perhaps it was because an offering made in such a spirit as Cain's could not be agreeable to God.

Whatever the reason, Cain burned with anger at this rejection. God then said to him, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. It desires to master you, but you must master it."

Shortly after this, the two brothers met out in a field; and as Cain was jealous of God's acceptance of his righteous brother (1 Jn 3:12), Cain rose up against his brother and murdered him. This first crime was very quickly punished. Even as Cain fled from the spot where his brother's lifeless body lay, God suddenly asked him, "Where is your brother Abel?"

Cain crossly answered: "I don't know! Am I my brother's keeper?" but God knew all that had happened. To punish Cain, God told him that the earth would no longer bear food for him, and that he would be banished from Adam's home and family, to live as a wanderer and a fugitive on the earth.

Cain complained of this punishment, instead of being sorry for doing such a wicked thing; and also, his heart was filled with dread that someone would kill him, as he had killed Abel. But God, who did not wish him to perish, put a mark upon him, and spoke a sevenfold curse upon any one who should dare to lay hands upon him.

The death of Abel, *painting by Salvator Rosa.*

Protected by this mysterious mark— we are not told what it was—the unhappy man started out, taking only his wife (who was, of course, his sister); and, going east from Eden, he settled in the land of Nod, a word which means "banishment."

V. TWO OPPOSITE BROTHERS.

CAIN, up till now, had many chances to follow God's ways. He knew how God had taught men to offer a sacrifice to Him, and instead chose to do as his own heart pleased. Then when God assured him that his sacrifice would be accepted if he did what was right, and warned him of the sin waiting to become his master, he ignored this rebuke and warning, and did not repent, or change his behavior.

Even after committing so awful a crime as murder, Cain did not show remorse for his sins, but only bitterness at the punishment he was to suffer. In this pattern Cain continued, for when he arrived in Nod, and saw that the earth would no longer bring forth fruit for his support, he did not learn to correct his ways from his punishment, but instead increased in wickedness.

He ceased to earn his living as a farmer, and began to work in trade. He invented the system of measures and weights by which men learned to buy and sell; and was also the author of dishonest measures and weights, and greatly increased his wealth by robbery. He was the first to set boundaries about land, and to move those boundaries for his own increase. He gained all that would satisfy base desires through injury to his neighbors, and became the leader of wickedness among men.

But because of his mark, men were afraid to lay a hand on Cain for good or ill. Cain's dread of being murdered, however, never left him; and to protect himself, he built the first fortified city, which he named after his first son, E´noch.

Now Cain's descendants increased in number and ungodliness. His great-great-great grandson La´mech was the first to take two wives for himself, instead of one as God had ordained. He too practiced murder, and was not sorry; presuming that God would guard him as He had guarded Cain, even though he did not have Cain's mark.

Lamech's sons were Ja´bal, who invented the tent and the nomadic life of a cattle herder; Ju´bal, who invented the first musical instruments; and Tu´bal-cain, who was a man mighty in strength, who excelled in the arts of war. Tubal-cain was the first to mine metal ore, smelt it, and make tools, weapons, and armor of bronze and iron.

When Adam and Eve saw that righteous Abel had been murdered, and that Cain and all his family increased in wickedness, they were grieved; Eve especially, for she despaired the coming of the promised child. But Eve was still young at one hundred and