

OVER
700
IMAGES
INSIDE!

kids'

NIV
visual

STUDY BIBLE

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

EXPLORE THE STORY OF THE BIBLE
PEOPLE, PLACES, AND HISTORY



genesis

WHO WROTE THIS BOOK?

Some scholars debate about who wrote Genesis, though many believe Moses is the author.

WHY WAS THIS BOOK WRITTEN?

Genesis tells us how God created the universe and human beings. It also covers the special promises God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THIS BOOK?

God created all things. He loves people, but he will punish sin. God promises to save people who trust him.

WHO ARE THE KEY PEOPLE IN THIS BOOK?

Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel, and Joseph

WHERE DID THIS HAPPEN?

Genesis 1–11 happened in Mesopotamia. Genesis 12–36 took place in Canaan, which is also called the promised land. The rest of Genesis took place in Egypt. (See the map at the back of this Bible to find Mount Sinai.)

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE STORIES IN THIS BOOK?



“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen 1:1).

PhotoDisc

God creates the universe	Genesis 1
God creates Adam and Eve	Genesis 2
Adam and Eve sin	Genesis 3
Noah builds an ark	Genesis 6
God sends a flood to punish sin	Genesis 7–8
God gives promises to Abraham	Genesis 12
Abraham prays for a city	Genesis 18
Jacob steals Esau’s blessing	Genesis 27
Jacob’s name is changed	Genesis 32
Joseph’s brothers sell him into slavery	Genesis 37
Joseph becomes a ruler	Genesis 39–41

1:1

God was the only one in the beginning.

Although everything else has a beginning, God has always been around. The Bible describes him as everlasting or eternal. That means he has no beginning, and he has no end.

1:3 – 31

There was an order to creation.

On the first three days, God *formed* creation with light, water and sky, land and vegetation. On the final three days, God *filled* creation with light givers, fish and birds, and animals and humans.

1:5

Creation took six days.

Each day could have been 24 hours, just like we understand a day to be—or the word *day* could have represented a very long period of time.

1:21,24 – 25

God created all kinds of animals and plants.

God created plants and animals with distinct looks and patterns for each family and species. That's why the Bible says he created them "according to their kinds."

1:24

God created dinosaurs.

Although Genesis doesn't mention dinosaurs specifically, they were probably created on the sixth day. Several places in the Bible describe creatures that may be dinosaurs, such as a *monster* (Psalm 74:13), *dragon* (Revelation 12:3) or *behemoth* (Job 40:15 – 19).

THE BEGINNING

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

⁴God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

⁹And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

¹¹Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ¹²The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." ²¹So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." ²³And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that

move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,^a and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

²⁹Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

²By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

^a 26 Probable reading of the original Hebrew text (see Syriac); Masoretic Text *the earth*

1:27

Humans are special.

People are different from everything else God made because they are made in his image. That means we share some of God's characteristics, such as intelligence, love and creativity. Since each person is made in God's image, everyone is important to God.

1:28

God told humans to take care of the earth.

When God told people to “fill the earth and subdue it,” he meant to care for all of creation and use its resources wisely.

2:2 – 3

God rested on the seventh day.

God did not need to rest because he was tired. He rested because he was finished creating the world and everything in it. God also rested so we would know it's important to take a break from work one day each week and worship him.

PARALLEL DAYS

Genesis 1

DAY 1: Light

DAY 2: Water and sky

DAY 3: Plant life

DAY 4: Sun and moon

DAY 5: Fish and birds

DAY 6: Animals and people

BEAUTIFUL! GOD'S POWER, WISDOM AND SENSE OF ORDER ARE REVEALED IN THE PARALLELS BETWEEN DAYS 1-3 AND 4-6.

2:7

God made the first man out of dust.

Both animals and people were created out of the ground with God's breath of life.

2:8,10 – 14

The location of Eden

Eden was probably in the country we know today as Iraq. The location of the rivers tells us that Eden also could have been an area through Egypt and Ethiopia.

2:9

The tree of life

This tree was in the middle of the Garden of Eden. It had special fruit. Anyone who ate it would live forever. God gave Adam and Eve access to the tree of life because he wanted them to have eternal life.



© annat zisovich/Shutterstock

2:17

Good and evil

God warned Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve already knew right from wrong. But they hadn't *seen* evil. God was testing if they would obey.

2:18,20

Adam needed a helper.

All of God's other creatures had been created in pairs, but Adam was alone. Eve would provide friendship and help for Adam, and together they would carry on the human race.

ADAM AND EVE

⁴This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth^a and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, ⁶but streams^b came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. ⁷Then the LORD God formed a man^c from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

⁸Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. ¹¹The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²(The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin^d and onyx are also there.) ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. ^e ¹⁴The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

¹⁸The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

¹⁹Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam^f no suitable helper was found. ²¹So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs^g and then closed up the place with flesh. ²²Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib^h he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;

^a 5 Or *land*; also in verse 6 ^b 6 Or *mist* ^c 7 The Hebrew for *man* (*adam*) sounds like and may be related to the Hebrew for *ground* (*adamah*); it is also the name *Adam* (see verse 20). ^d 12 Or *good*; *pearls*
^e 13 Possibly southeast Mesopotamia ^f 20 Or *the man* ^g 21 Or *took part of the man's side* ^h 22 Or *part*

she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of man.”

²⁴That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

²⁵Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

THE FALL

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring^a and hers;

3:1

The serpent

Satan, or the devil, took the form of a snake to tempt Adam and Eve.



© Eric Isselee/Shutterstock

3:1 – 6

The conversation with the serpent

Eve was the one who talked to the serpent. And it seems from verse six that Adam was with Eve. If he wasn't there, then he made the decision to disobey without the pressure from the serpent. They were both guilty of disobeying God.

3:4

The serpent's lies

The serpent told Adam and Eve that their eyes would be opened and they would become like God. He said they would know good from evil. Their eyes were opened, but the result was different from what the serpent promised.

3:8

God visited Adam and Eve.

God is a spirit, which means he doesn't have a body like humans. So we don't know if God actually “walked” in the garden—the verse might say that just so humans can better understand. But it is clear that God was really there in the garden, and he talked with Adam and Eve.

^a 15 Or seed

3:12 – 13

Adam and Eve responded to God.

Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent. Neither took responsibility for their actions.

3:14 – 15

The meaning of God's curse

God cursed the serpent to crawl on its belly and fight with humans. The promise that Eve's children would crush the serpent's head hints at salvation through Jesus' death on the cross. (See Romans 16:20.)

3:17 – 19

The meaning of God's words to Adam

God told Adam that because of sin, it would be difficult and painful work to get food. And God said that when Adam died, his body would go back to the dust of the ground.

4:3 – 5

Abel's offering vs. Cain's offering

Both a plant offering and an animal offering were acceptable to God, but Cain's offering was not made with a pure heart. He did not give his best. Abel pleased God because he offered his best animals.

he will crush^a your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said,

“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;
with painful labor you will give birth to children.
Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you.”

¹⁷To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife
and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you,
‘You must not eat from it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.

¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return.”

²⁰Adam^b named his wife Eve,^c because she would become the mother of all the living.

²¹The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²²And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” ²³So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side^d of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

CAIN AND ABEL

4 Adam^b made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.^e She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth^f a man.” ²Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

³In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

⁶Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry?”

^a 15 Or *strike* ^b 20,1 Or *The man* ^c 20 Eve probably means *living*.
^d 24 Or *placed in front* ^e 1 Cain sounds like the Hebrew for *brought forth* or *acquired*. ^f 1 Or *have acquired*



(left) PhotoDisc: Siede
Preis; (right) © Eric Isselee/
Shutterstock

Why is your face downcast? ⁷If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

⁸Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field."^a While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

¹⁰The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

¹³Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴Today you are driving me from the land, and

^a ⁸ Samaritan Pentateuch, Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac; Masoretic Text does not have "Let's go out to the field."

4:11–12

God's curse on Cain

Cain had made his living as a farmer, growing food from the ground. But now the ground was soaked with his brother's blood, so God said the ground would no longer produce any crops for Cain. Instead of staying with his family, Cain was forced to wander the earth.

SETTING OF GENESIS



4:15

The mark on Cain

The Bible doesn't say what kind of mark God placed on Cain, but it was a warning sign to protect him from anyone wanting to kill him.

4:19

Marrying more than one woman

Having more than one wife was common in ancient times, but God created marriage to be between one man and one woman, like Adam and Eve. Having more than one wife sometimes caused problems for husbands in Old Testament times.

5:5–32

People lived a long time.

God's original plan was that people would live forever. When Adam and Eve sinned, death was a result, and the length of human life gradually shortened.

5:24

Enoch did not die.

Enoch had a very close relationship with God. The Bible tells us that Enoch's life on earth ended in a very unusual way: God took him away without Enoch experiencing death.

I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

¹⁵But the LORD said to him, “Not so^a; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. ¹⁶So Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod,^b east of Eden.

¹⁷Cain made love to his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch. ¹⁸To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael was the father of Methushael, and Methushael was the father of Lamech.

¹⁹Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah. ²⁰Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock. ²¹His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play stringed instruments and pipes. ²²Zillah also had a son, Tubal-Cain, who forged all kinds of tools out of^c bronze and iron. Tubal-Cain's sister was Naamah.

²³Lamech said to his wives,

“Adah and Zillah, listen to me;
wives of Lamech, hear my words.
I have killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for injuring me.

²⁴If Cain is avenged seven times,
then Lamech seventy-seven times.”

²⁵Adam made love to his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth,^d saying, “God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him.”

²⁶Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh.

At that time people began to call on^e the name of the LORD.

FROM ADAM TO NOAH

5 This is the written account of Adam's family line.

When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. ²He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them “Mankind”^f when they were created.

³When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

⁴After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁵Altogether, Adam lived a total of 930 years, and then he died.

⁶When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father^g of Enosh. ⁷After he became the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁸Altogether, Seth lived a total of 912 years, and then he died.

^a 15 Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac; Hebrew *Very well* ^b 16 *Nod* means *wandering* (see verses 12 and 14). ^c 22 *Or who instructed all who work in*

^d 25 *Seth* probably means *granted*. ^e 26 *Or to proclaim* ^f 2 Hebrew *adam* ^g 6 *Father* may mean *ancestor*; also in verses 7-26.

⁹When Enosh had lived 90 years, he became the father of Kenan. ¹⁰After he became the father of Kenan, Enosh lived 815 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹¹Altogether, Enosh lived a total of 905 years, and then he died.

¹²When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel. ¹³After he became the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴Altogether, Kenan lived a total of 910 years, and then he died.

¹⁵When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he became the father of Jared. ¹⁶After he became the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁷Altogether, Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years, and then he died.

¹⁸When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. ¹⁹After he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁰Altogether, Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then he died.

²¹When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. ²²After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. ²⁴Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

²⁵When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech. ²⁶After he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁷Altogether, Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and then he died.

²⁸When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. ²⁹He named him Noah^a and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD has cursed." ³⁰After Noah was born, Lamech lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters. ³¹Altogether, Lamech lived a total of 777 years, and then he died.

³²After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

WICKEDNESS IN THE WORLD

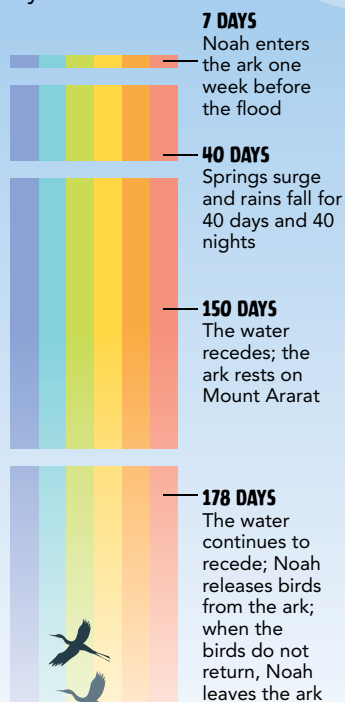
6 When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. ³Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with^b humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years."

^a 29 *Noah* sounds like the Hebrew for *comfort*. ^b 3 *Or My spirit will not remain in* ^c 3 *Or corrupt*

OVER A YEAR ON THE ARK

Genesis 6–8

Noah spends 375 days on the ark; here's how those days break down:



6:4

Nephilim

Nephilim were people who were very tall, strong and powerful. They were known as heroes because of their power as rulers.

6:7

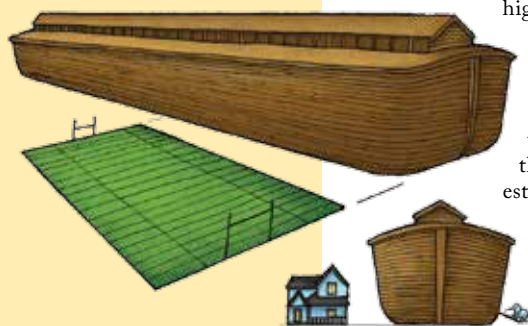
God destroyed other creatures beside humans with the flood.

Human sin contaminated everything God had made. So the animal world also shared in God's judgment.

6:14

The ark

This ark is the ship God told Noah to build. It was about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high.



⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

⁵The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.

⁶The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. ⁷So the LORD said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.” ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

NOAH AND THE FLOOD

⁹This is the account of Noah and his family.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. ¹⁰Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. ¹²God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.” ¹⁴So make yourself an ark of cypress^a wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. ¹⁵This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high.^b ¹⁶Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit^c

high all around.^d Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. ¹⁷I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. ²⁰Two of every kind of bird, of

every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.”

²²Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

^a ¹⁴ The meaning of the Hebrew for this word is uncertain. ^b ¹⁵ That is, about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high or about 135 meters long, 23 meters wide and 14 meters high ^c ¹⁶ That is, about 18 inches or about 45 centimeters ^d ¹⁶ The meaning of the Hebrew for this clause is uncertain.

7 The LORD then said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. ²Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, ³and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. ⁴Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.”

⁵And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

⁶Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. ⁷And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, ⁹male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. ¹²And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. ¹⁴They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. ¹⁵Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. ¹⁶The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. ¹⁹They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. ²⁰The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits.^{a,b} ²¹Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. ²²Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. ²³Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

²⁴The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

^a 20 That is, about 23 feet or about 6.8 meters

^b 20 Or rose more than

fifteen cubits, and the mountains were covered

7:2

Clean and unclean animals

God gave his people laws about what to eat, and he said that some animals were unclean or impure. God knew which food was the best for humans to eat at that time. The laws would have made sense then. (See Leviticus 5:2 and Leviticus 11.)

7:2–3

Noah brought more clean animals on the ark.

In addition to repopulating the earth after the flood, the clean animals were also used as food while on the ark, and afterward as sacrifices to God.

7:8–9

How Noah got all those animals on board the ark

The Bible tells us the animals came to Noah. We don’t know for sure, but maybe God gave the animals instincts to know that a disaster was coming.

7:23

Fish and other sea animals were safe during the flood.

The Bible says only animals that lived on land and birds were destroyed.

8:1

The story changed after the flood.

Before this point, the flood story has been about God's judgment. Now the story becomes one of redemption. When the Bible says that God *remembered* Noah, it doesn't mean that God had forgotten him. Instead, it means that God honored his promise to Noah.

8:4

Location of the mountains of Ararat

This mountain range was north of Mesopotamia and east of modern Turkey.

8:6–12

Noah sent out birds.

First, Noah sent out a raven, but it didn't give him a clear answer. The dove ate only leaves, so it could better tell Noah that land and vegetation had reappeared.



© Epitav/Shutterstock

8:11

Why an olive leaf is special

Olive trees grow at lower elevation. The fresh leaf from the dove told Noah that the water was low enough for olive trees to grow again.

8 But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. ²Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. ³The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, ⁴and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.

⁶After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark ⁷and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. ⁸Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. ⁹But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. ¹⁰He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. ¹¹When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. ¹²He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

¹³By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. ¹⁴By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

¹⁵Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶"Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁷Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."

¹⁸So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. ¹⁹All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. ²¹The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though^a every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

²²"As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease."

^a 21 Or *humans*, for

GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH

9 Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. ²The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands. ³Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

⁴“But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. ⁵And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being.

⁶“Whoever sheds human blood,
by humans shall their blood be shed;
for in the image of God
has God made mankind.

⁷As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it.”

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹“I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹²And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ¹³I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

¹⁷So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

THE SONS OF NOAH

¹⁸The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) ¹⁹These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the whole earth.

²⁰Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded^a to plant a vineyard. ²¹When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. ²²Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers

8:21–22

God promised to never again destroy all living things.

God was pleased with Noah's sacrifice, but he knew that humans would continue to sin. He was showing forgiveness and grace for life on earth. He promised that the normal cycles of nature would continue until the end of time.

9:1,7

God's instructions to Noah and his family

God told Noah and his family to be fruitful and multiply and take care of the earth, just like he had told Adam and Eve. (See Genesis 1:28.)

9:2–3

Why animals feared humans

Sin brought violence into the world. God made humankind to rule over all creation, including the animal world. God also gave Noah permission to eat animal meat.

9:4

Why bloody meat was not okay to eat

The blood of the animal represented its life. Since life is a gift from God, it must be honored. To honor that life, people were required to drain the blood from the meat they were eating.

9:5–6

God's judgment for murder

God created human beings in his own image, so human life is precious and valuable.

^a 20 Or *soil*, was the first

9:12–16

The sign of the rainbow

God knows that people tend to forget things, even important things like his faithfulness. God said the rainbow is a reminder to people that he will keep his promise to never destroy the world again with a flood.



Digital Stock

9:22

Ham mistreats Noah.

Ham did not show respect for his father, Noah. Instead of covering his father's nakedness as his brothers did, Ham told others about his father's drunkenness and nakedness.

outside. ²³But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's naked body. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father naked.

²⁴When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, ²⁵he said,

“Cursed be Canaan!
The lowest of slaves
will be to his brothers.”

²⁶He also said,

“Praise be to the LORD, the God of Shem!
May Canaan be the slave of Shem.

²⁷May God extend Japheth's^a territory;
may Japheth live in the tents of Shem,
and may Canaan be the slave of Japheth.”

²⁸After the flood Noah lived 350 years. ²⁹Noah lived a total of 950 years, and then he died.

THE TABLE OF NATIONS

10 This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, Noah's sons, who themselves had sons after the flood.

THE JAPHETHITES

²The sons^b of Japheth:

Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshek and
Tiras.

³The sons of Gomer:

Ashkenaz, Riphath and Togarmah.

⁴The sons of Javan:

Elishah, Tarshish, the Kittites and the Rodanites.^c

⁵(From these the maritime peoples spread out into their territories by their clans within their nations, each with its own language.)

THE HAMITES

⁶The sons of Ham:

Cush, Egypt, Put and Canaan.

⁷The sons of Cush:

Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah and Sabteka.

The sons of Raamah:

Sheba and Dedan.

⁸Cush was the father^d of Nimrod, who became a mighty warrior on the earth. ⁹He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, “Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD.” ¹⁰The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Uruk, Akkad and Kalneh, in^e Shinar.^f ¹¹From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh,

^a ²⁷ *Japheth* sounds like the Hebrew for *extend*. ^b ² *Sons* may mean *descendants* or *successors* or *nations*; also in verses 3, 4, 6, 7, 20–23, 29 and 31.

^c ⁴ Some manuscripts of the Masoretic Text and Samaritan Pentateuch (see also Septuagint and 1 Chron. 1:7); most manuscripts of the Masoretic Text *Dodanites*. ^d ⁸ *Father* may mean *ancestor* or *predecessor* or *founder*, also in verses 13, 15, 24 and 26. ^e ¹⁰ Or *Uruk and Akkad—all of them in*. ^f ¹⁰ That is, Babylonia

Rehoboth Ir,^a Calah¹² and Resen, which is between Nineveh and Calah—which is the great city.

¹³ Egypt was the father of the Ludites, Anamites, Lehabites, Naphtuhites, ¹⁴Pathrusites, Kasluhites (from whom the Philistines came) and Caphtorites.

¹⁵ Canaan was the father of Sidon his firstborn,^b and of the Hittites, ¹⁶Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, ¹⁷Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, ¹⁸Arvadites, Zemarites and Hamathites.

Later the Canaanite clans scattered¹⁹ and the borders of Canaan reached from Sidon toward Gerar as far as Gaza, and then toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim, as far as Lasha.

^a 11 Or Nineveh with its city squares

^b 15 Or of the Sidonians, the foremost

10:1–32

Why the Bible includes lists of names

A family tree was important in ancient times as a way to record people's history and show how families were connected to the community. People were identified by their relatives. Many family trees in the Bible point forward and backward—forward to Jesus and backward to the people from whom he descended.

AGE OF EARLY ANCESTORS

The book of Genesis records the long lives of the early ancestors of faith; here are some of the better-known examples:

Ancestor	Bible Reference from Genesis	Age at Death
Adam	5:5	930
Seth	5:8	912
Methuselah	5:27	969
Noah	9:29	950
Shem	11:10–11	600
Eber	11:16–17	464
Peleg	11:18–19	239
Nahor	11:24–25	148
Terah	11:32	205
Sarah	23:1	127
Abraham	25:7	175
Isaac	35:28–29	180
Jacob	47:28	147
Joseph	50:26	110



10:25

How countries formed

The earth was divided into separate nations, probably when God confused the languages at the Tower of Babel (11:8–9).

11:1

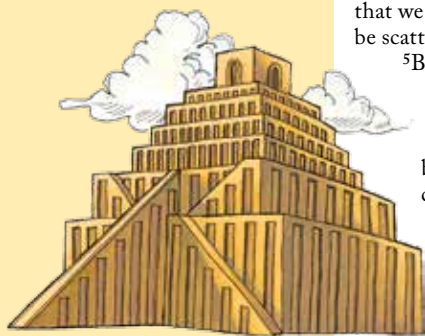
Everyone used to speak the same language.

Before the Tower of Babel, there was one language. No one knows what that language was for sure. Although people could understand each other, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren from Noah's three sons may have had their own unique words and pronunciations. (See Genesis 10:5,20,31.)

11:4

The Tower of Babel

Ancient cities were built around a temple. The typical Mesopotamian temple tower, called a ziggurat, had a square base and sloping sides, with steps that led to a shrine on the top. Ziggurats were meant to serve as staircases from earth to heaven. A god could "come down" to the shrine and receive worship from the people who had climbed to the shrine. God probably saw this tower as a symbol of human pride rather than of glory to God.



²⁰These are the sons of Ham by their clans and languages, in their territories and nations.

THE SEMITES

²¹Sons were also born to Shem, whose older brother was^a Japheth; Shem was the ancestor of all the sons of Eber.

²²The sons of Shem:

Elam, Ashur, Arphaxad, Lud and Aram.

²³The sons of Aram:

Uz, Hul, Gether and Meshek.^b

²⁴Arphaxad was the father of^c Shelah, and Shelah the father of Eber.

²⁵Two sons were born to Eber:

One was named Peleg,^d because in his time the earth was divided; his brother was named Joktan.

²⁶Joktan was the father of

Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, ²⁷Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, ²⁸Obal, Abimael, Sheba,

²⁹Ophir, Havilah and Jobab. All these were sons of Joktan.

³⁰The region where they lived stretched from Mesha toward Sephar, in the eastern hill country.

³¹These are the sons of Shem by their clans and languages, in their territories and nations.

³²These are the clans of Noah's sons, according to their lines of descent, within their nations. From these the nations spread out over the earth after the flood.

THE TOWER OF BABEL

11 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ²As people moved eastward,^e they found a plain in Shinar^f and settled there.

³They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

⁵But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. ⁷Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

⁸So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.

⁹That is why it was called Babel^g—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole

^a 21 Or Shem, the older brother of ^b 23 See Septuagint and 1 Chron. 1:17; Hebrew *Mash*. ^c 24 Hebrew; Septuagint *father of Cainan*, and *Cainan was the father of*

^d 25 Peleg means *division*. ^e 2 Or from the east; or in the east ^f 2 That is, Babylonia ^g 9 That is, Babylon; *Babel* sounds like the Hebrew for *confused*.