

# Introduction

## STAR WARS

In 1977 a film came out called “Star Wars.” Later, it got a new name. “Star Wars – A New Hope”

Today’s passage is a **story** of a NEW HOPE.

**Read Gen 4:1-16; 17-24** – Tells us of the sad story of Cain’s family and descendants. **Read Gen 4:25**

## Eve’s story

Eve had been deceived by the serpent in the garden. No doubt Eve is full of regret.

*Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.’*

Cain’s name means “brought forth”, “have acquired”.

Can we see some pride in her own effort? “with the help of the Lord, **I brought forth** a man”

Human effort is never enough to save us

## Abel’s story

“Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.” Very matter of fact. Abel means “breath”.

- Abel brings his offering. “The lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering” v4 but not on Cain’s
- We’re not told the rules of this offering. Its before the Law had been given. How could they know?

Clue is there “Fat portions of some of the firstborn of his flock” Meaning the best of the best.

- We don’t always know what God is asking of us do we.
- “the man of faith offers what he has, sometimes in the dark, and is willing to hear God’s reply”

Right from the beginning God is seeking FAITH. Before the law is even written – it’s about faith.

- Are you stepping out for God by giving him your best? Is your faith alive and active?
- God is pleased with Abel as he offers his best to God. His offering in faith. Hebrews 11:4

## Cain’s story

God asks him “why are you downcast?” They both know the answer. God hadn’t found Cain’s sacrifice acceptable, but Cain didn’t want to learn.

Col 3:23 **“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,”**

But his anger at God is quickly turned to Jealousy with disastrous consequence.

Anger leads to Jealousy, leads to Death – of relationships – of Abel!

## Sin’s Story

Genesis 3 and 4 personify sin – show sin to be like a person, a creature. Very important message. Gen 4:7

A monster hiding by your door. Sin is active. Sin is not passive. Temptation is not constant, it comes in waves, seasons. At moments when you least expect it. “But you must rule over it”.

Praise God that Sin is a defeated monster Jesus defeated sin on the cross! Do we forget that?

How do we win against sin? By faith! “I’m dead to sin and alive in Christ”. By faith we find hope

Gen 4 – God Made - A Hew Hope

## The story of the blood

V10 “your brother blood cries out to me from the ground” Blood speaks to God.

Blood means life - Lev 17:14 “because the life of every creature is its blood.”

Like the Israelites, escaping from Egypt. The blood on the doorpost spoke to God and they were saved.

Hebrew 12:24 talks about the blood of Jesus “*Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.*”

- Abel’s blood called out to God about Cain’s guilt
- Jesus’ blood calls out to God about our forgiveness.

Will you come under the protection of Jesus and put your faith and trust in him?

## Conclusion

This is a story of Hope – Hope comes through faith...

- Abel’s faith in offering to God his best
- Faith as a defence against sin and the death that it brings
- Faith that saves – we trust in the blood (sacrifice) of Jesus.

Through faith, this passage ends with Hope. **Read v25**

Though not the saving one himself, Seth’s descendants would include Abraham, Jacob and Isaac, King David and then **Jesus**.

*“At that time, people began to call on the name of the Lord”*

- “Call on” = worship
- “The Lord” = “Yahweh” the personal name of God.

Through this new line – which leads us to Jesus, comes worship of the personal God.

Acts 2:21 *“And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”*