

カインとアベルに見られる『信仰』

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ABSTRACT Nobuyoshi KIUCHI, “The Faith of Cain and Abel: Gen 4:3-7.” Various solutions have been proposed to the problem of why God accepted the offering of Abel but not that of Cain. This study proposes a new reading of this episode by paying attention to the two Hebrew terms *šā‘āh* and *hēṭîḇ*, both of which have not received sufficient attention thus far. The verb *šā‘āh* means basically to ‘gaze at,’ but some contexts where its grammatical subject is a human indicate that it means to ‘gaze at with faith.’ On the other hand, an examination of all the occurrences of *hēṭîḇ* shows that that verb expresses the overall attitude of a person or God, but does not refer directly to a specific act. The context of Gen 4:7 also clearly indicates that v. 7 is meant as a principle for Cain. Thus, the verb *hēṭîḇ*, which has no object here (cf. Ps 119:68), is most likely to mean to ‘mean well’ or to ‘be good-hearted,’ and to refer not to an action Cain might take but to the attitude of his heart, which expresses itself in his offering.