

INTRODUCTION TO

GENESIS

BACKGROUND: Traditionally, Moses is considered to be the author of Genesis and the rest of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible). It was through Moses that God redeemed his people from slavery in Egypt.

Genesis was probably written around 2000 B.C. Though Moses obviously lived much later than many of the events he recorded, presumably stories were passed down about those earlier events, and Moses brought them together. The first audience would have been the Israelites Moses led through the wilderness.

KEY THEME: The theme of Genesis is creation, sin, and re-creation. God made the world very good, but cursed it after the fall and then destroyed it in the flood because of man's disobedience. The new world after the flood was also spoiled by human sin. The call of Abraham, through whom all nations would be blessed, gives hope that God's purpose will eventually be realized through Abraham's descendants.

GENESIS AND A MAN'S HEART: The story of Genesis begins the story of the world. It introduces the first plotline movements of the Bible, which reflect the plotline of history. The drama unfolds along the movements of the creation of the world (Genesis 1-2), the fall of humanity into sin (Genesis 3), and God's promise of redemption (3:15), which subsequently unfolds through God's covenants with his people (12:1-3). As such, this story tells us what we were made for, what is wrong with the world, and what God is doing to restore all things. Genesis places us within the only story that makes sense of life.

All men need to know that our smaller narratives are part of a greater one, an epic drama that reaches back to creation and stretches ahead to the new creation to come. We need to know that we were made for more than trying to make ourselves look great; we were made in God's image to reflect his greatness (1:26-27). We need to know that our world is one wherein men kill their brothers (4:8), wickedness is great (6:5), and pride swells to the heavens (11:1-9). It hasn't always been this way, nor will it remain so. God has promised to decisively deal with evil and restore blessing to the world through a coming Redeemer-King (3:15; 12:1-3; 49:9-10). The men of faith in Genesis—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph—found that God took them in their weakness, accepted them by grace, and proved faithful to his promises.

Much has transpired in God's plan since the days of Genesis. Still, we are part of this same story. Jesus has now come as the last Adam to undo all the damage the first one unleashed. Like the men of old we continue to find our place in this story by hoping in our Redeemer.

GENESIS

The Creation of the World

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be an expanse¹ in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷ And God made² the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸ And God called the expanse Heaven.³ And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth,⁴ and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants⁵ yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons,⁶ and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ And God made

the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds⁷ fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." ²¹ So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man⁸ in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

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

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds

¹ Or a canopy; also verses 7, 8, 14, 15, 17, 20. ² Or fashioned; also verse 16. ³ Or Sky; also verses 9, 14, 15, 17, 20, 26, 28, 30; 2:1

⁴ Or Land; also verses 11, 12, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30; 2:1. ⁵ Or small plants; also verses 12, 29. ⁶ Or appointed times. ⁷ Or flying things;

see Leviticus 11:19–20. ⁸ The Hebrew word for man (adam) is the generic term for mankind and becomes the proper name Adam

GOD'S PURPOSE IN MARRIAGE

GENESIS 2:4-25

It was God, not Adam, who knew that it was not good for the man to be alone; it was God who honed Adam's awareness of his need by having him provide a name for every living creature, so that he would become aware that there was no helper among them who was fit for him. And it was God who caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and removed one of his ribs, moist with Adam's fluids and warm with his marrow and DNA, and literally *built* it into a woman. And then, it was God (like an earthly father) who presented her to Adam.

Adam's ecstatic response contains the first human words recorded in the Bible, and the first poetic couplet:

This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of
Man. (Gen. 2:23)

Because God had honed Adam's naming powers, Adam restated his own name embedded in the woman's. He saw her as a mirror of himself, with some very agreeable differences! He had found his companion and his longed-for love. He was no longer alone. Such intimacy—all of God.

Adam's voice subsides, and Moses immediately declares, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (v. 24). One-flesh intimacy is the marital ideal, the marital pursuit. Men, understand that we are to be the keepers of this intimacy, rooted in the very act of creation on the culmination of the sixth day.

Such a high calling. But there is more, because, in Ephesians chapter 5, the apostle Paul concludes his teaching on marriage by referencing Moses' declaration, "the two shall become one flesh," and then adding, "This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church" (Eph. 5:31-32). When God created "one-flesh" intimacy it was a creational prophecy of the intimacy of Christ and the church. Therefore, all who name the name of Christ must understand that the relationship of a man and his wife is meant to be a window into the relationship of Christ and the church—a gospel window going all the way back to creation.

The call, "Husbands love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Eph. 5:25), is ultimately a call to preach the gospel.

of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.”³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The Seventh Day, God Rests

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

The Creation of Man and Woman

4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵ When no bush of the field¹ was yet in the land² and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground,⁶ and a mist³ was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—⁷ then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around

the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.¹² And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there.¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush.¹⁴ And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat⁴ of it you shall surely die.”

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for⁵ him.”¹⁹ Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed⁶ every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam⁷ there was not found a helper fit for him.²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made⁸ into a woman and brought her to the man.²³ Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”⁹

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

The Fall

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You¹⁰ shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees

¹ Or open country ² Or earth; also verse 6 ³ Or spring ⁴ Or when you eat ⁵ Or corresponding to; also verse 20 ⁶ Or And out of the ground the Lord God formed ⁷ Or the man ⁸ Hebrew built ⁹ The Hebrew words for woman (ishshah) and man (ish) sound alike ¹⁰ In Hebrew you is plural in verses 1-5

THE URGENCY OF HEARING AND HEEDING GOD'S WORD

GENESIS 3

The fall began when the serpent/Satan asked, with feigned incredulity, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" (Gen. 3:1). This "innocent" question was actually a calculated slur on God's goodness, implying that he is ungenerous. In truth, God had told Adam, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden" (2:16). But no matter, a seed of doubt had been planted in Eve's heart that would bear immediate fruit in her response.

First, Eve *diminished* God's word by leaving out the word "every" in her own response: "And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden'" (3:2a). Her inexact, shrunken rendition of God's word discounted God's generosity. Second, Eve *added* to God's word, saying that merely touching the tree of the knowledge of good and evil would bring death (v. 3). Thus, she magnified God's harshness: an inadvertent touch, and "you're history." Lastly, Eve *softened* God's word as she left out the word "surely" from God's original statement, "you shall surely die" (2:17). Her omission removed the certitude of death for eating from the tree.

With that, Satan was emboldened to declare God's word a deception: "The serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die'" (3:4). "Eve," he seemed to say, "the threat of death is a divine scare tactic: God is repressive and he's jealous; he's afraid that you might ascend too high."

It was too much for Eve. She should have run screaming from the serpent. But instead she reached forth a lovely hand and resolutely took the fruit, believing that divinity would soon be hers. Shocking! But here's the real shocker: Adam was *with* her (v. 6). And, moreover, Adam was *not* deceived by the snake (see 1 Tim. 2:14). Adam sinned with his eyes wide open. He had watched Eve take the fruit, and nothing happened to her. So, he sinned willfully, assuming there would be no consequences.

Everything was upside down: *Eve followed the snake, Adam followed Eve, and no one followed God.*

Men, if there ever was a call to be a man of the Word, this is it. And here is what the ultimate Man says: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4). Feed on it and live it—for the glory of God in your life, your family, the church, and the lost world.

in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,¹ she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool² of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”³ ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
 cursed are you above all livestock
 and above all beasts of the field;
 on your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring⁴ and her offspring;
 he shall bruise your head,
 and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶ To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
 in pain you shall bring forth children.

Your desire shall be for⁵ your husband,
 and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷ And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
 and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread,
 till you return to the ground,
 for out of it you were taken;
 for you are dust,
 and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰ The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.⁶ ²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

²² Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Cain and Abel

A Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten⁷ a man with the help of the LORD.” ² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The LORD said

¹ Or to give insight ² Hebrew wind ³ In Hebrew you is singular in verses 9 and 11 ⁴ Hebrew seed; so throughout Genesis ⁵ Or against ⁶ Eve sounds like the Hebrew for life-giver and resembles the word for living ⁷ Cain sounds like the Hebrew for gotten

to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?" ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? ¹ And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for ² you, but you must rule over it."

⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. ³ And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³ Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear." ¹⁴ Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, ⁵ east of Eden.

¹⁷ Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. ¹⁸ To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. ¹⁹ And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. ²⁰ Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. ²¹ His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. ²² Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

²³ Lamech said to his wives:

"Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
you wives of Lamech, listen to what
I say:
I have killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for striking me.

²⁴ If Cain's revenge is sevenfold,
then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold."

²⁵ And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed ⁶ for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him." ²⁶ To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.

Adam's Descendants to Noah

5 This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. ² Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man ⁷ when they were created. ³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. ⁴ The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. ⁵ Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.

⁶ When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered Enosh. ⁷ Seth lived after he fathered Enosh 807 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁸ Thus all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died.

⁹ When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan. ¹⁰ Enosh lived after he fathered Kenan 815 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹¹ Thus all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died.

¹² When Kenan had lived 70 years, he fathered Mahalalel. ¹³ Kenan lived after he fathered Mahalalel 840 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴ Thus all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died.

¹⁵ When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he fathered Jared. ¹⁶ Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared 830 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁷ Thus all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.

¹⁸ When Jared had lived 162 years he fathered Enoch. ¹⁹ Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁰ Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died.

²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. ²² Enoch walked with God ⁸ after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God, and he was not, ⁹ for God took him.

¹ Hebrew will there not be a lifting up [of your face]? ² Or against ³ Hebrew; Samaritan, Septuagint, Syriac, Vulgate add Let us go out to the field ⁴ Or My guilt is too great to bear ⁵ Nod means wandering ⁶ Seth sounds like the Hebrew for he appointed ⁷ Hebrew adam ⁸ Septuagint pleased God ⁹ Septuagint was not found

²⁵When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech. ²⁶Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁷Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.

²⁸When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son ²⁹and called his name Noah, saying, “Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed, this one shall bring us relief¹ from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.” ³⁰Lamech lived after he fathered Noah 595 years and had other sons and daughters. ³¹Thus all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died.

³²After Noah was 500 years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Increasing Corruption on Earth

6 When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ³Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not abide in² man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” ⁴The Nephilim³ were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

⁵The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷So the LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

Noah and the Flood

⁹These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³And God said to Noah,

“I have determined to make an end of all flesh,⁴ for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴Make yourself an ark of gopher wood.⁵ Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. ¹⁵This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits,⁶ its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. ¹⁶Make a roof⁷ for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. ¹⁷For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. ²¹Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them.” ²²Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

7 Then the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. ²Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals,⁸ the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, ³and seven pairs⁹ of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing¹⁰ that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” ⁵And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

⁶Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth. ⁷And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, ⁹two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as

¹Noah sounds like the Hebrew for rest ²Or My Spirit shall not contend with ³Or giants ⁴Hebrew The end of all flesh has come before me

⁵An unknown kind of tree; transliterated from Hebrew ⁶A cubit was about 18 inches or 45 centimeters ⁷Or skylight ⁸Or seven of each kind of clean animal ⁹Or seven of each kind ¹⁰Hebrew all existence; also verse 23

God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰ And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth.

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. ¹² And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³ On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, ¹⁴ they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. ¹⁵ They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶ And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷ The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. ¹⁹ And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰ The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits¹ deep. ²¹ And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. ²² Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. ²³ He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. ²⁴ And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

The Flood Subsides

8 But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. ² The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, ³ and the waters receded from the earth contin-

ually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, ⁴ and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵ And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

⁶ At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷ and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. ⁹ But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. ¹⁰ He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. ¹¹ And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. ¹² Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore.

¹³ In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. ¹⁴ In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. ¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ "Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷ Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." ¹⁸ So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. ¹⁹ Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark.

God's Covenant with Noah

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse² the ground because of man, for the intention of

¹ A cubit was about 18 inches or 45 centimeters. ² Or *dishonor*

man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. ²² While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

9 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. ² The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. ³ Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. ⁴ But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. ⁵ And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

⁶ "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.

⁷ And you, ¹ be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it."

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹² And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

¹⁷ God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the

covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Noah's Descendants

¹⁸ The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) ¹⁹ These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the people of the whole earth were dispersed.²

²⁰ Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard.³ ²¹ He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. ²² And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. ²³ Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father's nakedness. ²⁴ When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, ²⁵ he said,

"Cursed be Canaan;
a servant of servants shall he be to
his brothers."

²⁶ He also said,

"Blessed be the LORD, the God of
Shem;
and let Canaan be his servant.

²⁷ May God enlarge Japheth,⁴
and let him dwell in the tents of
Shem,
and let Canaan be his servant."

²⁸ After the flood Noah lived 350 years. ²⁹ All the days of Noah were 950 years, and he died.

Nations Descended from Noah

10 These are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Sons were born to them after the flood.

² The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

³ The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. ⁴ The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. ⁵ From these the coastland peoples spread in their lands, each with his own language, by their clans, in their nations.

⁶ The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan. ⁷ The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of

¹In Hebrew you is plural ²Or from these the whole earth was populated ³Or Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard

⁴Japheth sounds like the Hebrew for enlarge