

"THE WAY OF CAIN"

Jude 1: 5-11

INTRODUCTION:

A. Regarding the text:

1. Jude describing course followed by false teachers
2. Genesis 1 and 2 record the Creation of the world for man and the Creation of man for the world.
3. Genesis 3 tells of the entrance of sin into the world and the punishment decreed due to it.
4. Genesis 4 opens with the birth of Cain, whose name means "acquired or begotten."
5. The bulk of Genesis 4 concentrates on the sinful way of Cain and his murder of his younger brother Abel.

B. Examine what the Bible says about the ungodly way of Cain, to avoid his errors and be apprised of the kind of character that attends willful false teachers.

DISCUSSION: Gen 4 shows that the way of Cain:

I. INVOLVES FALSE RELIGIOUS PRACTICES:

- A. May surprise some to note that Cain is a religious man!
 1. He was not an infidel or atheist.
 2. Certainly believed and knew that God existed
- B. Observe these facts about his religious life:
 1. He brought an offering to the Lord.
 2. It appears to be a reasonable one - "firstfruits of the field,"
 3. Brought in worship to God, but in vain Matt 15:9

C. Cain's sacrifice unacceptable, while Abel's was

II. INVOLVES A REJECTION OF DIVINE AUTHORITY:

- A. God accepted Abel's and rejected Cain's offering
- B. Why the difference? Gen 4:4; Heb 11:4
 1. Cain's offering was made without faith Rom 10:17
 2. It did not please God Heb 11:6

III. INVOLVES ANGER HATRED AND CYNICISM:

(Cynicism = an inclination to believe that people are motivated purely by self-interest; skepticism)

- A. Cain's response "wroth and countenance fell" Gen 4: 5
 1. Was angry - ultimately with God.
 2. Saddened & sorrowful, not unto repentance 2Cor 7:10
- B. He became envious of the favor shown to his brother.
- C. Instead of planning to correct his own error, he plots against Abel What did Abel do?

IV. INVOLVES STUBBORNNESS REBELLION AND LIES:

- A. God reproves and rebukes Cain thusly, "Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen?"
 1. God already knew the answer.

2. Question rhetorical, drives home point to Cain.
 - B. God asks, "If doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?"
 1. This shows impartiality of God. Acts 10:34,35
 2. Same opportunity as Abel to be accepted in worship
 - C. Warning: 'if thou doest not well, sin lieth at door'
 1. Sin unbridled is progressive in nature
 2. Hard & cruel master Prov 13:15; Gal 6:7,8
 - D. But Cain does not heed God's warning but spurns appeals of God, Cain rebels
 - E. Envy produced murder Cain slew Abel because his deeds were evil, but Abel's righteous 1Jhn 3:12
 - F. The obedience and faith of Abel stood in stark contrast with the obstinance and impiety of Cain.
 - G. When God interrogates Cain, Cain persists in sin
 1. First case had been man's struggle with Satan
 2. Second case had been man's struggle with himself
 3. Adam & Eve evasive but humble; Cain was haughty
 - H. God asks, "Where is Abel thy brother?"
 1. Cain haughtily responds, "I know not. " He lies.
 2. "Am I my brother's keeper?" disavows any moral or social responsibility for others.
 3. It is a gross violation of the image in which God created man - a moral, social being.
 - I. Cain's way is paved with the amoral philosophy of one who seeks to justify his wrongs against others!
- ### V. INVOLVES RETRIBUTION OR PUNISHMENT:
- A. Justice demands the punishment of wrong doing
 1. Abel's blood cried out to God for vengeance
 2. Sinner deserves his due. thus retribution
 - B. The punishment decree is most graphic.
 1. Ground did not yield her strength
 2. He would wander as a vagabond in the earth no home, no place of rest.
 3. A mark was placed upon his forehead, that no one would slay him.
 - C. Cain would learn lessons of Psa 146:9; 147:6

CONCLUSION:

- A. Way of Cain a way of sin and destruction. A way of: False Religious Practice; Rejection of Divine Authority; Haughtiness and Pride; Unjust Anger and Cynicism Hatred and Malice; Lies and Deceits; Self-will and Sullen Rebellion; Bitter Envy and Murder.
- B. Let's learn the lessons revealed by the ungodly life of Cain and avoid them at all cost