

SABBATH, Jan. 26.—**LESSON IV.—Cain and Abel.**—(Gen. iv. 3-10).

Leader 3. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. Num. xviii. 12.

School 4. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof.

L. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering (Heb. xi. 4):

S. 5. But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

L. 6. And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

S. 7. If thou doest well, shalt thou not be

accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door; and unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

L. 8. And 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 slew him. Heb. ix. 28; Matt. xxiii. 35.

S. 9. And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother?

L. And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? Psa. ix. 12; John viii. 44.

S. 10. And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. Heb. xii. 24.

TOPIC—True and False Worship.

Golden Text—Ye are come to Jesus, the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.—Heb. xii. 22, 24.

LESSON SCHEME.**BIBLE SEARCHES:**

1 Sam. xv. 22. Prov. xxi. 27. Matt. v. 21, 22. Gen. ix. 6. Gen. xxxvii. 20. Deut. xxvii. 24. Rev. vi. 9, 10.

Outline:

1. The bloodless offering, v. 3;
2. The blood offering, v. 4;
3. A brother's blood, v. 5-8;
4. The blood of vengeance, v. 9, 10.

Recite *Title, Topic, Golden Text, Selected Verses, and Outline.*

1. What was Cain's offering unto the Lord?

Why was it not acceptable to God? [It contained no *sacrifice*—no offering for sin. Heb. ix. 22.]

What had sin brought into the world?

What only could atone for sin? Lev. xvii. 11.

Of what was Cain guilty? [Of presumption, in trying to make God a receiver, instead of a giver. Acts xvii. 25.]

What was the worship of Cain, then? [Formal worship, without heart-service.]

NOTE.—A worship that does not recognize sin as something to be deplored, leads to a continuance in sin. Cain, though a formal worshipper of God, indulged in hatred against his brother.

2. What was the difference between Abel's offering and that of Cain?

What did this offering of blood signify?

In what were Cain and Abel alike? [Both sinners, needing atonement.]

In what did they differ? Heb. xi. 4.

Why was Abel's offering acceptable? Because offered in *faith*.]

What, then, is essential to true worship?

With what offerings is God "well pleased?" [1 Sam. xv. 22; Psa. li. 7; Heb. xiii. 16.]

Are forms of worship in themselves beneficial?

Is it necessary now to use blood in worshipping God?

Why not?

Home Readings

M. Gen. iv. 3-10.
 T. Heb. xi. 1-19.
 W. Matt. xxiii. 27-29.
 Th. 1 Kings xxi. 1-20.
 F. Matt. vii. 15-20.
 S. Josh. vii. 16, 26.
 S. Psa. cxxxix. 1-12.

3. Why was Cain angry at Abel?

Why did he kill him? 1 John iii. 12.

Was Cain a murderer in heart before he actually slew Abel? 1 John iv. 20.

What are the teachings of Jesus in regard to hatred in the heart? Matt. v. 23, 24.

What other instances in the Bible of false worshippers seeking the life of the true servants of God? [Study the lives of Joseph, Elijah, Daniel, Stephen, Paul.]

In what way was the same spirit shewn by the Jews toward Jesus?

In what way does the unregenerate heart shew the spirit of Cain?

4. How did Abel's blood cry from the ground?

For what did it cry?

What is God's law in regard to acts of violence? Gen. ix. 6.

Where do we learn in this lesson—

1. Of the first murder recorded,
2. That sin in the heart leads to sin in the life;
3. That secret sin will be revealed;
4. That God judges the act by the motive;
5. That all our actions are known to the Lord, and that he will require an answer for them;
6. That God will revenge the death of his saints;
7. That God has special care for his true worshippers?

THE MONTHLY REVIEW.

1. After the class recitations, let the superintendent call on the school for the four *Titles, Topics, Golden Texts, and Outlines* of the month.

2. From each lesson draw some important practical truth.