

=MAJOR CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 2

Abel

SCRIPTURE: Read Genesis 4:1-15.

POINT OF CONTACT: Ask, "How many of you have ever seen a fight on a playground?" After the pupils share briefly a few such experiences, tell them that the very sad story for today's lesson is about two brothers who didn't get along with each other. In fact, the older hated his younger brother!

- I. ABEL WAS A SINNER. Abel was a good man. Not one bad statement is found in the Scripture concerning this man; however, he was a sinner who had to be saved in order to go to Heaven. Read Romans 3:23; 5:12.

- II. ABEL'S NAME MEANS "THAT WHICH ASCENDS." See Genesis 4:2.
 1. Here is a man whose very name implies his concern for Heaven.
 2. Compare this with Cain's name, which means "acquisition." Cain was guilty of breaking the command given in I John 2:15.
 3. Thank God, Christians can send prayers, money, and souls to Heaven before we ourselves go there.

- III. ABEL GAVE A GOOD OFFERING TO THE LORD. Notice Genesis 4:3-5.
 1. Cain brought the work of his own hands. See Genesis 4:3. Many today offer good works, baptism, church membership, "good deeds," etc., but these are not acceptable.
 2. Notice several things about Abel's offering:
 - 1) It was a lamb. Here, early in the Scripture, is a picture of Jesus. Notice John 1:29.
 - 2) It was the first of the flock. The Lord wants the first of your life (youth), the first of your day, the first of your week, the first of your dollar, etc.
 - 3) It was the best (fat). See Genesis 4:4.

- IV. ABEL WAS KILLED BY CAIN. Notice Genesis 4:8.
 1. Abel was killed for doing right. Boys and girls who live for Christ will have to suffer some form of persecution. Read II Timothy 3:12.
 2. Abel pictures the spiritual man; Cain, the fleshly man. Just as the flesh fought against the Spirit in Abel's day, so it is today.
 3. Every Christian has a "Cain" nature and an "Abel" nature. May God raise up some Christians at First Baptist Church who will feed and exercise "Abel" and buffet "Cain."