

## Cain and Abel (c. 4070 BC)

Genesis 4:1–24

### The Birth of Cain and Abel

1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.  
2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

### Abel Pleases God

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.  
4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:  
5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. [cf. [Heb 11:4](#)]  
6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?  
7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall be* his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

### Cain Murders His Brother Abel

8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.  
9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where *is* Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: *Am* I my brother's keeper?  
10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.  
11 And now *art* thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;  
12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.  
13 And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment *is* greater than I can bear.  
14 Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, *that* every one that findeth me shall slay me.  
15 And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.  
16 And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

### The Line of Cain (c. 4070 BC – c. 3000 BC)

17 And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.  
18 And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Mehujael: and Mehujael begat Methusael: and Methusael begat Lamech.  
19 And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one *was* Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.  
20 And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and *of such as have* cattle.  
21 And his brother's name *was* Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ.  
22 And Zillah, she also bare Tubalcain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubalcain *was* Naamah.  
23 And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.  
24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.

## Toledot of Adam (4044–2618 BC)

Genesis 5

1 This *is* the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;  
2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.  
3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat *a son* in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:  
  
4 And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters:  
5 And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.

Genesis 4:25–26

25 And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth:  
For God, *said she*, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.

6 And Seth lived an hundred and five years, and begat Enos:	26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.
<p>7 And Seth lived after he begat Enos eight hundred and seven years, and begat sons and daughters:  8 And all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years: and he died.  9 And Enos lived ninety years, and begat Cainan:  10 And Enos lived after he begat Cainan eight hundred and fifteen years, and begat sons and daughters:  11 And all the days of Enos were nine hundred and five years: and he died.  12 And Cainan lived seventy years, and begat Mahalaleel:  13 And Cainan lived after he begat Mahalaleel eight hundred and forty years, and begat sons and daughters:  14 And all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years: and he died.  15 And Mahalaleel lived sixty and five years, and begat Jared:  16 And Mahalaleel lived after he begat Jared eight hundred and thirty years, and begat sons and daughters:  17 And all the days of Mahalaleel were eight hundred ninety and five years: and he died.  18 And Jared lived an hundred sixty and two years, and he begat Enoch:  19 And Jared lived after he begat Enoch eight hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:  20 And all the days of Jared were nine hundred sixty and two years: and he died.  21 And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah:  22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:  23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:  24 And Enoch walked with God: and he <i>was</i> not; for God took him. [cf. <a href="#">Heb 11:5</a>; <a href="#">Jude 1:14</a>]  25 And Methuselah lived an hundred eighty and seven years, and begat Lamech:  26 And Methuselah lived after he begat Lamech seven hundred eighty and two years, and begat sons and daughters:  27 And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died.  28 And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son:  29 And he called his name Noah, saying, This <i>same</i> shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.  30 And Lamech lived after he begat Noah five hundred ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughters:  31 And all the days of Lamech were seven hundred seventy and seven years: and he died.  32 And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.</p>	

### The Wickedness of the World That Perished (c. 4070–2518 BC)

Genesis 6:1–8

- 1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,  
2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they *were* fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.  
3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.  
4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare *children* to them, the same *became* mighty men which *were* of old, men of renown.  
5 And God saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.  
6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.  
7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.  
8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

### Toledot of Noah (c. 2570 BC)

Genesis 6:9–22

- 9 These *are* the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man *and* perfect in his generations, *and* Noah walked with God.  
10 And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.  
11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.  
12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.  
13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.  
14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.  
15 And this *is the fashion* which thou shalt make it *of*: The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty

cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

16 A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; *with* lower, second, and third *stories* shalt thou make it.

17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein *is* the breath of life, from under heaven; *and* every thing that *is* in the earth shall die.

18 But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every *sort* shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep *them* alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

20 Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every *sort* shall come unto thee, to keep *them* alive.

21 And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather *it* to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he. [cf. [Heb 11:7](#)]

## The Flood (2518 BC)

### Genesis 7

#### The Command to Enter the Ark (600/2/10)

1 And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that *are* not clean by two, the male and his female.

3 Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

4 For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.

5 And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.

6 And Noah *was* six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

#### Noah, His Family and the Animals Enter the Ark (600/2/10–16)

7 And Noah went in,  
and his sons,  
and his wife, and his sons' wives with him,  
into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.

8 Of clean beasts, and of beasts that *are* not clean,

and of fowls,

and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth,

9 There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark,

the male and the female,  
as God had commanded Noah.

10 And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.

13 In the selfsame day entered Noah,  
and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah,  
and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them,  
into the ark;

14 They, and every beast after his kind,  
and all the cattle after their kind,  
and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his  
kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort.

15 And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two  
of all flesh, wherein *is* the breath of life.

16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh,  
as God had commanded him:  
and the LORD shut him in.

#### The Worldwide Flood (600/2/17 – 600/3/26, days 1–40)

11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

12 And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

17 And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.

18 And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters.

#### The Waters Prevail (600/2/17 – 600/7/16, days 1–150)

19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that *were* under the whole heaven, were covered.

20 Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.

21 And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

22 All in whose nostrils *was* the breath of life, of all that *was* in the dry *land*, died.

23 And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained *alive*, and they that *were* with him in the ark. [cf. [1 Pet 3:19–20](#); [2 Pet 2:5](#)]

24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

*Scripture quotations are from The King James Version (KJV). The KJV is in the public domain.*

### Chronological Notes

- 1) I date the story of Cain and Abel to c. 4070 BC. This is pure speculation on my part since we are not told how old Adam was when Cain was born. If Cain was born in 4070, then he would have been around 26 in 4044 when Seth was born (with Abel being perhaps 25 or 24). The murder took place sometime before Seth's birth, but we cannot be certain when. Note that I do not give the line of Cain its own chronological block—this is in keeping with the text's deliberate omission of any chronological details related to Cain's genealogy.
- 2) Seth's birth is mentioned twice, first in the conclusion to the story of Cain and Abel (Gen 4:25–26) and again in the Toledot of Adam (Gen 5:3–4). From a literary perspective, the birth of Seth provides a positive conclusion to Cain's murder of Abel and his ungodly descendants (Gen 4:17–24). A proper chronological placement is made by simply harmonizing the two texts together, thus showing that Seth was born when Adam was 130.
- 3) The Flood.
  - A) Dates given in the "The Flood (2518 BC)" are with respect to Noah's age and are given in year/month/day notation (e.g., 600/2/10 means the tenth day of the second month of Noah's 600<sup>th</sup> year).<sup>1</sup> Months are assumed to be 30 days each<sup>2</sup> and the Flood year is assumed to exclude an intercalary month.<sup>3</sup>
  - B) Two kinds of time reckoning are used in the Flood narrative.<sup>4</sup> The first, based on calendar dates with respect to Noah's age, informs us that the Flood lasted exactly twelve months and eleven days, assuming the first and last days as full days (see Gen 7:11; 8:4–5, 13–14). The second, based on spans of time, complements the first reckoning and conveys the number of days related to specific periods during the Flood event (see Gen 7:12, 24; 8:6, 10, 12). A comparison of these reckonings shows that they are consistent:
    - (1) Five months (150 days) elapsed between the onset of the rains and the grounding of the ark (Gen 7:11; 8:4). Seventy-four days passed from the seventeenth of the seventh month (8:4) to the first day of the tenth month, when the mountain tops first became visible (8:5). Another forty days elapsed before the release of the raven (8:6–7), and 21 more days passed during the three forays of the dove (8:10–12). This makes a total of 285 days, bringing us to the second day of the twelfth month. Some 29 days later, the waters on earth had begun to dry up (8:13), and it took another 57 days for the ground to be completely dried out by the twenty-seventh day of the second month (8:14). The addition of 29 and 57 to the 285 gives a grand total of 371 days (assuming the first and last days as full days). Taking 30 days to a month, this figure yields twelve months and eleven days, identical with the conclusion based solely upon the date system.

<sup>1</sup> The dates in my sectional headings follow Dr. William D. Barrick's "Noah's Flood and Its Geological Implications" in *Coming to Grips with Genesis: Biblical Authority and the Age of the Earth*. See especially "Translation with Chronological Notations" for more detail. See also Bodie Hodge, "Biblical Overview of the Flood Timeline," *Answers in Genesis*, August 23, 2010. Cited: October 8, 2013. Online: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2010/08/23/overview-flood-timeline>.

<sup>2</sup> This assumption is in harmony with the fact that Genesis 7:11 and 8:4 state that five months elapsed between the onset of the rains and the grounding of the ark, while 7:24 and 8:3 specify that same period to be 150 days.

<sup>3</sup> The calendar assumed here corresponds to the ancient Egyptian civil calendar which was divided into twelve months of thirty days each yielding 360 days exactly. The shortage of five days was accounted for by inserting five extra days before the beginning of the new year (see "The Reckoning of Time in the Ancient World" in Jack Finegan, *Handbook of Biblical Chronology*, Rev. Ed. (Hendrickson Publishers, 1998), p. 21, §40).

<sup>4</sup> See "Excursus 2" in Nahum M. Sarna, *JPS Torah Commentary: Genesis* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1989), p. 377.

**Textual Notes**

- 1) Mundhenk comments on Genesis 7:13: “There is still one further problem with dating in the flood story. It comes right at the beginning of the flood. In 7:4 Noah is told to get all the animals into the ark. The rain will begin seven days later. Then in 7:6–9 Noah and his family and all of the animals enter the ark. 7:10 tells us (according to NRSV) that ‘after seven days the waters of the flood came.’ This could be understood to mean that they all managed to get into the ark on the same day that God spoke to Noah, and that they then waited in the ark for seven days before the rain started. However 7:13–16 seems to say that they all entered the ark on the same day that the flood started. NRSV is not the only translation that gives this impression. NJB, REB and GNB all translate in a way that might suggest that there is a contradiction here. Here too, there is probably no contradiction intended by the text, and it is better to translate in a way that avoids a contradiction. For example, in 7:10 a translator can say ‘on the seventh day’ (NJV) rather than ‘seven days later.’ If a translator does that, then 7:10 is merely a reference back to what God had said in 7:4. It does not say anything about which day Noah actually entered the ark. NAB says, ‘as soon as the seven days were over.’ MLB and NIV also refer to ‘the seven days.’ All of these translations avoid the contradiction suggested by the first group of translations mentioned.”<sup>5</sup> I have dealt with this issue by putting Genesis 7:7–10 in parallel with 7:13–16 and harmonizing the text. Thus Noah, his family and the animals entered the ark sometime between God’s command (600/2/10) and the beginning of the Flood (600/2/17).

---

<sup>5</sup> Norman A. Mundhenk, “The Dates of the Flood,” *The Bible Translator* 45/2 (Apr 1994): 207–213.