

²³One day, Lamech said to his two wives, "A young man wounded me, and I killed him. ²⁴Anyone who tries to get even with me will be punished ten times more than anyone who tries to get even with Cain."

²⁵Adam and his wife had another son. They named him Seth, because they said, "God has given* us a son to take the place of Abel, who was killed by his brother Cain." ²⁶Later, Seth had a son and named him Enosh.

About this time people started worshipping the LORD.[†]

CHAPTER 5

Descendants of Adam

¹²God created men and women to be like himself. He gave them his blessing and called them human beings. This is a list of the descendants of Adam, the first man:

³⁴When Adam was one hundred and thirty, he had a son who was just like him, and he named him Seth. Adam had more children ³and died at the age of nine hundred and thirty.

⁶When Seth was one hundred and five, he had a son named Enosh. ⁷Seth had more children ⁸and died at the age of nine hundred and twelve.

⁹When Enosh was ninety, he had a son named Kenan. ¹⁰Enosh had more children ¹¹and died at the age of nine hundred and five.

¹²When Kenan was seventy, he had a son named Mahalalel. ¹³Kenan had more children ¹⁴and died at the age of nine hundred and ten.

¹⁵When Mahalalel was sixty-five, he had a son named Jared. ¹⁶Mahalalel had more children ¹⁷and died at the age of eight hundred and ninety-five.

¹⁸When Jared was one hundred and sixty-two, he had a son named Enoch.

¹⁹Jared had more children ²⁰and died at the age of nine hundred and sixty-two.

²¹When Enoch was sixty-five, he had a son named Methuselah, ²²and during the next three hundred years he had more children. Enoch truly loved God, ²³and God took him away at the age of three hundred and sixty-five.

²⁵When Methuselah was one hundred and eighty-seven, he had a son named Lamech. ²⁶Methuselah had more children ²⁷and died at the age of nine hundred and sixty-nine.

²⁸When Lamech was one hundred and eighty-two, he had a son. ²⁹Lamech said, "I'll name him Noah because he will give us comfort,* as we struggle hard to make a living on this land that the LORD has put under a curse."

³⁰Lamech had more children ³¹and died at the age of seven hundred and seventy-seven.

³²After Noah was five hundred years old, he had three sons and named them Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Noah and the flood

CHAPTER 6

The LORD will send a flood

¹²More and more people were born, until finally they spread all over the earth. Some of their daughters were so beautiful that supernatural beings[†] came down and married the ones they wanted. ³Then the LORD said, "I won't let my life-giving breath remain in anyone for ever.[†] No one will live for more than one hundred and twenty years."[‡]

⁴The children of the supernatural beings who had married these women became famous heroes and warriors. They were called Nephilim and lived on the earth at that time and even later.

⁵The LORD saw how bad the people on earth were and that everything they thought and planned was evil. ⁶He was very sorry that he had made them, ⁷and he said, "I'll destroy every living creature on earth! I'll wipe out people, animals, birds, and reptiles. I'm sorry I ever made them."

⁸But the LORD was pleased with Noah, ⁹and this is the story about him. Noah was the only person who lived right and obeyed God. ¹⁰He had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹⁻¹²God knew that everyone was terribly cruel and violent. ¹³So he told Noah:

Cruelty and violence have spread everywhere. Now I'm going to destroy the whole earth and all its people. ¹⁴Get some good timber and build a boat. Put rooms in it and cover it with tar inside and out.

¹⁵Make it one hundred and thirty-three metres long, twenty-two metres wide, and thirteen metres high. ¹⁶Build a roof[†] on the boat and leave a space of about forty-four centimetres between the roof and the sides.[†] Make the boat three storeys high and put a door on one side.

¹⁷I'm going to send a flood that will destroy everything that breathes! Nothing will be left alive. ¹⁸But I solemnly promise that you, your wife, your sons, and your

daughters-in-law will be kept safe in the boat.[†]

¹⁹⁻²⁰Bring into the boat with you a male and a female of every kind of animal and bird, as well as a male and a female of every reptile. I don't want them to be destroyed. ²¹Store up enough food both for yourself and for them.

²²Noah did everything the LORD told him to do.

CHAPTER 7

The flood

¹The LORD told Noah:

Take your whole family with you into the boat, because you are the only one on this earth who pleases me. ²Take seven pairs of every kind of animal that can be used for sacrifice* and one pair of all others. ³Also take seven pairs of every kind of bird with you. Do this so there will always be animals and birds on the earth. ⁴Seven days from now I will send rain that will last for forty days and nights, and I will destroy all other living creatures I have made.

⁵⁻⁷Noah was six hundred years old when he went into the boat to escape the flood, and he did everything the LORD had told him to do. His wife, his sons, and his daughters-in-law all went inside with him. ⁸He obeyed God and took a male and a female of each kind of animal and bird into the boat with him. ¹⁰Seven days later a flood began to cover the earth.

¹¹⁻¹²Noah was six hundred years old when the water under the earth started gushing out everywhere. The sky opened like windows, and rain poured down for forty days and nights. All this began on the seventeenth day of the second month of the year. ¹³On that day Noah and his wife went into the boat with their three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives. ¹⁴They took along every kind of animal, tame and wild, including the birds. ¹⁵Noah took a male and a female of every living creature

with him, ¹⁶just as God had told him to do. And when they were all in the boat, God closed the door.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸For forty days the rain poured down without stopping. And the water became deeper and deeper, until the boat started floating high above the ground. ¹⁹⁻²⁰Finally, the mighty flood was so deep that even the highest mountain peaks were about seven metres below the surface of the water. ²¹Not a bird, animal, reptile, or human was left alive anywhere on earth. ²²⁻²³The LORD destroyed everything that breathed. Nothing was left alive except Noah and the others in the boat. ²⁴A hundred and fifty days later, the water started going down.

CHAPTER 8

The water goes down

¹God did not forget about Noah and the animals with him in the boat. So God made a wind blow, and the water started going down. ²God stopped up the places where the water had been gushing out from under the earth. He also closed up the sky, and the rain stopped. ³For one hundred and fifty days the water slowly went down. ⁴Then on the seventeenth day of the seventh month of the year, the boat came to rest somewhere in the Ararat mountains. ⁵The water kept going down, and the mountain tops could be seen on the first day of the tenth month.

⁶⁻⁷Forty days later Noah opened a window to send out a raven, but it kept flying around until the water had dried up. ⁸Noah wanted to find out if the water had gone down, and he sent out a dove. ⁹Deep water was still everywhere, and the dove could not find a place to land. So it flew back to the boat. Noah held out his hand and helped it back in.

¹⁰Seven days later Noah sent the dove out again. ¹¹It returned in the evening, holding in its beak a green leaf from an olive tree. Noah knew that the water was finally going down. ¹²He waited seven more days before sending the dove out again, and this time it did not return.

* 4.25 Seth...given: In Hebrew "Seth" sounds like "given". • 5.29 Noah...comfort: In Hebrew "Noah" sounds like "comfort".

See also: 5.1,2; Gen 1.27,28. 5.2: Matt 19.4; Mark 10.6. 5.24: Heb 11.5; Jude 14. 6.1-4: Job 1.6; 2.1. 6.4: Num 13.33. 6.5-8: Matt 24.37; Luke 17.26; 1 Pet 3.20. 6.9: 2 Pet 2.5.

* 7.2 animal...for sacrifice: Hebrew "clean animals". Animals that could be used for sacrifice were called "clean", and animals that could not be used were called "unclean".

See also: 6.22: Heb 11.7. 7.7: Matt 24.38,39; Luke 17.27. 7.11: 2 Pet 3.6.