

B.C. Part 1- The Faith of Abel

The narrative of the Bible, including the Old Testament books may be summed up in these simple statements about Jesus; Created by Jesus. The need for Jesus. The foreshadowing of Jesus. The arrival of Jesus. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The church of Jesus. The return of Jesus. The eternal reign Jesus.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

Jesus came to free us from heartlessly following the letter of the law without regard to living in relationship with the One who is the Law.

23 Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. 24 So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. 25 Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. Galatians 5:23-25

You don't need Jesus to live by the rules, but you desperately need him to live by faith.

This (faith) is what the ancients were commended for. Hebrews 11:2

4 By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. Hebrews 11:4

Adam made love to 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." 2 Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. 3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. 4 And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. Genesis 4:1-5

The very first recorded act of worship in the Bible is sacrifice.

For the wages of sin is death, Romans 6:23

Abel's blood offering was a foreshadowing of the cross and it is at the cross where our sin is paid for not in our ability to perform tasks.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Philippians 2:20

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. Psalm 51:17

...I urge you., brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Romans 12:1

The proud have no view of God's mercy because the proud have done nothing wrong.