

# Genesis

Author:  
Moses

Audience:  
God's chosen people,  
the Israelites

Date:  
Between 1446 and  
1406 BC

Setting:  
The area we call the  
Middle East.

Verse to Remember:  
"In the beginning God"  
(1:1).

Every story has a beginning, a genesis. The beginning of God's story of his interactions with humanity is found in the very first words of the Bible. In the beginning God created. From the start God was present. He was at work.

However, in the freshness of a new world where the first man and woman walked and talked with God, sin slithered in, marring creation forever. But the God who hung every star in place and laid every grain of sand upon the shore had, from the beginning, a plan. The whole of Scripture, and indeed the whole of history, is unveiled within the seeds of Genesis. It will be many years before we see the fruit of those seeds, but they are not years of dormancy. Throughout the world and within individual lives, God is actively working to redeem his creation. In Genesis we see him form covenants, bestow blessings, test faithfulness and turn evil intentions into a greater good—all for the purpose of one day redeeming the people he created in his image. It's a work that will continue until the end of time, but the beginnings for all of it are found in Genesis.

# Genesis

## The Beginning

**1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

<sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." <sup>7</sup>So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to

govern the night. He also made the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup>to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,<sup>o</sup> and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup>So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in

<sup>o</sup>26 Probable reading of the original Hebrew text (see Syriac); Masoretic Text the earth

number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

<sup>29</sup>Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup>And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

<sup>31</sup>God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

**2** Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

<sup>2</sup>By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. <sup>3</sup>Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

### Adam and Eve

<sup>4</sup>This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

<sup>5</sup>Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth<sup>a</sup> and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground,<sup>b</sup> but streams<sup>c</sup> came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD God formed a man<sup>c</sup> from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

<sup>8</sup>Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. <sup>9</sup>The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>10</sup>A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. <sup>11</sup>The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold.

<sup>12</sup>(The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin<sup>d</sup> and onyx are also there.) <sup>13</sup>The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush.<sup>e</sup> <sup>14</sup>The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup>but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

<sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

<sup>19</sup>Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam<sup>f</sup> no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs<sup>g</sup> and then closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib<sup>h</sup> he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup>The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”

<sup>24</sup>That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

<sup>25</sup>Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

### The Fall

**3** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

<sup>a5</sup> Or land; also in verse 6 <sup>b6</sup> Or mist

<sup>c7</sup> The Hebrew for man (adam) sounds like and may be related to the Hebrew for ground (adamah); it is also the name Adam (see verse 20).

<sup>d12</sup> Or good; pearls <sup>e13</sup> Possibly southeast Mesopotamia <sup>f20</sup> Or the man <sup>g21</sup> Or took part of the man’s side <sup>h22</sup> Or part

<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

<sup>4</sup>“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup>He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

<sup>11</sup>And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

<sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring<sup>a</sup> and hers; he will crush<sup>b</sup> your head, and you will strike his heel.”

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said,

“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup>To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

<sup>18</sup>It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

<sup>20</sup>Adam<sup>c</sup> named his wife Eve,<sup>d</sup> because she would become the mother of all the living.

<sup>21</sup>The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. <sup>22</sup>And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” <sup>23</sup>So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. <sup>24</sup>After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side<sup>e</sup> of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

### Cain and Abel

**4** Adam<sup>c</sup> made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.<sup>f</sup> She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth<sup>g</sup> a man.” <sup>2</sup>Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. <sup>3</sup>In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup>but on Cain and his offering he did not look with

<sup>a15</sup> Or seed <sup>b15</sup> Or strike <sup>c20,1</sup> Or The man <sup>d20</sup> Eve probably means living. <sup>e24</sup> Or placed in front <sup>f1</sup> Cain sounds like the Hebrew for brought forth or acquired. <sup>g1</sup> Or have acquired

Monday

### Genesis 1:27

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

### reflection

1 How do you see God's image reflected in the lives of others you admire?

2 What factors from the past have damaged your sense of self-worth?

3 Think of three ways in which you can beautifully reflect the characteristics of your Creator by imitating Christ.

### RELATED READINGS

Psalm 139:14;  
2 Corinthians 3:18;  
Colossians 1:15;  
Revelation 7:9

*"A handful of the earth to make God's image!"*

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING

## God's Image Bearers

Read: Genesis 1:27 - 31

Imagine the scene. Holding her hair back with one hand, the woman kneels and leans forward to drink from the clear pool of water. As her cupped hand reaches for the clear liquid, she draws back, startled. Who is the long-haired stranger staring back at her?

Perhaps even since the time Eve first caught sight of her reflection in the Garden of Eden, women have dealt with the question of image. Polls consistently reveal that the majority of us are dissatisfied with our appearance. Confronted with a barrage of airbrushed photos of supermodels and celebrities adorning magazine covers, the average woman thinks she is too short, too fat, too unattractive, too imperfect. How can we ever measure up with the media's standards of perfection?

The first chapter of the Bible supplies the answer. We were created in the image of one paradigm of perfection: our Creator. Our height, weight and skin color may indicate our human origins, but our soul and spirit reflect our Sovereign God.

When a child is born, it's not unusual for someone to claim she's the very "image" of a relative. But what does it mean to be created in the image of our heavenly Father? An image is a likeness or resemblance—a reflection as seen in a mirror. Scripture teaches that Jesus Christ is the "image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15). As we grow in faith, we who believe are gradually "being transformed into [Christ's] image" (2 Corinthians 3:18). When we become like Jesus, we begin to look more and more like our heavenly Father.

God created us to convey the distinctive imprint of his divine nature to a world often blinded to his existence. Even our differences reflect the One who delighted in creating a world of dazzling diversity: peculiar penguins and majestic eagles; towering redwoods and dwarf pines; blondes, brunettes and redheads ... every person created with the individual imprint of the Creator's hand to bear his image. So the next time you pass by a mirror, pause a moment to gaze in wonder at the designer original whom God loves so dearly—you!

Go to page 9 for your next devotional reading.

830 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>17</sup>Altogether, Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years, and then he died.

<sup>18</sup>When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. <sup>19</sup>After he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>20</sup>Altogether, Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then he died.

<sup>21</sup>When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. <sup>22</sup>After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup>Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. <sup>24</sup>Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

<sup>25</sup>When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech. <sup>26</sup>After he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>27</sup>Altogether, Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and then he died.

<sup>28</sup>When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. <sup>29</sup>He named him Noah<sup>a</sup> and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD has cursed." <sup>30</sup>After Noah was born, Lamech lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>31</sup>Altogether, Lamech lived a total of 777 years, and then he died.

<sup>32</sup>After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

### Wickedness in the World

6 When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup>the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. <sup>3</sup>Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with<sup>b</sup> humans forever, for they are mortal<sup>c</sup>; their days will be a hundred and twenty years."

<sup>4</sup>The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

<sup>5</sup>The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. <sup>6</sup>The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. <sup>7</sup>So the LORD said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth

the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them." <sup>8</sup>But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

### Noah and the Flood

<sup>9</sup>This is the account of Noah and his family.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. <sup>10</sup>Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

<sup>11</sup>Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. <sup>12</sup>God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. <sup>13</sup>So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. <sup>14</sup>So make yourself an ark of cypress<sup>d</sup> wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. <sup>15</sup>This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high.<sup>e</sup> <sup>16</sup>Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit<sup>f</sup> high all around. <sup>17</sup>Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. <sup>18</sup>I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. <sup>19</sup>But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. <sup>20</sup>You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. <sup>21</sup>Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. <sup>22</sup>You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

<sup>23</sup>Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

7 The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this

<sup>a</sup>29 Noah sounds like the Hebrew for comfort. <sup>b</sup>3 Or My spirit will not remain in. <sup>c</sup>3 Or corrupt. <sup>d</sup>14 The meaning of the Hebrew for this word is uncertain. <sup>e</sup>15 That is, about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high or about 135 meters long, 23 meters wide and 14 meters high. <sup>f</sup>16 That is, about 18 inches or about 45 centimeters. <sup>g</sup>16 The meaning of the Hebrew for this clause is uncertain.

generation.<sup>2</sup> Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate,<sup>3</sup> and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth.<sup>4</sup> Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

<sup>6</sup> Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth.<sup>7</sup> And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood.<sup>8</sup> Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground,<sup>9</sup> male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah.<sup>10</sup> And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

<sup>11</sup> In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month — on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened.<sup>12</sup> And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

<sup>13</sup> On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark.<sup>14</sup> They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings.<sup>15</sup> Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark.<sup>16</sup> The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.

<sup>17</sup> For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth.<sup>18</sup> The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water.<sup>19</sup> They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered.<sup>20</sup> The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Every living thing that moved on land perished — birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind.<sup>22</sup> Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils

died.<sup>23</sup> Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

<sup>24</sup> The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

**S** But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.<sup>2</sup> Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky.<sup>3</sup> The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down,<sup>4</sup> and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.<sup>5</sup> The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.

<sup>6</sup> After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark<sup>7</sup> and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth.<sup>8</sup> Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground.<sup>9</sup> But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark.<sup>10</sup> He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark.<sup>11</sup> When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth.<sup>12</sup> He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

<sup>13</sup> By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry.<sup>14</sup> By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

<sup>15</sup> Then God said to Noah,<sup>16</sup> "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives.<sup>17</sup> Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you — the birds, the animals, and all the creatures

that move along the ground — so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."

<sup>18</sup> So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives.<sup>19</sup> All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds — everything that moves on land — came out of the ark, one kind after another.

<sup>20</sup> Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.<sup>21</sup> The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

<sup>22</sup> "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

#### God's Covenant With Noah

**9** Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.<sup>2</sup> The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands.<sup>3</sup> Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

<sup>4</sup> "But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it.<sup>5</sup> And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being.

<sup>6</sup> "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.

<sup>7</sup> As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it."

<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: <sup>9</sup> "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you<sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that was with you — the birds, the livestock and

all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you — every living creature on earth.<sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

<sup>12</sup> And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: <sup>13</sup> I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.<sup>14</sup> Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds,<sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.<sup>16</sup> Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

<sup>17</sup> So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

#### The Sons of Noah

<sup>18</sup> The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.)<sup>19</sup> These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the whole earth.

<sup>20</sup> Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded<sup>21</sup> to plant a vineyard.<sup>22</sup> When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent.<sup>23</sup> Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside.<sup>24</sup> But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's naked body. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father naked.

<sup>25</sup> When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him,<sup>26</sup> he said,

"Cursed be Canaan!  
The lowest of slaves  
will be to his brothers."

<sup>27</sup> He also said,

"Praise be to the LORD, the God of Shem!  
May Canaan be the slave of Shem.

<sup>20</sup> That is, about 23 feet or about 6.8 meters

<sup>21</sup> Or rose more than fifteen cubits, and the mountains were covered

<sup>21</sup> Or humans, for <sup>20</sup> Or soil, was the first

<sup>27</sup>May God extend Japheth's<sup>a</sup> territory;  
may Japheth live in the tents  
of Shem,  
and may Canaan be the slave of  
Japheth.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>28</sup>After the flood Noah lived 350 years.  
<sup>29</sup>Noah lived a total of 950 years, and then  
he died.

### The Table of Nations

**10** This is the account of Shem, Ham  
and Japheth, Noah's sons, who  
themselves had sons after the flood.

#### The Japhethites

- <sup>2</sup>The sons<sup>b</sup> of Japheth:  
Gomer, Magog, Madal, Javan, Tu-  
bal, Meshek and Tiras.  
<sup>3</sup>The sons of Gomer:  
Ashkenaz, Riphath and Togarmah.  
<sup>4</sup>The sons of Javan:  
Elishah, Tarshish, the Kittites and  
the Rodanites.<sup>c</sup> <sup>5</sup>(From these the  
maritime peoples spread out into  
their territories by their clans with-  
in their nations, each with its own  
language.)

#### The Hamites

- <sup>6</sup>The sons of Ham:  
Cush, Egypt, Put and Canaan.  
<sup>7</sup>The sons of Cush:  
Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah and  
Sabteka.  
The sons of Raamah:  
Sheba and Dedan.  
<sup>8</sup>Cush was the father<sup>d</sup> of Nimrod, who  
became a mighty warrior on the earth. <sup>9</sup>He  
was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that  
is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty  
hunter before the LORD." <sup>10</sup>The first cen-  
ters of his kingdom were Babylon, Uruk,  
Akkad and Kalneh, in<sup>e</sup> Shinar.<sup>f</sup> <sup>11</sup>From that  
land he went to Assyria, where he built  
Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir,<sup>g</sup> Calah<sup>h</sup> and Resen,  
which is between Nineveh and Calah —  
which is the great city.

- <sup>12</sup>Egypt was the father of  
the Ludites, Anamites, Lehabites,  
Naphtuhites, <sup>14</sup>Pathrusites, Kaslu-  
hites (from whom the Philistines  
came) and Caphtorites.  
<sup>15</sup>Canaan was the father of  
Sidon his firstborn,<sup>h</sup> and of the  
Hittites, <sup>16</sup>Jebusites, Amorites, Gir-  
gashites, <sup>17</sup>Hivites, Arkites, Sinites,

<sup>18</sup>Arvadites, Zemarites and Ha-  
mathites.

Later the Canaanite clans scattered <sup>19</sup>and  
the borders of Canaan reached from Sidon  
toward Gerar as far as Gaza, and then to-  
ward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Ze-  
boyim, as far as Lasha.

<sup>20</sup>These are the sons of Ham by their  
clans and languages, in their territories  
and nations.

#### The Semites

<sup>21</sup>Sons were also born to Shem, whose  
older brother was<sup>i</sup> Japheth; Shem was the  
ancestor of all the sons of Eber.

- <sup>22</sup>The sons of Shem:  
Elam, Ashur, Arphaxad, Lud and  
Aram.  
<sup>23</sup>The sons of Aram:  
Uz, Hul, Gether and Meshek.<sup>j</sup>  
<sup>24</sup>Arphaxad was the father of<sup>k</sup> Shelah,  
and Shelah the father of Eber.  
<sup>25</sup>Two sons were born to Eber:  
One was named Peleg,<sup>l</sup> because in  
his time the earth was divided; his  
brother was named Joktan.  
<sup>26</sup>Joktan was the father of  
Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth,  
Jerah, <sup>27</sup>Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,  
<sup>28</sup>Obal, Abimael, Sheba, <sup>29</sup>Ophir,  
Havilah and Jobab. All these were  
sons of Joktan.

<sup>30</sup>The region where they lived stretched  
from Mesha toward Sephar, in the eastern  
hill country.

<sup>31</sup>These are the sons of Shem by their  
clans and languages, in their territories  
and nations.

<sup>32</sup>These are the clans of Noah's sons,  
according to their lines of descent, with-  
in their nations. From these the nations  
spread out over the earth after the flood.

<sup>a</sup>27 Japheth sounds like the Hebrew for extend.

<sup>b</sup>2 Sons may mean descendants or successors or  
nations; also in verses 3, 4, 6, 7, 20-23, 29 and 31.

<sup>c</sup>4 Some manuscripts of the Masoretic Text and  
Samaritan Pentateuch (see also Septuagint and  
1 Chron. 17); most manuscripts of the Masoretic  
Text Dodanites. <sup>8</sup>8 Father may mean ancestor  
or predecessor or founder; also in verses 13, 15, 24  
and 26. <sup>10</sup>10 Or Uruk and Akkad — all of them  
in. <sup>11</sup>11 That is, Babylonia. <sup>11</sup>11 Or Nineveh  
with its city squares. <sup>15</sup>15 Or of the Sidonians,  
the foremost. <sup>21</sup>21 Or Shem, the older brother of.

<sup>23</sup>23 See Septuagint and 1 Chron. 17; Hebrew  
Mash. <sup>24</sup>24 Hebrew; Septuagint father of  
Cainan, and Cainan was the father of. <sup>25</sup>25 Peleg  
means division.

## When Floods Come

Read: Genesis 7:1 - 24

A natural disaster hits a community, city or country, and  
the loss is mind-boggling. The media report facts  
and figures to describe the devastation, but the tragedy  
doesn't hit home until we see the pictures and hear the  
stories. Tears. Faces etched with agony. Eyes roaming  
for lost loved ones. Families torn apart: A man who lost  
his son; a woman whose husband is missing; a child look-  
ing for a familiar face. The unbearable pain and sorrow  
become more personal.

Long ago there was a great flood. Noah and his fam-  
ily knew catastrophe was coming, so they built an ark at  
God's command. They followed instructions. They braced  
for impending crisis. They endured umpteens years of  
looking foolish. They faced criticism, ridicule, rejection.  
They plodded in the slow work of faith and love. Then  
the downpour came and the final command: "Go into  
the ark." So Noah and his family left everything and  
evacuated to the big boat. Noah led the members of his  
family into a floating zoo—out of harm's way. The devas-  
tation of the world they knew had to be heartbreaking.  
But they followed God, and his grace saved them from  
the disaster.

When storms come in your own life, they may not be  
a calamity on the scale of a flood. But they may bring  
just as much sorrow and pain—an illness, an accident,  
a betrayal. In the midst of the event, your decisions can  
help save you and your family. Let's  
face it; disaster can strike whether you're a saint or sin-  
ner. To survive requires spiritual preparation. When you  
build your home on the foundation of God's Word, you  
can find safety despite the downpour outside. You can  
help those you love to weather the storm. Begin now to  
prepare your house for the storms that are sure to come:  
Spend time in the Bible. Strengthen your relationship  
with God and with a godly community. Bring those you  
love before God in prayer. When (not if) the tempest  
strikes, you will have shelter.

Go to page 13 for your next devotional reading.

Tuesday

### Genesis 7:1

The LORD then said to  
Noah, "Go into the ark,  
you and your whole  
family, because I have  
found you righteous in  
this generation."

### reflection



**1** In the face of a flood,  
who would you take  
with you into the ark?

**2** How are you prepar-  
ing for the inevitable  
storms of life? How will  
your family benefit from  
your actions?

**3** Has God commanded  
you to do things that  
may seem foolish to oth-  
ers? In what ways are you  
obeying him?

### RELATED READINGS

Hebrews 11:1-16;  
1 Peter 3:13-22;  
2 Peter 3:11-18

*There are some things  
you learn best in calm,  
and some in storm.*

WILLA CATHER

## Weekend

## The Heart of a Mother

Eve

Strange cravings. That first flutter. Her body was changing, growing and stretching in unpredictable and unsettling ways. The first mother in history conceived a child, carried him to term and gave birth without ever knowing what to expect next.

She didn't have a girlfriend to confide in when Adam just didn't understand her moods. She had no one to assure the young mother that sudden clumsiness was normal or that the awful bloated feelings would pass. Her experience was the ultimate natural childbirth—she made it without the benefit of an obstetrician, a midwife or a drop of pain killer. She couldn't even run to her mother!

And that was just the pregnancy.

She recalled cradling Cain in her arms as a newborn and gently leading him to nurse for the first time. She remembered fingering his tiny hands and counting all his toes, one by one. She didn't know she could love someone so much.

How, oh how, would she ever be able to be what he needed her to be—his mother? Eve answered her own question when she spoke in the afterglow of giving birth. "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man."

No one was there to inform Eve about the significance of what had just transpired. They didn't have to. She got it. She instinctively knew what every mother knows in an instant: She had not brought forth this miracle by her own power. And almost simultaneously, she knew she would not be able to raise him by her own strength either. The very first mother in history would have to raise her child the very same way mothers throughout history have conceived and nurtured children—fully relying on God's help.

If that fact wasn't obvious then, it soon would be. Like the time she had to steal away for a moment alone to cry because it was the first time she had to punish him. And when he bickered with his brother. And when his career choice didn't work out. And whenever her own poor choices threatened to scar her children's future.

Eve was the first to experience joy and heartache as a mother. But no one could tell her then that she certainly wouldn't be the last.

## Prayer

*Thank you, Lord, for never leaving me alone. I take comfort in your guidance and care.*

Assigned Reading  
Genesis 4:1 – 26

Go to page 25 for your next devotional reading.

*[Eve] said, 'With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.'*

GENESIS 4:1

## Weekend

## The Heart of a Mother

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