

The first stories in the Holy Bible Genesis chapters 1-11

This page tells a bit more about these first stories in the Holy Bible

This book has stories from the first book in the Holy Bible, called Genesis. That word Genesis means start. It is the book that tells us how God got everything started.

We only have the first 11 chapters of Genesis in this book. We have not yet translated the other 39 chapters.

Genesis is in the part of the bible called the Old Testament, which was the bible for the Jewish people before Jesus came. They say that Moses wrote Genesis about 3,400 years ago. He was their leader at that time.

Moses probably looked at the stories that other people already wrote, and maybe other people helped him write some parts of Genesis, but Moses put it all together. We believe that God guided him in all of that, so this book has God's message for us today.

God made everything

¹ First of all, a long time ago, God made everything. He made everything that is in the sky, and he made everything that is on the earth. God made all the things that are everywhere. ² The earth didn't have any shape. It didn't have anything. It was covered with deep water. Everything was dark. It was dark all over the water, but God's spirit moved around on the top of the water.

Day number 1

³ God said, "I want light." Straight away the light was shining everywhere. ⁴ God looked at it, and he saw that it was good. So God split up the light and the dark. ⁵ He called the light day-time and he called the dark night-time.

When this all happened, there was night time and there was morning time. That was day number 1.

Day number 2

⁶ God said, "I want something to split the water in half." ⁷ So God made air to split the water in half. God put some water high up on top of the air, in the clouds, and he left some water on the ground. He put the air in the middle between the water that was up high and the water on the ground. ⁸ God called it sky.

When this all happened, there was night time and there was morning time. That was day number 2.

Day number 3

⁹ God said, "I want all the water that is on the ground to come together to one place, and I want dry ground to come up." Then the water moved to where God wanted it, and the dry ground came up. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground land, and he called that water sea. God looked at the land and the sea, and he saw that everything was good.

¹¹ God said, "I want the ground to grow all kinds of plants that have seeds. I want some plants with seeds to eat, and trees with fruit that have seeds inside. Every seed will grow up like the plant that it came from." And that is the way God made it happen. ¹² He made all the plants and the trees come up from the ground. God looked at those plants, and he saw that everything was good.

¹³ When this all happened, there was night time and there was morning time. That was day number 3.

Day number 4

¹⁴ God said, “I want some lights in the sky. I want the lights to split up the day time from the night time. They will tell us the time. They will show the season, the time of the year, and the time of day. ¹⁵ I will put these lights in the sky to shine on the earth.” So God did that. ¹⁶ He made 2 big lights. He made one light brighter than the other light. This bright light was boss over the day time. We call it the sun. The other light was boss over the night time. We call it the moon. God made the stars too.

¹⁷ God put all those lights in the sky to shine on earth. ¹⁸ One light shines during the day and another light shines at night. These lights split the day time from the night time. God looked at the lights, and he saw that everything was good.

¹⁹ When this all happened, there was night time and there was morning time. That was day number 4.

Day number 5

²⁰ God talked again. He said, “I want the water to be full of fish and all sorts of living things. And I want birds that fly across the ground and high up in the sky.” ²¹ So God made everything that lives and moves in the sea. He made the great big sea animals and a lot of other living things in the sea. All of these animals had young ones just like themselves. And God made all the birds that fly. All the birds had young ones just like themselves. God looked at all those things, and he saw that everything was good.

²² God was good to them, and he said to them, “All of you living things will have lots of young ones, so that the sea will be full of fish, and lots of birds will fly around everywhere.”

²³ When this all happened, there was night time and there was morning time. That was day number 5.

Day number 6

²⁴ God talked again. He said, “I want the whole earth to be full of animals. I want animals that are wild, and animals that are not wild. I want lizards and insects and other things that crawl around on the ground. All these animals will have young ones like themselves.” And that is the way God made it happen. ²⁵ God made all the animals and lizards and insects and all the other things that move along the ground. God made them so they could have young ones just like themselves. God looked at those things, and all those things were good.

²⁶ Then God talked again. He said, “We are going to make some people. They will be like us. They will be boss of the fish and everything that lives in the sea, and they will be boss of the birds that fly in the sky, and they will be boss over all the animals that are on this earth, the animals that are wild, and the animals that are not wild, and all the lizards and insects and all the other things that crawl around on the ground. People will be boss over all of them.”

²⁷ So God made people to be like himself. He made them man and woman.

²⁸ God was good to them, and he said to them, “You will have lots of young ones, and the earth will be full of people. You people will be boss over all the earth. You will be boss over the fish, and you will be boss over the birds that are in the sky, and you will be boss over all the animals that move on the ground.”

²⁹ Then God said to them, “Look, I made lots of food plants for you. I made plants that have seeds in them, and trees with fruit on them, too. You can eat the seeds from plants and the fruit from trees. That will be your food.

³⁰ And I made green plants, too, for the animals to eat. And those plants can be food for the birds, and lizards, and insects, and other things that crawl around on the ground. They can eat the green plants.”

³¹ God made everything just the way he wanted it. He looked at everything he made, and he saw that everything was very good.

When this all happened, there was night time and there was morning time. That was day number 6.

2

Day number 7

¹ God finished making everything. He finished making the sky, and the earth, and everything that is on this earth too. ² He made everything in those 6 days, and on day number 7 God stopped making things and rested on that day. ³ So God made day number 7 a good special day. He said, “I’ve finished making everything now, and I’m resting on day number 7. So day number 7 has to be a special day for people to rest and remember God.”

At first everything was different

(Mark 10:4-9; 1 Corinthians 6:16; 15:45,47; Ephesians 5:31-33)

⁴ God made the earth and the sky. This story is about the things he made. ⁵ At that time God didn’t send any rain and there were no people on the earth to make the ground right for the plants. So nothing was growing in that land at that time. ⁶ Water used to come up from under the ground and water the top of the ground.

God made the first man

⁷ God took some dirt and he made a man out of it. Then God blew wind into the man’s nose. It was the kind

of wind that gives life. Then that man became a living person.

The garden called Eden

⁸ Then God made a garden and called it Eden. It was in the east part of the land. God put the man into that garden. ⁹ And God made some trees grow there in that garden. They were pretty, and they had good fruit. And God put 2 special trees right in the middle of the garden. If people eat the fruit of one of those trees they will always stay alive, and if they eat the fruit from the other tree they will know about the things they do, if they are good or if they are bad.

¹⁰ A river flowed through Eden, and it watered the garden. Then that river split into 4 rivers. ¹¹⁻¹² The 1st river was called Pishon. It flowed around the land called Havilah. In that country there was lots of gold, and pretty stones, and a good-smelling gum that comes from a tree.

¹³ The 2nd river was called Gihon. It flowed all around the country called Cush.

¹⁴ The 3rd river was called Tigris. It flowed east of the country called Assyria.

The 4th river was called Euphrates.

¹⁵ God put the man into the garden and gave him a job. He had to look after the garden and make sure all the plants grew strong and healthy.

The special tree

¹⁶ God talked to the man in the garden, he said, “You can eat fruit from the trees in this garden. ¹⁷ There is only one tree that you can’t eat its fruit. You can’t eat the fruit from that tree that lets you know when you do things that are good, and when you do things that are bad. I’m telling

you, if you eat any fruit from that tree you will die, for sure.”

God made the first woman

¹⁸ God talked again. He said, “It is not good that this man is living by himself. I’m going to make somebody else to be a mate for the man. This person will be good for the man.”

¹⁹ So God made all the animals and the birds. He brought every animal and every bird to the man. God wanted the man to give all the birds and animals their names. The man could say any name he wanted for each animal, and those names stayed with them. ²⁰ The man gave each animal a name. He named all the wild animals, all the animals that were not wild, and all the birds. That man’s own name was Adam. He looked around at all these animals and birds, but he couldn’t find the right kind of mate that was good for him.

²¹ So God made the man go to sleep properly, and while he was asleep, God opened up the man’s body and took out one of his rib bones. Then God closed the hole in the man’s body. ²² Then God used that rib bone to make a mate for the man. God made a woman from that rib bone. After the man woke up, God took the woman over to the man. ²³ The man looked at that woman. He said, “Good, I have a mate now. She has come from a part of me. God used my rib bone to make her bones. Yes, he used my body to make her body. She came from a man’s body, so I’m going to call her woman.”

²⁴⁻²⁵ God made that woman out of that man’s body. This is why a man will now leave his mother and father and marry a woman. The man and his wife will join with each other, and their bodies will be like one body again.

The man and the woman didn’t have any clothes on. They were both naked, but they were not ashamed.

3

The snake tricked the woman

¹ God made lots of animals, but the snake was the animal that had the most brains. He was really smart. One day the snake went up to the woman and talked to her. The snake said, “Did God say, ‘You can’t eat fruit from any of the trees in the garden.’ Is that true?”

² The woman said, “No, that’s not true. We can eat fruit from those trees there in the garden. ³ But God said that there is only one tree that we can’t eat from. We can’t eat any fruit that comes from the tree that is right in the middle of the garden. God will not even let us touch that tree. If we eat fruit from that tree, we will die.”

⁴ The snake said to the woman, “No, you will not die. ⁵ God knows what will happen if you eat fruit from that tree. He knows that if you eat fruit from that tree, you will know about the things you do, if they are good or if they are bad. If you know that, then you will be able to think properly, like God himself.”

The man and the woman did wrong

⁶ The woman looked at that tree. It was pretty, and the fruit on that tree looked really good to eat, and she reckoned that if she eats some of that fruit she will think properly. So the woman got some of that fruit, and she ate it, and she gave some of it to her husband, and he ate that fruit, too. ⁷ Straight away the man and the woman could think properly, and they knew a lot more things. They knew that they were naked, and they felt ashamed. They wanted to make clothes to cover up their naked bodies, so they picked some big leaves from a tree and sewed the leaves together to make some clothes.

God growled at the man and the woman

⁸ Later on, in the cool part of the day, the man and the woman could hear God walking in the garden. He was coming their way. They tried to hide from God, so they got behind the trees in the garden. ⁹ God called out, “Where are you, Adam?” ¹⁰ The man said, “I was listening, and I could hear you coming my way. I’m naked, so I was frightened, and I hid from you.” ¹¹ God asked the man, “How do you know that you are naked? Did you eat some of that fruit? I told you not to eat any fruit from that one tree in the middle of the garden.”

¹² The man answered God. He said, “God, you gave me that woman. She was the one. She gave me the fruit from that tree, so I ate it.”

¹³ Then God said to the woman, “What did you do? You know you did a really bad thing.”

The woman said, “That snake tricked me. That is why I ate that fruit.”

God judged the snake

¹⁴ Then God said, “Snake, you did the wrong thing, so I will curse you. I will not curse the other animals. From now on you are going to crawl around on your belly. You will always be down in the dust of the ground. ¹⁵ The kids that will come from the woman will hate you, and so will all their kids, and all the people that come from them. People will always be your enemies. And Snake, your kids will hate the woman’s kids, and so will all the snake mob that came from your kids. You snake mob will always be the people’s enemies. They will hit your mob’s heads, and your mob will bite their feet. Yes, one day one of her mob will hit your head.”

God judged the woman

¹⁶ Then God said to the woman, “I’m going to give you a lot of trouble. You are going to have a lot of pain whenever you have a baby. It will hurt you a lot. But you will really want to have a husband, and your husband will be your boss.”

God judged the man

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Then God talked to the man. He said, “Adam, I told you not to eat any fruit from that tree in the middle of the garden, but you listened to your wife, and you ate that fruit. So I will curse this ground and make it bad for you. It will not be easy for you to get your food any more. You will have to get it from the plants in the ground, and that ground will have lots of weeds and prickles in it. You will work very hard to get your food, so you will get hot, and you will sweat a lot. And later on you will die. I made you from the dirt, and after you die, your body will turn back into dirt.”

God hunted Adam and Eve out of Eden

²⁰ Adam gave his wife the name Eve. She was the first woman, and all the people in the world came from her. ²¹ God made some clothes from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

²² After that God said, “These people are like us now. They know what things are good, and what things are bad. We have to stop them, so they will not eat any fruit from the other tree in the middle of the garden, the tree that makes people live. If they eat any of that fruit, they will live for ever.” ²³ So God hunted them out of the garden.

At first God made that man out of the ground. Later on that man had to dig that same ground outside the garden, and he had to grow food plants there to get his food. ²⁴ God made sure that people couldn’t get back into

that garden called Eden. He hunted them out, then he put some of his angel workers to be guards just outside the east side of the garden. Their job was to stop anybody from getting near the tree that makes people live. They had long knives that were on fire, and they waved those long knives everywhere, to keep everyone away.

4

Cain and Abel brought presents to God

¹ Adam and Eve slept together, like a man does with his wife, and then Eve had a baby boy and gave him the name Cain. Eve said, “God has helped me have this baby boy.”

² After that they had another son, and she gave him the name Abel.

Abel grew up, and he looked after sheep all the time. Cain grew up, he became a gardener. He grew plants to eat.

³ One day Cain brought some food from his garden to give to God. ⁴ And Abel brought his present to God too, but Abel brought the best sheep from his mob of sheep. And God was happy with Abel, and with his present. ⁵ But God was not happy with Cain, and he was not happy with Cain’s present. Then Cain got very angry. His face changed and he looked very sad.

⁶ God said, “Cain. Why are you looking angry and sad? ⁷ If you do the right thing, I will be happy with you. But, if you don’t do the right thing, you have to be careful. You’ve got to tell yourself not to do those bad things you want to do. If you keep doing wrong things your life will be full of trouble.”

⁸ After that Cain went to his brother, Abel, and said, “Let’s go for a walk.” So Cain and Abel went out bush

together. While they were there, Cain got up and hit his brother, and murdered him.

⁹ Later, God said to Cain, “Where is your brother? Where is Abel?”

Cain said, “I don’t know where my brother is. I can’t look after him all the time. That’s not my job.” ¹⁰ God said to Cain, “What did you do? You know you did a really bad thing. I can see your brother’s blood on the ground. It’s like his blood is calling out to me. It is telling me you murdered him. ¹¹ From now on, I’m going to curse you. You murdered your brother and his blood is on the ground. So I will make the ground bad for you. ¹² If you try to grow plants in the ground nothing will grow for you. You will go away from me. And you will walk around in lots of places, but you will have no home.”

¹³ Cain said to God, “God, you are too hard on me. ¹⁴ You will not let me work my land now, and I have to go away from you. I have to walk around everywhere. I can’t sit down anywhere. Anybody might murder me now.”

¹⁵ God said, “Cain, that will not happen. If somebody does murder you, then I will punish them 7 times more than I punished you.” So God put a mark on Cain’s head so everybody will know that they can’t murder him.

The family that came from Cain

¹⁶ After this, Cain walked away from God and went to live in a place called Nod. That country was on the east side of the garden called Eden. ¹⁷ Cain slept with his wife, like married people do together, and then she had a baby boy. They called their son Enoch. Cain built a town and he also called it Enoch, after his son. ¹⁸ Enoch grew up and he had a son, called Irad.

Irad grew up and he had a son, called Mehuajel.

Mehujael grew up, and he had a son, called Methushael.

Methushael grew up and had a son, called Lamech.
¹⁹ Lamech grew up and married 2 women. One wife's name was Adah. The name of the other wife was Zillah.
²⁰ Lamech's wife Adah had a baby boy, called Jabal.

Jabal grew up and he was the first person to go around with mobs of cattle, just living in a tent, not a house.
²¹ Adah had another son, a brother for Jabal. His name was Jubal.

Jubal grew up and was the first person to play musical instruments. He played a harp and a flute. ²² Lamech's other wife, Zillah, she had a son called Tubal-Cain.

Tubal-Cain grew up and made tools from iron and from a brown metal called bronze. Zillah also had a daughter, called Naamah.

²³ One day Lamech said to his 2 wives, "Adah and Zillah, listen to me properly. My wives, listen to me now. A young man hit me and hurt me, so I murdered him. ²⁴ God said that if anyone murdered Cain he will punish that man 7 times more than he punished Cain. I reckon I'm more important than Cain. So if a man kills me for murdering that young man, I reckon God will punish him 77 times more than he punished Cain."

Adam and Eve had another son

²⁵ Adam and Eve slept together again, like a man does with his wife, and they had another son, and they gave him the name Seth. Eve said, "God has given me another son to take the place of Abel, the one that Cain murdered."

²⁶ Seth grew up and had a son called Enosh. People started to pray to God at that time.

¹ This is the story of Adam's family. You see, God made people to be like himself. ² He made them men and women, and he called them human people, and he was good to them.

³ Adam lived a long time. He was 130 years old when he had a son called Seth. Seth grew up and was just like his father, Adam. ⁴ Then Adam lived for another 800 years after Seth was born, and he had more sons and daughters. ⁵ He died when he was 930 years old.

⁶ Seth lived a long time. He was 105 years old when he had a son called Enosh. ⁷ Then Seth lived for another 807 years, and he had more sons and daughters. ⁸ He died when he was 912 years old.

⁹ Enosh lived a long time. He was 90 years old when he had a son called Kenan. ¹⁰ Then Enosh lived for another 815 years, and he had more sons and daughters. ¹¹ He died when he was 905 years old.

¹² Kenan lived a long time. He was 70 years old when he had a son called Mahalalel. ¹³ Then Kenan lived for another 840 years, and he had more sons and daughters. ¹⁴ He died when he was 910 years old.

¹⁵ Mahalalel lived a long time. He was 65 years old when he had a son called Jared. ¹⁶ Then Mahalalel lived for another 830 years, and he had more sons and daughters. ¹⁷ He died when he was 895 years old.

¹⁸ Jared lived a long time. He was 162 years old when he had a son called Enoch. ¹⁹ Then Jared lived for another 800 years, and he had more sons and daughters. ²⁰ He died when he was 962 years old.

²¹ Enoch lived a long time. He was 65 years old when he had a son called Methuselah. ²²⁻²⁴ Then Enoch lived for another 300 years after Methuselah was born, and he had more sons and daughters.

Enoch was always a good friend of God, and he spent a lot of time with God. One day, when he was 365 years old, he wasn't here on the earth any more. Nobody could find him anywhere. You see, he didn't die, but God took him straight up to heaven.

²⁵ Methuselah lived a long time. He was 187 years old when he had a son called Lamech. ²⁶ Then Methuselah lived for another 782 years, and he had more sons and daughters. ²⁷ He died when he was 969 years old.

²⁸ Lamech lived a long time. He was 182 years old when he had a son. ²⁹ He called his son Noah. Lamech said, "God cursed the ground. We have to work hard to dig the ground, but Noah will help us to be happy, even though we have to work hard." ³⁰ Then Lamech lived for another 595 years, and he had more sons and daughters. ³¹ He died when he was 777 years old.

³² Noah had 3 sons after he was 500 years old. They were called Shem, Ham and Japheth.

6

There were big, strong fighting men

¹ The people on the earth kept having lots of kids, and these kids grew up and kept having more kids, so after some time there were lots of people on the earth. Some people had very pretty daughters.

² There were some men that everyone called the Sons of God. They looked at the pretty young women, then they picked out the ones they wanted, and they married them. ³ God looked at everything that was happening. He said, "I gave people their breath, but I will not let it stay in them for ever. They are just people. They will live for only 120 years."

⁴ Those men called the Sons of God slept with the pretty women that they married, like men do with their wives, and then those women had kids called Nephalim. These kids grew up to be big, strong fighting men. They were the great fighters in the stories of a long time ago.

People kept doing the wrong thing

⁵ God looked at the people on the earth, and he saw them doing lots of bad things. He knew the way the people were thinking. They were thinking bad things all the time. God saw that the people were very bad. ⁶ So God was feeling sad. He really felt no good inside. He thought to himself, “I made all these people, and now they make me really sad.”

⁷ And God said, “These people keep doing bad things, and this makes me really sad. I’m sorry that I made them. I’m sorry I made everything on the earth. I want to finish up everything. I want to kill all the people I made, and I want to kill all the animals on earth, the big animals, and the little animals, and even the animals that crawl around on the ground, and I want to kill all the birds that fly in the sky.”

⁸⁻⁹ But God looked at the man called Noah, and God saw that he was a good man. He didn’t do anything wrong. God was happy with him. Noah was God’s good friend, and he spent a lot of time with God.

The story about Noah

¹⁰⁻¹³ This is the story about Noah. He had 3 sons called Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Everyone on the earth kept doing bad things. They were doing wrong to each other, and fighting and hurting each other. God looked down and saw all the bad things

that were going on. The people were always doing things that were really bad.

God talked to Noah, he said, “Look, everyone is doing bad things. I’m going to kill all these bad people, and I will finish up everything on this earth.”

God told Noah to build a big boat

¹⁴ Then God said, “Noah, you make a really big boat for yourself. Make it out of that strong wood called cypress. Make some rooms in the boat. And get some tar and paint the inside of the boat, and paint the outside too. This will keep the water out of the boat.

¹⁵ Listen, Noah, this is how big I want you to make the boat. It has to be 140 metres long, and 23 metres wide, and 13½ metres high. ¹⁶ I want you to make a window at the top of the boat. Put it right around the top of the boat. Make that window ½ metre high. Put one door in the side of the boat. And make 3 floors in the boat, one floor on the bottom and the other 2 floors upstairs.

¹⁷ You see, soon I will bring a lot of flood water, and it will cover the whole earth. Everything will die. Everything that breathes air, and that lives on the earth or flies in the sky, will die. ¹⁸ But don’t you worry, Noah. Don’t be frightened. I’m making a strong promise to you, that I will look after you. I will look after you, and your wife, and all your kids, and their wives too. You all have to go into that boat.

¹⁹ And you have to bring lots of animals into that boat too. Every kind of animal that is on the earth has to go into that boat, so that they will stay alive in the big flood. Get one male and one female of each kind of those animals, and take them into the boat with you. You see, you have to keep those animals alive. ²⁰ And the same for all those different kinds of birds. Get one male and one

female of all of those birds. And the same for all those animals that crawl around on the ground. You have to get one male and one female of all those animals too. All these animals will come right up to you, and you have to make sure that you look after them properly so that they stay alive.

²¹ And you have to gather up lots of food, all the kinds of food that people eat, and all the things that those animals eat too. You have to put it all in the boat, so that you will all have enough tucker.”

²² Then Noah did everything that God told him to do. He did everything just like God said.

7

God told Noah to get ready for a flood

¹ After that, God said to Noah, “You are the only man that lives the right way. Get your family and take them into the big boat. ² You have to take every kind of animal with you into that big boat. You know those kinds of animals that are right for you to give to me as presents? Well, get 7 males and 7 females from each of those kinds of animals. And get all the other animals too, the ones that are not right to give to me. Get one male and one female from each of those kinds of animals. They all have to go on to the big boat. ³ And the birds too. They have to go on to the big boat. Get 7 males and 7 females from each kind of bird. This will save those birds and animals, so that there will always be birds and animals on the earth.

⁴ You see, I’m going to send a big rain. This rain will come in 7 days time. Then it will keep raining all the time for 40 days and for 40 nights. The floodwater will come up and wash away all the things that I have made.”

⁵ So Noah did everything just the way God told him.

The flood water came

⁶⁻⁷ Noah was 600 years old at the time that he went into the big boat to be safe from the flood. Noah and his wife and his 3 sons and their wives all went into the big boat. ⁸⁻⁹ A big mob of animals came to Noah and he took them into the boat, just like God told him. Some of them were the right animals to give to God as a present. There were males and females of each kind of animal. There were all kinds of animals, birds and even animals that crawl around on the ground. They were all there together on that big boat. It was just the way God wanted it to be.

¹⁰ Then, 7 days later, the flood water came, just like God said. ¹¹⁻¹⁶ Noah was 600 years old at the time that the flood water came. It came on the 17th day of the 2nd month of that year.

Noah, and his wife, and his sons, called Shem, Ham and Japheth, and their wives too, they all went into the big boat. They were there with all the animals. There were wild animals and quiet animals, big animals and small animals. And all the birds were there too. There were males and females of every living bird and animal on that big boat. All of the different kinds of animals went into that big boat with Noah. They went in 2 at a time, just like God told Noah. After the last animal went into the boat with Noah and his family, God shut the door.

Then, on that same day, the rain came out of the sky. It really rained hard all the time. It was just like God opened up a big window in the sky, and rain poured down. And more water came up from springs, and from everywhere under the ground too. It kept raining for 40 days and 40 nights. ¹⁷ The flood water kept getting higher and higher for all those 40 days, and the big boat started to float on the water. ¹⁸ The water got deeper and deeper, but that

boat was all right, it floated on top of the water, high above the ground.

¹⁹ The water got so deep that it covered all the big mountains everywhere. ²⁰ It covered the tops of those mountains with about 7 metres of water. ²¹ Everything that lived on the earth died. Only the people and animals on that big boat didn't die. The flood water killed all the birds, all the animals, the wild ones and those that are not wild, and it killed every insect and every person. ²² All the living things on the ground, that breathed air, they all died. ²³ There was nothing left on the earth. There were no birds, or animals, or insects or people. God killed them all and washed them away. The only things that stayed alive were the animals and birds on the big boat with Noah and his family.

²⁴ And that went on for a long time. The flood water covered the earth for 5 months.

8

The flood water went down

¹ And God thought about Noah and the animals in that big boat at that time. He made a strong wind blow on the flood water to help it to go down. ² And God stopped the water from coming up from under the ground, and he stopped the rain falling from the sky.

³ The flood water went down slowly, and after 5 months it was a lot lower. ⁴ So, 5 months after the start of the flood, the big boat got stuck in the mountains called the Ararat mountains. ⁵ The flood water kept going down for the next 2½ months, and then they saw the tops of the mountains, sticking up out of the water.

Noah let some birds go out of the boat to fly around

⁶ Then, 6 weeks later, Noah opened the window in the top of the big boat. He wanted to find out if the water went down, and if a bird could find some dry ground. ⁷ So he let a crow go out of the window. The crow didn't come back to the big boat. It just kept flying around until the flood waters dried up.

⁸⁻⁹ So Noah let a pigeon go out of the window. But the flood water still covered the ground and the pigeon couldn't find a place to stay, so it went back to the big boat. Noah held out his hand for the bird, and helped it back into the boat.

¹⁰ Noah waited for 7 more days and then he let the pigeon go out of the boat again. ¹¹ This time the pigeon came back just before night time. It had a fresh leaf from an olive tree in its beak. Then Noah knew the flood water was getting lower, and the trees were growing again.

¹² Noah waited for 7 more days then he sent the pigeon out again. This time the pigeon didn't come back to the big boat.

Everyone left the boat

¹³ Noah was 601 years old at that time.

The water was still going down, and on the 1st day of the new year Noah took off some of the roof from the big boat and looked around. He could see that the ground was drying up. ¹⁴ After another 2 months the earth was dry.

¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ "You can go out of the big boat now. You can all go out, you, and your wife, and your sons, and their wives too. ¹⁷ And bring all the living animals out of the big boat. Bring out all the animals, and the birds, and the little animals that crawl around on the ground. They can all come out, so they can live on the ground and have lots of young ones, so that they will go everywhere on the earth."

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ So Noah and his wife, and his sons and their wives, they all came out of the big boat. And all the animals and all the birds came out of the big boat too. They came out in groups of all the different kinds of animals and birds.

Noah said thank you to God

²⁰ Then Noah got some stones and made them into a stone table, and he got one of each kind of animal and bird that are the right ones to give to God, and he killed them, and he put them on that stone table, and he burned them there. He did that to give them to God, to say thank you to God.

²¹⁻²² God smelled the meat cooking on that stone table, and he was happy. Then God said to himself, “People always think the wrong way. They do that all their lives, from when they are little kids, right up till the time they die. But I will never again punish them the same way that I did this time. I will never again finish up everything that breathes air, and I will never again curse the earth. While the earth is still here, the seasons will stay the same. There will always be day and night, and every year there will be a hot time and a cold time, a wet season and a dry season. There will always be a right time to plant seeds for food, and a right time to get the food from those plants.”

9

God promised that he will never again flood the whole earth

¹ God was good to Noah and his sons. God said to them, “You can have lots of kids, and lots of people will come from those kids, so that there will be lots of people, and they will live everywhere on the earth. ² I’m making you boss over everything that lives on the ground, all

the animals and all the birds, and I'm making you boss over the fish and everything in the sea too. They will be frightened of you.

³ I gave you bush tucker to eat, and I'm giving you meat to eat too. ⁴ But I'm telling you this about blood. It is important. It keeps a body alive. So don't eat any blood. You have to drain the blood out of the animal before you eat it. Don't eat any meat that still has the blood in it. ⁵ And I will punish anything that kills a person dead. If it kills somebody, it spills that person's blood, so I will punish it. If an animal kills somebody, it has to die. And it is the same for a person that kills another person. ⁶ If somebody murders another person, you have to kill that murderer. You see, I made people to be like myself, so they are important.

⁷ But you mob here, I want you to have lots of kids, so that there will be lots of people everywhere on the earth."

⁸ Then God told Noah and his sons, ⁹ "I promise this to you and to your kids, and your grand kids to come. ¹⁰ And I promise this to all the animals that live on the earth, too, all the birds, and all the quiet animals, and all the wild animals. I promise this to all of the animals that came out of the big boat with you. ¹¹ I promise that there will never again be a big flood of water that will ruin the whole earth. There will never again be a big flood that kills all the living animals."

God sent a rainbow to help people remember what he promised

¹² And God said, "I will give you something to help you remember what I promised to you, and to all of the animals living on the earth, and to all your grand kids to come. ¹³ It is my rainbow, up there in the sky. I'm putting

it there to help us all remember what I promised to you, and to everything that lives on the earth. I promised that I will never send such a big flood again. ¹⁴ I will send rain clouds into the sky, and there will be a rainbow in the clouds, too. ¹⁵ Then I will remember what I promised to you, and to all the living animals. There will never again be a flood that will kill all of the animals on the earth. ¹⁶ Every time I look at the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember what I promised to you, and to all the living animals on the earth. I will never break that promise. It will last for ever.”

¹⁷ And God said to Noah, “This is very important. That rainbow will show us that I myself promised this for every living thing.”

Noah got drunk

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Noah’s sons came out of the big boat with him. Their names were Shem, Ham and Japheth. Then those 3 men had sons and daughters, and later those kids had more kids, and it kept going like that. All the people in the world came from that family. Ham had a son called Canaan.

²⁰ After Noah came out of the big boat he started growing a garden. He planted some grape vines and they got some fruit, then he made some wine from those grapes. ²¹ Noah drank some of that wine and got drunk. He took his clothes off and went to sleep in his tent. ²² Ham (Canaan’s father) went into the tent and saw his naked father. Ham didn’t respect his father, but he went outside and told his brothers. ²³ Shem and Japheth got a coat. They held it over their shoulders and walked backwards into the tent. They put the coat on their father to cover his naked body. They didn’t turn around and look at their naked father.

²⁴ After Noah woke up he found out what Ham, his youngest son, did to him. ²⁵ Then Noah said, “I’m going to curse Canaan, Ham’s son. He will have to work hard without pay for his relatives. ²⁶ I’m going to ask God to look after Shem, but Canaan will work hard for him with no pay. ²⁷ I’m going to ask God to give Japheth lots of land. Japheth and Shem will share this land, and Canaan will work hard for them with no pay.”

²⁸ Then Noah lived for another 350 years after the flood. ²⁹ He lived till he was 950 years old, then he died.

10

Lots of tribes and nations came from Noah’s family

¹ This story is about Noah’s sons and their families. His sons were Shem, Ham and Japheth, and after that big flood, they had kids too.

The tribes that came from Japheth

²⁻⁵ A long time later the people that came from Japheth split up into different tribes. Each one had their own language, and their own land. Japheth’s sons were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech and Tiras.

The tribes that came from Japheth’s son Gomer were the Ashkenaz mob, and the Riphath mob, and the Togarmah mob.

The tribes that came from Japheth’s son Javan were the Elishah mob, and the Tarshish mob, and the Kittim mob, and the Rodanim mob.

Javan’s people lived near the sea.

The tribes that came from Ham

⁶ The people that came from Ham split up into different tribes. Each one had their own language, and their own land. Ham’s sons were Cush, and Egypt, and Put, and Canaan.

⁷ The tribes that came from Ham's son Cush were the Seba mob, and the Havilah mob, and the Sabtah mob, and the Raamah mob, and the Sabteca mob.

⁸ One of the men that came from Cush was called Nimrod. After he grew up he became a strong fighter.

⁹ He was the best hunter in the world too. If people talked about good hunters they said things like this, "That man is a really good hunter. He is just like Nimrod, the best hunter in the world."

¹⁰ Nimrod controlled the country called Babylonia, and he was the boss of the cities called Babel, and Erech, and Accad. ¹¹ After that, Nimrod got the country called Assyria and built the cities called Nineveh, and Rehoboth-ir and Calah. ¹² Then he built a big city called Resen. It was between Nineveh and Calah.

¹³ The tribes that came from Ham's son Egypt were the Ludim mob, and the Anamim mob, and the Lehabim mob, and the Naphtuhim mob, ¹⁴ and the Pathrusim mob, and the Casluhim mob, and the Caphtorim mob. (Later the Philistine nation came from the Caphtorim mob.)

¹⁵ Ham's youngest son, called Canaan, had 2 sons. He called his 1st son Sidon and the other son Heth. ¹⁶ A lot of tribes came from Canaan. They were the Jebusite mob, and the Amorite mob, and the Girgashite mob, ¹⁷ and the Hivite mob, and the Arkite mob, and the Sinite mob, ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ and the Arvadite mob, and the Zemarite mob, and the Hamathite mob. All these tribes came from Canaan, and they went as far north as Sidon, and as far south as Gaza, and as far east as the cities called Sodom, and Gomorrah, and Admah, and Zeboiim, which is near Lasha.

²⁰ Those were all the families, and tribes, and nations that came from Ham. Each one had their own country and their own language.

The tribes that came from Shem

²¹ Shem was Japheth's older brother. All of the mob called Eber came from Shem. ²² You see, Shem's sons were Elam, and Asshur, and Arphaxad, and Lud, and Aram.

²³ The tribes that came from Shem's son Aram were the Uz mob, and the Hul mob, and the Gether mob, and the Mash mob.

²⁴ Shem's son Arphaxad had a son called Shelah, and he had a son called Eber. ²⁵ Eber had 2 sons. The 1st son was called Peleg, and his young brother was called Joktan. That name Peleg means split up. He got that name because all the people split up into different tribes after he was born.

²⁶ The tribes that came from Eber's son Joktan were the Almodad mob, and the Sheleph mob, and the Hazarmaveth mob, and the Jerah mob, ²⁷ and the Hadoram mob, and the Uzal mob, and the Diklah mob, ²⁸ and the Obal mob, and the Abimael mob, and the Sheba mob, ²⁹ and the Ophir mob, and the Havilah mob, and the Jobab mob. ³⁰ All of these people came from Joktan. Their land was in the mountains in the east, the country you see if you go from Mesha all the way to Sephar.

³¹ Those were all the families, and tribes, and nations that came from Shem. Each one had their own country and their own language.

³² That is the big list of all the families and tribes that came from Noah. They split up into their own nations, and they went everywhere after the big flood.

11

People tried to build a high building called Babel

¹ You know, at first everyone talked the same language. And as people started to move around to different places, ² they stopped on a flat plain in Babylonia country, and they stayed there. ³⁻⁴ Then they said to each other, "Look,

we can make bricks here. So come on, we will do that. We will bake them properly so that they are good strong bricks, and we will use them to build a city here. So come on, we will build a big high building in that city. It will be so high that it will go right up into the sky.” (You see, they used bricks and tar instead of stones and cement.) And they said, “If we do this, everyone will think we are smart. Then we will not wander all over the earth, but we will stay together right here.”

God made people talk in different languages

⁵ God came down to look at that city and its big building. ⁶ He said, “These people can all talk to each other in the same language, so they can do anything they want. If they keep on going this way, nothing will stop them from doing anything. ⁷ Come on, we will go down to these people and we will make them talk in different languages. Then they will not understand each other, and they will be all mixed up. They will not work things out with each other, so they will not keep building properly.”

⁸ So God made all the people talk in different languages. None of them could understand anything the others were saying. So they stopped building their big city. ⁹ They all left that city and went to live in lots of different places, all over the world. This is the way God scattered the people all over the world. And they called that city Babel, which means mixed up.

The story of Shem’s family

¹⁰ This is the story of Shem’s family.

Shem was 100 years old when he had a son called Arphaxad. That was 2 years after the big flood. ¹¹ Shem lived for 500 years after he had Arphaxad, and he had more sons and daughters.

¹² Arphaxad was 36 years old when he had a son called Shelah. ¹³ Arphaxad lived for 403 years after he had Shelah, and he had more sons and daughters.

¹⁴ Shelah was 30 years old when he had a son called Eber. ¹⁵ Shelah lived for 430 years after he had Eber, and he had more sons and daughters.

¹⁶ Eber was 34 years old when he had a son called Peleg. ¹⁷ Eber lived for 209 years after he had Peleg, and he had more sons and daughters.

¹⁸ Peleg was 30 years old when he had a son called Reu. ¹⁹ Peleg lived for 209 years after he had Reu, and he had more sons and daughters.

²⁰ Reu was 32 years old when he had a son called Serug. ²¹ Reu lived for 207 years after he had Serug, and he had more sons and daughters.

²² Serug was 30 years old when he had a son called Nahor. ²³ Serug lived for 200 years after he had Nahor, and he had more sons and daughters.

²⁴ Nahor was 29 years old when he had a son called Terah. ²⁵ Nahor lived for 119 years after he had Terah, and he had more sons and daughters.

²⁶ Terah had 3 sons after he was 70 years old. Their names were Abram, Nahor and Haran.

The story of Terah's family

²⁷ This is the story of Terah's family. Terah had 3 sons, called Abram, Nahor and Haran. Haran had a son called Lot.

²⁸⁻²⁹ Haran, Terah's son, had 2 daughters called Milcah and Iscah. After that, Haran died, while his father was still alive. He died in Ur, in Chaldea country, the place where he was born.

Nahor, Haran's brother, married Milcah. And Abram married a woman called Sarai,³⁰ but they didn't have any kids. Sarai just couldn't have a baby.

³¹ Then Terah went away from Ur, in Chaldea country. He took his family with him. They were his son Abram, and Abram's wife Sarai, and his grand-son Lot. They all got up and left Ur, and they started to go to the land called Canaan. But they stopped half way, at a place called Haran, and they stayed there.

³² Terah lived till he was 205 years old, then he died there in Haran.

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