Abel’s Conversation

Intro: God records Abel’s life in Genesis 4. However, not a single word of Abel’s is recorded. However, we are told that Cain talked to him; Gen. 4:8 “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.” Yet, we are told that Abel still speaks; Heb. 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.” What does he speak to us? Abel speaks plainly about:

I. The Free-Moral Agency Of Man
   A. Both Cain and Abel had a choice to make concerning God and His Word to them.
      1. Cain chose a way that displeased God.
      2. Abel chose a way pleasing to God.
   B. God has always given man the right to choose.
      1. Adam and Eve had the ability to chose to eat the fruit or not eat it.
         a. Gen. 3
         b. Calvinism teaches when Adam sinned, man lost the ability to choose.
      2. Joshua challenged the Israelites of his day: Jos. 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
      3. Elijah challenged the people of his day; 1 Kin. 18:21 “And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.”
      4. On the day of Pentecost, Peter urged the Jews to save themselves; Acts 2:40 “And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.”
      5. Rev. 22:17 “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”
   C. We must chose because no one can serve God and man; Mat. 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

II. Faith
   A. Abel was one who had faith.
      1. Heb. 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.”
      2. Gen. 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;”
      3. Rom. 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
   B. His faith was not a faith only.
      1. He brought an offering and offered it.
      2. Our faith must also be an active obedient faith:
         a. Gal 5:6 “For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”
         b. 1 The. 1:3 “Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;”
c. That faith includes those acts necessary for salvation:
1. faith—Heb 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
2. repentance—Acts 17:30 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:”
3. confession—Acts 8:37 “And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
4. baptism in water for the remission of sins—Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

d. That faith includes living the Christian life faithfully.

III. Fiery Persecution

A. Cain slew Abel.
1. Gen. 4:8 “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.”
2. 1 John 3:12 “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.”

B. God’s people have suffered persecution.
1. Joseph sold by his own brothers into slavery for 20 pieces of silver.
2. Moses choosing to suffer affliction with God’s people than enjoy the pleasures of sin.
3. King Saul attempted to kill David many times.
4. Jeremiah was put in a miry dungeon because of his faithfulness.
5. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were put into the fiery furnace because they would not bow down to the image made by Nebuchadnezzar.
6. Daniel was thrown into a den of lions.
7. Peter and John then all the apostles threatened and beaten.
8. Acts 8:1-3 “And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. 3As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.”
9. Paul and his many hardships; 2 Cor. 11:23-27 “Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. 2Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. 20Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; 21In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 22In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.”
10. Heb. 11:32-38 “And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: 33Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: 36And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; 38(Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.”
11. Our Lord was put to death for us.

C. We must also be prepared for persecution.
   1. 2 Tim. 3:12 “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”
   2. 1 Pet. 4:4 “Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you.”
   3. Our attitude is persecution:
      a. Mat. 5:10-12 “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”
      b. 1 Pet. 4:16 “Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”
   4. End result; Rev. 2:10 “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

IV. The Favor of God Toward the Faithful.
   A. Abel is listed in the Bible’s hall of fame of faith; Heb. 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.”
   B. He will be rewarded for his faithful obedience to God.
   C. All those who faithfully serve God.
      1. 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
      2. 2 Tim. 4:7-8 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

Conclusion: Abel is still speaking to us today and we need to learn the lessons from history and what he is teaching us.