



-----desired objective-
to be approved by
God on his own
merit



God's rejection
of offering -
-----block -----objective not
(real block - obtained
Cain's wrong
attitude and
wrong action)



-----imagined block-----therefore I can't
God's unfair- have my way
Abel's upstaging
me

Because of this distorted thinking, Cain blamed God and also blamed Abel for his loss. The nature of his reaction is described in Prov. 19:3, "A man's own folly ruins his life yet his heart rages against the Lord." In order to gain approval, Cain needed to humble himself before God and acknowledge his sinfulness and God as the source of all good (including his own worth). Cain was unwilling to do this. He shifted the blame to God and to his brother and burned in bitter hatred toward them both. This resulted in the rejection of God's gracious offer (if you do what is right you'll be approved) and the murder of Abel.

Cain's anger and blame-shifting soured his mind and contributed to his sinful response. He became a bitter man and vented his hatred on his innocent younger brother. It appears that he remained unrepentant and bitter throughout his life and passed some of the