

Abel

Abel was the second child to be born into the world through the union of Adam and Eve, but the first human to obey God.

Genesis 4:2-4 [NIV] *“Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering,”*

All we know about Abel is that he was a shepherd and he presented pleasing sacrifices to God.

The Christian Bible does **not** tell exactly why God accepted Abel’s sacrifice, but it does give us hints as to why.

Hebrews 11:4 [NIV] *“By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.”*

Faith was involved. Faith in what?

Abel must have heard of how his father and mother had the shame of their rebellion against God covered by the skins slaughtering animals, most likely lambs.

Abel also made an offering from his flock, again most likely a lamb, and a firstborn, which conforms with the commanded regulations given by God to Moses after the Israelites came out of Egypt [**Exodus 12:1-11**] after 430 years in Egypt [**Exodus 12:40-41**] when the Israelites were unable to offer sacrifices to God, the knowledge of how to sacrifice to God must have been lost.

Matthew 23:35 [NIV] *“And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barakiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.”*

Abel is listed as righteous by Jesus Christ, making him the first person martyred for the truth. [**Hebrews 12:24**]

Luke 11:50-51 [NIV] *“Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.”*

Abel is listed among the prophets by Luke. Abel lost his life while being faithful to the Creator God as did many other of God’s prophets.

Abel’s example is one for us even today. Obeying our Creator God will bring hatred and persecution in some measure to every person who follows Jesus Christ. [**Matthew 10:21-23; 2 Timothy 3:12; John 16:2**]

Like Abel, we must obey our Creator God regardless of the cost. It cost Abel his young life. [**Genesis 4:8**]