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A Biographical Study of Abel

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Abel

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Offering a sacrifice to God
 - A. He presented to God the firstlings of his flock (Gen. 4:4)
 - B. His offering was accepted by God (Gen. 4:4)
- II. Becoming a sacrifice for God—Abel was killed by his jealous brother Cain, whose grain offering had not been accepted by God (Gen. 4:5-8).

THEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Christ referred to Abel's martyrdom when condemning the wicked Pharisees (Matt. 23:25).
- II. Hebrews refers to the faith Abel demonstrated when he brought the right sacrifice to God, which serves as an object lesson for us today (Heb. 11:4).
- III. Hebrews contrasts the blood of Christ with the blood of Abel (Heb. 12:24).
 - A. Abel's blood cried out for vengeance (Gen. 4:10).
 - B. Christ's blood cries out for forgiveness (Matt. 26:28).
- IV. John wrote that Satan prompted Cain to kill Abel out of envy (1 John 3:12).

STATISTICS

Father: Adam (Gen. 4:2)

Mother: Eve (Gen. 4:2)

Brothers: Cain and Seth named (Gen. 4:1, 25) (See Gen. 5:4)

First mention: Genesis 4:2

Final mention: 1 John 3:12

Meaning of his name: "Transitory"

Frequency of his name: Referred to 12 times

Biblical books mentioning him: Five books (Genesis, Matthew, Luke, Hebrews, 1 John)

Occupation: Shepherd (Gen. 4:2)

Place of birth: Outside the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:23—4:2)

Place of death: Field outside of the Garden of Eden (Gen. 4:8)

Circumstances of death: He was killed by his brother Cain (Gen. 4:8)

Important fact about his life: He was the world's first martyr.