

genesis

God's Book of Beginnings

Chapter 5-6

^{5.1} This is the written account of Adam's line. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.

² He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "man."

³ When Adam lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

⁴ After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁵ Altogether, Adam lived 930 years, and then he died. ⁶ When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father of Enosh. ⁷ And after he became the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁸ Altogether, Seth lived 912 years, and then he died. ⁹ When Enosh had lived 90 years, he became the father of Kenan.

¹⁰ And after he became the father of Kenan, Enosh lived 815 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹¹ Altogether, Enosh lived 905 years, and then he died. ¹² When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel. ¹³ And after he became the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴ Altogether, Kenan lived 910 years, and then he died. ¹⁵ When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he became the father of Jared. ¹⁶ And after he became the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁷ Altogether, Mahalalel lived 895 years, and then he died. ¹⁸ When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. ¹⁹ And after he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁰ Altogether, Jared lived 962 years, and then he died. ²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. ²² And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years.

²⁴ Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. ²⁵ When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech. ²⁶ And after he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁷ Altogether, Methuselah lived 969 years, and then he died.

²⁸ When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. ²⁹ He named him Noah and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD has cursed." ³⁰ After Noah was born, Lamech lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters. ³¹ Altogether, Lamech lived 777 years, and then he died. ³² After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

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^{6.1} When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. ³ Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years.” ⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days – and also afterward – when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. ⁵ The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. ⁶ The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. ⁷ So the LORD said, “I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth – men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air – for I am grieved that I have made them.”

⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. ⁹ This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. ¹⁰ Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. ¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³ So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴ So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. ¹⁵ This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. ¹⁶ Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. ¹⁷ I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark – you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹ You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. ²⁰ Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹ You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.” ²² Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

The Generations from Adam to Noah (Genesis 5)

Each generation in Adam's genealogy has two phrases ("he had sons and daughters"; "he died") that parallel earlier statements by God ("be fruitful and increase in number"; "you will surely die").

5:1-2 This chapter gives the "account of Adam's line". Adam, the first man, was created in the image of God (Latin: *imago dei*). The image of God indicates some special characteristics (e.g., intellect, emotion and will) and the ability to have a personal relationship with God. Jesus created the first woman, blessed both the man and woman, and called them 'mankind'.

The most common rendering of the Hebrew word *'ādām* is the transliteration: "Adam" ^{v.1}; however, it is also translations: "man" ^{v.1} and "mankind" ^{Genesis 7:21} (a better translation here ^{v.2}).

5:3 At 130, Adam & Eve gave birth to Seth, who was made in Adam's "likeness" and "image", which meant Seth (as well as every descendant of Adam) had the distinctness of the special characteristics described above, but with a fallen nature (a consequence of the fall ^{Genesis 3}), resulting in the loss of the perfect relationship with God.

Seth was not the firstborn of Adam & Eve, Cain was first and Abel second; however, this does not imply Seth was born third. Seemingly, there were many other children born to Adam & Eve between Abel and Seth (in response to God's command to "be fruitful" ^{Genesis 1:28}). Seth was simply the next named person in the line of Adam (and noted by Eve as a substitute for Abel ^{Genesis 4:25}).

5:4-5 Adam & Eve had many sons & daughters, and Adam died ^{Genesis 2:17, 3:19} at an age of 930.

5:6-8 Seth (105) was the father of Enosh ("mortal"), had many other children and died at 912.

5:9-11 At 90, Enosh was the father of Kenan ("sorrow") and others, then died at 905.

5:12-14 At 70, Kenan was the father of Mahalalel ("blessed God") and others, and died at 910.

The wicked prophet Balaam ^{2 Peter 2:15} prophesied the destruction of the Kenite clan ^{Numbers 24:20-22}.

5:15-17 At 65, Mahalalel fathered Jared ("shall come down") and others, and died at 895.

5:18-20 At 162, Jared became the father of Enoch ("teaching") and others, then died at 962.

5:21-24 At 65, Enoch was the father of Methuselah and others; however, Enoch did not die.

Something happened to Enoch the year Methuselah was born, because he lived a Godly life for his last 300 years ^{v.22}. During that time, he received an end times prophecy ^{Jude 1:14-15}. At the age of 365, Enoch was taken directly to heaven ^{Hebrews 11:5} prior to the Flood, making him a model of the rapture.

The Bible mentions only two men who did not experience death, but were taken "up to heaven": Enoch ^{v.24} and Elijah ^{2 Kings 2:1-12} and two who "walked with God": Enoch ^{v.22,24} and Noah ^{Genesis 6:9}.

5:25-27 At 187, Methuselah was the father of Lamech ("lament") and others, then died at 969.

The name Methuselah is the combination of two Hebrew words: *mûwth* : death and *shâlach* : bring. His name may mean: "his death shall bring", because his death and the flood came the same year. (969 – 187 [Lamech birth to Methuselah death] = 782 = 182 + 600 ^{Genesis 7:6} [Lamech birth to Flood])

Having lived to the age of 969, Methuselah had the longest lifespan noted in the Biblical record.

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5:28-31 At 182, Lamech became the father of Noah and others, then he died at the age of 777.

The name “Noah” sounds like the Hebrew word for “comfort”. And comfort came through the Godly life of Noah who “became the heir of the righteousness that comes by faith” ^{Hebrews 11:7}.

5:32 “After” the age of 500, Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

A Time of Great Wickedness and Careful Preparation (Genesis 6)

God is Grieved at the Corruption of the Earth

6:1-2 This is a difficult and controversial passage concerning one of the main reasons for the great spread of wickedness among virtually all the people during the years of Noah’s life. Here, marriage does not imply ceremony, but oneness resulting from intimacy ^{Genesis 2:24}.

The use of the phrase “sons of God” by Moses is a reference to the direct creations of God.

The other direct creations of God named in the OT are Adam ^{Genesis 1:26-27} and angels ^{Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7}.

In the NT, this concept only refers to saved people ^{Matthew 5:9, Romans 8:14,19, Galatians 3:26}, because all unsaved people (all humans from birth) are the offspring of Adam ^{Genesis 5:3, 1 Corinthians 15:21-22}.

The phrase “daughters of men”, used here, literally means the “daughters of [*’ādām*] Adam”.

There are two interpretations of these first two verses of Genesis 6:

1. The ‘standard’ understanding has been that the “sons of God” were the male offspring of Seth (considered the “Godly” line) and the “daughters of men” were the female offspring of Cain. However, there is absolutely no Scriptural basis for this interpretation.
2. An alternate interpretation is less attractive to most people, because it involves the intimate union of fallen angels (the “sons of God”) with human women (the “daughters of men”); however, this rendering has Scriptural support ^{Numbers 13:30-33, 2 Peter 2:4-9, Jude 1:6-7}.

6:3 The Holy Spirit ^{Genesis 1:2} had been calling people to repentance/righteousness through the preaching of Enoch ^{Jude 1:14} and then later through Noah ^{2 Peter 2:5}. The Spirit was especially patient during the 120 years before the Flood (God’s judgement for “man’s wickedness” ^{v.5}).

The phrase “his days will be a hundred and twenty years”, defined (not the length of man’s life, but) the end of the Holy Spirit’s patience with man, and the time it took Noah to build the ark ^{1 Peter 3:20}.

6:4 While not universally accepted, the Nephilim were probably unnatural (hybrid) children born to fallen angels and earthly women. Nephilim lived before and after the Flood ^{Numbers 13:31-33}.

Nephilim: a transliteration of the Hebrew word (*nēpīlīm*) which is from a root word meaning “to fall”.

The references to the “heroes of old” and “men of renown” are not fully understood, but possibly/probably refer to man’s fear/respect for the hybrid people, because they were giants ^{Numbers 13:31-33}.

6:5 This verse is a very clear statement of the utter depravity of man’s sin nature. Sin begins in the heart (thoughts) of man ^{Jeremiah 17:9, Mark 7:21-22, James 1:13-15}, and when those thoughts are allowed to continue, they result in sinful actions. Long life-spans promote sinful behavior, and the people of Noah’s time had rejected the Spirit ^{v.3} and completely given in to sin ^{Mark 3:28-29}.

6:6-7 God knew this would happen; however, He was greatly saddened (God showing emotion, in the form of grief ^{Ephesians 4:30}) at how easily man can turn (and had turned) away from Him.

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This is one of several times in the Bible Exodus 32:9-14, 1 Samuel 15:10-11, Jeremiah 26:3 God struggled with destroying mankind. God is patient, but eventually His patience will end 2 Peter 3:9-10.

Note that God had no intention of wiping out all animals, because He never mentions sea creatures.

Noah Prepared for the Flood by being Obedient to God's Instructions

6:8-10 Noah's righteous Ezekiel 14:14 and blameless (*tāmîm*: perfect) Proverbs 20:7 faith Hebrews 11:7, resulted in him finding "favor in the eyes of the LORD" Psalm 90:17, even in the midst of the widespread wickedness. And similar to Enoch Genesis 5:24, Noah walked closely with God. Moses then reemphasized: "Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth." Genesis 5:32, 7:13

6:11-13 With the exception of Noah and his family, the sinfulness of the earth's inhabitants had "reached its full measure" Genesis 15:16. In response to the "earth [being] filled with violence", God determined to bring (the Flood) judgement to the earth and "all people".

6:14-16 In order to save Noah and family through His judgement of the Flood, God instructed Noah to build an ark, and gave him the plans for this huge vessel. God carefully designed the ark to float during the Flood while holding Noah Exodus 2:3, his family and the animals.

God defined the characteristics of the ark to be:

- **Construction material:** cypress wood
- **Dimensions:** 450 ft long, 75 ft wide, 45 ft high (each cubit is assumed to be 18 in)
- **Roof:** made 1.5 ft above the main ark, leaving a window all the way around
- **Door:** one, on the side
- **Inside:** three deck levels, each divided into rooms
- **Water-proofing:** sealed with pitch on the inside and the outside

6:17 God revealed to Noah how He would carry out His judgement: by "floodwaters".

The LORD has used water to depict both judgement Exodus 14:28 and salvation 1 Peter 3:21, Revelation 22:1.

God's statements that He would destroy "all life under the heavens" and that "all the people on earth had corrupted their ways" v.12 were both indisputable hyperboles, because there were obvious exceptions of people v.18, Genesis 7:1 and animals v.19-20, Genesis 7:2-3 that did not die.

6:18 Not only did God protect and save Noah and his family throughout the time of the Flood, but they also had the benefit of the promise of a covenant relationship with God Genesis 9:8-17.

This was the first of many OT Covenants e.g., Genesis 15:9-21, Exodus 19:24, 2 Samuel 7:5-16, Jeremiah 31:31-34.

6:19-20 God then gave His initial instructions about the animals to be brought onto the ark.

Later God revised His instructions about the number of animals to be placed on the ark Genesis 7:2-3. Noah was told for there to be more of the clean (seven of each kind) than the unclean animals (two).

6:21 God's next command was for Noah to prepare enough of "every kind of food" for not only him and his family, but also for all of the animals while they would be on the ark.

6:22 Proving his love for God v.9, Noah was obedient to all that "God commanded" Genesis 7:5,9,16.

Obedience is the key attribute of a son (a disciple) of God Matthew 19:17, John 14:15-23, Romans 2:13, 1 John 5:3.

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