

ACCEPTABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE WORSHIP

MARCH 23/30, 2023

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

Hebrews 11:4 NKJV

We discovered in our study of Genesis 1-3; God, the Creator of the Universe, blessed those who were faithful and obedient to His commands and standards for worship and righteous living and cursed those who did not.

In the beginning, God placed the 1st man and woman in the Garden of Eden to "worship" Him. They participated in perfect worship with a perfect God in a perfect place until Satan, a fallen angel of God, attacked the worship of God. Adam and Eve's disobedience severed their relationship with God and brought curses and death to the world (**Romans 6:23**). Sin changed everything, including how we entered God's presence in worship today. Sin hinders our worship of God and affects His acceptance of our worship.

Satan's attack on God's worship continued from the garden into the real world with Cain and Abel's offerings in Genesis 4:1-16. Satan's persistent vigilance is why Bible also warns us today, "*Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*" **1Peter 5:8 (NASB)**

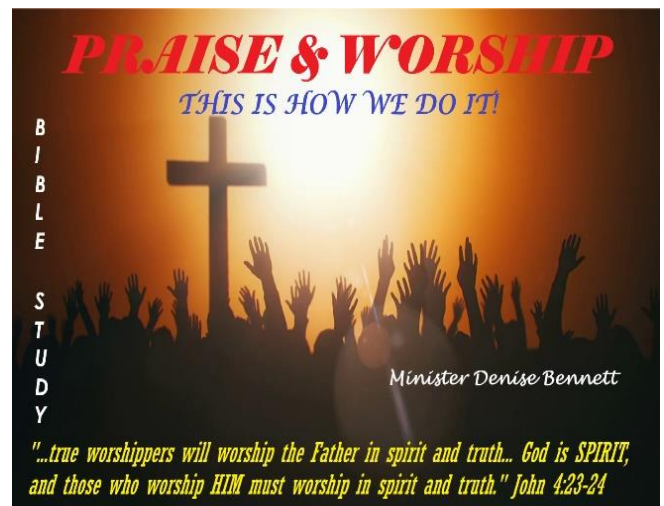
But God continued to shower His grace on the lives of the first family and their descendants, despite "the fall of mankind" in the garden. God promised Adam and Eve a Savior who would restore God's relationship with humanity through the seed of the woman (**Gen. 3:15**). Until Jesus died on the cross and rose again, God remained faithful to His creation, revealing His power, authority, and love and teaching them the acceptable attitude and act of worship. While we are sinners and did not deserve to approach God, He made a way for us to know and worship Him (**Romans 5:8**).

Genesis 4:1-5 NKJV

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore **Cain**, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord."

²Then she bore again, this time his brother **Abel**. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but **Cain** was a tiller of the ground.

³And in the process of time it came to pass that **Cain** brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord.



⁴**Abel** also *brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat*. And the Lord **respected Abel and his offering**,

⁵but **He did not respect Cain and his offering**. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

⁶So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

⁷*If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door*. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

⁸Now 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 killed him**.

⁹Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel, your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

¹⁰And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.

¹¹So now **you are cursed from the earth**, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

¹²When you till **the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you**. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."

¹³And Cain said to the Lord, "**My punishment is greater than I can bear!**

¹⁴Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me."

¹⁵And the Lord said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And **the Lord set a mark on Cain**, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

¹⁶Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.

LET'S GET PERSONAL

- The Lord determines the worth and acceptability of our gift/worship. (Read: The Widow's Two Mites - **Luke 21:1-4**)
- When we worship God, we are acknowledging that He is worthy of praise, honor, and glory (**Revelation 5:12**).
- Worship is about our heart's position toward the Lord rather than going through the motions of worship. (**Matthew 15:8-9**)
- Any area of our life can be offered as worship. (**1 Corinthians 10:31 & Romans 12:1-2**)