#### 1

# **UNLIKELY HEROES #1**

ABEL: THE SECOND SON

"Unlikely heroes are those who may have been unheralded on earth and undistinguished among men, but have clearly won the applause of heaven."

# **FACTS CONCERNING ABEL:**

- 1. Parents: Adam & Eve.
- 2. Birth Order: Second son.
- 3. Occupation: Keeper of sheep.
- 4. Death: Murdered by his older brother, Cain.
- 5. Meaning of his name: His name in Hebrew is *Habel* meaning emptiness or vanity; something transitory or unsatisfactory.
- 6. He was the first murder victim in human history.
- 7. There are no recorded words from Abel in the Bible.

### **NOTABLE SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES:**

- 1. Genesis 4:1-10 The biblical narrative of his life is the first recorded events outside of the Garden Eden.
- 2. Hebrews 11:4 He is the first of many heroes of faith mentioned in the Hebrews 11 "Faith Hall of Fame."
- 3. Luke 11:50-51 He is referred to as a prophet by Jesus in the Gospel of Luke.
- **4.** Hebrews 12:24 His death and blood are used to prefigure the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.

# TAKE HOME STUDY QUESTIONS:

# **General Questions:**

- 1. How does the life and death of Abel foreshadow the life and death of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 12:24)?
- 2. What do you think it means when the scripture says that "God testified of his gifts" (Hebrews 11:4)?
- 3. What are some of the virtues of Abel mentioned the Bible?
- **4.** How could Abel's life be so significant in the eyes of God given the fact that it was short and we have not recorded words from him?
- 5. What does Abel's life and legacy tell us about the way God judges a life?

# Questions from Genesis 4:

- 1. What were the principle differences between the sacrifice offered by Abel and Cain?
- 2. What made Abel's sacrifice acceptable? What application does this have in our lives today?
- **3.** What is the warning given to Cain that should be heeded by all who approach God? (Genesis 4:7)
- **4.** How do you think anger, envy, and jealousy played in the murder of Abel? What is the evidence that Cain failed to master his anger? (Genesis 4:8)
- 5. Who was Lamech and do you think there is a connection between his legacy and the legacy of Cain? (Genesis 4:17-23)
- **6.** What was the name of the son given to Adam and Eve as a replacement for Abel? (Genesis 4:25-26)
- 7. Name two notable descendants of Seth (Genesis 5:29 & Luke 3:37)

ADDITIONAL NOTES:				