

The story of Cain and Abel has always been a subject of much conjecture among Bible teachers. We are told that, in the course of time, Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, but Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock. However, the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering He had none.

The most widely accepted interpretation on the narrative is that, after the Fall, the principle of atonement through a sacrificed lamb was clearly revealed to Adam and his family, and Cain, by his offering, refused the Lord's method and sought to establish his own.

Genesis goes on to record God's sentence against Cain after the murder of his brother and his lament when driven out from His presence to be a fugitive and a wanderer on the Earth.

Cain was overwhelmed with the punishment, but not as an expression of regret or for pardon. On the contrary, it was the cry of a depraved man about to be stripped of his material possessions and fearful that the kinsmen of Abel would find him and slay him in revenge.

But God put a mark on Cain, a sign given as assurance that no man would kill him. His preserving wicked men like this usually has a two-fold purpose. They become His instruments to inflict vengeance on the ungodly and to sanctify the saints.