REBELLION IS A CHOICE

It was night. A pastor in his 30s was in the intensive-care unit waiting for the moment to die. His life was fading away after an apparently unsuccessful surgery, following a hemorrhagic episode.

Why would I be allowed to die? he thought. Was God rejecting him and his ministry? Was there a sin that he forgot to confess, for which he was now being punished? It seemed as if God were too severe, hard, and revengeful, lacking mercy and grace. Was he serving the right God? What if salvation was a mirage?

Amid darkness, a spark of revolt and bitterness started to burn inside his heart. Whether I harbor rebellion and bitterness or not, I will die anyway, he thought. But what if I decide to cling to Jesus’ feet, begging for forgiveness, even though it seems as if He is kicking me aside?” Once making that choice, he was no longer interested in fighting for temporary healing, but for eternal life.

A verse flashed before his mind: “The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (John 6:37, NKJV). After a night of talking to Jesus and with no evidence of God’s acceptance, he was visited by a nurse who prayed with him. After that prayer his bloodwork indicated that the healing process had started. After some more time in the hospital, the pastor was finally discharged! He was now sure that Jesus Himself had healed him that night!

Through Cain and Abel’s narrative we will explore not only the importance of regular offerings, but also how the choice to rebel or to accept God’s sovereignty will affect our worship and eternal destiny.
Write out Genesis 4:1–7 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite it in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Genesis 4:1–7. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

What prevented Cain from looking for forgiveness?

What were the steps that Cain should have taken to be forgiven by God?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw02-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after reading Genesis 4:1–7? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What should trigger the act of bringing an offering? Should offerings be given according to the heart of the giver, or according to God’s prescription?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw02-4
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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Hebrews 11:4
Proverbs 3:9, 10
Matthew 6:33
2 Cor. 13:5
1 John 3:12
Jude 11
John 6:37

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Genesis 4:1–7?

Review your memorized verse from Genesis 4:1–7.
Meditate on Genesis 4:1–7 again and look for where Jesus is.

What is He saying to you through the texts of the week?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Which kind of offerings cannot be accepted by Jesus today, even when delivered during the service, in the church? Explain.

Prayer Response:

Meditate on Genesis 4:1–7 again and look for where Jesus is.

What is He saying to you through the texts of the week?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Which kind of offerings cannot be accepted by Jesus today, even when delivered during the service, in the church? Explain.

Prayer Response:
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study, what are some takeaways for you personally?

Where are areas that these takeaways can be applied to?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/stw02-7
Could Cain still be forgiven even after he killed His brother? Can we determine when someone has gone too far?

If fanaticism means to follow all the small details of God's requirements, which ones should we disobey to consider ourselves as “balanced” persons?

Is zeal synonymous with fanaticism? with legalism? What are the differences?

Why do freewilled and intelligent people need to follow God’s mind? What is the problem with even intelligent minds?

In which situations can self-reliance become a negative trait of character and jeopardize the spiritual life? Explain.

Is there any hope for those who, like Cain, still foster feelings of revolt and bitterness against God? How can they be saved?