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**MINUTE  
BIBLE**

*Journey*

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## What People are Saying

“To pen a book that is a concise yet profoundly meaningful summary of the most strategic events in the Bible is an ambitious goal, but one that Dale Mason has met well! Mason has crafted an overview that gives the reader an exciting new perspective and the essential context on events they may have read about many times. *The 10 Minute Bible Journey* is as well-suited as a personal devotional, as it is for group Bible Study and one-on-one discipleship. I highly recommend this book for men and women of all ages! A great, non-threatening way to jump to the next level in your understanding of God’s Word and the gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ!”

—Cathy Allen, COO, Love Worth Finding Ministries

“Love it! The writing style is extremely engaging and the presentation of biblical history is phenomenally seamless. The events selected to articulate the panoramic biblical historical perspective are extremely well chosen.”

—Bryan Osborne, apologetics speaker/chronological teaching specialist

“Dale Mason, in *The 10 Minute Bible Journey*, gives us the proverbial box top to the Bible puzzle. In concise and easily digestible portions, he leads us through the timeline of the Bible and shows the 30,000 foot view that puts everything into perspective. People constantly ask me for a book they can use to lead their family through the Bible in a systematic way...now I have the perfect resource to recommend to them! This is a useful tool for parents, students, church leaders, and anyone doing discipleship ministry. ...Nothing is more important in this world than knowing God as He has revealed Himself through His Word; and *The 10 Minute Bible Journey* will help you to accomplish that in an interesting, creative and powerful way.”

— Israel Wayne, author & conference speaker

“*The 10 Minute Bible Journey* gives readers an easy to understand overview of the story of the world. I’ve been waiting for a book like this!”

— Tim Wildmon, President, American Family Association

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“... always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

— 1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV)

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COVENANT

## DEDICATION

To my beloved Karen...  
 Your grace-laced affections won my heart. Thank you for your ceaseless encouragement and patience.  
 To our four children...  
 You're not kids anymore. It's beautiful to watch as you and your godly spouses show your own children that the Bible is full of realities, not fantasies!



## FOREWORD

I met Dale and his wife Karen in the early '80s when I visited the USA from Australia to speak in various American churches on the topic of the relevance of the Book of Genesis. Dale was working in a Christian ministry called Films For Christ, which was known for distributing a movie entitled *The World That Perished*. This evangelistic film dealt with the account of Noah's Flood. We used the movie in Australia to reach thousands of people with the truth of God's Word and the gospel.

In 1986, my wife and I came to America for six months to work with Films For Christ. During this time, Dale and I spent many months on the road traveling across the USA together. Dale had organized scores of speaking events for me as part of a multi-city "book and film" tour. I conducted about 100 engagements: speaking in churches, doing interviews at TV and radio stations, and other outreaches. During these six months, we distributed thousands of books that we hauled to each event in a large trailer! After this successful 1986 speaking tour, my wife, our children, and I returned to Australia. But we all came back to the USA in 1987, where I would work for about seven years with the Institute for Creation Research.

Instead of returning to Australia in late 1993, our family, along with two other families, moved to Northern Kentucky to begin the Answers in Genesis ministry and eventually build the Creation Museum. As the ministry began to grow, and in God's providence, I met up with Dale again. In 2004, AiG had some special needs and I approached Dale about working with us. He agreed, and Dale has been with the ministry ever since and we continue to enjoy a strong friendship.

Several years ago, when Dale reached one of those "big decade" birthday markers, he shared a concern with me. He had been unable to find a book with a solid overview of the entire Bible that was written at an easy-to-read level that included faith-confirming apologetics. Well, I challenged Dale to write it himself! So, he did! And what a unique publication it is, filling a niche that had been missing for a long time.

I encourage dads, moms, grandparents, and teens to use this book as a special devotional. It's certainly different to any other devotional out there. It will give you an overview of the whole Bible and equip you with answers to help defend your faith.

You will love the way Dale has made the major accounts in the Bible flow from one event to the next. It's nearly seamless and in a way that the whole Bible makes so much more sense. With Dale's book, it is now so much easier to see how Jesus is prophesied in Genesis chapter 3 and is active behind the scenes throughout the entire Old Testament. It makes the New Testament come to life in a powerful way.

This book is also like no other because Dale has used his knowledge of apologetics that he has picked up at AiG, our Creation Museum, and the Ark Encounter. He has integrated that faith-confirming teaching into a survey that covers nearly all the most important events and heroes and heroines of the Scriptures. And with the illustrations and the one-of-a-kind timeline at the back, this book is one of the very best ways that adults and teens can get a great overview of the whole Bible quickly.

At our ministry of Answers in Genesis, we have a Sunday school program called the Answers Bible Curriculum. I see Dale's book as a tremendous complement to ABC as it gives teachers and parents a fast yet thorough summary of what they will be teaching over 3-4 years of the ABC curriculum. In as little as one weekend, or over 52 days of daily devotional times, an adult or teen will understand the big cornerstone events of the Bible. Along the way, they will get to know fun and little-known facts about many of the most-referenced characters of the Bible.

Enjoy and be blessed by this wonderful book.

—Ken Ham  
President/CEO  
Answers in Genesis

## Introduction

*The 10 Minute Bible Journey* is intended to be a fast-paced, apologetics-infused summary of the Bible. It reveals the amazing essentials of Christianity and tells why Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven. As I've told "seekers" and "believers" alike, getting to spend eternity with Jesus in the glories of heaven rather than separated from Him in the punishment of hell is not based on how good we are, what church we attend, or whether we've been baptized. Though important, those things do not determine our salvation. They are not the bottom line.

Friend, what we do with Jesus Christ is the bottom line when it comes to where we will spend eternity when our mortal life is through. Jesus said so Himself in various ways but probably most emphatically when He told His disciples, "I am the way the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father [goes to Heaven] except through me" (John 14:6).

Where are you with Jesus? God spoke through the Apostle Paul when he said that no one is good enough to deserve heaven (Romans 3:23). So, why should Jesus allow you or me to spend eternity with Him? Have you prayed and asked Him to forgive you for your sins? Have you received Jesus as your Savior? Do you truly believe the book of His life? He said that those who are His followers seek to know what He said. Then they do it (John 14:22-24). The amazing true story and words of Jesus are recorded in the Bible, which opens our eyes to know Him better.

Like the Bible itself, *The 10 Minute Bible Journey* begins with "in the beginning" and points to the future return of Jesus. The Bible's journey is from rebellion to restoration, Genesis to Revelation, creation to heaven. It warns about the wide path to destruction, and it highlights the narrow gate to salvation (Matthew 7:14)!

In case the Bible is fairly new to you, here are some really important basic facts.

- The Holy Bible is the error-free collection of 66 smaller books. There is no other book like it.
- Over a period of at least 1,600 years, about 40 different authors from many walks of life wrote down the inspired text given by God's Holy Spirit.
- The first portion, the Old Testament, covers the first two-thirds of history. It runs from God's creation of the universe and mankind, to the years just prior to the birth of the promised Messiah.
- The final portion, the New Testament, covers the birth, ministry, death, and all-important Resurrection of Jesus, plus the rapid spread of Christianity in the first century A.D. It tells about the future Second Coming of Christ, how to be forgiven and spend eternity in heaven, and that those who are not forgiven will spend eternity in the very real place called hell.



However, this book is about the Bible; it is not the Bible itself. It is a carefully researched summary of the most strategic and faith-confirming accounts from the Bible's first book, Genesis, to its last book, Revelation. It includes faith-facts known as "apologetics" that confirm from science and other proof tests that the Bible is true.

The chapters in *The 10 Minute Bible Journey* are in the order that the events actually occurred. In our present era — when in most churches only the last portion of God's Word is taught — this "chronological" approach helps us to quickly understand the big picture of the Bible and the seamless storyline of Jesus. It helps us to easily place each event in relation to the others. It provides an overview, much like the picture on the box top of a jumbled jigsaw puzzle serves as a guide as to how the multitude of pieces actually fit together.

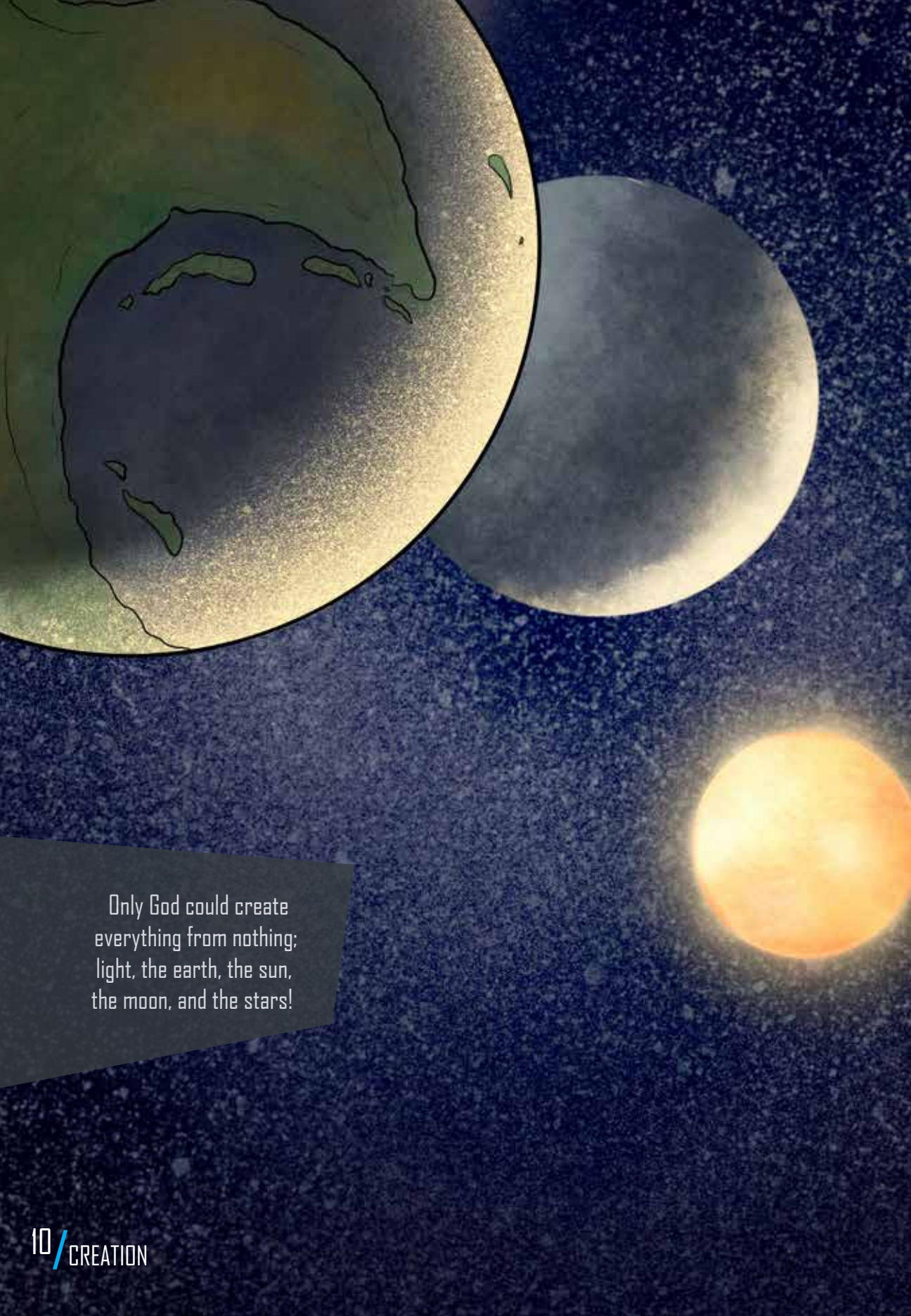
The Bible, as originally written down, is historically accurate. Therefore, in *The 10 Minute Bible Journey* approximate dates are included at the beginning of each account. These dates are based first and foremost on the Bible itself, and most are documented in the respected work of scholar and theologian James Ussher. His meticulous chronology of history is derived primarily from the dates of births, deaths, kingly rule, and other points in time. Though ridiculed by skeptics, especially those committed to belief in the idea of evolution, Ussher's chronology holds enormous value even today.

Whether you know the Bible well, or you long to see how all its amazing key events fit together, you will appreciate our Creator's plan for the restoration of creation and the salvation of mankind better than ever.

It is my prayer that you will be drawn passionately into God's Word, and an even deeper relationship with His son, Jesus.

Welcome to God's story — the true history and future of mankind!

—Dale Mason



Only God could create  
everything from nothing;  
light, the earth, the sun,  
the moon, and the stars!

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# THE BEGINNING

Days 1-5,  
c. 4004 B.C.

The first page of the Bible reveals the answer to the biggest question of all time.

How did everything come to be?

Some people believe in a “big bang” where a pinpoint of energy mysteriously appeared and exploded billions of years ago, somehow resulting in our exceedingly complex universe.

Some even believe the idea that space-alien life somehow evolved and seeded life on earth.

However, we have a book that is the eyewitness testimony of the only One who was there. That book, the Bible, reveals that creation is the direct result of the Creator God.

Genesis is the very first part of the Bible. It is 50 amazing chapters of flawless history. In Genesis, God tells us how the world came to be, how marriage and the family are to be structured, the origin of pain and death, why we wear clothes, the beginning of beauty and pleasure, and much more. The fascinating early pages of the Bible even make known the foundations of biology, zoology, anthropology, astronomy, and geology.

After revealing that the Creator made everything out of nothing by His Word,<sup>1</sup> the Bible summarizes what happened

on each day of the creation week.

On day 1, God created time, space, the earth, and light. He separated light from darkness, and He made evening and morning. The words that God used to describe how long He took are very specific. Each of the days in the first chapter of Genesis is a normal, 24-hour period. God could have taken millions of years, but He did not.<sup>2</sup> He emphasizes repeatedly that He created in six consecutive, ordinary days. And science confirms that the Bible is true.

On day 2, God separated the water by an expanse called heavens; He placed some water below the expanse and some above it. Then there was another evening and morning.

On day 3, He gathered the waters under the expanse into one place and made dry land appear — one big continent, and one big ocean with spring-fed rivers flowing into it. The angels shouted for joy when God laid the foundations of the earth. He made plants and trees with seeds to reproduce after their kinds,<sup>3</sup> and He saw that it was good. Then there was evening and morning.

On day 4, three days after He created light, God made ongoing sources of light: the sun and stars. Plus he made the moon, which reflects the sun's light for us at night. Because of the sun, earth has heat, photosynthesis, the water cycle, and more. The sun is a fireball, equal to thousands of hydrogen bombs exploding continuously. The Creator's immense power is staggering. Scientists now estimate that trillions of billions of stars fill the universe — numbers far beyond comprehension.

On day 5, He created winged creatures and every kind of fish, including those the Bible describes as huge monsters of the sea.<sup>4</sup> In addition to exotic and exquisitely colored animals, there were swimming reptiles and water mammals like whales. These would have included sea turtles and beasts like the *shastasaurus*, which grew to nearly 70 feet long. Besides the small and beautiful birds, there were flying mammals such as bats, plus enormous flying reptiles like the pterosaurs, whose wings spread as wide as an airplane. Because all animals were originally vegetarian,<sup>5</sup>

they lived in harmony and did not eat each other. God blessed them to be fruitful and fill the water and the sky with creatures after their kinds.

The perfection and intricate design of all creation filled both God and His angels with joy. But the best was yet to come. In only a few hours, He was about to fashion His most special creation of all!

### PRIMARY PASSAGES:

Gen. 1:1–23; John 1; Heb. 11:3;  
Col. 1:16, Job 38:4–7

### KEY VERSE:

“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”  
—Col. 1:16

### WRAP UP:

“Heavenly Father, thank You for revealing that You created everything in just six days, not billions of years. As I think of the infinite universe and earth's microscopic details, it leaves me in awe of Your power. Lord, it is so good to know that You made a perfect world. Please soften my heart and give me a clear mind. I want to know Your Word, the Bible, and I want to honor You, the Creator!”



It was probably early in the morning when God made the earth bring forth land animals on day 6. He formed the original kinds of antelope, horses, elephants, rhinoceroses, turtles, giraffes, apes, cattle, cats, dogs, and many others — including dozens of different kinds of dinosaurs!<sup>1</sup>

Next, God again took dust of the ground and formed the first man, Adam, and breathed life into him.

Adam and all of creation were perfect. There was no corruption, no disease, no death. Genesis reveals that God planted a special garden in Eden and placed Adam there to work it and watch over it.<sup>2</sup> Work was actually part of the original, perfect creation!

God then told Adam he could eat any plant that yielded seed and the fruit from all the trees in the garden, except one. He was not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If he did, he would begin to die.<sup>3</sup>

After God created Adam, He declared that it was not good for man to be alone. However, before making him a companion, God brought many of the animals to him to name. Thankfully,

Adam only had to name the birds, the livestock, and the beasts of the field. He did not have to name the fish or the hundreds of thousands of modern sea creatures. He did not name what now amounts to over a million species of insects, beetles, spiders, and other animals.<sup>4</sup> In all, Adam probably had to name fewer than 1,000 kinds of creatures. He could have done that in only a few hours.<sup>5</sup>

Adam undoubtedly realized that although there were many kinds of creatures, none was right for him. Also, each already had a mate, yet he did not.<sup>6</sup> Then in another miracle of creation, rich in symbolism about marriage, Genesis chapter 2 documents that God caused a deep sleep to come over Adam and then took a rib from His side and fashioned it into the first woman, Eve.

When God presented Eve to Adam, he was delighted!<sup>7</sup> She was perfect in every way, and although they were both naked, they were unashamed.

In her perfection, Eve was exceptionally beautiful. It is important to realize that beginning at the beginning, in the Garden of Eden, the Creator intended

marriage for one man to one woman. Eve undoubtedly excited something in the amazed young Adam, who saw her beauty and that she was uniquely suited for him.

Through the first marriage, God also established the basis for the family and its place in the world. He told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and produce many children,<sup>8</sup> and to exercise dominion over creation by caring for it and ruling over the creatures and environment.

Man is not an animal, nor is he an angel — both of which God made during the first six days. Rather, mankind is the most special creation of all because both male and female were created in the image of God. Although all humans and some animals have what the Bible calls *nephesh* — which is apparently both breath and blood—only humans are made in the image of God Himself.

At the end of day 6, God considered all He had made — the heavens, the earth, the angels, the animals, and Adam and Eve — and He pronounced everything “very good.” There was no sin, suffering, or death. No shedding of blood. No disease. No thorns or thistles.<sup>9</sup> Everything everywhere was perfect!

Then, on the seventh day, He rested and blessed it. God gave man the pattern of working for six days and resting for one, as He did.<sup>10</sup>

### PRIMARY PASSAGES:

Gen. 1:24–31; Gen. 2; Ezk. 28:12–15;  
Mark 10:6; Ex. 20:11

### KEY VERSE:

But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female.’ —Mark 10:6

### WRAP UP:

“Wow! Father, You made the animals, and then you made Adam and Eve. We didn’t evolve from stardust in some kind of primordial goo. You created us special on the sixth day of creation, in Your image. Then in the perfection of the Garden, You gave the amazing act of marriage and told the first husband and wife to produce many children! Please help me to honor marriage and family in the way you invented them, Lord. Please help me to be a good caretaker of the earth and the animals. I want to please You, Father.”

When the first man  
Adam met his wife  
Eve, he was  
delighted! And  
everything  
everywhere was  
perfect.



## BONUS — Angels

A war arose in heaven soon after God pronounced all creation “very good.” However, because the account of this event is spread throughout the Bible, with only the aftermath being addressed in Genesis, it is easily overlooked.

In what must have been a fierce battle, God’s army of loyal angels, led by Michael, their commander,<sup>1</sup> struggled against Satan (the great dragon) and the many angels that rebelled with him. Revelation — the last book of the Bible — seems to indicate that a third of all angels fought against God’s authority and were cast down to earth.<sup>2</sup> The prophet Ezekiel also refers to Satan being cast down. Defeated in heaven, Satan continued his rebellion on earth, where man had been given dominion. In the Garden of Eden, Satan spoke through a serpent in order to entice mankind to follow him rather than God.

Many assume that the heavenly battle of the angels occurred long before man’s creation, but it is clear that the fall of Satan and his minions had to occur after God declared that everything He had created was “very good,” at the end of day 6. Otherwise creation would not have been seen by God as being without blemish.

Likewise, the fall of Satan and the angels we now call demons took place prior to when Satan — in pursuit of God’s glory — entered the serpent and used it to beguile Eve into eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

While the Bible does not focus on the timeframe, it seems logical to assume that the period between day 6 and the Fall of Adam and Eve was very short, possibly only days or weeks, since Eve had not yet conceived the couple’s first child.<sup>3</sup> Their bodies were operating perfectly, so it is likely that the window of time prior to sin was a few months at most.



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## REBELLION AND THE CURSE

after day 6, c. 4004 B.C.  
and following

It wasn't long before  
man's sin ruined the  
perfection of creation.

The earth was breathtaking. Its perfection would stand in awe-inspiring contrast to the terribly fallen world of today. Peace, tranquility, and joy were all that Adam and Eve knew. Evil, disease, and death had not yet gripped the world.

The Bible doesn't say exactly how long it was before Satan spoke through the serpent, but it may have been only days or weeks before Adam's disobedience brought the horrible impact of his sin on all creation. It is clear, however, that God decreed the Curse prior to when Eve conceived the first child.

Genesis chapter 3 documents that through the serpent Satan deceived Eve. She sinned by eating fruit from the forbidden Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, which God had placed at the center of the Garden. Then she gave some to her husband, Adam. He was not deceived,<sup>1</sup> but *chose* to rebel against God.

Through Adam, sin entered the world.<sup>2</sup> The man and his wife realized they were naked, and quickly sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. Later that day, God came walking in the Garden

and called to Adam. However, he and Eve were hiding among the plants, so God confronted them.

Adam first blamed his wife, who gave the fruit to him. Then he blamed God, who gave the woman to him. Eve blamed the serpent, who deceived her.

Satan's strategy to get man to follow him rather than God was not *completely* successful, but enough that everything changed. Before Adam sinned, there was no death in the world. Now, perfection was shattered. Suffering and dying had begun. Yet God was not taken by surprise. In response to man's rebellion, He launched His plan for the eventual restoration of the perfection that will one day come through Jesus. He cursed the serpent, promising that one day he would receive a fatal blow from the offspring of the woman.<sup>3</sup>

Soon after God killed animals and made coats of skin to clothe the couple. Adam was driven out of the Garden, and neither he nor Eve would ever return.<sup>4</sup> Then, God placed cherubim and a moving, flaming sword at the entrance, guards to block the way to the Tree of Life and as a reminder that it

was here that sin, suffering, and death began. How sad they must have been!

Now outside the Garden, Adam labored against weeds and thorns, and the ground no longer yielded food easily. Eve was blessed with pregnancy, but the fear and pain during childbirth were undoubtedly intense, especially due to all the unknowns of the first child's birth. Surely, the delivery of Cain was both awesome and bittersweet.<sup>5</sup>

Later, Abel and other sons and daughters were born. They married and had families of their own. Marriage between siblings and close relatives was fine until about 2,500 years later at the time of Moses, when God forbade close intermarriage, perhaps because the gene pool had become too corrupted.<sup>6</sup>

One day both Cain and Abel presented offerings to God. Abel brought fat portions from the firstborn of his flock, and Cain brought some of the fruit of his fields. God was pleased with Abel and his offering, but He was not pleased with Cain and his offering.

The grief of Adam and Eve was surely extreme when Cain — filled with jealousy that God accepted Abel's offering but not his — struck and coldheartedly killed his brother Abel. The first couple's first son committed the world's first murder. It would be hard to overstate the crushing heartache that must have gripped Adam and Eve, especially since it was their own disobedience years before that brought sin and its many miseries into the once-perfect world.

It may be that no parents have longed more intensely than Adam and Eve for

the restoration that Jesus the Redeemer would one day bring to our terribly broken world.<sup>7</sup>

## PRIMARY PASSAGES:

Gen. 3-4, Rom. 5:18-20, Rev. 12:4-10, Isa. 14:12-15

## KEY VERSE:

"...sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." —Gen. 4:7

## WRAP UP:

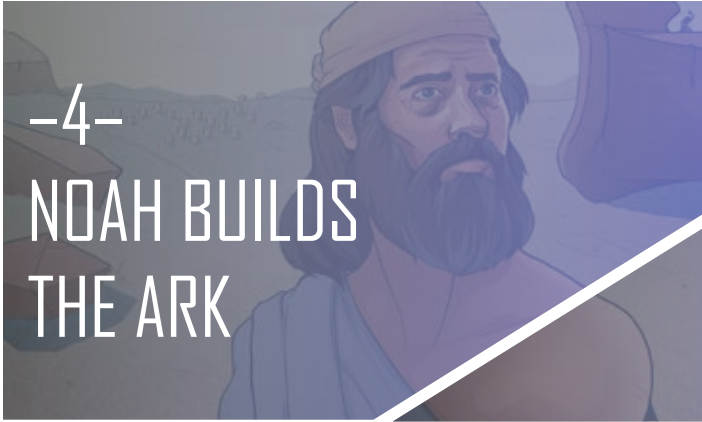
"Eve believed Satan's lie, and then Adam decided to disobey You, Lord, by eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. But thank You for not allowing them to keep eating from the Tree of Life. If they had not been kicked out of the Garden, they would have lived forever in the broken world with all of its sin and suffering, with no hope of everything being restored one day! Please help me to understand the big picture as I read to discover the key things that happened between the day Adam sinned, and the morning so many years later when Jesus rose from the dead!"



Suddenly perfection was broken. Suffering and dying began with the Curse after Adam and Eve sinned.


Noah led his family  
in building the Ark.  
Many pre-Flood  
people were very  
intelligent and  
skillful.





-4-

## NOAH BUILDS THE ARK



c. 2424-2349 B.C.

The worldwide Flood brought a tragic end to the perfect beginning.

Family histories in Genesis reveal that the worldwide catastrophe known as Noah's Flood was unleashed less than 2,000 years after creation. Although it is clear that there were many people living by that time,<sup>1</sup> all humanity except one family followed the rebellion of Adam's sin against God. Death, suffering, and hate filled the earth, and by the time of the Flood, the thoughts of men were evil, continually.

God loves righteousness, but He hates evil. He was not surprised when Adam sinned, or decades later when Cain killed his brother Abel. The Creator was ready for what would happen, and now it was time for a massive step in His plan for man's salvation and creation's restoration.<sup>2</sup>

Beginning when Noah was 500, this "preacher of righteousness" and his wife were blessed with three sons. The first, Japheth, was born 100 years before the Flood. Shem was born two years later, then Ham.<sup>3</sup>

As Noah and his wife trained their sons to obey and praise the Creator, the boys matured into manhood. God tells us in the Bible that Noah followed God's

ways, so it is reasonable to assume that he loved his wife and trained his children in righteousness. Japheth, Shem, and Ham must have respected their parents and followed their instructions with care.

Genesis chapters 6 through 9 document that God told Noah to build a massive ship, called an ark, and instructed him to build it 300 cubits by 50 cubits by 30 cubits, with three levels. That's roughly 510 feet long by 85 feet wide by 51 feet high.<sup>4</sup> God told Noah to build it out of a specific type of wood and to coat it inside and out with pitch, which was probably based on the sap of trees in order to waterproof and preserve the wood extra well. It is likely that God gave Noah many other details, too.<sup>5</sup>

Because the world was exceedingly wicked, Noah and his family were surrounded by God-haters. Surely he was scoffed as a crazy man. But he stood firm and obeyed anyway.

Considering both the immense sinfulness of his culture and the magnitude of the task before him, Noah's obedience is perhaps the greatest example of persistent faith in all of Scripture.

It took many years to complete the huge Ark. We don't know how many were spent warning people, or harvesting timber, or actually building. But from the day when God declared that He would destroy man from the face of the earth until the Flood started, 120 years passed.

Noah's oldest son, Japheth was 100 when the Flood came.<sup>6</sup> Still young among the men of that time, Noah's three hard-working sons were undoubtedly strong. Although researchers are confident that Noah and his family could have built the Ark on their own, it is quite possible that Noah employed and continued to warn laborers and unbelieving relatives as well.<sup>7</sup>

We know from Genesis chapter 4 that even before the Flood, skilled tradesmen were making things out of metal. They were smart! In addition, the use of strong animals and labor-saving inventions such as pulleys, cranes, and wagons for the heavy lumber, are probable. After all, the mental and physical abilities of the people of Noah's day were much closer to the original perfection of Adam and Eve than to the sin-corrupted minds and bodies of humans today.

Moreover, because people lived considerably longer before the Flood,<sup>8</sup> they were able to experience, recall, and put to use far more than we can now. It is

likely that we vastly underestimate the abilities and inventions of Noah and the countless other pre-Flood people!

## PRIMARY PASSAGES:


Gen. 6–9

## KEY VERSE:

“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, ‘I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.’ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” —Gen. 6:5–8

## WRAP UP:

“Our Father, thank You for telling Noah to build the ark. He was such a great example of faith and dedication! With all the sin and evil that filled the world in his time, even worse than today, it must have been incredibly easy to be drawn into sin, and not to stay faithful to You in the six hundred years he lived before the Flood. Please help me to have faith that overcomes the pressures of this world, like Noah's.”

The image is a graphic with a blue and purple background. On the left, there is a large white number '-5-' above the text 'GOD SENDS THE ANIMALS!' in white, bold, sans-serif font. The background features faint illustrations of Noah's Ark with various animals like dinosaurs, sheep, and birds. On the right side, there is a dark blue rectangular box containing the text 'c. 2349 B.C.' in white. Below this box, there is a white-bordered area containing the text 'The Ark was finished, with hundreds of tons of food stowed inside. But what about the animals?' in white, sans-serif font.

-5-

## GOD SENDS THE ANIMALS!

c. 2349 B.C.

The Ark was finished, with hundreds of tons of food stowed inside. But what about the animals?

Once the Ark's massive hull was complete, it may have taken several more years to finish the cavernous interior. To help keep the animals safe and more easily managed on the violent ocean, Noah and his family constructed rooms,<sup>1</sup> and probably stalls, cages, coops, and aviaries, plus their own living quarters.

A few animals required large spaces, but the average size of a creature was about as big as a sheep. Since God created animals to eat plants — and we know from the fossil record that the earth before the Flood had a lush abundance — those He sent<sup>2</sup> to the Ark probably did not prey upon one another. In addition, because God only selected representatives of each *kind*, not of each species, there was plenty of room on the Ark for all of them, and for the food and other supplies.<sup>3</sup>

Many reptiles and some mammals grow throughout their lives, so God may have directed to the Ark the youngest of those that were able to reproduce. The Bible says that God sent pairs of every kind of bird and at least two of every land dwelling, air-breathing animal,<sup>4</sup> which obviously would have included a

pair of each of the dinosaur kinds since dinosaurs were land animals.<sup>5</sup>

Noah surely used many of the pre-Flood world's amazing innovations as well, such as clever ways to capture, store, and distribute water. He also had to build waste disposal systems, ways to maximize light, and ways to flow fresh air throughout the huge ship.

In preparation, it was necessary to purchase or plant, harvest, and store huge stocks of grains, hay, and other foods. Noah's family likely dried berries, crushed grapes for jams and wine, and pressed olives and other fruits and vegetables for oils. They must have also taken many different spices, sweeteners like honey and syrups, and seeds to re-establish agriculture. They brought bedding, clothing, tools, and written records, including the history of Adam plus much more.<sup>6</sup>

Then, when everything was ready, seven days before the Flood began God did something that surely amazed any mocking onlookers. From near and far, by God's supernatural call, male and female of every kind of air-breathing land animal and bird arrived.<sup>7</sup> The

procession plodded, crawled, scurried, hopped, flew, and perhaps slithered through the door, possibly for days.

In striking parallel to how God calls men and women to receive the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ<sup>8</sup>, God chose each specific animal to escape the impending judgment. There was no coaxing, capturing, or gender checking needed. God called them and they responded from all over the earth's only original continent, and they entered the Ark of salvation.

The procession may have caused shocked scoffers to stand in astonishment, and wonder if the Flood that Noah had been warning about was about to take place!

The Bible tells us in Genesis 6, that after the animals entered the Ark, Noah's family kept them alive.<sup>9</sup> With simple innovations that would make caretaking easier, such as ways to keep them fed and cages free of waste for extended periods, the family of eight could certainly have tended all the animals.<sup>10</sup>

Scientists who have studied how many different kinds of land animals and birds there were before the Flood, agree that the creatures would require only

about one-third of the Ark. This would leave sufficient room for food, supplies, and possibly, to prove to others that there was room for them as well, if they had repented.

The worldwide Flood was about to start! Yet even with clear warnings that judgment was imminent, the people did not repent.

Sadly, that is how it will be before Jesus suddenly returns, like a thief in the night!<sup>11</sup>

## PRIMARY PASSAGES:

Gen. 6:1–7:16

## KEY VERSE:

“Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.” —Gen. 7:8–9

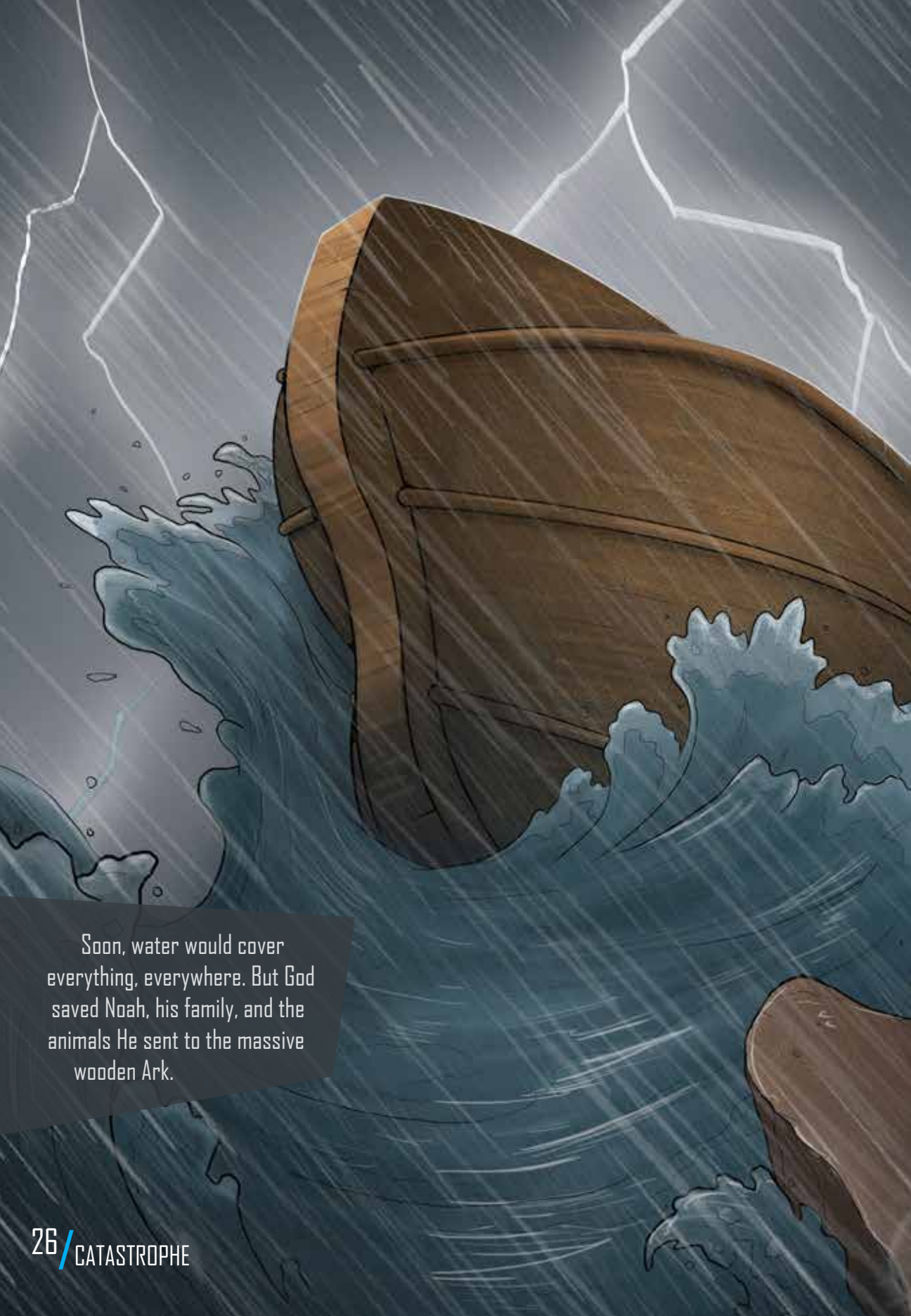
## WRAP UP:

“Father, thank You for rescuing Noah's family and all the animals that You sent to the Ark. The whole world was against You, but You decided to start over with just righteous Noah and his family and that huge treasure chest of animals! Lord, please guide me to live for You as Noah did. Please help me to obey You and share about Your mighty works to my friends and loved ones.”



The arrival of so many different animals surely worried any onlookers. Even so, no one repented of their sinfulness.





Soon, water would cover everything, everywhere. But God saved Noah, his family, and the animals He sent to the massive wooden Ark.

—6—

## THE WHOLE EARTH CHANGES

c. 2349–2348 B.C.

When the door closed,  
everything changed.

Noah and his three sons labored together for decades, and by God's grace, they and their wives overcame great challenges in building the Ark. Now the ship was finished and loaded.

All four couples waited inside.

Imagine the array of thoughts and emotions that probably struck Noah's family when, with no human assistance, the Ark's thick door swung closed.

Outside, men and women may have stood in abrupt silence. Perhaps it was while some were laughing at the bizarre vessel and its eccentric builder that the great door unexpectedly sealed itself shut.

Scoffers are everywhere, and some in Noah's day may even have been close relatives; parents or siblings of Noah's daughters-in-law, the kindred of his wife, or of Noah himself. Thankfully, God closed the door. Noah did not have to decide when the unbelievers would be locked out forever.

Genesis tells us that Noah walked with God. In the Ark after the door closed, he may have been praying with his family as the earth began to quake. Perhaps lightning bolts filled the darkening sky

as blasts of thunder announced the impending deluge.

On that day, earth essentially exploded as all the fountains of the great deep burst forth.<sup>1</sup> One geophysics study suggests that superheated water and magma from underneath earth's crust would have caused parts of the ocean to violently flash-boil and blast supersonic jets of steam thousands of feet into the air, then fall in pounding, wind-driven gales.<sup>2</sup> We do not know if Noah's family could hear screams of terror, but the worldwide judgment on man's wickedness had begun.

Soon the timbers that steadied the Ark for decades began to fall away. Rising water enveloped the globe and released earth's hold on the solitary wooden sanctuary. Animal sounds echoed throughout the ship and mixed with the words of the eight men and women on board. The creatures rested in safety while Noah's family cared for them and for one another.

Meanwhile, everyone outside the Ark died and was wiped from the face of the earth.<sup>3</sup> Clouds, rain, and volcanic ash darkened the sun. There were 40 days and nights of torrential downpour. As

the worldwide cataclysm continued, life went on inside the Ark. But research reveals that far beneath the shoreless ocean, enormous ruptures in earth's crust ran for thousands of miles. Billions of animals and plants were entombed in sediments that hardened into the rock layers we see all over the world.<sup>4</sup>

Water continued to flood into the depths, and the sea continued to rise. Earthquakes and fiery, magma-spewing volcanic eruptions ripped apart the original supercontinent, eventually splitting it into several smaller ones.<sup>5</sup> Finally, on the 150th day, water covered everything, everywhere.<sup>6</sup> The fountains of the great deep stopped and the ocean began to withdraw. It had been five months, and the Ark now came to rest on one of the mountains of Ararat.

Nothing today is as it was before Noah's Flood. Now, jigsaw puzzle shapes of distant coastlines remind us of the astounding judgment that transformed our planet. Pre-Flood cities, structures, and river channels are no more.

Everything, even the place where the Garden of Eden had been, was wiped away<sup>7</sup> by the violent waves of erosion and rapid movements of the continents. Only God's Word adequately explains our planet's past.

Now grounded amid receding waters upon the mountains of Ararat, the vital work of Noah's family continued, and mid-way through the journey's seventh month, mountaintops became visible.<sup>8</sup>

In the middle of the journey's tenth month, Noah removed the covering of the Ark.<sup>9</sup> He waited, as the earth dried and vegetation spread.

In total, it was more than a year before God told Noah's family and the creatures to leave the Ark the Creator used to save them from the Flood. However, God's timing and provision were perfect. The animals could now survive outside and begin to fill the stark, vacant world that stretched out before them.

### PRIMARY PASSAGES:

Gen. 7:10–8:17; 2 Pet. 3:5–7;  
Ps. 104:8

### KEY VERSE:

“...the world that then existed  
perished, being flooded with water.”  
—2 Pet. 3:6

### WRAP UP:

“Lord, it is hard to comprehend that as days became weeks, and weeks became months, and as the Ark moved in the storms, the ground far beneath the ocean's surface broke apart and the continents moved. Thank You for bringing the Ark to rest atop one of the mountains of Ararat, and for keeping Noah's family safe as more months passed and You sent wind to dry the land. They must have been so happy to watch from the Ark as grasses and flowers soon sprouted and spread. Thank You for the new start that You gave man after the Flood!”

-7-

## THE RAINBOW PROMISE AND THE NEW WORLD

c. 2348-2242 B.C.

The century following the Flood was filled with extreme and rapid change.

More than seven months after the Ark ran aground on the mountains of Ararat,<sup>1</sup> God told Noah to release the animals. Ample vegetation and an uninhabited new world waited. At last, the creatures followed each other out of the massive wooden vessel, one kind after another.

The Bible does not say how steep the mountain was at the place where the Ark came to rest, but clearly even the less nimble land animals — such as the rhinoceros kind, the giraffe kind, elephants, and the various kinds of dinosaurs — were able to make their way down.

Once outside, Noah led his family in praise of God. He built an altar and sacrificed burnt offerings from each kind of the clean animals and birds, which God sent in groups of seven.

The Lord had unleashed His dreadful wrath on man's sin through the worldwide Flood, but Scripture says that He was pleased with Noah's offerings. God blessed Noah and his sons, and told them to be fruitful, increase in number, and fill the earth.<sup>2</sup>

God revealed that fear and dread of

man would now come upon all the animals of land, sea, and air. Mankind was originally vegetarian but after the Flood, God gave permission to eat meat, as well.<sup>3</sup> Perhaps the animals received this new fear of man to help evade his tendency to overkill and improperly manage the creatures, since man would now be raising and hunting them for food.

God also told Noah's family that, because humans are made in God's image, no one is to murder, lest he be punished by being killed himself. It was here, in Genesis 9, that God established the death penalty; "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man."<sup>4</sup> This was nearly 850 years before God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

Then the Creator promised that He would never again destroy all flesh with a flood. The beautiful rainbow in the clouds would be a sign of this promise.<sup>5</sup> After all that they had experienced, the spectacular, multicolored arch was surely an amazing sight to Noah and his family, and a sweet assurance of God's care for all people yet to be born.

In the decades after the Flood, lush forests grew around the world in temperate, well-watered environments.<sup>6</sup> As Noah's children explored the new lands, some features reminded them of pre-Flood terrain. Old-world names — such as Euphrates and Tigris for two of the rivers — were even used.

In the decades and first few centuries after the Flood, volcanoes continued to erupt, mountains continued to rise, and meteorites continued to blaze through the atmosphere and impact our planet's surface, but with rapidly decreasing frequency.<sup>7</sup> The combination of warm oceans and cool summers was the key to massive snow and ice buildup, starting at the North and South Poles.<sup>8</sup> The rapid, post-Flood Ice Age was about to begin.

Earth's transformation was immense, ongoing, and undoubtedly fearsome at times. We still feel residual affects today with ongoing volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and wild weather.

By the point when Noah's grandsons were born, he had harvested a vineyard. All three of his sons probably lived nearby, since all were present on the day when Noah became intoxicated on too much of his wine and fell asleep unclothed in his tent. When Ham

apparently ridiculed Noah to Shem and Japheth, Noah became so enraged that he spoke a curse upon Ham's youngest son, Canaan.

This damaged relationship between Noah and Ham may have played a part in the Babel rebellion that was soon to come.

## PRIMARY PASSAGES:

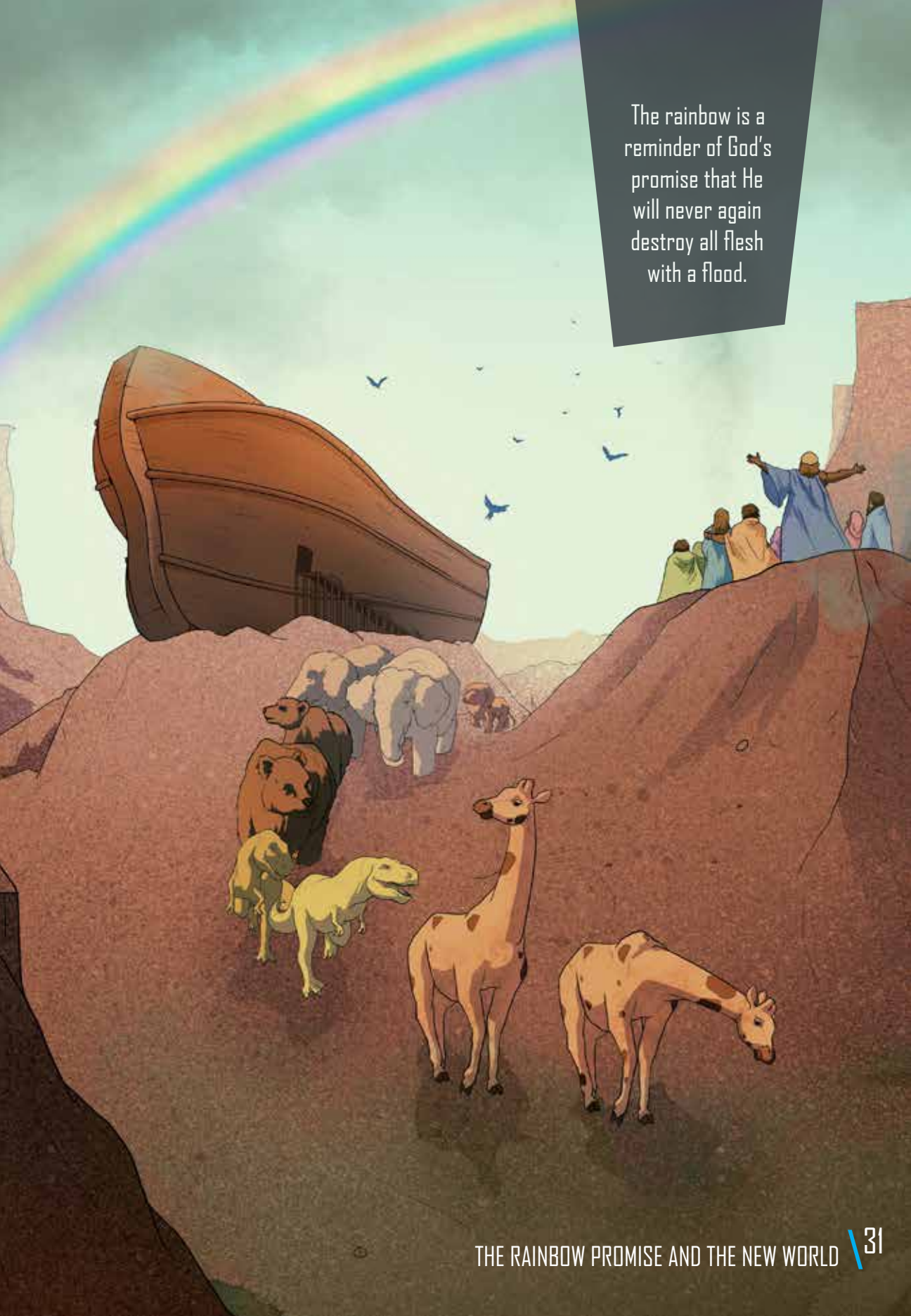
Gen. 8:18–9:28, 10:32, 11:1–9

## KEY VERSE:

“The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ And God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.’ —Gen. 9:16–17

## WRAP UP:

“Thank You for rainbows, God! Thank You for the beautiful promise that You will never again judge sin by a worldwide flood. What an amazing sign You gave, and it reminds us that You used a colossal Ark to save Noah's family and preserve mankind from the waters of the Flood. Thank You for eternal salvation, which can only come to us by Jesus, the true Savior!”

A vibrant illustration depicting the biblical story of Noah's Ark. The ark is shown as a large, brown, boat-like structure on a rocky hillside. In the foreground, various animals are walking towards the ark, including a giraffe, a camel, a lion, a bear, a dog, and a dinosaur. In the background, a group of people, including a man in a blue robe with his arms raised, are standing on a cliffside. A large, multi-colored rainbow arches across the sky above the ark. The scene is set in a hilly, rocky landscape with a clear sky and several birds flying in the distance.

The rainbow is a reminder of God's promise that He will never again destroy all flesh with a flood.

## BONUS — A Rapid Ice Age?

Animals repopulated the planet quickly after the flood cataclysm. At the start, there were bountiful resources, wide-open spaces and very little predation, so the multiplication of species exploded in every direction.<sup>1</sup>

Certain fossils and other evidences help researchers understand how the creatures spread rapidly across the globe.<sup>2</sup> And by God’s marvelous design of genetics, many thousands of new species — which are merely variations within the kinds — flourished in some of the most remote and inhospitable climates and habitats.

In countless instances, a new species within a created kind<sup>3</sup> that was well suited for a particular environment survived and multiplied, while species that were ill-equipped moved on or died out.<sup>4</sup> This pattern continues today.

The Bible documents in Genesis 8:4 that Noah’s Ark came to rest somewhere in “the mountains of Ararat.” We do not know whether the mountain on which the Ark landed was unstable and volcanic, but we do know that the one modern mountain known as “Mount Ararat” is a volcano; it may have risen during and/or after the Flood, we do not know. However, it is improbable that Noah’s family originally settled in the cold, stark mountain range where the Ark came to rest (possibly somewhere in the eastern region of modern-day Turkey). Genesis chapter 11 tells us that they migrated from Noah’s farm to the Plain of Shinar. Many believe that this plain was in modern-day Iraq, where the Bible states that the people congregated before God forced their dispersion at the Tower of Babel.<sup>5</sup>

Snow soon fell in copious volumes on the newly exposed northern and southern lands. The severe and incessant snowstorms, combined with cooler summers caused by sunshine-reducing volcanic ash and meteor impact dust, would have resulted in thick ice sheets and glaciers. These covered huge portions of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, including areas such as the upper Midwest of the United States and substantial portions of Europe — all within only a few hundred years after the Flood.<sup>6</sup>

Various evidences indicate that eruptions and earthquakes diminished as the movement of the earth’s tectonic plates slowed from meters-per-minute at the height of the Flood, to the present rate of only centimeters-per-year.



It is clear that the world's immense ice sheets and glaciers reached their maximum thickness and breadth very quickly.

One set of researchers based their findings on Ussher's chronology—which places the Flood at about 2350 B.C.—and the understanding that the city of Ur was a coastal seaport when Abram was born there in about 2000 B.C.. The Persian Gulf was full or nearly full at that time because most of the earth's huge glaciers had melted and released their stored water into the oceans. The research suggests that ice and massive glaciers accumulated within three centuries after the Flood, then melted and released their stored water to cover most intercontinental land bridges and many low-lying coastal areas during the next 100 years or so.<sup>7</sup>

Other researchers, using glacial and weather data, also support a recent and brief ice age but suggest the duration was 200–300 years longer.<sup>8</sup>

Both groups agree that the climate was erratic and there were extreme changes in weather during this period, known as the “rapid ice age,” and that it was triggered by the global Flood of about 4,300 years ago.<sup>9</sup>

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*The Ice Age on the Timeline:* Note the blue background behind a portion of the included fold-out timeline. The immense changes that reshaped the earth during the year-long Flood led to the intense but short-lived period commonly called the Ice Age. Seeing the Ice Age in light of the people who lived and migrated throughout the earth during that time brings a deeper understanding of God's judgment in earth's history and to the natural global warming that began only a few hundred years after the cataclysmic event experienced by Noah's family. The Earth has been warming since the Ice Age, about 4,000 years ago.

God created new languages to break up the one big group at the Tower of Babel. The people finally spread across the earth.



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## THE TOWER OF BABEL

c. 2242 B.C.

Sometimes, God has to move us  
out of our comfort zone.

More than one hundred years had passed since Noah left the Ark and much had happened!

The fossil record reveals that there were many earthquakes and volcanic eruptions as the movement of the continents slowed in the decades after the Flood.<sup>1</sup> Even so, forests and abundant vegetation spread across the warm and well-watered areas near the equator. Immense ice sheets and glaciers began to form near the poles. Animals continued to spread across the earth. And four generations of Noah's family may have totaled thousands of men, women, and children.

Noah was now over 700 years old. His three sons were all about 200. Each had the opportunity — the spiritual responsibility as husbands and fathers — to ensure that their children and grandchildren knew and could pass down the truth about creation, how sin and death started, and the promised coming Redeemer who will crush Satan and be the once-and-for-all ultimate sacrifice.<sup>2</sup>

However, in the four generations since the Flood, something began to go drastically wrong. The people did

not spread out and instead settled in a region called Shinar, probably in modern-day Iraq.

One can easily imagine how this rebellion against God's command to fill the earth may have come about.

Beginning with Adam and Eve, everyone apparently spoke the same language. This made it easy for ancient people to build on the substantial knowledge and experiences of others, which helped them to achieve so much so quickly.

Much of the pre-Flood knowledge — such as Cain's experience as a city-builder, and Tubal-cain's skill with brass and iron — was passed from Noah and his sons to their descendants.<sup>3</sup> However, when those entrusted with great knowledge do not seek to honor the Creator and adjust their lives to live according to His plan, God is not pleased. This was the case just four generations after the Flood, when Noah and his sons were still living.

During the time of Noah's great-great-grandson Peleg, the people were constructing a city with a very distinctive tower. Genesis 11 says

that they wanted to make a name for themselves by building a structure to help them reach to the heavens, perhaps under the guise of being a place to sacrifice to God. It was likely a towering pyramid-like ziggurat.<sup>4</sup>

Before Babel was finished,<sup>5</sup> God confused the people with new languages. Scholars say that around 90 different root-languages originated in this middle-eastern region, and that the 7,500 languages and dialects of today all came from those.<sup>6</sup> Since God normally works through families, such as Noah's, it is likely that each immediate family spoke the same language. There may have been multiple families per language.

No longer able to communicate with those who suddenly spoke differently, and unable to finish the city, the different groups spread out and moved to other parts of the world. Now separated by language, the people expanded their domains and eventually established nations and empires. They took their knowledge of tower-building with them, as evidenced by the many ziggurats, pyramids, and tower mounds in countries near and far.

It was at this time that the human gene pool was split apart and physical characteristics in the various groups became distinctive. A wide variety of facial bone structures, skin tones from very dark to very light, different textures and colors of hair, eye shape, and other features started to be dominant in various

language groups and the regions where those groups settled.

Today we mistakenly call groups with distinctive features races. However, the Bible is clear that we are all of one blood, and only one race exists — the human race.<sup>7</sup>

## PRIMARY PASSAGES:

Gen. 11

## KEY VERSE:

“Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.”

—Gen. 11:9

## WRAP UP:

“Lord, when I think of men on the Tower of Babel working and talking side by side, I think of how dependent they were on each other for safety. One moment they were talking and the next they were stunned because they were hearing gibberish! Fear would have grown quickly, and so would distrust. The people would have broken into groups based on who they could understand. That was a gentle way of forcing them to move out and begin filling the earth, as You commanded a century earlier! Thank You for your grace and patience then, and now, dear Lord.”