

## Cain and Abel (c. 4070 BC)

Genesis 4:1–24

### The Birth of Cain and Abel

1 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have gotten a manchild with *the help of the LORD*.”

2 Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

### Abel Pleases God

3 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground.

4 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering;

5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. [cf. [Heb 11:4](#)]

6 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?”

7 If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

### Cain Murders His Brother Abel

8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

9 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”

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

11 Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.

12 When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth.”

13 Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is too great to bear!

14 Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Your face I will be hidden, and I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

15 So the LORD said to him, “Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD appointed a sign for Cain, so that no one finding him would slay him.

16 Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

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

17 Cain had relations with his wife and she conceived, and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city, and called the name of the city Enoch, after the name of his son.

18 Now to Enoch was born Irad, and Irad became the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael became the father of Methushael, and Methushael became the father of Lamech.

19 Lamech took to himself two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other, Zillah.

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

21 His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.

22 As for Zillah, she also gave birth to Tubal-cain, the forger of all implements of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

23 Lamech said to his wives,

“Adah and Zillah,  
Listen to my voice,  
You wives of Lamech,  
Give heed to my speech,  
For I have killed a man for wounding me;  
And a boy for striking me;

24 If Cain is avenged sevenfold,  
Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”

## Toledot of Adam (4044–2618 BC)

Genesis 5

Genesis 4:25–26

1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.

2 He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created.

3 When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years,

25 Adam

<p>he became the father of <i>a son</i> in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.</p> <p>4 Then the days of Adam after he became the father of Seth were eight hundred years, and he had <i>other</i> sons and daughters.</p> <p>5 So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.</p> <p>6 Seth lived one hundred and five years, and became the father of Enosh.</p>	<p>had relations with his wife again; and she gave birth to a son, and named him Seth, for, <i>she said</i>, “God has appointed me another offspring in place of Abel, for Cain killed him.”</p> <p>26 To Seth, to him also a son was born; and he called his name Enosh. Then <i>men</i> began to call upon the name of the LORD.</p>
<p>7 Then Seth lived eight hundred and seven years after he became the father of Enosh, and he had <i>other</i> sons and daughters.</p> <p>8 So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years, and he died.</p> <p>9 Enosh lived ninety years, and became the father of Kenan.</p> <p>10 Then Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years after he became the father of Kenan, and he had <i>other</i> sons and daughters.</p> <p>11 So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years, and he died.</p> <p>12 Kenan lived seventy years, and became the father of Mahalalel.</p> <p>13 Then Kenan lived eight hundred and forty years after he became the father of Mahalalel, and he had <i>other</i> sons and daughters.</p> <p>14 So all the days of Kenan were nine hundred and ten years, and he died.</p> <p>15 Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Jared.</p> <p>16 Then Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years after he became the father of Jared, and he had <i>other</i> sons and daughters.</p> <p>17 So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years, and he died.</p> <p>18 Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and became the father of Enoch.</p> <p>19 Then Jared lived eight hundred years after he became the father of Enoch, and he had <i>other</i> sons and daughters.</p> <p>20 So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years, and he died.</p> <p>21 Enoch lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Methuselah.</p> <p>22 Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had <i>other</i> sons and daughters.</p> <p>23 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years.</p> <p>24 Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him. [cf. <a href="#">Heb 11:5</a>; <a href="#">Jude 1:14</a>]</p> <p>25 Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and became the father of Lamech.</p> <p>26 Then Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years after he became the father of Lamech, and he had <i>other</i> sons and daughters.</p> <p>27 So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years, and he died.</p> <p>28 Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and became the father of a son.</p> <p>29 Now he called his name Noah, saying, “This one will give us rest from our work and from the toil of our hands <i>arising</i> from the ground which the LORD has cursed.”</p> <p>30 Then Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years after he became the father of Noah, and he had <i>other</i> sons and daughters.</p> <p>31 So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years, and he died.</p> <p>32 Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.</p>	

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

Genesis 6:1–8

1 Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them,

2 that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.

3 Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.”

4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore *children* to them. Those were the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

7 The LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.”

8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

## Toledot of Noah (c. 2570 BC)

Genesis 6:9–22

9 These are *the records of* the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.  
 10 Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.  
 11 Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence.  
 12 God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth.  
 13 Then God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.  
 14 Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with rooms, and shall cover it inside and out with pitch.  
 15 This is how you shall make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its breadth fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.  
 16 You shall make a window for the ark, and finish it to a cubit from the top; and set the door of the ark in the side of it; you shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.  
 17 Behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish.  
 18 But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark— you and your sons and your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.  
 19 And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every *kind* into the ark, to keep *them* alive with you; they shall be male and female.  
 20 Of the birds after their kind, and of the animals after their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every *kind* will come to you to keep *them* alive.  
 21 As for you, take for yourself some of all food which is edible, and gather *it* to yourself; and it shall be for food for you and for them.”  
 22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did. [cf. [Heb 11:7](#)]

## The Flood (2518 BC)

Genesis 7

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

1 Then the LORD said to Noah, “Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you *alone* I have seen *to be* righteous before Me in this time.  
 2 You shall take with you of every clean animal by sevens, a male and his female; and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and his female;  
 3 also of the birds of the sky, by sevens, male and female, to keep offspring alive on the face of all the earth.  
 4 For after seven more days, I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights; and I will blot out from the face of the land every living thing that I have made.”  
 5 Noah did according to all that the LORD had commanded him.  
 6 Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of water came upon the earth.

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

7 Then Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him entered the ark because of the water of the flood.  
 8 Of clean animals and animals that are not clean and birds and everything that creeps on the ground,  
 9 there went into the ark to Noah by twos, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.  
 10 It came about after the seven days, that the water of the flood came upon the earth.

13 On the very same day Noah and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark,  
 14 they and every beast after its kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, all sorts of birds.  
 15 So they went into the ark to Noah, by twos of all flesh in which was the breath of life.  
 16 Those that entered, male and female of all flesh, entered as God had commanded him; and the LORD closed *it* behind him.

### **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, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened.

12 The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.

17 Then the flood came upon the earth for forty days, and the water increased and lifted up the ark, so that it rose above the earth.

18 The water prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water.

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

19 The water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered.

20 The water prevailed fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered.

21 All flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind;

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

23 Thus He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark. [cf. [1 Pet 3:19–20](#); [2 Pet 2:5](#)]

24 The water prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days.

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#### **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:

<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.

- (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.”<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).

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