

ESTABLISHED
in creation

A Tale of Two Worshipers

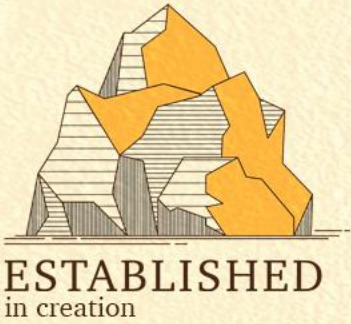
Genesis 4:1-16



SIN

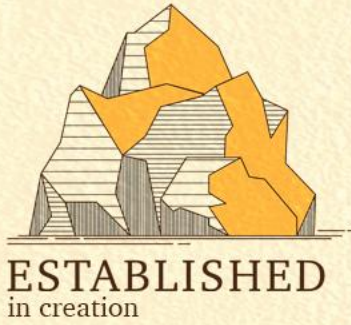
A large, glowing, mushroom-shaped object is positioned in space above the Earth. The object has a dark, textured top and a bright, glowing yellow and white base. The word "SIN" is written in large, white, bold letters across the top of the object. The Earth's blue and white surface is visible in the lower half of the image, and the blackness of space is in the upper half.

SIN



All of humanity and creation was cursed through just one man's sin. Contrary to our short-sighted assumptions, sin is not a finite thing. Its ripple effects are immeasurable, expansive, cumulative, and compounding.

The ripples of Adam's singular sin have not dissipated. They are still breaking upon the shores of our modern lives with unabated, tidal force. Sin has ripped apart the very fabric of creation. Even the seemingly smallest of sins is nothing less than **cosmic treason**.

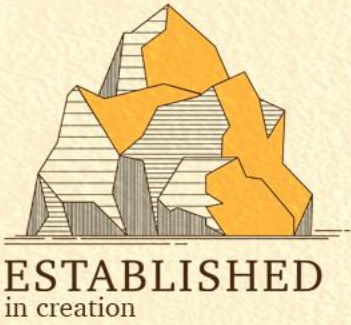


James 1:15

Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

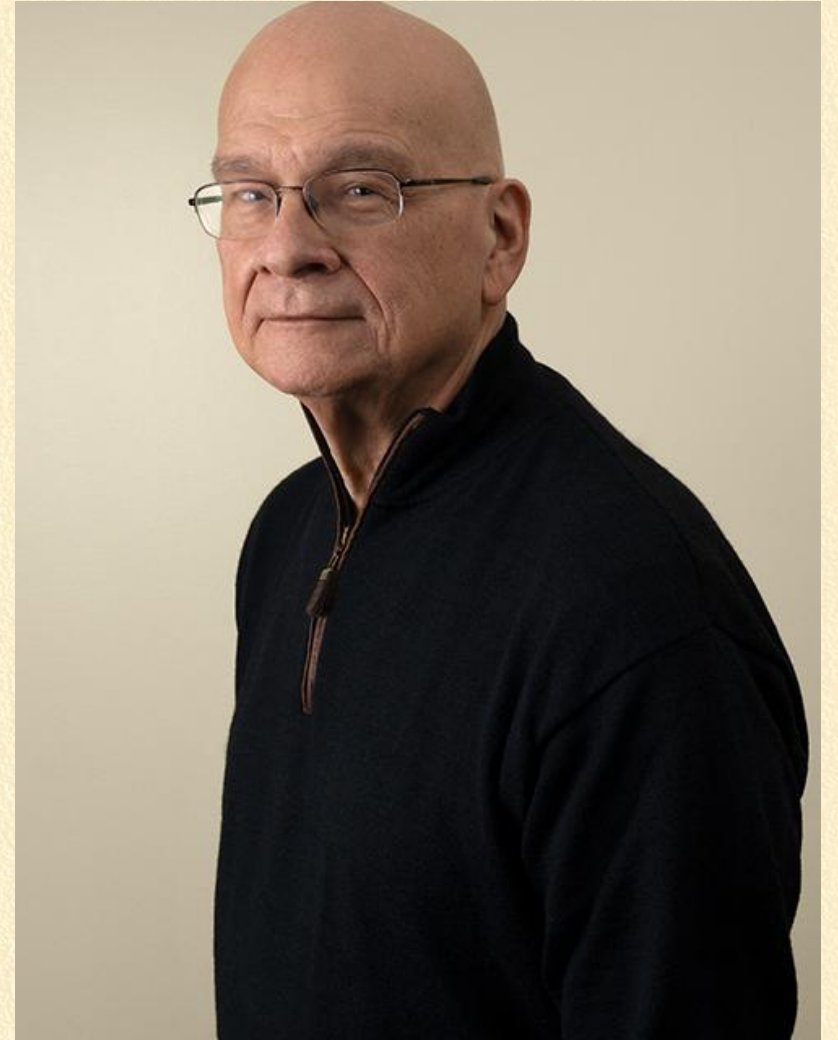


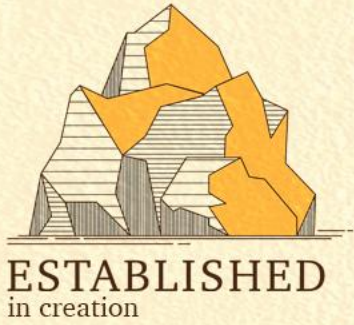




Timothy Keller (1950-2023)

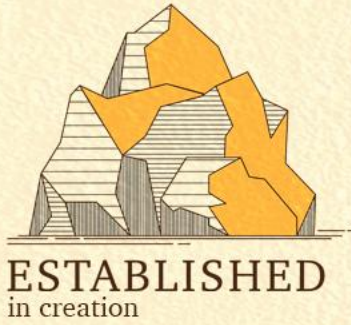
“Enlightenment progress has given us advances in science, but not in human dignity. The 20th century was the bloodiest century ever.”





Hebrew Meaning of Biblical Names

Cain = “lance” or “spear”



Hebrew Meaning of Biblical Names

Cain = “lance” or “spear”

Abel = “a fleeting breath” or “vapor”

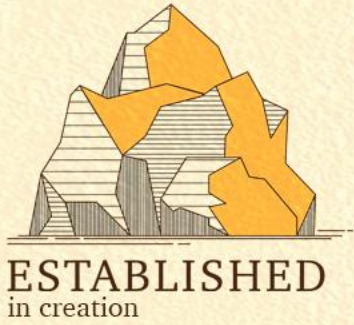


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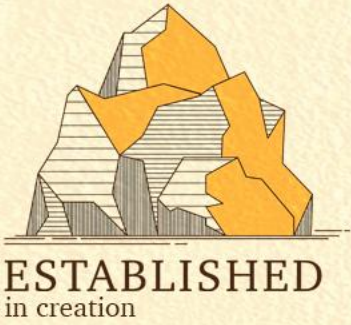
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Genesis 4:4-5

And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard.



Genesis 4:3-4

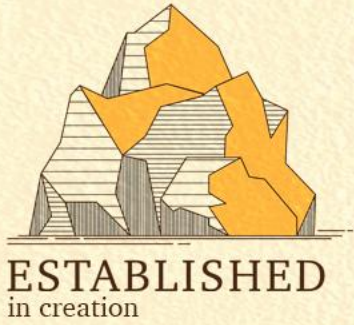
In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions.



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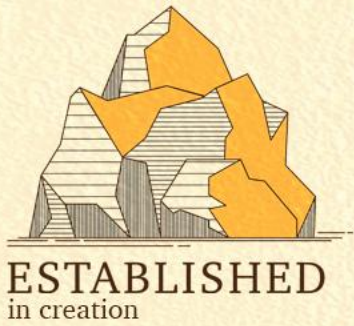
Matthew 15:8

This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;



Jude 12

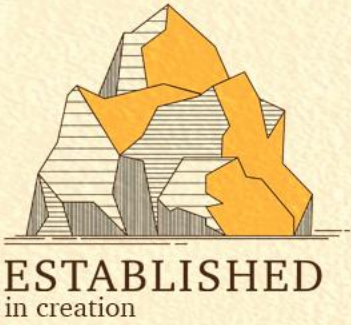
These [men like Cain] are waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted;



Jude 12

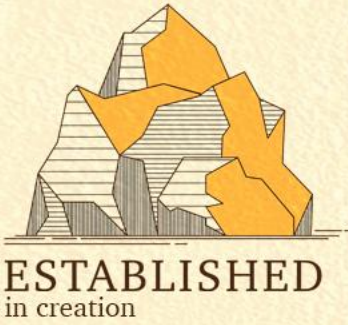
These [men like Cain] are waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted;

= Religion Without Relationship



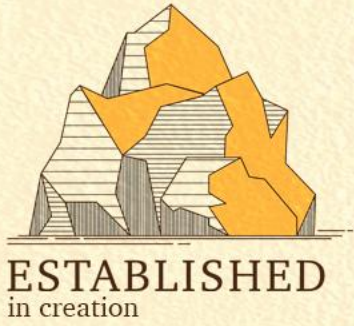
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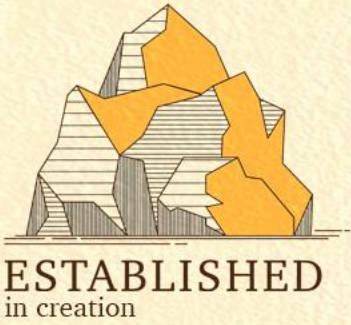
Hebrews 11:4

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.



Hebrews 11:6

...without faith it is impossible to please [God].

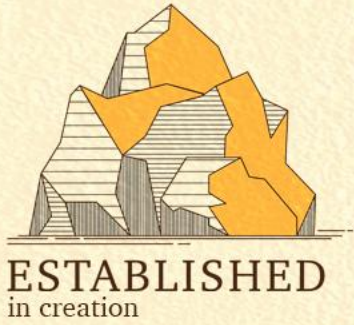


Hebrews 11:6

...without faith it is impossible to please [God].

Romans 14:23

...whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.



James 2:18

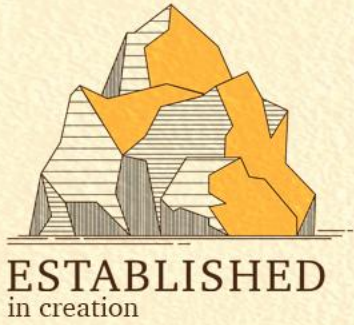
But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.



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Genesis 4:7

“If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, and you must rule over it.”



1 Corinthians 10:13

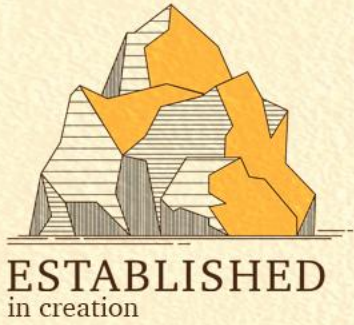
No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.



Read the article at
[BabylonBee.com](https://www.babylonbee.com)

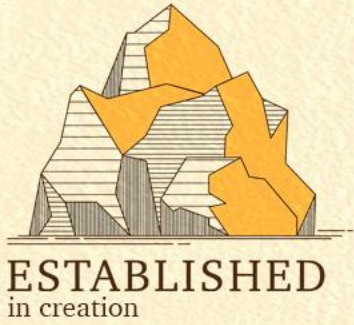
New Evidence Suggests Cain Killed Abel After Five-Hour Game Of Monopoly





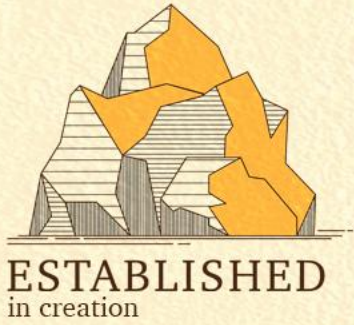
Titus 3:5

[God] saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy,



1 John 3:12

We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.



John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.



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Proverbs 27:4

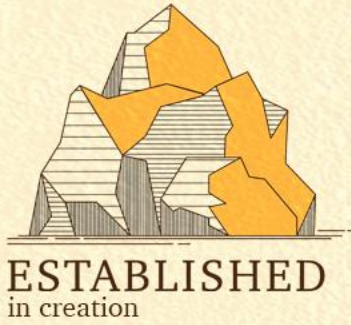
Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?



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Jude 11

Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion.

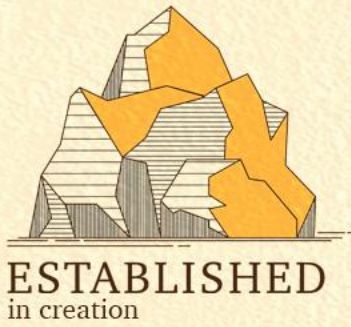


Sydney Greidanus

“God had cursed the serpent and cursed the ground, but God never cursed Adam and Eve: they represented the seed of the woman.

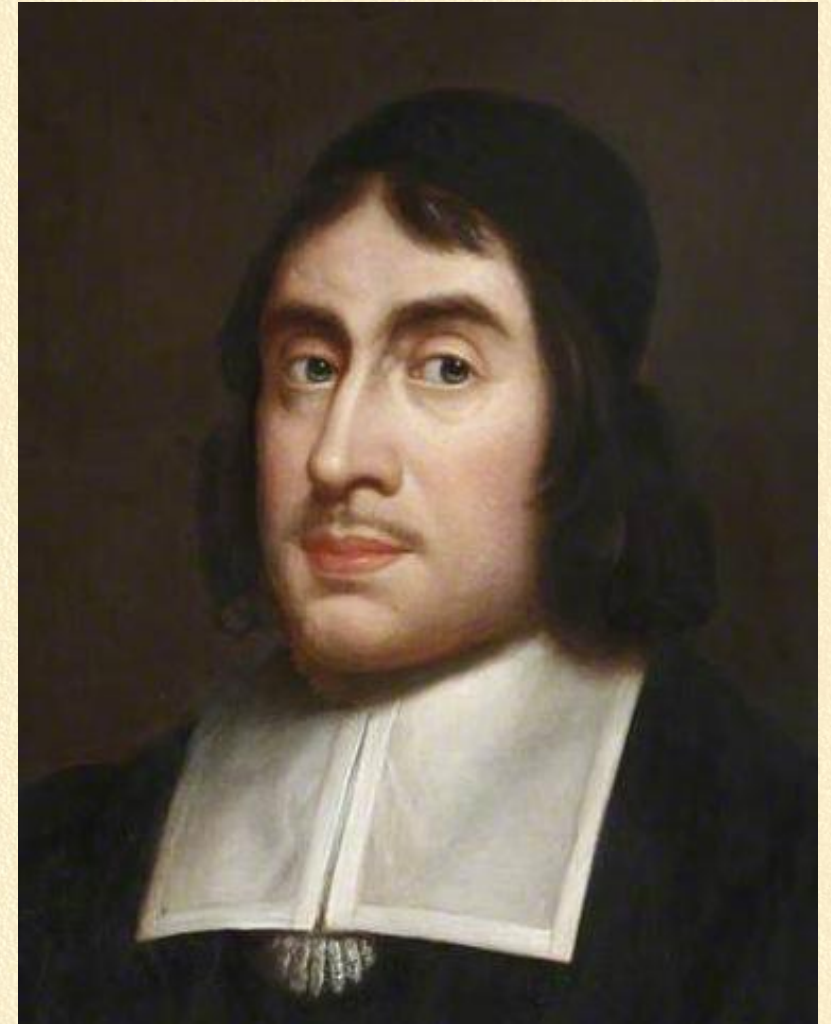
Now God curses their son Cain, confirming that Cain is indeed the seed of the serpent.”

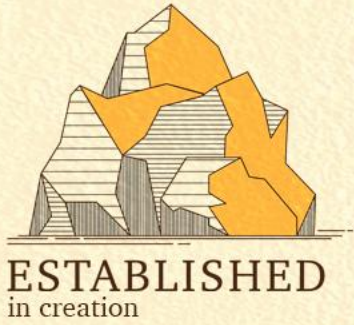




Thomas Watson (1620-1686)

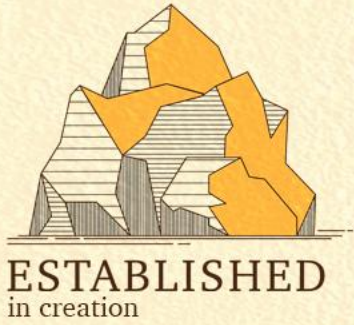
“It is idolatry, not only to worship a false god, but the true God in a false manner.”





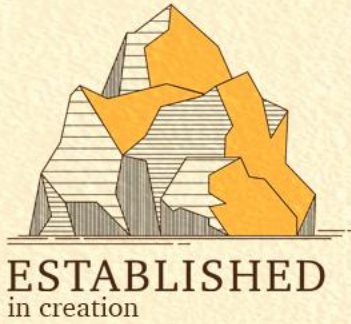
Proverbs 21:27

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with evil intent.



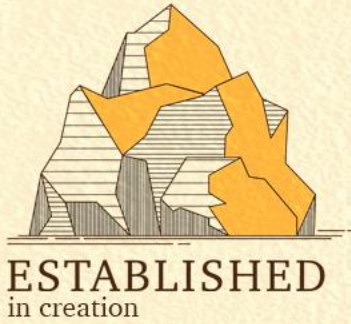
God Responds with Mercy

1. By warning Cain (v. 7)
2. By giving him a chance to confess & repent (v. 9)
3. By putting some kind of sign on Cain that warns of 7-fold vengeance on anyone who kills him (v. 15)



Hebrews 12:22-24

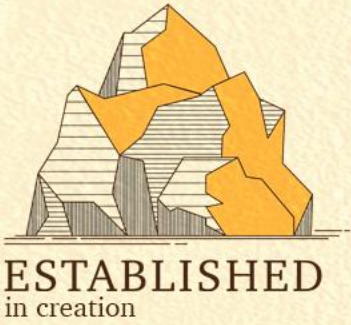
But you have come to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.



Why Jesus' Shed Blood Speaks Better than Abel's

- Abel's blood cried from the earth for justice.
Jesus' blood cries from heaven for mercy.
- Abel's blood exposed guilt.
Jesus' blood removes guilt.
- Abel's blood revealed the problem.
Jesus' blood revealed the solution.

And so Jesus is the true and better Abel.



A.W. Pink

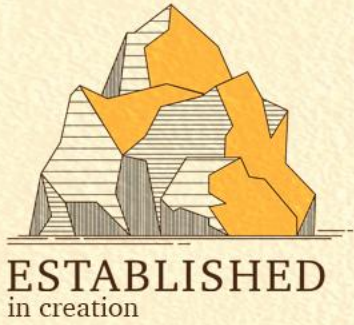
“Cain and Abel stand as the representatives of two great classes of people. They typify, respectively, the lost and the saved; the self-righteous and the broken-spirited; the formal professor and the genuine believer; those who rely upon their own works, and those who rest upon the finished work of Christ; those who insist upon salvation by human merits, and those who are willing to be saved by Divine grace; those who are rejected and cursed by God, and those who are accepted and blessed.”





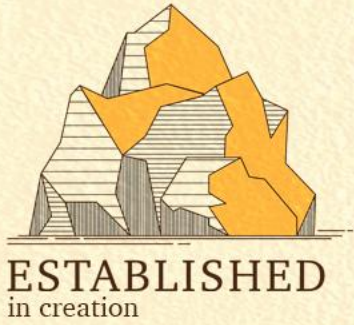
The Story of Cain and Abel

- It's about two ways of relating to God, and only one of them leads to life.



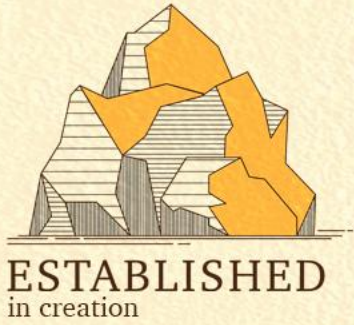
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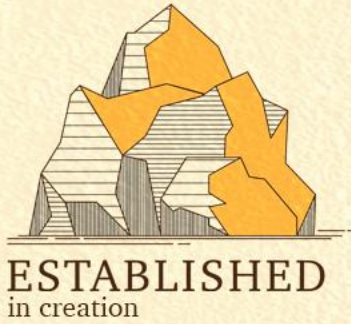
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- It is about choosing which covenant you trust: The covenant of works, or of grace.



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- It's about God rejecting all systems that bypass grace.
- It's to invite us out of self-effort, and into rest.
- It is about choosing which covenant you trust: The covenant of works, or of grace.
- **Stop striving. Stop offering the fruit of your labor & toil. Come through the blood, and rest in the righteousness that was freely given to you.**

Kids' Question of the Week



COMMUNION

