

God's Calling in the Old Testament

Lesson 2

GOD CALLED ABEL (GEN. 4:1-16; see Life-study of Gen. 22-24)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see that God is calling man to live and work for Him; to worship Him according to His way and not according to man's own ideas and concepts.

Memory Verse:

“By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain” (Hebrews 11:4)

Facts to Teach:

1. Although Adam and Eve failed God's calling by disobeying God's commandment and sinning, God was merciful to them and covered their nakedness and shame by killing two lambs to make lambskin coats for them. God taught them a most important lesson: because they were sinners, now they could draw near to God and be accepted by Him only if an offering was sacrificed and its blood was shed.
2. We know from Hebrews 11:4 that God's way (of salvation and worship) had been clearly made known to both of Adam's children, Cain and Abel, by their parents. God's call to Cain and Abel was firstly for them to live and work for Him. God's call was also for them to worship God in the way He had revealed and made known (to Adam and Eve).
3. Abel obeyed God's calling:
 - a. He raised sheep. Sheep were not for eating in those days but were used to offer to God in worship, and their skin was used for clothing.
 - b. When Abel presented his offering to God, God was happy and accepted it. Abel had followed the pattern God had shown to his parents.
4. Cain refused God's calling:
 - a. He lived and worked only for himself: he “served the ground.”
 - b. He worshipped God according to his own concept (which was from Satan). He brought plants to God instead of an animal sacrifice. Because of man's sin God required that the blood of an animal be shed in order for man's offering to be acceptable to God.
 - c. His offering was rejected by God.
 - d. He became jealous of his brother (1 John 3: 12). Then, being filled with the devil and anger, he killed his own brother.
 - e. When God afterward came to him and asked him where his brother Abel was, he did not confess his sins. Rather, he lied to God. He did not feel sorry for what he had done, nor would he repent. Instead, full of stubbornness and hardened in his heart, he left God's presence.