

Cain and Abel (c. 4070 BC)

Genesis 4:1–24

The Birth of Cain and Abel

- 1 Now the man had marital relations with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. Then she said, “I have created a man just as the LORD did!”
 2 Then she gave birth to his brother Abel. Abel took care of the flocks, while Cain cultivated the ground.

Abel Pleases God

- 3 At the designated time Cain brought some of the fruit of the ground for an offering to the LORD.
 4 But Abel brought some of the firstborn of his flock—even the fattest of them. And the LORD was pleased with Abel and his offering,
 5 but with Cain and his offering he was not pleased. So Cain became very angry, and his expression was downcast. [cf. [Heb 11:4](#)]
 6 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why is your expression downcast?
 7 Is it not true that if you do what is right, you will be fine? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. It desires to dominate you, but you must subdue it.”

Cain Murders His Brother Abel

- 8 Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.
 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” And he replied, “I don’t know! Am I my brother’s guardian?”
 10 But the LORD 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 banished from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.
 12 When you try to cultivate the ground it will no longer yield its best for you. You will be a homeless wanderer on the earth.”
 13 Then Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is too great to endure!
 14 Look! You are driving me off the land today, and I must hide from your presence. I will be a homeless wanderer on the earth; whoever finds me will kill me.”
 15 But the LORD said to him, “All right then, if anyone kills Cain, Cain will be avenged seven times as much.” Then the LORD put a special mark on Cain so that no one who found him would strike him down.
 16 So Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

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

- 17 Cain had marital relations with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was building a city, and he named the city after his son Enoch.
 18 To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad was the father of Mehujael. Mehujael was the father of Methushael, and Methushael was the father of Lamech.
 19 Lamech took two wives for himself; the name of the first was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah.
 20 Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the first of those who live in tents and keep livestock.
 21 The name of his brother was Jubal; he was the first of all who play the harp and the flute.
 22 Now Zillah also gave birth to Tubal-Cain, who heated metal and shaped all kinds of tools made of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.
 23 Lamech said to his wives,

“Adah and Zillah! Listen to me!
 You wives of Lamech, hear my words!
 I have killed a man for wounding me,
 a young man for hurting me.

- 24 If Cain is to be avenged seven times as much,
 then Lamech seventy-seven times!”

Toledot of Adam (4044–2618 BC)

Genesis 5

Genesis 4:25–26

1 This is the record of the family line of Adam. When God created humankind, he made them in the likeness of God.
 2 He created them male and female; when they were created, he blessed them and named them “humankind.”
 3 When Adam had lived 130 years he fathered a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and he named him Seth.

25 And Adam had marital relations with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son. She named him Seth, saying, “God has given me another child in place of Abel because

<p>4 The length of time Adam lived after he became the father of Seth was 800 years; during this time he had other sons and daughters.</p> <p>5 The entire lifetime of Adam was 930 years, and then he died.</p> <p>6 When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father of Enosh.</p>	<p>Cain killed him.”</p> <p>26 And a son was also born to Seth, whom he named Enosh. At that time people began to worship the LORD.</p>
<p>7 Seth lived 807 years after he became the father of Enosh, and he had other sons and daughters.</p> <p>8 The entire lifetime of Seth was 912 years, and then he died.</p> <p>9 When Enosh had lived 90 years, he became the father of Kenan.</p> <p>10 Enosh lived 815 years after he became the father of Kenan, and he had other sons and daughters.</p> <p>11 The entire lifetime of Enosh was 905 years, and then he died.</p> <p>12 When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel.</p> <p>13 Kenan lived 840 years after he became the father of Mahalalel, and he had other sons and daughters.</p> <p>14 The entire lifetime of Kenan was 910 years, and then he died.</p> <p>15 When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he became the father of Jared.</p> <p>16 Mahalalel lived 830 years after he became the father of Jared, and he had other sons and daughters.</p> <p>17 The entire lifetime of Mahalalel was 895 years, and then he died.</p> <p>18 When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch.</p> <p>19 Jared lived 800 years after he became the father of Enoch, and he had other sons and daughters.</p> <p>20 The entire lifetime of Jared was 962 years, and then he died.</p> <p>21 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah.</p> <p>22 After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God for 300 years, and he had other sons and daughters.</p> <p>23 The entire lifetime of Enoch was 365 years.</p> <p>24 Enoch walked with God, and then he disappeared because God took him away. [cf. Heb 11:5; Jude 1:14]</p> <p>25 When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech.</p> <p>26 Methuselah lived 782 years after he became the father of Lamech, and he had other sons and daughters.</p> <p>27 The entire lifetime of Methuselah was 969 years, and then he died.</p> <p>28 When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son.</p> <p>29 He named him Noah, saying, “This one will bring us comfort from our labor and from the painful toil of our hands because of the ground that the LORD has cursed.”</p> <p>30 Lamech lived 595 years after he became the father of Noah, and he had other sons and daughters.</p> <p>31 The entire lifetime of Lamech was 777 years, and then he died.</p> <p>32 After Noah was 500 years old, he 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 When humankind began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,
- 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of humankind were beautiful. Thus they took wives for themselves from any they chose.
- 3 So the LORD said, “My spirit will not remain in humankind indefinitely, since they are mortal. They will remain for 120 more years.”
- 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days (and also after this) when the sons of God were having sexual relations with the daughters of humankind, who gave birth to their children. They were the mighty heroes of old, the famous men.
- 5 But the LORD saw that the wickedness of humankind had become great on the earth. Every inclination of the thoughts of their minds was only evil all the time.
- 6 The LORD regretted that he had made humankind on the earth, and he was highly offended.
- 7 So the LORD said, “I will wipe humankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—everything from humankind to animals, including creatures that move on the ground and birds of the air, for I regret that I have made them.”
- 8 But Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD.

Toledot of Noah (c. 2570 BC)

Genesis 6:9–22

9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a godly man; he was blameless among his contemporaries. He walked with God.
 10 Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
 11 The earth was ruined in the sight of God; the earth was filled with violence.
 12 God saw the earth, and indeed it was ruined, for all living creatures on the earth were sinful.
 13 So God said to Noah, “I have decided that all living creatures must die, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. Now I am about to destroy them and the earth.
 14 Make for yourself an ark of cypress wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and out.
 15 This is how you should make it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.
 16 Make a roof for the ark and finish it, leaving 18 inches from the top. Put a door in the side of the ark, and make lower, middle, and upper decks.
 17 I am about to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy from under the sky all the living creatures that have the breath of life in them. Everything that is on the earth will die,
 18 but I will confirm my covenant with you. You will enter the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.
 19 You must bring into the ark two of every kind of living creature from all flesh, male and female, to keep them alive with you.
 20 Of the birds after their kinds, and of the cattle after their kinds, and of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every kind will come to you so you can keep them alive.
 21 And you must take for yourself every kind of food that is eaten, and gather it together. It will be food for you and for them.
 22 And Noah did all that God commanded him—he did indeed. [cf. [Heb 11:7](#)]

The Flood (2518 BC)

Genesis 7

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

1 The LORD said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, for I consider you godly among this generation.
 2 You must take with you seven of every kind of clean animal, the male and its mate, two of every kind of unclean animal, the male and its mate,
 3 and also seven of every kind of bird in the sky, male and female, to preserve their offspring on the face of the earth.
 4 For in seven days I will cause it to rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the ground every living thing that I have made.”
 5 And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.
 6 Noah was 600 years old when the floodwaters engulfed the earth.

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

7 Noah entered the ark
 along with his sons,
 his wife, and his sons’ wives
 because of the floodwaters.
 8 Pairs of clean animals, of unclean animals,

 of birds, and of everything that creeps along the ground,

 9 male and female, came into the ark to Noah,
 just as God had commanded him.
 10 And after seven days the floodwaters engulfed the earth.

13 On that very day Noah entered the ark,
 accompanied by his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth,
 along with his wife and his sons’ three wives.

14 They entered, along with every living creature after its kind,
 every animal after its kind,
 every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind,
 and every bird after its kind, everything with wings.
 15 Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life
 came into the ark to Noah.
 16 Those that entered were male and female,
 just as God commanded him.
 Then 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, on the seventeenth day of the month—on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst open and the floodgates of the heavens were opened.
 12 And the rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.
 17 The flood engulfed the earth for forty days. As the waters increased, they lifted the ark and raised it above the earth.
 18 The waters completely overwhelmed the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the waters.

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

19 The waters completely inundated the earth so that even all the high mountains under the entire sky were covered.

20 The waters rose more than twenty feet above the mountains.

21 And all living things that moved on the earth died, including the birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all humankind.

22 Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died.

23 So the LORD destroyed every living thing that was on the surface of the ground, including people, animals, creatures that creep along the ground, and birds of the sky. They were wiped off the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark survived. [cf. [1 Pet 3:19–20](#); [2 Pet 2:5](#)]

24 The waters prevailed over the earth for 150 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 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 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

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.

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.