

The New Testament Church
The Book of Jude #5 – Jude 1:11a; (Genesis 4:1-15) – The Way of Cain
February 2, 2025 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I Introduction and review of Jude - called to contend as well as continue in the faith

A. The Book of Jude

1. It is a summary of key truths to prepare the early Church for the “test” of evil rising
2. Be calm and confident as God allows the collapse of evil to manifest His Kingdom

B. A review of lessons one through three – Jude 1:1-7

1. Family is first test in Kingdom manifestation – Jesus is our example with his own family
2. Opposition causes us to clarify our beliefs (apologetics) – contend for original gospel
3. We overcome sinful obstacles by the persevering of the Holy Spirit in God’s remnant
4. We continue in the faith when we learn to live under spiritual and natural authority

II Continuing in the Faith – The Way of Cain vs. the Way of the Cross – Jude 1:11a

A. What is the way of Cain (to be good enough to please God)? (Genesis 4)

1. After the fall, Adam and Eve had two sons – Genesis 4:1-5

a. Cain, the **first born** – “was a tiller of the ground” – our sin nature is the first born

1. Cain “brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord” (his own effort)
2. God “did not respect Cain and his offering, and Cain was very angry”

b. Abel, the **younger** – “was a keeper of sheep” – our new nature is the younger

1. Abel “brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat” (a helpless sacrifice)
2. “And the Lord respected Abel and his offering” (God accepts our confession)

c. Cain **murders** Abel – Ge. 4:6-8 – flesh persecutes the spirit (1st Jn 3:12; Gal. 5:17)

1. Why are you angry? ..If you do well, will you not be accepted? If you do not well
2. ...sin lies at door. Its desire is for you, ...you should rule over it” (God’s way)

d. God **punishes** Cain directly (He models original civil government) – Ge. 4:9-15

1. Where is Abel? I don’t know. Am I my brother’s keeper? (I am not responsible)
2. The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground – law of land
3. Cursed from earth.. work harder.. fugitive.. vagabond.. hidden from God’s face
4. God set a mark on Cain – justice – innocent until proven guilty - mercy

2. The legacy of Cain affects culture – Enoch (city power)... Lamech (polygamy; pride)
(Note: the origin of farming, music, bronze, literature can be used for good or evil)

B. The way of the Abel – the way of the cross – Genesis 4:4; 25-26

1. Abel brought the firstborn (his sin) to the Lord – Genesis 4:4 (see also Lev. 4:9)

- a. He killed an animal – blood was shed – and brought as a substitute (helpless)
- b. The sacrifice was for sin (animal) as well as the sins committed (fat - excess)

2. The legacy of Abel affects culture – Ge. 4:25-26; Hebrews 11:4 (still speaks today)

- a. Seth is born – appointed another seed instead of Abel – a new seed (Christ)
- b. The 3rd gen. (236 yrs) – Enoch. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.

C. So how will we continue in the faith? – we must overcome sin which knocks at the door

1. Admit the **sin of self-effort** (Cain - good enough to please God) – the lust of the flesh
2. We **thank God** for Christ – the sacrifice of the sin offering (the only mediator)
3. We **confess** the **sins** we have committed (fat) – offering them on His altar
4. God always begins **at the heart level** – our attitudes – we need His help to change us
5. **When hearts are transformed it eventually becomes a revival which changes culture**