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# A CHARACTER STUDY ON CAIN AND ABEL

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# A Character Study on Cain & Abel

Character & Time-Frame	Background & Synopsis	Character Strengths & Weaknesses	Various Theological Aspects
<p>Cain: Before his murder of Abel</p> <p>Cain means possession (Fausset) or gain, buy (Albert Barnes).</p>	<p>Cain, the first male born after the creation, was the first known to experience sibling rivalry, which led to the first murder (Gen 4:8) and this led him to be the first vagabond (Gen 4:12). Cain is a primary example in the Bible of the devastating results sin brings upon man.</p>	<p>Strengths: One, Cain's strengths was helping to establish early culture in humanity and building the first recorded city in civilization (Gen 4:17). Two, while Cain failed spiritually, there was an attempt made to please God (Gen 4:3).</p>	<p>This introduction of an offering to God is the beginning of a long saga on sin and necessary sacrifices for redemption from sin (Gen 4:3-5). Cain's refusal to make adjustments regarding his sacrifice was an element that led up to his brother's murder. The perfect, one-time sacrifice of Christ (Heb 10:10) ends up becoming <i>the</i> major theme in the Bible.</p>
		<p>Weaknesses: Big sins do not creep up on you overnight. Not spending his early years growing spiritually naturally contributed to Cain's moral demise.</p>	
<p>Cain: After his murder of Abel</p>	<p>The absence of government was no excuse for Cain's sin. God was available for help. Cain knowing he would be punished (4:13) revealed his thinking. He was willing to suffer whatever consequence there was in front of him. And suffer he did. Somehow, the people would have understood the mark on Cain (Gen 4:15), but this isn't something we understand in today's day.</p>	<p>Strengths: God heard Cain's cry (Gen 4:13-15) and gave him mercy, which was a highlight in his life (Psalm 36:5).</p>	<p>One, Cain, Moses, &amp; Paul all murdered, but Cain suffered much more. Motive (I John 3:12) and disposition both play a major role in receiving punishment. Where knowledge abounds (Luke 12:48), so does the intensity of the responsibility. Two, decreasing man's lifespan decreased sin and pain in the life of man (Gen 6:3).</p> <p>Sin overtaking a person's life is displayed in Cain's story. After Abel's murder, he may have stopped the sacrifices altogether.</p>
		<p>Weaknesses: His murdering Abel and then lying about it (Gen 4:9), having an issue with his offering (Gen 4:5), the main issue being faith (Heb 11:4), and leaving the presence of the Lord (Gen 4:16) were the major mistakes in Cain's life. Even with God dealing with Cain on such a personal, one-on-one level (Gen 4:6), Cain still rejected the grand opportunity.</p>	
<p>Core Principle: In some character studies, you get a lot of what not to do.</p>			

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Abel: Before his death	<p>Meaning of Abel: Breath (Easton), vanity, weakness, or vapor (Fausset).</p> <p>Moses having written these accounts roughly 2600 years after the fact would not have hindered the accuracy (2 Peter 1:21) of the account.</p>	<p>Strengths: One, Jesus calling Abel a righteous man (Matt 23:35) is one of the best complements man can receive on this side of eternity. Two, God looked favorably on Abel's offering (Gen 4:4) for two reasons. His offering met the standard (Mal 1:8), and his heart was in the right spot (Heb 11:4), which greatly assisted in his deeds being right (Jas 2:14-26).</p>	<p>Being declared righteous refers to salvation (Romans 4:3), but being called a righteous man (Matt 23:35) refers to the testimony after salvation (Gen 7:1). Abel only offering a type was still dependent on Christ's offering, the antitype (Heb 12:24). Faith, the main element that made Abel's sacrifice suitable (Heb 11:4), also serves as a main element in pleasing God (Heb 11:6).</p>
		<p>Weaknesses: The meaning of Abel's name seemed a bit prophetic of Abel's demise.</p>	
Abel: After his death	<p>With the earth being nigh empty of people, Abel would have gotten the choicest land for his sheep to graze on.</p> <p>Being the victim of the first murder kept him from living the long life that was accustomed at that time. It is said that the first martyr's grave is near Damascus.</p>	<p>Strengths: The Bible didn't mention any of Abel's sins. While it is clear that he would have sinned (Ec 7:20), having no record of that list goes to show how well his testimony proved to be.</p>	<p>Why did God allow Abel, a righteous man, to be murdered (Psalm 91:10)? Abel, the first martyr, was persecuted (1 John 3:12) for the cause of Christ (2 Tim 3:12), which can also be called a privilege (Acts 5:41).</p> <p>Abel, who was the first one to make it to paradise, had quite a wait in front of him to see the Messiah come down to earth (John 8:56).</p>
		<p>Weaknesses: In Abel's day, it was common for a man to live eight or nine-hundred years. Abel making an early exit also gave him less opportunity to make huge blunders, which have proven to be common in humanity.</p>	
<p>Core Principle: While there was no written revelation in their day, God still provided ample opportunity to lay the right foundation.</p>			

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Works Consulted: Barnes; Easton; Fausset; Hastings.



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