

# Year-End Giving Update

Through December 31

December  
Goal

\$490,000.00

Amount  
Received

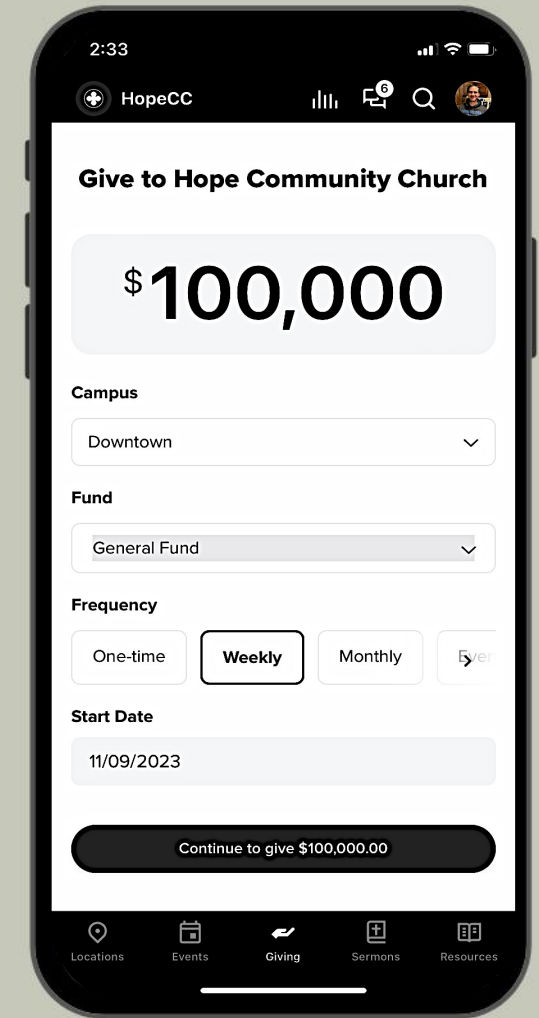
**\$44,299.89**

% received

**9.04%**



**GIVING**  
HOPECC.COM/GIVING  
(or in the Hope App)





*Born Unto Us*

We can imagine the aftermath for the image-bearers, that they would be able to see the entrance to the sanctuary they were now forbidden to enter (i.e. Garden of Eden). Think about the grief that could ensue if you constantly saw the place of your temptation and failure. Outside their former paradise, Adam and Eve – and therefore their subsequent children – would live in exile.

**Offerings at the Door of Eden?**

MAY 29, 2023 | MITCH CHASE

[https://mitchchase.substack.com/p/offerings-at-the-door-of-eden?utm\\_source=%2Fsearch%2Fcain&utm\\_medium=reader2](https://mitchchase.substack.com/p/offerings-at-the-door-of-eden?utm_source=%2Fsearch%2Fcain&utm_medium=reader2)



# Great Expectations?

## Genesis 3:14-15

<sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman (Eve), and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

# Main characters & Setting

## Genesis 4:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." <sup>2</sup> And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.



“The name Cain sounds similar to the Hebrew word for ‘I have gotten’ – he’s literally named ‘the one I have gotten.’ Eve’s excitement is evident: Cain, this ‘acquired one,’ is the seed God has promised. Adam and Eve soon have a second son and name him Abel (Gen. 4:2)...In Ecclesiastes, ‘Abel’ is the book’s most prominent word; it’s translated ‘vanity.’ Eve already has her ‘acquired one’ who will crush the serpent and restore her to paradise, so why had God given her another son? Abel seems pointless. He is the ‘worthless one.’”

**Cain, Abel, and the Danger of Misinterpreting God’s Word**

FEBRUARY 17, 2022 | **JACKSON GRAVITT**

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/cain-able-god/>



# *Christmas Reflections*



*Where do you have Great Expectations?*

# Rising Action: God's Disregard for Cain's Offering

## Genesis 4:3-7

<sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, <sup>4</sup> and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. <sup>6</sup> The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? <sup>7</sup> 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 contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

CAYM · 7 · ABEL

OFFERVNT · DÑO · HOLOCA  
VSTA

ABEL

CAYM



When we observe Cain stalking off, slamming the church door behind him, and brooding over his wounded ego, we are keenly aware of him inhabiting our world. Inwardly, his anger storms. Outwardly, his countenance falls. He wears his soiled soul on his face. The one thing that would make all the difference in his world – God’s approval, God’s acceptance – he does not have. So, he sets out to make a world of his own in defiance of God...Cain’s heart is restless, so he invents his own resting places: anger, bitterness, malice, self-pity.

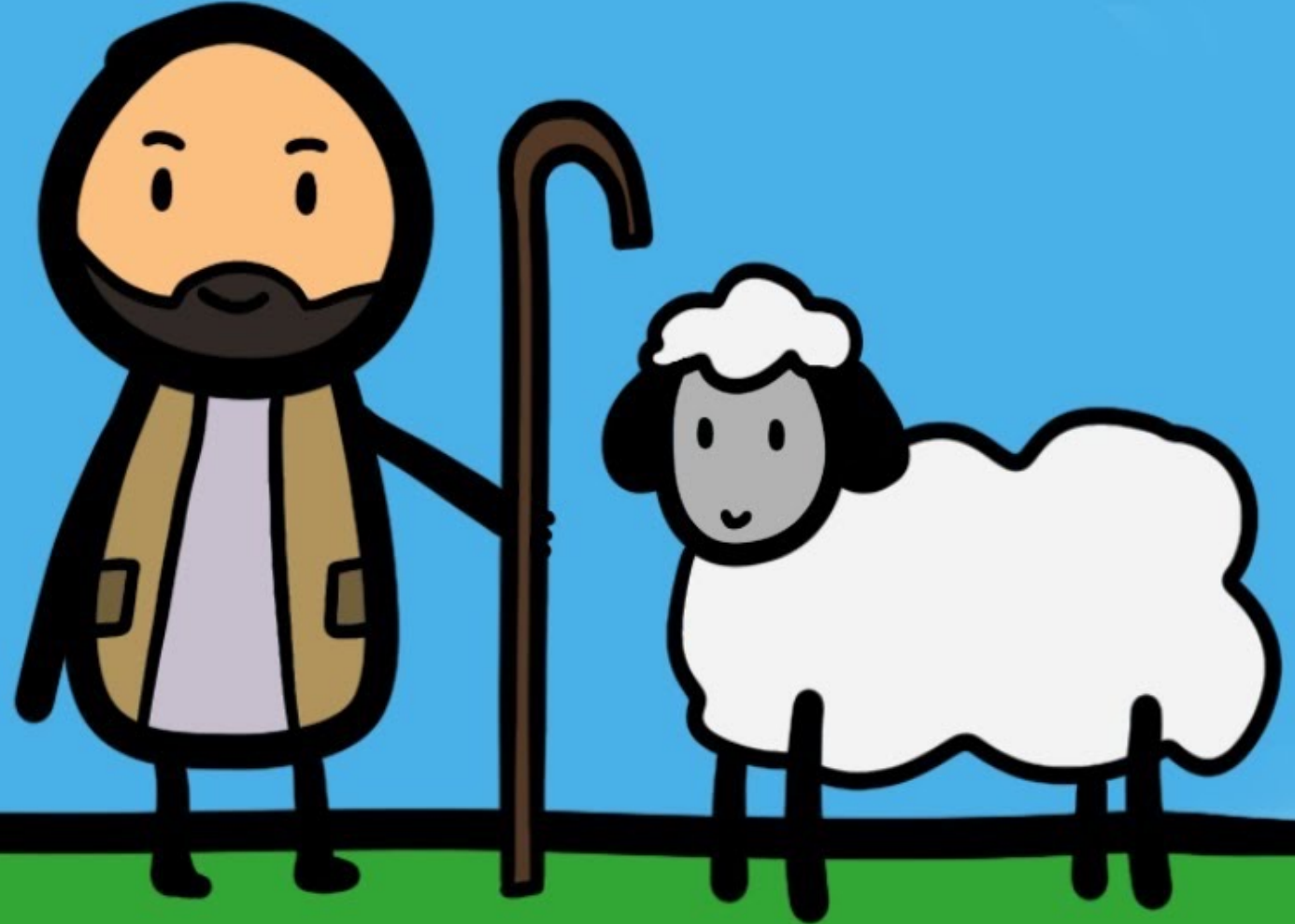
**When blood takes the microphone**

JULY 2, 2019 | Chad Bird

<https://www.1517.org/articles/when-blood-takes-the-microphone>

Cain

Abel





## Cain's Offering or Cain's Heart?

### 1 Samuel 16:7

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as humans see; humans look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."



## Cain's Offering or Cain's Heart?

Psalm 51:16-17

For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering,  
you would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a  
broken spirit; a broken and contrite  
heart, O God, you will not despise.

It's easy to look around and keep score...Envy is focusing more on what others have than what God has graciously provided for you causing you to want what they have and to question the goodness of God...Are you looking around too much? Are you keeping score too much?





# *Christmas Reflections*



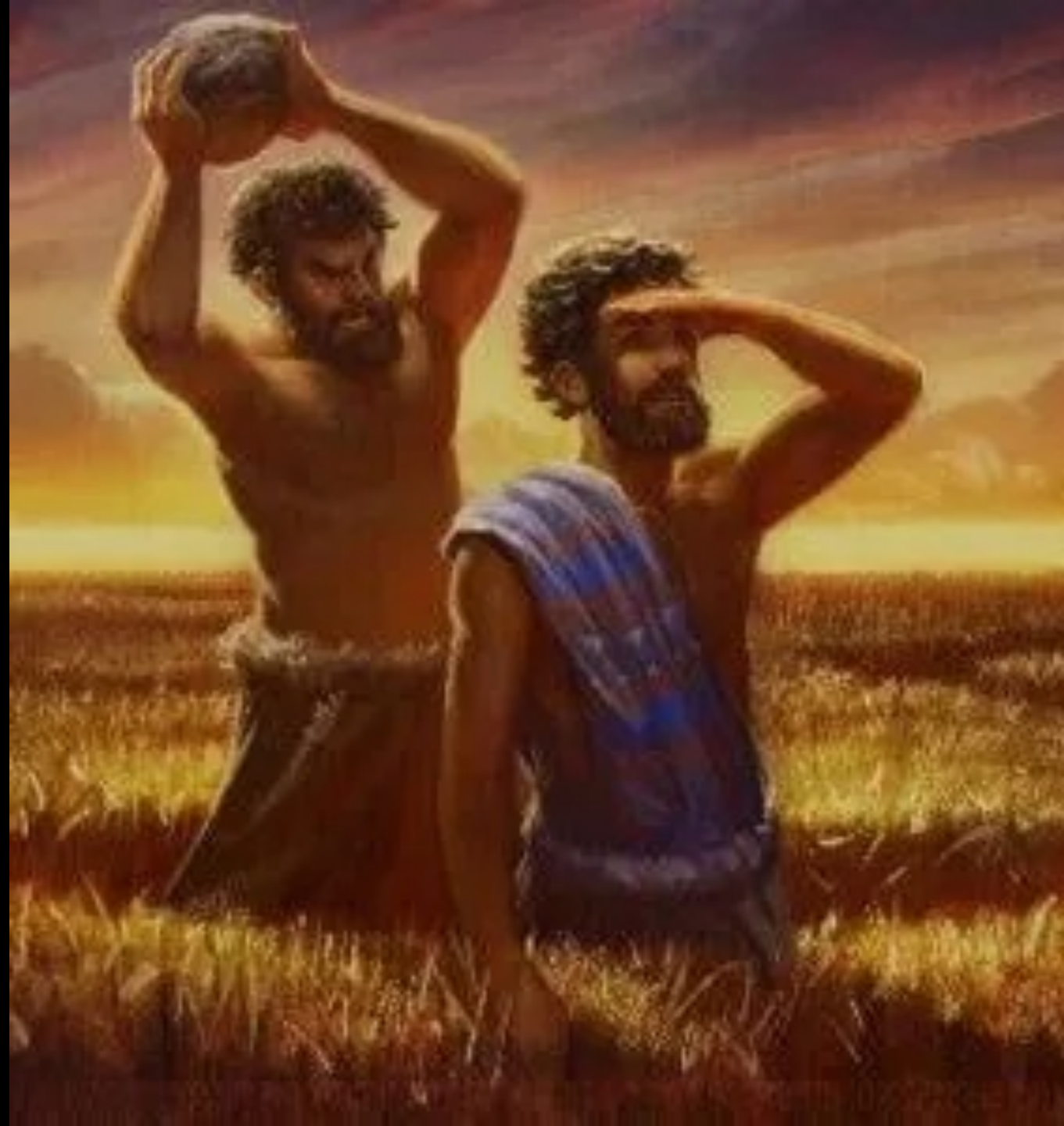
*How's your heart this morning?*

# The Climax: Cain kills Abel

## Genesis 4:8

<sup>8</sup> Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” <sup>10</sup> And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground. <sup>11</sup> And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup> When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”







# *Christmas Reflections*



*Born unto us—Jesus, who laid down his life*

# Born Unto Us—Jesus who laid down his life

John 1:29, 34–36

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!...<sup>34</sup> And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.” <sup>35</sup> The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”

**Born Unto Us—Jesus who laid down his life**

## **What Child Is This**

Nails spear shall pierce him through  
the cross be borne for me, for you  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe the son of Mary



# *Christmas Reflections*



*Is Jesus your Savior?*

# Falling Action: Cain is cast out

## Genesis 4:9-12

<sup>8</sup> Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" <sup>10</sup> And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. <sup>11</sup> And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup> When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

# Born Unto Us—Jesus who laid down his life

## Hebrews 12:24

<sup>24</sup> (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.

When Christ's blood takes the microphone, every square inch of the vast universe, every subterranean haunt of darkness, every hot and blackened corner of hell, and every angel in the celestial choir, shut up to listen. When Christ's blood takes the microphone, it is the only sound in creation, the booming declaration that echoes down the corridors of time, saying, "Father, forgive them."

Angels dance.

Demons scream.

Sinners live.

**When blood takes the microphone**

JULY 2, 2019 | Chad Bird

<https://www.1517.org/articles/when-blood-takes-the-microphone>

# *Christmas Reflections*



*Is Jesus' blood your forgiveness?*

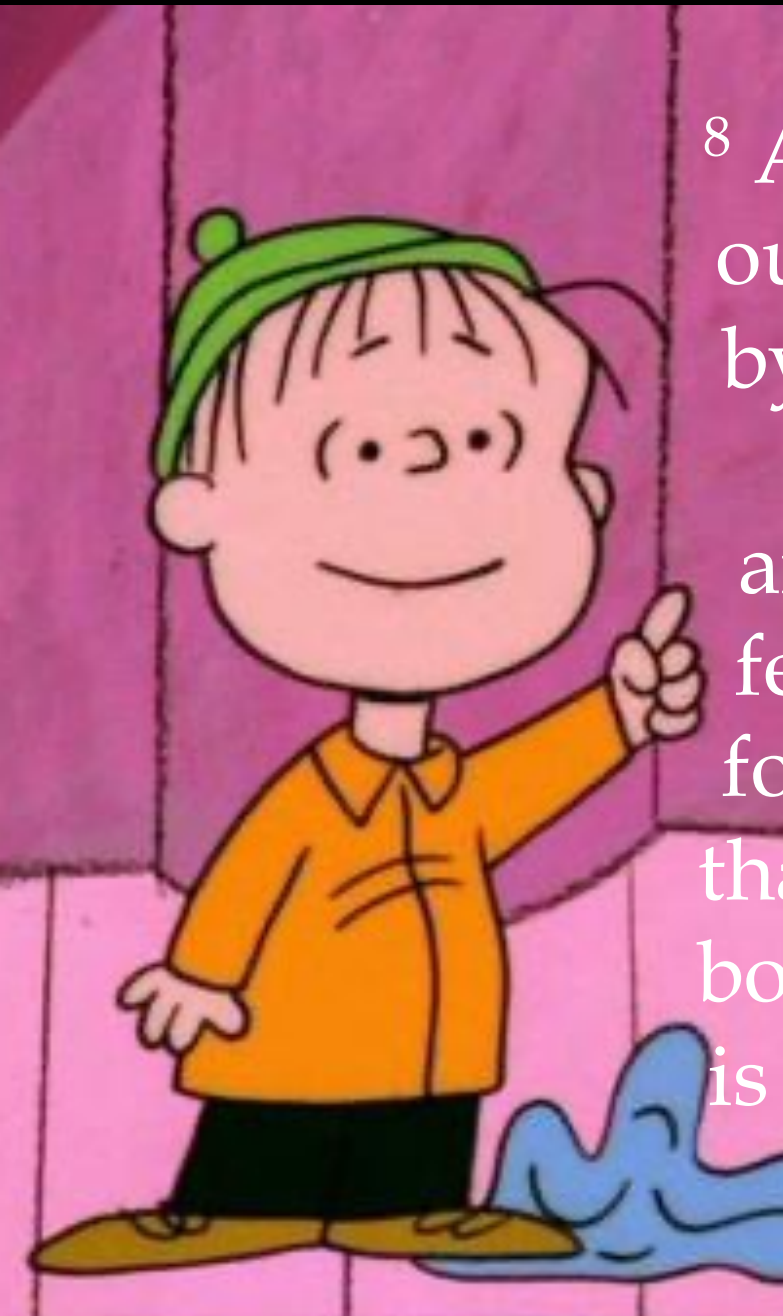
# (A type of) Resolution: God shows (a type of) grace

## Genesis 4:13-16

<sup>13</sup> Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear. <sup>14</sup> Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” <sup>15</sup> Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. <sup>16</sup> Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

## Luke 2:8-12

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."



# *Christmas Reflections*



*Born unto us—Jesus, God's Sign of Amazing Grace*





**COMMUNION**



**WORSHIP**



**PRAYER**