

The Nature of Saving Faith

I. Our approach to God is affected in a threefold way. First, the approach in worship; second, walk; and finally, work.

A. Sincere faith affects our approach to God in our worship (Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it, he being dead yet speaketh.) I see a threefold way Abel's faith was sincere by his worship; first, he offered God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain. Second, he obtained witness that he was righteous; finally, by it, he being dead yet speaketh.

1. Abel offered God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.

a. The subject in focus (**Genesis 4:1-2** And Adam knew -- Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bore -- Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord. **2** And she again bore -- his brother -- Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.)

1) Perspective: Cain means "acquired of the Lord," or "he is here." (**Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity between thee and -- the woman, and between thy seed and -- her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.) Abel means "vanity, wind."

2) The work of the two men: Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain was a tiller of the ground. Abel was able to keep sheep and nurture and use what sheep and goats were able to give. Cain was able to till and use what the ground gave to Him. The scholars mock the position of ability to gather and care for food and sheep. In their view, the first humans were knuckle-dragging quadrupeds. The so-called "missing links" from ape to man (all seventeen supposed missing links) have three foundational fallacies that take away from evidence and show they are interpreting what they have found with a worldview. First, they take artistic licenses; second, they trust that people will live in the headlines, and finally, their charts are evidence of creation. So, Cain and Able were sinners who looked like us and lived in a civilized knowledgeable manner. A pastor uses a quote to explain the foolishness of the so-called evidence of missing links. "There are no missing links in God's history in the little book *Countdown*, which is so interesting. Hardy, the scientist who wrote it, says this -- and I'm going to quote -- listen to this -- "The search for the missing link is Mr. Hyde at its best. If the evolutionist were using a scientific approach, he would be looking for at least three million missing links, for that is an estimate of how many are needed to prove his theory. Dead or alive, they cannot produce a single, scientifically acceptable trace of intermediate life. Their very able press agents have some well-concealed skeletons in the evolutionist closet."

Listen. "The Nebraska Man said to be a cool million years old, scientifically built up from one tooth and found later to be the tooth of an extinct pig."

"Number two, the Colorado Man." -- Some evolutionary -- "Same evolutionary processes as the Nebraska Man, only a different tooth, this time related to the horse family. Three, the Colorado Ape Man, a worthy cousin to the Colorado Man. His skull turned out to be that of someone's pet monkey. Finally, the Piltdown Man, scraping the bottom of the silicate, one million years deep, exhibit number one missing link" -- the Piltdown Man; we all remember reading about it -- "recently is a deliberate fake that fooled the experts for 40 years. Mr. Piltdown somehow had borrowed the jawbone of a modern ape.

"The Heidelberg Man. Just a young gaffer of three million years old, handsomely built with sloping brow and flat nose, all from one lower jawbone. A jawbone conceded by many to be quite human. How they ever get the forehead from the jawbone is difficult to know.

The Java Man. Five hundred thousand years old, his bones first found in the riverbed." Riverbeds, incidentally, in deep canyons make excellent hunting for evolutionists. "Over the ages" -- he says -- "a large enough assortment of old bones is washed down to start a human Tinker toy factory." "Java Man was scattered over an area of many square feet and discovered piece by piece over several years. He was first discovered in 1891, but not properly examined till 1923. His first skullcap was found to be an elephant's

kneecap. But finally, by 1937, he had acquired a jawbone and skullcap found in the same area. Many scientists have discounted Java Man entirely because of his painful birth, but he is still in our textbooks.

“The Neanderthal Man. Evolutionists claimed this race of men were ape-men, the transition. The original skullcap has been claimed at one time or another by different scientists to be that of an idiot, a modern Cossack, and early German.” There’s no relation, I’m sure, with all of that. Take your pick.

“Several fragmentary skeletons have been found since and tagged Neanderthal. Many leading paleontologists consider these skeletons identical in species to modern man. In July 1958, Dr. A reported it at the International Congress of Zoology. J. E. Cave’s examination of the famous Neanderthal skeleton found in France 50 years ago is that of an older man with arthritis. ‘Neanderthal Man,’ he claimed, ‘was not a stooped over, bent-kneed creature but stood erect and moved like modern man.’ The Smithsonian Institute only recently announced Neanderthal Man even attempted surgical operations. Dr. King Kong, no less.

“No wonder the evolutionist is not looking for our type of freedom. He has taken enough liberty in his work to last him a lifetime. With a tooth or a jaw, some plaster of Paris and a” – piece of – “pinch of preconception, he has turned out, in assembly-line fashion, a whole family of King Kongs with about the same authenticity as Mr. Kong himself.”

b. The specifics of the superiority of Abel’s sacrifice over Cain

1) The bringing of the sacrifice

- a) A particular time “Genesis 4:3 And in the process of time it came to pass.” So out of time, a specific time came to pass
- b) A particular place (Genesis 4:3 “Cain brought” and 4:4 “And Abel, he also brought”)
- c) A particular purpose (Genesis 4:3 “an offering unto the Lord.”)

2) The substances of the sacrifice

- a) Cain’s sacrifice - “brought of the fruit of the ground.”
- b) Abel - “And Abel, he also brought his flock’s firstlings and the fat thereof.”

3) God’s acceptance of Abel’s sacrifice

- a) God prescribed blood sacrifice for covering (**Genesis 3:21** Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.) We see four things about sacrifice:

- 1: Man needs to be clothed, and “sinners need to be covered.”
- 2: Man can’t clothe himself— “man couldn’t manufacture a covering that would be acceptable.”
- 3: God must clothe man.
- 4: Satisfactory covering comes from a blood sacrifice.

- b) Abel’s sacrifice was by faith (Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.)

- 1: He came to God by faith: a prescribed method. (**Romans 10:17** So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.)
- 2: He came to God in obedience.
- 3: He came to God willingly.
- 4: He came to God with his best.

c. Abel’s validity of his faith was obedience.

2. Abel’s faith was counted to him as righteousness (**Hebrews 11:4** by which he obtained witness that he was righteous.)

- a. God imputed righteousness on Abel when by faith he obeyed God.

b. Abel obtained witness that he was righteous (**Genesis 4:4** And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering.)

1) God may have sent fire down by way of showing Abel that his sacrifice was accepted (**1 Kings 18:38** Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed -- the burnt sacrifice, and -- the wood, and -- the stones, and -- the dust, and licked up -- the water that was in the trench.)

2) The witness that God has accepted your sacrifice is the jealousy of this world (**1 John 3:11-12** For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. **12** Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and -- his brother's righteous.)

3) Witness God through the cessation of trust in self (**Jude 1:11** Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Korah.)

c. Cain rejected God's grace (**Genesis 4:6-7** And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? **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.)

3. By faith, though being dead, he speaketh.

a. To God (**Genesis 4:4** And he said, What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.)

b. To Cain

c. To us

1) Man comes to God by faith, not works.

2) Men of faith obey the revelation of God.

3) Sin has a terrible price.