

Lecture 3- Biblical Overview of Worship (I): Pre-Moses

Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.” Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”

Gen. 4:1-7

Key Concepts

- Progressive revelation
- Regulative principle of life
- The fall
- The Sabbath
- The worship of the patriarchs

Lecture Objectives

- Explain the objectives of a biblical-theological reading of the Bible
- Examine worship before the fall
- Explore the consequences of the fall on worship

Preliminary Questions

- How do you imagine worship being before the fall?
- Do you view worship each Lord’s day as only possible through a sacrifice? How would that thinking change your preparations for worship?

Biblical Overview of Worship (I): Pre-Moses

I. Interpreting the Bible: A Biblical-Theological Framework

- A. God reveals how He wants to be worshiped
- B. Progressive unfolding of God’s revealed will in stages:
creation –fall – redemption – new creation
- C. Understand the big story of scripture and our place in it

II. Worship Before the Fall

- A. Moment by moment worship

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. – Romans 12:1-2

B. Regulative principle of life (RPL)

1. He was God, and they were not – God regulates all of life according to His Word.
2. The regulative principle of worship fits within this larger notion.

- C. Celebration of goodness & greatness of God
- D. Man in God’s world

1. Servant-worshipper of God
2. Guardian of fellow image-bearers
3. Steward of creation

E. Intimacy of fellowship with God and each other

F. Seventh day: God rested, blessed the day, and made it holy – Gen. 2:2-3

III. The Impact of Sin on Worship

A. Separation and distance

B. The need for sacrifice offered from the heart

1. Gen. 4:1-7 – The problem is the manner in which Cain brought his offering

By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.”

Hebrews 11:4

2. The heart of faith will always seek to bring the best, in accord with what God requires in worship

IV. The Worship of the Patriarchs

A. Genesis 4:26 – Enosh

B. Genesis 8:20-21 – Noah

C. Genesis 12:6-8 – Abraham

D. Genesis 22:14 – Abraham and Isaac

E. Job 1:4-5 – Job

F. Key Principles:

1. The Father-Priest
2. Sacrifices
3. Calling upon the Lord
4. God is the one who provides salvation by His grace
5. Concern for the heart of the worshipper