

CHAPTER 2

THE PRE-NOACHIAN FLOOD WORLD Creation and the Garden of Eden

0 A.M. Creation This chapter begins with the wonderful stories of Creation and the Garden of Eden but ends with the greatest calamity ever to befall mankind, the worldwide Flood of Noah. As we shall see, the first 1,656 years of man were at times happy but at other times quite sad. The first seven Chapters of Genesis have many revealing truths to relate.

To understand our story, we must begin in the beginning. In Gen.1:1 we read:

“1. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

Now, I know that many people in this world believe in evolution, even though evolution has never been proven. But I hope you don't and that you are a God-believing person who believes in a Divine Creation. Genesis Chapter One has many more interesting things to say about God's creation which are of utmost importance to you and to all mankind! What is the purpose of God's creation and mankind? Do we glean any “hint” in this account about the purpose of human life on Earth? Absolutely! In fact, more than a hint (Gen. 1:26-28):

“26. And God said, Let us make man in *our image*, after *our likeness*: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27. So God created man in *his own image*, in *the image of God* created he him; male and female created he them. 28. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

Here is an awesome revelation: God created Adam and Eve *in His Image, after His likeness!* His plan reveals that He desires to expand His family to include many “children” – more members of His kind! First, he built man out of red mud, physical elements, not out of Spirit of which He is composed. He made man a free moral agent to choose what he wants to do with his life. But if man chooses to accept God's rule and obey His commandments, to build righteous character, and to qualify for admission into God's family, at the great First Resurrection God will perfect man's character and replace his mortal, fleshly body with ever-living Spirit! That's the incredible truth of your Bible! But that is NOT the subject of this Study. Other booklets in our inventory cover this in detail.

The Garden of Eden

What we should be more concerned with is *God's Plan to restore His government on this earth!* God designed and planted a gorgeous garden for Adam and Eve to live in and care for (Gen. 2:8-10):

“8. And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. 10. And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.”

God made all the best things for His children Adam and Eve, but He did put one limit on them (Gen. 2:16-17):

“16. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

But we all know the story in Genesis 3. Eve first listened to the voice of the Tempter, the Devil (who was really the first sinner -- not poor Eve), and ate of the only prohibited tree, and gave to her husband who also ate of the forbidden fruit. Thus, after just one day of peace and harmony (that first Sabbath with God), Adam and Eve sinned and were forced out of the Garden of Eden. Their world changed. The nature of the ground and even the nature of animals changed for the worse. Genesis 3:17-19 only gives a broad hint of what happened to their idyllic lives.

“17. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18. Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee: and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

And, except for a few personalities in the Bible, man has failed to really follow God. Jesus Christ came from the God family as the Word to reveal His Father and His plan, and today awaits His Father's instructions to come back to this Earth with His Father's Government. What you read in the Bible is much of the story of how God is planning to re-establish His Government on this earth and how we fit into His great calling.

God's Plan to Re-introduce His Government

The real heart of this story is God's Plan to bring His Government back to this planet! Jesus Christ will do that in just a few years!

We read in the pages of your Bible the miserable lives of mankind, and their abject failure to follow His ways, but interspersed with the occasional successful life of some of God's sons and patriarchs who were willing to choose His ways.

In Genesis Chapter 4 we read of Adam and Eve's first two sons Cain and Abel. Most of us are familiar with this tragic story. In a fit of jealous rage Cain slew his brother Abel. The family of Cain made a terrible mess out of the world. Josephus in his *Antiquities of the Jews* relates this poignantly in Book 1, Chapter 2, Sections 1 & 2:

“...God therefore did not inflict the punishment [of death] upon him on account of his offering sacrifice, and thereby making supplication to him not to be extreme in his wrath to him; but he made him accursed, and threatened his posterity in the seventh generation. He also cast him, together with his wife, out of that land. And when he was afraid, that in wandering about he should fall among wild beasts, and by that means perish, God bid him not to entertain such a melancholy suspicion, and to go over all the earth without fear of what mischief he might suffer from wild beasts; and setting a mark upon him that he might be known, he commanded him to depart.

“2. And when Cain had travelled over many countries, he, with his wife, built a city, named Nod, which is a place so called, and there he settled his abode; where also he had children. However, he did not accept of his punishment, in order to amendment, but to increase his wickedness; for he only aimed to procure everything that was for his own bodily pleasure, though it obliged him to be injurious to his neighbors. He augmented his household substance with much wealth, by rapine and violence: he excited his acquaintance to procure pleasures and spoils by robbery, and became a great leader of men into wicked courses. He also introduced a change in that way of simplicity wherein men lived before; and was the author of measures and weights. And whereas they lived innocently and generously while they knew nothing of such arts, he changed the world into cunning craftiness. He first of all set boundaries about lands; he built a city, and fortified it with walls, and he compelled his family to come together to it; and called that city Enoch, after the name of his eldest son Enoch [This is not the Enoch, son of Jared, in the Seth line]. Now Jared was the son of Enoch [KJV says Irad]; whose son was Malael [KJV: Mehujael]; whose son was Mathusala [KJV: Methusael]; whose son was Lamech [not the Lamech who was the father of Noah]; who had seventy-seven children by two wives, Silla [KJV: Zillah] and Ada [KJV: Adah]. Of those children by Ada, one was Jabal; he erected tents, and loved the life of a shepherd. But Jubal, who was born of the same mother with him, exercised himself in music; and invented the psaltery and the harp. But Tubal, one of his children by the other wife, exceeded all men in strength, and was very expert and famous in martial performances. He procured what tended to the pleasures of the body by that method; and first of all invented the art of making brass. Lamech was also the father of a daughter, whose name was Naamah; and because he was so skillful in matters of divine revelation, that he knew he was to be punished for Cain's murder of his brother, he made that known to his wives. Nay, even while Adam was alive, it came to pass that the posterity of Cain became exceeding wicked, every one successively dying one after another more wicked than the former. They were intolerable in war, and vehement in

robberies; and if anyone were slow to murder people, yet was he bold in his profligate behavior, in acting unjustly and doing injuries for gain.“

Of particular importance to Noah, many hundred of years earlier, was the accomplishments of one of the Cain line, Tubal-cain, who invented brass and was an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron (Gen. 4:22). To think that Noah used only wood to build his ark is not to think realistically! We will be briefly discussing the Ark's construction later in this chapter.

The Happy Generations of Seth

130 A.M. Jewish tradition, as explained in a footnote in Chapter 2, Section 3, Adam and Eve were blessed with thirty-three sons and twenty-three daughters! Let us focus our attention on the one son Seth, mentioned in Gen. 5:3-5:

“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.”

Josephus enlightens us about the amazing accomplishments of this man Seth in *Antiquities* Book 1, Chapter 2, Section 3:

“3....Now this Seth, when he was brought up, and came to those years in which he could discern what was good, became a virtuous man; and as he was himself of an excellent character, so did he leave children behind him who imitated his virtues. All these proved to be of good dispositions. They also inhabited the same country without dissensions, and in a happy condition, without any misfortunes falling upon them till they died. They also were inventors of that peculiar sort of wisdom which is concerned with the heavenly bodies, and their order....”

Seth, and possibly his decendents, were the inventors of astronomy [motion of heavenly bodies], a skill that was passed down through the Flood to the patriarchs and all human posterity! He certainly had ample time to study, and possibly record, all that he learned about the motion of the Earth, Moon, and stars since he lived 912 years in a peaceful country!

Not much is known about Seth's children, other than they were righteous and God-fearing people for an amazing seven generations. I am including them in this Study, but briefly, with the scriptural references.

235 A.M. Gen. 5:6-8: “6. And Seth lived an hundred and five years, and begat Enos: 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 hundrd and twelve years: and he died.”

325 A.M. Gen. 5:9-11: “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.”

395 A.M. Gen. 5:12-14: “12. And Cainan lived seventy years , and begat Mahalaleel: 13. **Mahalaleel** And Cainan lived after he begat Mahalaleel eight hundred and forty years, and began sons and daughters: 14. And all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years: and he died.”

460 A.M. Gen. 5:15-17: “15. And Mahalaleel lived sixty and five years, and begat Jared: 16. **Jared** 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.”

622 A.M. Gen. 5:18-20: “18. And Jared lived an hundred sixty and two years, and he begat **Enoch** Enoch: 19. And Jared lived after he began 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.”

687 A.M. Gen. 5:21-24: “21. And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: **Methuselah** 22. And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and began 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 was not; for God took him.”

A Wicked World

In *Antiquities* Book 1, Chapter 3, Section 1 we read what Josephus had to say after the seventh righteous generations of Seth:

“1. Now this posterity of Seth continued to esteem God as the Lord of the universe, and to have an entire regard to virtue, for seven generations; but in process of time they were perverted, and forsook the practices of their forefathers, and did neither pay those honors to God which were appointed them, nor had they any concern to do justice towards men. But for what degree of zeal they had formerly shown for virtue, they now showed by their actions a double degree of wickedness; whereby they made God to be their enemy, for many angels of God accompanied with women, and begat sons that proved unjust, and despisers of all that was good, on account of the confidence they had in their own strength [Could this be the original source of the doctrine of angels cohabiting with women -- an easily proven impossibility since there is no sex in the angelic kingdom?]; for the tradition is, That these men did what resembled the acts of those whom the Grecians call giants. But Noah was very uneasy at what they did; and, being displeased at their conduct, persuaded them to change their dispositions and their acts for the

better; – but, seeing that they did not yield to him, but were slaves to their wicked pleasures, he was afraid they would kill him, together with his wife and children, and those they had married; so he departed out of that land.”

Bullinger, in his Companion Bible, in a comment to Gen. 5:21 tells us that the name “Methuselah” means “when he is dead, it shall be sent, i.e. the Deluge.” Methuselah’s life span of 969 years (the longest life span we know of) shows God’s great mercy towards mankind. Indeed, Methuselah did die in the year of the Flood, possibly just before it occurred, maybe even in it!

874 A.M. Gen. 5:25-27: “25. And Methuselah lived an hundred eighty and seven years, and
Lamech 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.”

1056 A.M. Gen. 5:28-31 “28. And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat
Noah a son: 29. And he called his name Noah, saying, This same 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.”

Thank God for Righteous Noah

Noah was born into a very troubled Earth. Except for his righteousness, all of mankind would have been destroyed! We all should be very thankful for this man. Read what Gen. 6:1-7 has to say:

“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 [giants before the Flood and after it], 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.”

God saw such unhappiness on the earth that He was sorry He had made mankind! But in the next few verses we read:

“8. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. 9. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”

We read of the exploits of this great patriarch Noah and his three sons. His obedience led to the physical salvation of man through the great Noachian flood. A few preachers of righteousness are mentioned in scriptures, but our real saga begins many years later in far-away Mesopotamia, the land of the ancient Chaldeans.

1536 A.M. The construction of the Ark began when Noah was just 480 years old, twenty years before his first son Japheth was born. We know this from the fact that the Flood began when Noah was 600 years old and that he was given 120 years to build it. Noah was a servant of God who had given him a tremendous project to build. God would have provided the materials, finances, and manpower to complete this job. Noah was not a poor nor ignorant man. He used all the knowledge and skills available to him to build a very sea-worthy boat that would be able to withstand the tremendous waves that swept the earth during the Flood which lasted just over a year.

1556 A.M. Obviously, as they became grown men, Noah’s three sons helped him in the Ark’s construction. It is a false assumption to believe that Noah did not hire many other workers to fetch all of the massive beams and keel work and to assist in the boat’s construction. Even though Noah had 120 years to build this huge Ark (estimated to be over 500 feet long – if one uses the Egyptian cubit of twenty-one inches, as speculated by Josephus in footnote c. in Book 1, Chapter 3, Section 2 of *Antiquities*). Other archaeologists have written that the Royal Egyptian Cubit (the only cubit Moses, the author of Genesis, would have known) was more accurately considered 20.6 inches, making the Ark an astonishing 515 feet in length! A modern U.S. football field is 100 yards or 300 feet long. This was a BIG boat. Readers are encouraged to visit the web sites www.anchorstone.com and www.wyattmuseum.com for many more interesting details about the Ark’s construction. The use of various kinds of metals in its construction is most fascinating.

Bullinger, in his *Companion Bible*, note on Gen. 5:32 has this interesting bit of understanding:

“32. Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Named in inverted order. Japheth was the elder (10:21), Shem the youngest, and, in other cases, the youngest chosen for the blessing. Cp. this inversion of the order in 10.1, with 2, 6, and 21, and see 11.10 and note on 9.24: 10.1.”

1557 A.M. This birth year for Ham is somewhat speculative, and is what you will find in Bullinger’s *Companion Bible*, Appendix 53. But it seems most reasonable because we can definitely date Shem’s birth year as 1558 A.M. as will be explained later.

1558 A.M. Shem To confirm Bullinger's Appendix 53 on the date of Shem's birth, we can see from Gen. 11:10 that Shem was 100 years old and begat Arphaxad "two years after the Flood." What does this expression really mean? Was Arphaxad born two years after the flood *began* or two years after the flood *ended*? Let's examine the story of the Flood itself. We read in Gen. 7:6 that Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

1656 A.M. Flood Gen. 6:11 shows us even the specific date the Flood began: "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." Now read Gen. 9:28-29:

"28. And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. 29. And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years: and he died."

The expression "after the flood" here clearly means "after the *beginning* of the flood" since $600 + 350 = 950$, else Noah would have lived 951 years if we *include* the year of the Flood. I assume that Moses would have been consistent in his use of the Hebrew, so my conclusion is that Arphaxad was born two years after the *beginning* of the Flood to be consistent. Therefore, he was born in 1658 A.M. Shem was 100 years old when Arphaxad was born, so Shem was born in 1558 A.M. as I have shown above.

Many more lessons could be related about the Ark's construction and the nature of the Flood, but this chapter is already a bit too long!