). The Bible says that Abel made his offering 'by faith' (Hebrews 11:4). Abel's heart was right toward God.

Cain disregarded all this. He could have traded some of his crops for one of Abel's lambs, but he didn't want to do things God's way. It seems he decided for himself how he would behave and what was right and what was wrong. His heart was not right toward God.

When God rejected his offering, Cain was very angry. God said to Cain, 'Why are you angry and so sullen, Cain? If you do what's right, will you not be accepted? But if you don't do what's right, sin is like a wild animal crouching at your door. It wants to have you, but you must overcome it.'



# Cain and the first Murder!



### **The world's first murder**

Sadly, Cain ignored what God said. Instead, a little later, when he and Abel were out in the field, Cain was so angry that he turned on his brother and killed him. This was the world's first murder. God saw what had happened, because He sees everything, and He spoke to Cain again. 'Where is Abel your brother?'

'I don't know,' lied Cain, 'Am I my brother's keeper?'

'What have you done?' demanded God. 'Your brother's blood is crying out to Me from the ground. Now you are under a curse. The ground will no longer yield its crops to you, and you will be a restless wanderer on the earth.'

### **The message for us**

The Bible tells us something about ourselves that we all already know: that we have all done wrong things. The Bible calls this sin, and so we all need God's forgiveness.

Some people say that sin does not matter, but here we see the awful sin of the very first murder in the family of the first man. Today God doesn't want people to make blood sacrifices like the lamb Abel offered. God has already done this for us through the death of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, on the Cross.

Jesus is called 'the lamb of God'. This is because when Jesus died, He shed



His blood for us, as 'a once for all' sacrifice. This paid the penalty for everyone's sins (Hebrews 10:10; 1 Peter 1:18–19). Because of this, God can now justly forgive all those who are willing to receive His forgiveness, His gift of salvation.

'For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life' (John 3:16).

However, Jesus didn't stay dead. He came back to life and now sits at the right

hand of God the Father, in heaven. He came to Earth for our sake, and He is the only One who has ever resisted Satan's temptations without ever sinning. When we are tempted to do things we know are wrong, we can ask Jesus to help us overcome the temptation, because He can give us the power to do so and live lives that are pleasing to God.

The Bible says (1 Corinthians 10:13): 'God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are

able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.'

When Jesus was tempted He resisted Satan by remembering verses from the Bible. How many Bible verses do you know? See if you can memorize the two verses given above.

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