





ESV

Seek

and

Find

BIBLE



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About the *ESV Seek and Find Bible*

“Seek, and you will find.”

LUKE 11:9

A “Real” Bible for Kids

Even young children want to have a “real” Bible to call their own—the whole Bible, with kid-friendly features, that they can grow into over the years. The Bible you are holding is just that kind of Bible. Colorful and complete, it will help young readers explore, understand, and love God’s Word—even at a very young age.

The *ESV Bible*

The *ESV*® Bible is a great choice for every age and stage of life—for personal reading by children and adults, for family devotions, for memorizing, and for teaching, preaching, and worship. A “word-for-word” Bible translation, the *ESV Bible* was created by more than 100 of the world’s leading Bible scholars and teachers. The *ESV Bible* is trusted worldwide, and has become the fastest growing English Bible translation today.

Bible Stories

The *Seek and Find Bible* retells in a clear and simple way 130 key stories from the Bible, using child-friendly language. These stories summarize the longer Bible passages that surround them and were carefully crafted for helping children understand the Bible. Rather than being a substitute for reading the Bible itself, these simplified stories are placed right within the Bible text where the stories occur, so that children will learn to love and discover the Bible text itself.

Each story also contains a number of helpful features:

- **Beautiful Illustrations** will help pre-reading children engage with the story while it is being read to them. Older children will continue to appreciate these realistic portrayals of biblical events.





Key Bible Verse
Numbers 24:7b
page 49



Related Bible Readings
Genesis 49:1-28, page 49
Deuteronomy 33, page 50

for nothing. Laban asked Jacob what he would like to be paid for his work. Jacob told Laban that he would work for seven years if, at the end of the seven years, he could marry Rachel. Laban agreed. So Jacob worked seven years, but the time seemed like only a few days because he loved Rachel so much.

But Laban was tricky. Rachel had an older sister named Leah, who was not married, and Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah first.

At a wedding, the bride wore a veil that covered her face so no one could see her face. Laban tricked Jacob by bringing Leah to the wedding instead of Rachel. Because Leah was covered with the wedding veil, Jacob could not see her face. He married Leah, thinking he was marrying Rachel!

Of course, Jacob was very angry when he discovered the trick. Laban told him that the older sister must get married before the younger sister. Now that the older sister was married, Laban told Jacob he could marry Rachel too, as long as he would stay and work for Laban for seven more years. Jacob agreed. He stayed married to Leah, and he also married to Rachel the next week. After that, he worked for Laban for seven more years.

God blessed Leah with children. For a long time, Rachel had no children and was jealous of her sister. Finally, God gave Rachel a baby of her own. The baby's name was Joseph.

God is good. Even though Jacob, his wives, and their relatives lied to one another, tricked each other, and were jealous of one another, God blessed Jacob with a large family.

God had plans for Jacob's family. Through them, God was keeping his promise to send a Savior, our Savior, Jesus, came from the family of Judah, one of Jacob's many sons. Through Jacob's family, all families are blessed, even yours!

Key Questions

What was the "trick" that Laban played on Jacob?

How was God's promise to Abraham fulfilled through Jacob, Leah, and Rachel?

God was gracious to Jacob, even though he didn't deserve God's blessing. Is God good to us, too, even though we don't deserve his blessing? Can you think of some ways that God is good to you?



Story Characters
Jacob
page 49



Next Story
Ezekiel Forgives Jacob
page 56

- The **Key Bible Verse** identifies an important verse related to the main theme of the story. In this way, even when Bible stories are retold, children are hearing the very Word of God.
- **Related Bible Readings** lead readers to other parts of the Bible that are connected to the story by major themes, events, or characters.
- **Key Questions** encourage conversation and thinking about the story for children and adults, as well as understanding and personal application of its truths. These questions address both the content of each story and its application to our lives today.
- **Icons** for each of the features above make it easy and fun to locate and connect the Bible passages, stories, key verses, and illustrations.

Book Introductions

At the beginning of each book of the Bible is a brief, one-page introduction, with key information about each book including: author, date, key people, purpose, central themes, a timeline, and memory verses. Although some information will be too "old" for young children, this information will be a great resource for parents and for kids to discover for themselves as they grow older.

Character Profiles

More than 50 key people of the Bible are highlighted with a brief description and a full-color illustration—from Adam and Eve to Timothy—providing children with a quick understanding of who they are, what they did, and how they fit into the storyline of the Bible.



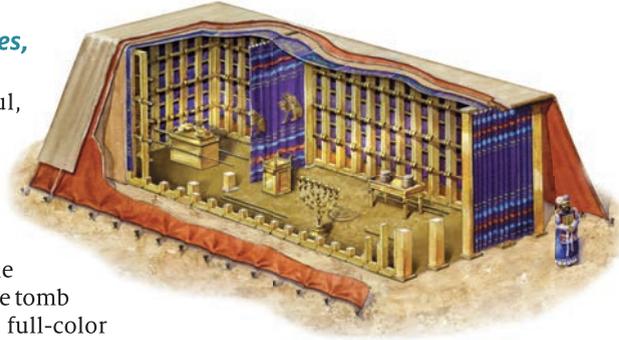
Introduction to Genesis

Israelites into the Promised Land. Joshua led the Israelites in all their battles with the Canaanites, until all the land was conquered. Then Joshua divided up the land among the 12 Israelite tribes as God had commanded him.



Bible Places, Structures, and Objects

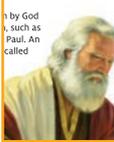
More than 20 beautiful, full-color illustrations are also featured, including detailed drawings of the tabernacle, Solomon's temple, the city of Jerusalem, and the tomb of Jesus. These unique, full-color illustrations and short, fact-filled descriptions make these Bible sites and structures come alive for young readers.



Maps

Eight full-color maps are included to help kids locate Bible places as they read about them, and to trace the travels of Jesus, Paul, and other key people of the Bible.



<p>your special oil on a that person or thing Samuel to anoint because he would be</p> <p>23:5; Luke 7:46</p> <p>h by God), such as Paul. An called</p> 	<p>ARK OF THE COV</p> <p>A special gold-covered box God commanded Israelites to build to hold Commandments and other objects. The Israelites called it the ark of the covenant. God directed. It is also the ark of the test</p> <p>Exodus 25:10; 1 Samuel Revelation 11:1</p>
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Dictionary

An illustrated dictionary allows children to find out the meanings of important Biblical terms, and to find places throughout the Bible where those words are used.

Seek and Find!

Portions of illustrations are displayed alongside short captions inviting children to locate the stories where these illustrations are found. This encourages kids to develop their powers of observation as they search the Bible.

A Treasure for Life

The *ESV Seek and Find Bible* provides a great way for children and parents to explore the riches of God's Word together—and to treasure the Bible for all of life.





THE OLD TESTAMENT





Introduction to Genesis

Author

Moses the prophet

Date

About 1446–1406 BC

Key People

Adam; Eve; Cain; Abel;
Seth; Noah; Abraham; Sarah;
Lot; Isaac; Rebekah; Jacob;
Esau; Joseph

Purpose

The purpose of the book of Genesis is to show the beginnings of creation, of sin and death, of God's promise of a Savior to Israel and to all the nations.

Central Themes

Death and a curse come from sin and disobedience to God; God promises a Savior from sin; God chooses a people to be His people and makes a covenant with them; God faithfully preserves His people and works toward accomplishing His promise of a Savior.

Memory Verses

The image of God (Genesis 1:26–27); the trees of Eden (Genesis 2:16–17); the promised Deliverer (Genesis 3:15); man's heart is evil (Genesis 6:5; 8:21); all families blessed through Abraham (Genesis 12:3; 18:18; 26:4); righteousness through faith (Genesis 15:6); scepter of Judah (Genesis 49:10–12)

Introduction

The word “Genesis” means “beginning.” The book of Genesis shows us the way many things began. The world around us began when God created it out of nothing by his powerful word (Genesis 1–2). Marriage and families began when God created Eve from Adam's rib and brought her to him (Genesis 2:18–25). Sin began when Adam and Eve listened to the Devil and ate fruit that God had told them not to eat. All the difficult and sad things in life, even death, began because of sin (Genesis 3). But God's wonderful promise of a Savior had its beginning in the garden of Eden, when God promised that a child from the woman would crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15). God also promised Abraham that a great nation would come from him and be given its own land, and that all the families of the earth would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:1–3). This was the beginning of God's covenant with Abraham, and the beginning of God's covenant people, Israel. One thing we don't find in Genesis is how God began. That's because God has always been, and always will be. As the first words of the book say, “In the beginning, God.”

?

Creation
page 2

About 2091 BC

Call of Abraham
page 22

1876 BC

Israel goes to Egypt
page 85

1446 BC

Exodus from Egypt
page 111



Genesis

The Creation of the World



1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The

4 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 expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” **7** And God made 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. 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, 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, plants 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, 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 birds 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 man¹ 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.”



6



6

¹The Hebrew word used here for *man* includes both men and women (see 1:27) and refers to the entire human race (see About the ESV)

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 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 LORD¹ God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵ When no bush of the field was yet in the land 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 mist 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.

Adam and Eve

Adam and Eve were the first two people. God created Adam and Eve in his own image. God told them to care for the garden, but not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When the serpent tempted Eve, she ate fruit from that tree, and gave some to Adam, who ate it also. This was how sin and death came into the world. But Adam and Eve also received good news: the first promise of the gospel (see Genesis 3:15).



¹The word *LORD*, when spelled with small capital letters, translates the Hebrew word for God's personal name, *Yahweh* (see About the ESV)

God Creates the World



GENESIS 1:1–2:3



Long, long ago there was no world. There were no birds and bees, no fields and flowers, no lakes and rivers, no sun, no moon, and no stars. There were no people either. There was only God.

Then God created the heavens and the earth in six days. He made all there is out of nothing with the power of his word. All he had to do was speak and the entire earth and all the animals appeared. On the first day, God said, “Let there be light”—and there it was! The Bible says, “God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.

On the second day, God spoke again. On this day he made the sky above, which separates the waters above from the waters below.

On the third day, God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” In this way, God made mountains and hills, valleys and plains. Here and there, all over the



Key Bible Verse

Genesis 1:1
page 2



Related Bible Readings

Psalm 19:1–6 • John 1:1–3
page 657 page 1280

land, were lakes and rivers, and around it all, the great oceans. God spoke again, and plants covered the land. Grass, flowers, bushes, and trees of every kind grew. Many of the bushes had berries, and many of the trees had fruit. God gave the plants seeds so that more plants could always grow. And God saw that what he had done was good.

On the fourth day, God spoke again and made still more. This time God spoke and at once the sky was filled with lights. He made the sun and the moon and all the stars. God saw that his lights were good.

The earth was beautiful now, but God made it even better. On the fifth day, God spoke and made fish to fill the waters and birds to fly in the sky. God saw that all of his creatures were good. He blessed them and told them to have babies, so that the waters and the skies would be filled with more fish and more birds.

Once more, on the sixth day, God spoke and created land animals. Bees flew from flower to flower. Cats and dogs played in the fields. Horses and cows walked around looking for food. Last of all, God made the first people, Adam and Eve, in his image and his likeness. He told them to rule over all the living things that he had made. God looked at everything that he had made, and he saw that it was very good.

God made all there is out of nothing with just the power of his word. He only had to say, “Let it be,” and everything was made. Finally, on the seventh day, God rested. God blessed the seventh day, and set it apart for a special purpose—rest.

Right now God is in heaven making a new heavenly home for everyone who has faith in God and in what he has done for them. Because of Christ’s work on the cross, one day God will graciously give this new heavenly home to all his children who have faith in Christ.

Key Questions

God made everything just by speaking. What does that tell us about God?

Every bird, animal, plant, and fish was created exactly as it needs to be to live in the place where it lives. What does that tell us about God?

How should we treat the world around us, knowing that God made it?



Story Characters

Adam and Eve
page 3



Next Story

God Creates Adam and Eve
page 6

God Creates Adam and Eve



GENESIS 1:26-2:25



A very, very long time ago, there was no earth or sky, no trees or plants, not even one animal, and no people at all. Then, by the power of his word, God made the world and everything in it out of nothing. Finally, on the sixth day of creation, after God had finished making everything else, he made people. The Lord God made people different from all other creatures, because he made them in his own image.

The Lord made the very first man out of the dust of the ground and called him Adam. He breathed into him the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Before God made Adam, he planted a beautiful garden in a place called Eden. God made all kinds of trees to grow in the garden—beautiful trees, full of delicious fruit. Two very special trees grew in the garden. One was called “the tree of life,” and the other was called “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” The Lord God placed Adam in the garden and gave him



Key Bible Verse

Genesis 1:26a
page 2



Related Bible Readings

Matthew 19:4–6 • James 3:8–10
page 1132 page 1501

the job of working in the garden and taking care of all the trees and plants. Then God told Adam that he could eat the fruit of every tree in the garden, except the fruit of “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Then the Lord said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” So God brought every animal and every bird for Adam to give a name, but not one of the animals was found to be a good helper for Adam.

Then the Lord caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. While he was asleep, the Lord took out one of Adam’s ribs, and then he closed up the opening. From the rib that the Lord had taken from Adam the Lord God made the first woman and brought her to Adam. Adam said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.” The woman became Adam’s wife, and Adam called her Eve.

God, our heavenly Father, took care of all their needs. God always takes care of the needs of his own people. He took care of our greatest need when he sent his one and only Son, Jesus, to suffer and die for the sins of his people. Through Jesus, God gives his people salvation and everlasting life.

Key Questions

How are people different from everything else God made?

What did God tell Adam he must not do?

How should we treat others, knowing that they are made in God’s image?



Story Characters

Adam and Eve
page 3

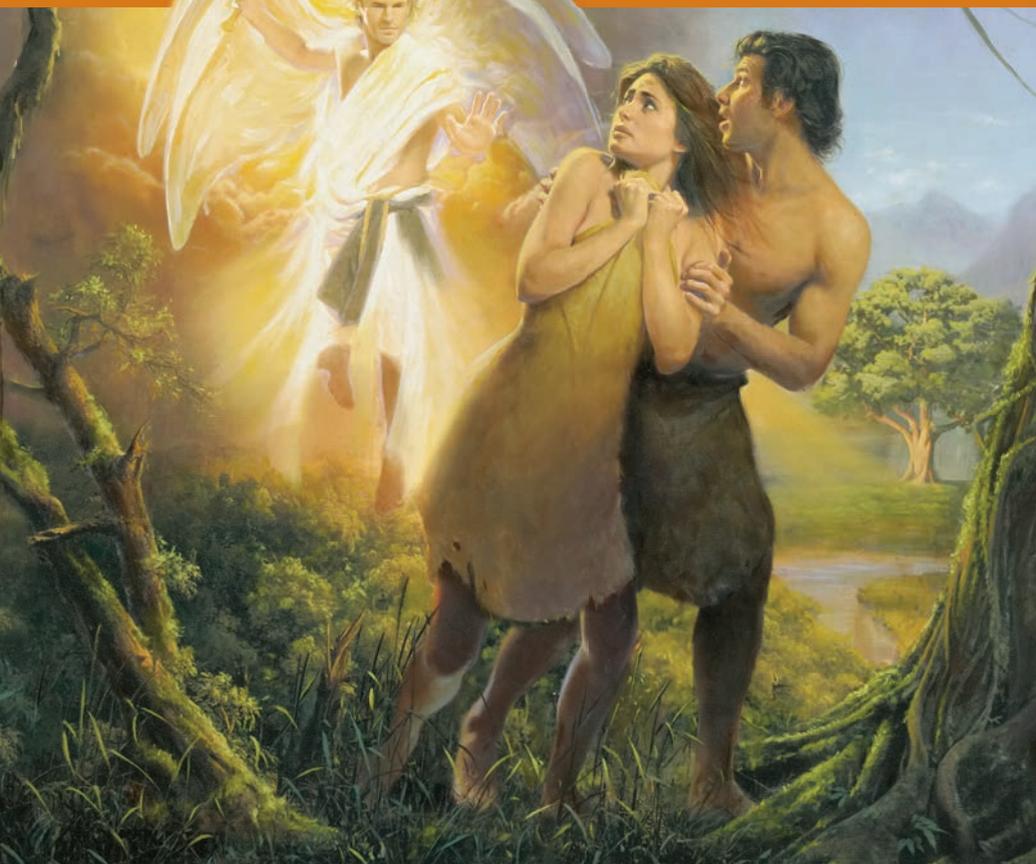


Next Story

Sin Enters the World
page 8

Sin Enters the World

 GENESIS 3



God had told Adam and Eve that they must not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which was in the middle of the garden. But one day a serpent came into the garden and said to Eve, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” This serpent was Satan, the enemy of God.

Eve told the serpent that they could eat fruit from any tree except the one in the middle of the garden. If they ate that fruit, God had said they would die. But the serpent lied to Eve: “You will not surely die,” he said. “God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God.”

Eve listened to Satan’s lie and was tempted. She took some fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to Adam, and he ate it too.

Adam and Eve did not trust God. They did not obey him. This was the first sin.



Key Bible Verse

Genesis 3:15
page 10



Related Bible Readings

Matthew 4:1–11 • Romans 5:12
page 1102 page 1403

Adam and Eve knew right away that they had done wrong, and they tried to hide from God. God came into the garden and called out to Adam, “Where are you?” After Adam and Eve blamed others for their sin, God told them what would happen because of their sin. The snake would crawl around on its belly all its days. Eve would have pain in childbirth. Adam would have trouble growing food to eat, because from now on working the ground would be hard. And Adam and Eve would not live forever—they would grow old and die.

But God also gave Adam and Eve a wonderful promise. He promised that a child would be born someday who would grow up to bruise the serpent’s head, even though the serpent would bruise this man’s heel. This was the first promise that God would send a Savior to save us from our sin.

Then God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden. They could never go back to the beautiful place that God had made for them, and they would have to find a new home.

Adam and Eve were the very first people to sin. They brought sin into the world. But God still loved them very much, and so he gave them the promise that one day a Savior would come. Many years later, God sent his Son, Jesus, to earth. Satan came to Jesus too, and tempted him to disobey God, but Jesus did not listen to Satan. Jesus lived his whole life without sin. Then he suffered and died on the cross for the sins of the world and rose from the dead to give us eternal life.

Key Questions

What was the first sin?

Who did God promise would come one day?

What sin do you see in your own life? What is God doing about it?



Story Characters

Adam and Eve
page 3



Next Story

Cain and Abel
page 12

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 eat 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 for him.” ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed 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 Adam 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 made 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.”¹

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, ‘You 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 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, 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 cool 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?” 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.

 ⁸ ¹⁵ I will put enmity between
you and the woman,
and between your offspring
and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his
heel.”

¹⁶ To the woman he said,

¹The Hebrew words for woman (*ishshah*) and man (*ish*) sound alike

“I will surely multiply your pain in
childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth
children.
Your desire shall be contrary to your
husband,
but 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.
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

4 Now Adam knew Eve his wife,
and she conceived and bore

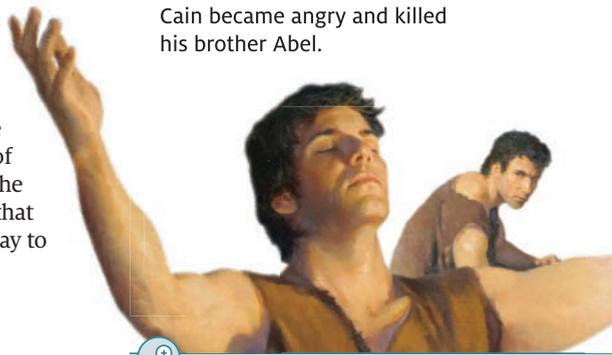
¹² Cain, saying, “I have gotten² a man
with the help of the LORD!” ² And again,
she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a
keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the
ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought
to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the
ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the first-
born 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 to Cain, “Why
are you angry, and why has your face fallen?
⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted?
And if you do not do well, sin is crouching
at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but
you must rule over it.”

⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. 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

Cain and Abel

Cain and Abel were the first two
children. Cain grew up to be a
farmer. Abel raised sheep. Cain
brought God an offering of things
he had grown, but God didn't accept
it. Abel brought an offering from
his flock, and God accepted it. The
difference was that Abel offered
his sacrifice with faith in God.
Cain became angry and killed
his brother Abel.

¹ Eve sounds like the Hebrew for life-giver ² Cain sounds like the Hebrew
for gotten



Cain and Abel



GENESIS 4:1-16



Adam and Eve were the first husband and wife, and they became the first mom and dad. They had two sons, Cain and Abel.

When Cain grew up, he became a farmer. When Abel grew up, he became a shepherd.

Cain and Abel both brought offerings to God. Cain brought an offering of things he had grown, “the fruit of the ground.” Abel brought an offering of some of his sheep. The difference was that Abel offered his sacrifice with faith in God.

God was pleased with Abel’s offering, but he was not pleased with Cain’s. This made Cain very angry. The Lord warned Cain not to sin. But Cain didn’t listen to God.

One day, when the two brothers were out in the field together, Cain killed his brother, Abel.

God came to Cain again. “Where is Abel your brother?” God asked him.



Key Bible Verse

1 John 3:11–12a

page 1517



Related Bible Readings

Hebrews 11:4 • 1 John 3:11–15

page 1495

page 1517

Cain answered, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?”

But God knew what Cain had done. “The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground,” God said to Cain. God told him that he would be cursed because of what he had done. He would no longer find it easy to grow food in the ground. He would have to run away from people, and he would always have to wander throughout the earth.

“My punishment is greater than I can bear,” Cain said. “Whoever finds me will kill me.”

Even though Cain had sinned, God showed mercy to Cain. He put a mark on Cain to protect him. People who saw this mark would know they should not kill Cain. Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and from his mother and father, and he built a city in another place.

When God saw Abel’s blood, he punished Cain for what he had done. Jesus was also killed by human hands, but he died willingly in the place of his people. When God sees the blood of Jesus, he forgives the sins of all who trust him as their Savior.

Key Questions

What did God do in this story that shows us he hates sin?

What did God do in this story that shows us he is merciful?

What does this story tell us about how we should worship God?



Story Characters

Cain and Abel

page 11



Next Story

Noah and the Flood

page 18

Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴Behold, 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." ¹⁵Then 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. ¹⁶Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod,¹ east of Eden.

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

²³Lamech 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."

²⁵And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed² for me another

offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him." ²⁶To 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. ²Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created. ³When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. ⁴The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. ⁵Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.

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

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

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

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

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

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

²⁵When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech. ²⁶Methuselah lived

¹ Nod means wandering ² Seth sounds like the Hebrew for he appointed

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

²⁸ When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son ²⁹ and 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.” ³⁰ Lamech lived after he fathered Noah 595 years and had other sons and daughters. ³¹ Thus all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died.

³² After 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 ¹⁸ daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ³ Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” ⁴ The Nephilim² 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.

⁵ The 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. ⁶ And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷ So 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.”

 ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

18

Noah and the Flood

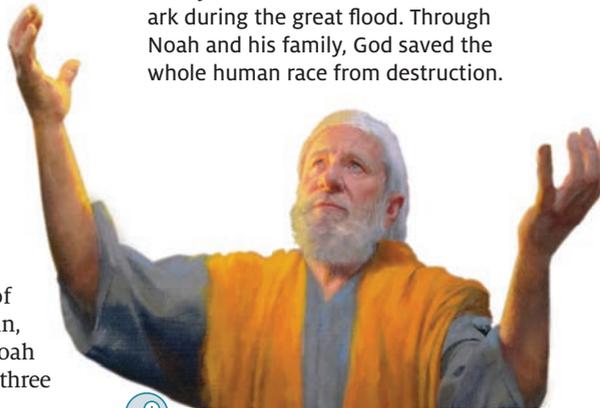
⁹ These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰ And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³ And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴ Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. ¹⁵ This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. ¹⁶ Make a roof 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. ¹⁷ For 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. ¹⁸ But 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. ¹⁹ And of every

Noah

Noah was a righteous man when everyone else had become more and more wicked. When God sent a flood to destroy the earth and everyone on it, he told Noah to build an ark for his family and for every kind of animal. God kept Noah and his family—and the animals—safe in the ark during the great flood. Through Noah and his family, God saved the whole human race from destruction.



¹Noah sounds like the Hebrew for relief ²Or giants

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, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, ³and seven pairs 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 thing 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 God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth.

¹¹In 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. ¹²And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³On 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, ¹⁴they 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. ¹⁵They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. ¹⁹And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. ²¹And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. ²²Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. ²³He 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. ²⁴And 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. ²The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, ³and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, ⁴and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵And 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.

⁶At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸Then 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 curse the ground because of man, for the intention of 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, 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.

Noah and the Flood



GENESIS 6:1-9:17



As time went on, more and more people were born, filling the earth that God had made. But because of Adam and Eve’s sin, they were all born sinners. The Lord saw the great wickedness of the people and the evil in their hearts. This grieved God, and he said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land.”

But there was one man, named Noah, who found favor in the eyes of the Lord. “Noah was a righteous man,” the Bible says. “Noah walked with God.” God told Noah he would destroy the earth, and everyone and everything in it. He would do this because the wickedness of the people had grown so great. But because God is gracious, he wanted to save Noah and his family and make a covenant with him.

God told Noah how to build an enormous boat called an “ark.” He told him to put food in the ark and to fill it with two of every kind of animal and bird, and with seven of some kinds. Noah did exactly as God commanded.



Key Bible Verse

Genesis 6:8, 17b–18a
page 15



Related Bible Readings

Hebrews 11:7 • 2 Peter 2:5, 9
page 1495 page 1513

When all of the animals and everyone in Noah's family were in the ark, God shut the door. Then it began to rain. It rained for forty days and nights. Every day the water outside the ark grew deeper and deeper. At last the water was so deep that it even covered the mountaintops. Everyone and everything on the earth was destroyed. But by God's grace, Noah and his family and all the animals in the ark were safe.

Once the rain stopped, it still took many days for all of the water to dry up. At last the ground was dry, and Noah and his family and all of the animals could leave the ark. Noah gave offerings to God and thanked him for saving him and his family. God blessed Noah and his family, telling them to "be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth."

God told Noah, "I establish my covenant with you," promising never again to send a great flood to destroy all of the people and animals and the whole earth. Then God put a rainbow in the sky and said that it would be a sign of his covenant—a reminder of God's everlasting promise to every living creature that he would never again destroy the whole earth with a flood.

Many centuries later, God's own Son, Jesus, would be born from Noah's descendants. And because of God's great love, Jesus would suffer and die on the cross to pay for the sins of the world, so that all who trust in Jesus will be saved from God's righteous judgment and punishment for their sin.

Key Questions

How does God feel about sin?

What did God provide so Noah's family and some of the animals could be protected from his judgment on the world?

How can we avoid God's judgment on our own sin?



Story Characters

Noah
page 15



Next Story

God Calls Abram
page 24

(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.

²⁰ Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. 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,¹
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 Raamah: Sheba and Dedan. ⁸ Cush fathered Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man. ⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the LORD. Therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD.” ¹⁰ The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. ¹¹ From that land he went into Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, and ¹² Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city. ¹³ Egypt fathered Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, ¹⁴ Pathrusim, Casluhim (from whom the Philistines came), and Caphtorim.

¹⁵ Canaan fathered Sidon his firstborn and Heth, ¹⁶ and the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, ¹⁷ the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites, ¹⁸ the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites. Afterward the clans of the Canaanites dispersed. ¹⁹ And the territory of the Canaanites extended from Sidon in the direction of Gerar as far as Gaza, and in the direction of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha. ²⁰ These are the sons of Ham, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations.

²¹ To Shem also, the father of all the children of Eber, the elder brother of Japheth, children were born. ²² The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram. ²³ The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash. ²⁴ Arpachshad fathered Shelah; and Shelah fathered Eber. ²⁵ To Eber were born two sons: the name of the one was Peleg,² for in his days the earth was divided, and his brother's name was Joktan. ²⁶ Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, ²⁷ Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, ²⁸ Obal, Abimael, Sheba, ²⁹ Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab; all these were the sons of Joktan. ³⁰ The territory in which they lived extended from Mesha in the direction of Sephar to the hill country of the east. ³¹ These are the sons of Shem, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations.

³² These are the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations, and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood.

¹Japheth sounds like the Hebrew for enlarge ²Peleg means division