

Learn Your Bible

Lesson #2

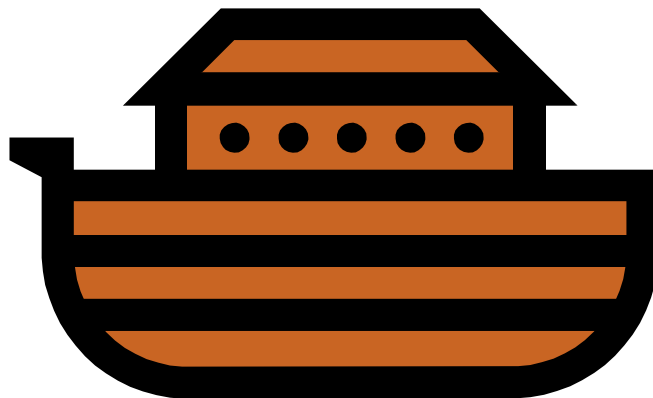


In this lesson, we shall see the world's first murder, the wickedness of man, God's first major act of judgment and the beginning of God's drawing out of a "peculiar people" for Himself.

In Genesis 4, we find the proof text for the old quip, "if you want to stay popular, don't discuss politics or religion." As a Christian, for the most part I can keep my mouth shut on the subject of politics, but not the subject of religion.

Jesus tells us (in Luke 12:8-9), "And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God; but he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.." We have a responsibility to look into our faith and discuss it, confess it, and as Peter says (I Peter 3:15) "but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always {being} ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence."

Cain and Abel remind us of what we already know... that when faced with the responsibility of changing their lives in such a way as to be in harmony with God, many people just get angry or jealous. We often fear to discuss our faith, but we need to realize that error (false teaching) and/or rationalization will **not** stand the ultimate test of the word of God.



As we move into chapter six of Genesis (skipping over the genealogy of chapter 5), we again learn the lesson of choosing a mate of the followers of God. The sons of God down through the ages, have been caused a lot of grief as they chose

their mates outside the family of God. Gradually, all men became wicked, with the important exception of Noah. God saw the filth and decided to destroy it. He "held his temper" long enough for the family of Noah to save themselves from the calamity to come.

We learn a great deal about God's manner in salvation from this first "worldwide" judgment. He warned Noah, and told him how he could be saved. Noah had the responsibility of acting on this promise of God.

This episode ends in chapter eight with the promise that "while the earth remained," nothing like this would happen again. Men ridiculed Noah, but righteous Noah stands in the "roll call of the faithful," (Hebrews 11) just as we too, have the right to be named in the book of life!

*Read Genesis chapters 4, 6,7,8 and II Peter 3. Then answer these questions:

1. What was the cause of the world's first murder? (see I John 3:11, 12) _____

2. What similar situation do we face today?(Mark 15:10)_____

3. Do you think Cain would have killed his brother, if Abel had forsaken his religion?_____ Read Romans 10:17 and Hebrews 11:4 What was wrong with Cain's religion?_____

4) How does the example of Cain and Abel relate to us trying to go out to teach the gospel today? _____

5) Read Hebrews 11:4 and Revelation 6:9-11 and give a brief conclusion on how Abel's trials relate to ours. _____



6) What does our Lord require of us? (see Luke 12:8-9) _____

7. What causes people to become angry in discussing their religion? _____

8. Read I Peter 3:15. Why should we study continually and test our beliefs? _____

9. Why did God destroy this world? _____

10. What was the requirement placed on Noah for his salvation?

11. What is Noah called in II Peter 2:5? _____

12. Was his ministry a successful one? (I Peter 3:20) _____

13. Noah was saved from or by water? _____

14. Do you see a parallel between the admonition of Peter (Acts 2:40) and God's warnings to Noah? _____
(explain) _____

15. When was Noah safe from judgment? _____

16. If he hadn't gotten into the ark, would he have been saved? _____

APPLICATION

17. When we are faced with responsibility and making our lives right with God, what should be our response? _____

18. What two men have given us an example of a proper response to God? _____ and _____ Who has given us an example of an improper response? _____

19. Would God have been just or unjust to have destroyed Noah, had he not obeyed God? Why? _____

20. Would he be just for destroying us, if we refuse? _____

21. What do we learn from these examples in early history concerning our response to the demand of the gospel?

22. What do we learn about the word of God? (II Peter 3)



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