

Fascinating Stories of Forgotten Lives Rediscovering Some Old Testament Characters

Cain: The Farmer Who Murdered His Brother

GENESIS 4:1–15



The Heart of the Matter

The story of Cain and Abel is tossed around rather generally in both Christian and non-Christian circles. Many folks are aware of the big-picture aspect of the account—namely, that the older brother murdered the younger—but beyond that, little is known and even less is applied to everyday life today. But woven within and between the lines of this amazing story are several insights that await our discovery. The setting is simple. The events are ancient; in fact, they are among the earliest scenes ever recorded. Yet everything throbs with such relevance that you would think you were reading from a report filed by the local police homicide department yesterday afternoon. As we uncover the truth and analyze the evidence, let's not miss what all of this is saying to people living in the modern era—an era plagued with the very same nature as the one of the farmer who murdered his brother.



Discovering the Way

1. A Brief Survey of Scriptural Tragedies

The human race is strewn with the litter of murder. But a person is not a murderer because he or she murders. A person murders because he or she is a murderer at heart. In other words, we are not sinners because we sin. We sin because we are sinners, deep within our inner being.

2. A Careful Study of the First Homicide (Genesis 4:1–15)

Learn about the first homicide in the Bible: the background, the warning, the act, the investigation, and the punishment.

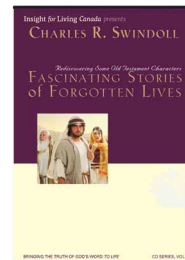


Starting Your Journey

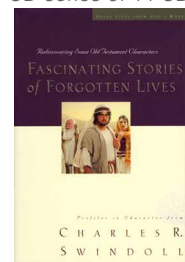
Although you may not be a murderer, take some time to search your own heart. Admit that God's way is the only acceptable way. Recognize that jealousy is a sin that can't be hidden and must not be tolerated. And realize that when anger is ignored, it never corrects itself. Anger never vanishes but multiplies and often comes out in a violent manner.



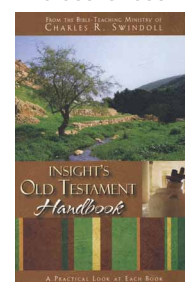
Tools for Digging Deeper



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