

BETHANKFUL

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Gen. 4:3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

Gen. 4:4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

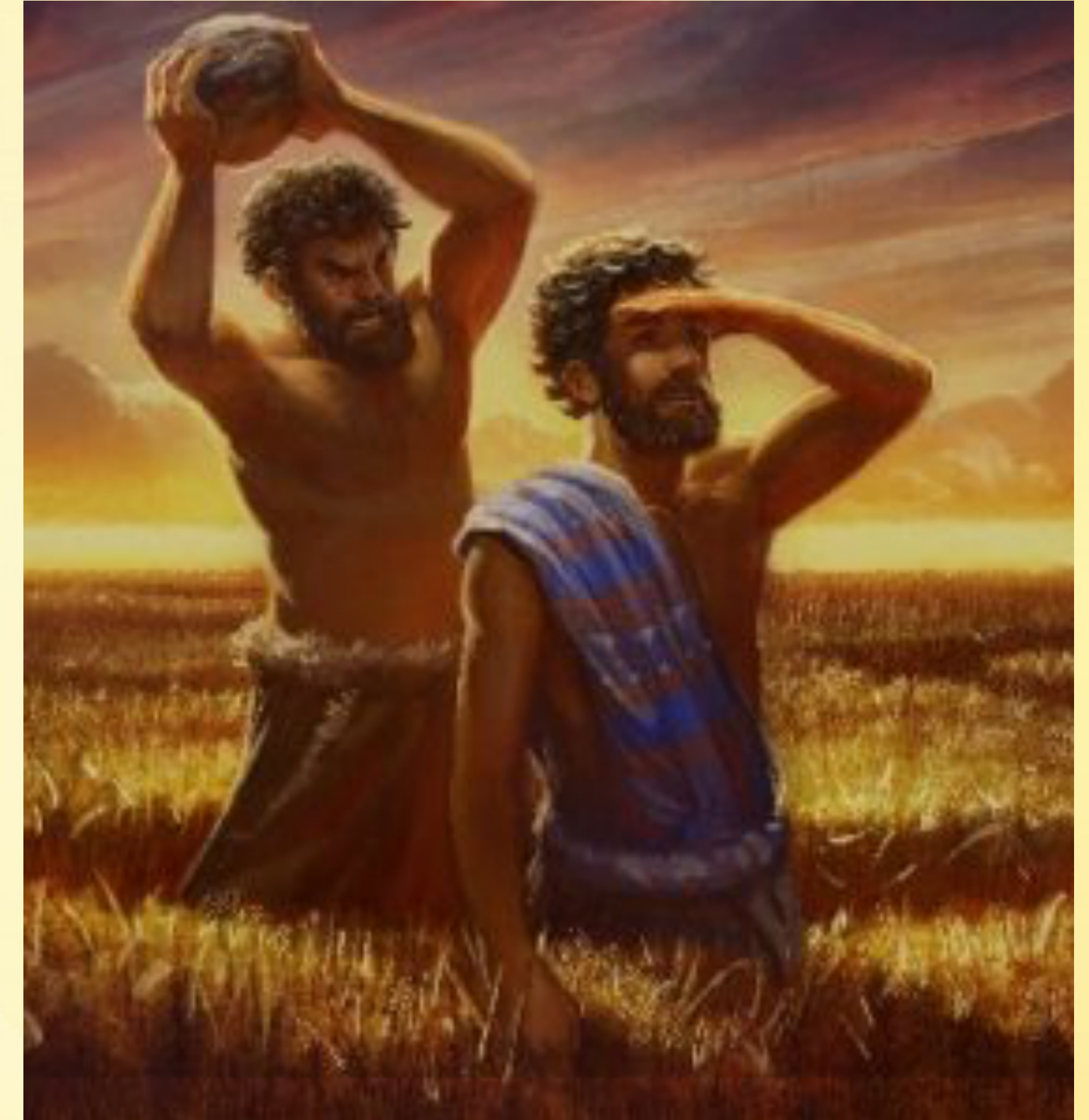
Gen. 4:5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Gen. 4:6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

Gen. 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Gen. 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

- **Cain's offering was not received by God because of Cain's heart. The mere fact that he envied his brother while offering a gift to God made his gift insufficient. *Matt. 5:24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.***
- **Giving to God while pursuing selfish ambitions, is giving out of an impure heart. We must give to God, while doing things His way. *2 Tim. 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.***
- **In order to truly show our thankfulness to God, we must not seek to be lifted up in our own endeavors. *Rom. 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.***



- **Pride is the byproduct of selfish ambition. When a person is seeking riches and prominence, they are doing it to look good in the eyes of others. *Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.***
- **In order to pursue our selfish ambitions, one must invest in self. This pursuit is in opposition of Christ's teachings of self denial. *Rom. 8:8 So then those who are living the life of the flesh [catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature] cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him.***
- **Selfish motives cause us to forsake being responsible for others. We must make sure our goals and aspirations do not interfere with our God given creation roles. *Prov. 16:8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.***



- Cain wanted what his brother had, which resulted in his downfall and the destruction of many today. Instead of correcting his issue, he sinned to conceal his error. *James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*
- Sin will mangle our gifts and talents and make them unacceptable to God. We cannot harm others or forsake others for our own ambitions. *Luke 6:31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.*
- No matter what we achieve or accomplish in this life, if it does not produce Godly fruit then it's worthless. And like Cain, it births the desire to destroy the imagery of what is right and true. *Rom. 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*



SUMMARY

Abel pleased God and received God's acceptance as a reward. Cain wanted that same respect and God told him exactly how to get it. However, instead of doing things God's way, he chose his own way. His way led to him being cursed, as well as his entire generation, so he never received what Abel received!

The end of selfish ambition is always sin. Because sin produces displeasure with oneself, it then births bitter envy against those that are blessed of God, because of their better choices. Displeasure causes jealousy towards righteous living, in spite of the fact that they chose the wrong way. When you fail to do things God's way, you will not receive the blessing of God on your offering. Money, fame, and recognition may be your end game, but your offering to God will be in vain because you did not do things His way. Our creation role will produce things that selfish ambitions can not. A happy home, Godly contentment, and peace are the fruits of God's way. These products will bring forth true thankfulness and the fruit of His way gives life, which is a sufficient offering unto the Lord.

***Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren,
by the mercies of God, that ye present your
bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto
God, which is your reasonable service.***