

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?

