

Cain and Abel (c. 4070 BC)

Genesis 4:1–24

The Birth of Cain and Abel

1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain. And she said, “I have given birth to a man with *the help of* Yahweh.”

2 Then she bore his brother Abel. And Abel became a keeper of sheep, and Cain became a tiller of the ground.

Abel Pleases God

3 And in the course of time Cain brought an offering from the fruit of the ground to Yahweh,

4 and Abel also brought *an offering* from the choicest firstlings of his flock. And Yahweh looked with favor to Abel and to his offering,

5 but to Cain and to his offering he did not look with favor. And Cain became very angry, and his face fell. [cf. [Heb 11:4](#)]

6 And Yahweh said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why is your face fallen?”

7 If you do well will I not accept you? But if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. And its desire *is* for you, but you must rule over it.”

Cain Murders His Brother Abel

8 Then Cain said to his brother Abel, “*Let us go out into the field.*” And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

9 Then Yahweh said to Cain, “Where *is* Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?”

10 And he said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground.

11 So now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive the blood of your brother from your hand.

12 When you till the ground it shall no longer yield its strength to you. You shall be a wanderer and a fugitive on the earth.”

13 And Cain said to Yahweh, “My punishment *is* greater than *I can* bear.

14 Look, you have driven me out today from the face of the ground, and from your face I must hide. I will be a wanderer and a fugitive on the earth, and it will happen that whoever finds me will kill me.”

15 Then Yahweh said to him, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain will be avenged sevenfold.” Then Yahweh put a sign on Cain so that whoever found him would not kill him.

16 And Cain went out from the presence of Yahweh, and he settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

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

17 And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Enoch. And when he built a city he named the city after his son, Enoch.

18 And to Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech.

19 And Lamech took to himself two wives. The name of the first *was* Adah, and the name of the second *was* Zillah.

20 And Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and *those who have* livestock.

21 And the name of his brother *was* Jubal; he was the father of all who play stringed instruments and wind instruments.

22 Then Zillah also gave birth to Tubal-Cain who forged all *kinds of* tools of bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain *was* Naamah.

23 Then Lamech said to his wives,

“Adah and Zillah, listen to my voice;

O wives of Lamech, hear my words.

I have killed a man for wounding me,

Even a young man for injuring me.

24 If Cain is avenged sevenfold,

Then Lamech *will be avenged* seventy and seven *times*.

Toledot of Adam (4044–2618 BC)

Genesis 5

Genesis 4:25–26

1 This is the record of the generations of Adam.

When God created Adam, he made him in the likeness of God.

2 Male and female he created them. And he blessed them. And he called their name “Humankind” when they were created.

3 And when Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he fathered a child in his likeness, according to his image.

And he called his name Seth.

25 Then Adam

knew his wife again, and she gave birth to a son.

And she called his name Seth, for *she said* “God has appointed to me another child in the place of Abel, because Cain killed him.”

<p>4 And the days of Adam after he fathered Seth were eight hundred years. And he fathered sons and daughters.</p> <p>5 And all the days of Adam which he lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.</p> <p>6 When Seth had lived one hundred and five years, he fathered Enosh.</p>	<p>26 And as for Seth, he also fathered a son, and he called his name Enosh. At that time he began to call on the name of Yahweh.</p>
<p>7 And after Seth had fathered Enosh he lived eight hundred and seven years, and fathered sons and daughters.</p> <p>8 And all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years, and he died.</p> <p>9 When Enosh lived ninety years, he fathered Kenan.</p> <p>10 And after Enosh fathered Kenan he lived eight hundred and fifteen years, and fathered sons and daughters.</p> <p>11 And all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years, and he died.</p> <p>12 When Kenan had lived seventy years, he fathered Mahalalel.</p> <p>13 And after Kenan had fathered Mahalalel, he lived eight hundred and forty years, and fathered sons and daughters.</p> <p>14 And all the days of Kenan were nine hundred and ten years, and he died.</p> <p>15 When Mahalalel had lived sixty-five years, he fathered Jared.</p> <p>16 And after Mahalalel had fathered Jared, he lived eight hundred and thirty years, and fathered sons and daughters.</p> <p>17 And all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years, and he died.</p> <p>18 When Jared had lived one hundred and sixty-two years, he fathered Enoch.</p> <p>19 And after Jared had fathered Enoch, he lived eight hundred years, and fathered sons and daughters.</p> <p>20 And all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years, and he died.</p> <p>21 When Enoch had lived sixty-five years, he fathered Methuselah.</p> <p>22 And Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah three hundred years, and fathered sons and daughters.</p> <p>23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years.</p> <p>24 And Enoch walked with God, and he was no more, for God took him. [cf. Heb 11:5; Jude 1:14]</p> <p>25 When Methuselah had lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, he fathered Lamech.</p> <p>26 And after Methuselah had fathered Lamech, he lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and fathered sons and daughters.</p> <p>27 And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years, and he died.</p> <p>28 When Lamech had lived one hundred and eighty-two years, he fathered a son.</p> <p>29 And he called his name Noah, saying, “This one shall relieve us from our work, and from the hard labor of our hands, from the ground which Yahweh had cursed.</p> <p>30 And after Lamech had fathered Noah he lived five hundred and ninety-five years, and he fathered sons and daughters.</p> <p>31 All the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years, and he died.</p> <p>32 When Noah was five hundred years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.</p>	

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

Genesis 6:1–8

- 1 And it happened *that*, when humankind began to multiply on the face of the ground, daughters were born to them.
- 2 Then the sons of God saw the daughters of humankind, that they *were* beautiful. And they took for themselves wives from all that they chose.
- 3 And Yahweh said, “My Spirit shall not abide with humankind forever in that he *is* also flesh. And his days *shall be* one hundred and twenty years.”
- 4 The Nephilim *were* upon the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God went into the daughters of humankind, and they bore children to them.
- 5 And Yahweh saw that the evil of humankind *was* great upon the earth, and every inclination of the thoughts of his heart *was* always only evil.
- 6 And Yahweh regretted that he had made humankind on the earth, and he was grieved in his heart.
- 7 And Yahweh said, “I will destroy humankind whom I created from upon the face of the earth, from humankind, to animals, to creeping things, and to the birds of heaven, for I regret that I have made them.”
- 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of Yahweh.

Toledot of Noah (c. 2570 BC)

Genesis 6:9–22

9 These *are* the generations of Noah. Noah *was* a righteous man, without defect in his generations. Noah walked with God.
 10 And Noah fathered three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
 11 And the earth *was* corrupted before God, and the earth was filled *with* violence.
 12 And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth.
 13 And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh *has* come before me, for the earth was filled *with* violence because of them. Now, look, I *am going* to destroy them *along* with the earth.
 14 Make for yourself an ark of cypress wood; you must make the ark *with* rooms, then you must cover it with pitch, inside and outside.
 15 And this *is* how you must make it: the length of the ark, three hundred cubits; its width fifty cubits; its height, thirty cubits.
 16 You must make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above. And *as for* the door of the ark, you must put *it* in its side. You must make it *with* a lower, second, and a third *deck*.
 17 And I, behold, I *am* about to bring the flood waters over the earth to destroy all flesh in which *is* the breath of life from under the heaven; everything that *is* on the earth shall perish.
 18 And I will establish my covenant with you, and you must go into the ark—you, and your sons, and your wife, and the wives of your sons with you.
 19 And of every living thing, from all flesh, you must bring two from every *kind* into the ark to keep *them* alive with you; they shall be male and female.
 20 From the birds according to their kind, and from the animals according to their kind, from every creeping thing *on* the ground according to its kind—two from every kind shall come to you to keep *them* alive.
 21 And *as for* you, take for yourself from every kind of food that is eaten. And you must gather *it* to yourself. And it shall be for you and for them for food.”
 22 And Noah did according to all that God commanded him; thus he did. [cf. [Heb 11:7](#)]

The Flood (2518 BC)

Genesis 7

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

1 Then Yahweh said to Noah, “Go—you and all your household—into the ark, for I have seen you *are* righteous before me in this generation.
 2 From all the clean animals you must take for yourself seven pairs, a male and its mate. And from the animals that *are* not clean *you must take* two, a male and its mate,
 3 as well as from the birds of heaven seven pairs, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of the earth.
 4 For within seven days I will send rain upon the earth *for* forty days and forty nights. And I will blot out all the living creatures that I have made from upon the face of the ground.”
 5 And Noah did according to all that Yahweh commanded him.
 6 Noah was six hundred years old when the flood waters came upon the earth.

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

7 And Noah and his sons and his wife, and the wives of his sons with him, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood.
 8 Of clean animals, and of animals which *are* not clean, and of the birds, and everything that creeps upon the ground,
 9 two of each went to Noah, into the ark, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.
 10 And it happened *that* after seven days the waters of the flood came over the earth.

13 On this same day, Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and the wife of Noah and the three wives of his sons with them, went into the ark,
 14 they and all the living creatures according to their kind, and all the domesticated animals according to their kind, and all the creatures that creep upon the earth according to their kind, all the birds according to their kind, every winged creature.
 15 And they came to Noah to the ark, two of each, from every living thing in which *was* the breath of life.
 16 And those that came, male and female, of every living thing, came as God had commanded him.
 And Yahweh shut the door behind him.

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

11 In the six hundredth year of the life of Noah, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month—on that day all the

springs of the great deep were split open, and the windows of heaven were opened.

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

17 And the flood came forty days and forty nights upon the earth. And the waters increased, and lifted the ark, and it rose up from the earth.

18 And the waters prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth. And the ark went upon the surface of the waters.

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

19 And the waters prevailed overwhelmingly upon the earth, and they covered all the high mountains which were under the entire heaven.

20 The waters swelled fifteen cubits above the mountains, covering them.

21 And every living thing that moved on the earth perished—the birds, and the domesticated animals, and the wild animals, and everything that swarmed on the earth, and all humankind.

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

23 And he blotted out every living thing upon the surface of the ground, from humankind, to animals, to creeping things, and to the birds of heaven; they were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah and those who *were* with him in the ark remained. [cf. [1 Pet 3:19–20](#); [2 Pet 2:5](#)]

24 And the waters prevailed over the earth one hundred and fifty days.

Scripture quotations are from the [Lexham English Bible \(LEB\)](#). Copyright 2012 [Logos Bible Software](#). Lexham is a registered trademark of [Logos Bible Software](#).

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 600th year).¹ Months are assumed to be 30 days each² and the Flood year is assumed to exclude an intercalary month.³
 - B) Two kinds of time reckoning are used in the Flood narrative.⁴ 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

¹ 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>.

² 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.

³ 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).

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

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.

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.”⁵ 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).

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