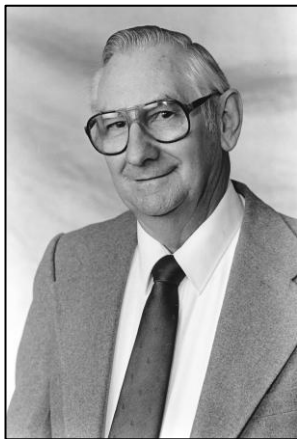




## The unabridged writings of Fred Morris, Manna Publications

# History in the Bible Adam to Noah



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**MANNA FOR ALL**

**To the reader:** Have your Bible open as you study these notes. Remember that they have not been edited by the UK editorial team but are part of Fred's legacy of Bible teaching literature he wrote after his retirement to the USA in 1990. These notes also serve as the legacy of the late Jim Norman, Manna Publications UK, who checked and formatted and archived Fred's writings for him. Invite a friend to study with you. You will be blessed.



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## Unit 1. THE GENESIS RECORD



### Read Genesis 1:1-25

Introduction: God gave man a summary of how He created the world. God commanded, "Let there be light" (Gen 1:3). This was physical sunlight needed to grow plant life and warm the earth. The Bible says "God dwells in light." This is the 'light' of God's moral purity and splendour. He says to us "walk in the light" of truth.

The record of creation is presented in two sets of three days. For three days God spoke and creation came into being. In the second three days God separated, gathered and filled the heaven and the earth. He did by the word of His mouth and without any effort.

When God gathered the waters, the dry land appeared. The land formed or came up "out of the water" and stood above it (2 Peter 3:5).

God set limits or boundaries to the oceans (Jer 5:22). He said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters..." (Gen 1:6). Many people think the expanse is the atmosphere that separates the moisture in the air from the waters of the sea.

### GOD FILLED HIS CREATION

God filled the world with amazing creatures. He created sun, moon and stars in the heavens, fish and life in the oceans and animals and man on earth.

When you see the moon, the tides, the sunrise, God is showing you that He is Sovereign. He does as He pleases. He thought of and created all these wonderful things! He created many living creatures of every kind – "great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing."

God finished His creative acts and blessed the work of His hands. He saw all that He had made and it was very good (Gen 1:31).



### TALK ABOUT

1. What are the two ways the word 'light' is used in the Bible (Gen 1:3; Matt 5:14)?
2. How did God 'fix' the seasons of the year?
3. There are hot and cold seasons, wet and dry seasons. Are they important?
4. Do you have the light of God to show you the way?
5. Have you asked God to rescue you from sin and darkness?

## Unit 2. GOD HELD COUNCIL IN HEAVEN



### Read Genesis 1:26-2:3

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen 1:1). Then God said, "Let Us make man in our image...and let them rule..." (1:26). "Let there

be..." was God's word to the matter He had created, but now He said, "Let Us make...." 'Us' in this verse may mean the Trinity, God in three persons or, as many believe, God spoke to the hosts of heaven (Gen 3:22; 11:7; Ps 8:5; Isa 6:8). He revealed His plan to the angels.

Trees and animals, birds and fish cannot know God, so He created human beings who could know Him. God wanted a relationship with intelligent beings. He wanted persons He could love – a family who would love Him in return. He gave man a spirit so that he could know God and a free will to do so.

## **ONLY GOD IS IMMORTAL**

Paul said, "the first man was of the dust of the earth..." (1 Cor 15:47). God "formed man out of the dust of the ground..." (Gen 2:7). Paul pointed us to the earthly nature of man. In contrast to God, man was from the earth.

Then God "breathed into his (the man's) nostrils the breath of life, and the man (the Adam) became a living being" (Gen 2:7). And the man became a life-possessing soul. Man, as God created him, had God's eternal life.

Only God has immortality. His is the "life-giving spirit" who has no beginning and no end. And He shared His life with us. God gave His immortality to the Adam He had created. He breathed His eternal life into mortal clay, creating an immortal being that would live forever.

There was something very intimate and personal about God's act in creating the first man. As an artist signs his painting, so God stamped His imprint on His own work. God made man 'in His likeness or image' (Gen 1:27).



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Why did God create a man?
2. Was the man like the animals? How was he different?

## **Unit 3. MAN IS NOT LIKE THE ANIMALS**

The words "In His own image..." (Gen 1:27) tell us that human beings are very different to the rest of creation:

- a. Man is a rational being. He can reason and plan (Isa 1:18).
- b. Man was created to rule over creation (Gen 1:28).
- c. In his moral conscience, man was created righteous. He had a right relationship to God (Eph 4:24).
- d. In his three-part nature – body, soul, spirit – man is like God (1 Thess 5:23).
- e. God gave man an immortal spirit. Man's spirit will live for ever.
- f. Man is free to love God or not love Him.

## A MAN IN GOD'S IMAGE

Only some of God's 'image' was put upon man. We could think of it as the image of a king on a coin, or the likeness of one's face in an artist's drawing. The 'image' is not the person, but a likeness to that person. Both men and women were created "in His (God's) own image..." Man can reason and create. He has an ever-living spirit which can know God. The Hebrew word 'man' is generic and means both man and woman (Gen 1:27).

God planned work for the man. He told Adam, "subdue the earth and rule over created things" (Gen 1:28). Man must use created things for his own good (Acts 17:26). And without work, man is not satisfied.

God took Adam by the hand and led him to a beautiful garden. The Bible record tells us that the garden was "in the east, in Eden," probably located somewhere in present-day Turkey.

All kinds of trees grew out of the ground. The trees were "pleasing to the eye and good for food" (Gen 2:9-10). God drew Adam aside and pointed out to him two special trees that grew in the centre of the garden. They were "the Tree of Life" and "the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil." We can only guess at the symbolism suggested by the names of these two trees.

They suggest moral right and wrong.

A river flowed through or around the garden, watering the trees that grew there. It separated and became four rivers named Pishon, Gihon, Tigris and Euphrates. The places or countries through which the rivers flowed no longer exist by these names recorded in the Genesis account.



### TALK ABOUT

1. How is man different to the animals (Gen 1:27)?
2. What was the likeness (image) that God put on man?
3. What did God say about the things He created (Gen 1:31)?
4. Is a man without work satisfied? Why not?
5. What did God tell Adam to do to the earth (Gen 1:28)?

## Unit 4. EVIL EYES WATCHED



### Read Genesis 2:4-17

When Adam stepped into the garden in Eden, evil eyes were watching. Satan was standing by making his evil plans. 'Satan' means 'adversary,' one who fights against God and against God's people. Satan was once an angel in heaven, but he rebelled against God and was cast out.

God said to Adam, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden. But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat it you will surely die" (Gen 2:16). God's command was like a guardrail on a high bridge; it was given to protect this innocent man from danger. God knew there

was evil all around. He knew Satan, the leader of all evil spirits, was waiting to tempt Adam. He knew that Satan would come to the beautiful garden and try to spoil His creation!

## **ADAM NAMED THE ANIMALS**

In olden times, to give a person a name was a sign of authority over that person. God told Adam "to work the garden and take care of it" (Gen 2:15). He also gave Adam this command: "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die" (Gen 2:17).

The penalty suggests that Adam knew the meaning of death.

The Lord God brought the animals (the beasts of the field) to Adam, so that he could give them names (Gen 2:19-20). "So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field."

The animals may have passed by in pairs, Mr & Mrs Monkey, Mr and Mrs Lion, Mr and Mrs Giraffe and so on, and on ... until all had passed by.

God looked at Adam as he watched the last pair of animals disappear among the trees. "But for Adam no suitable helper was found" (Gen 2:20). Adam felt very lonely. God had made the animals and birds male and female, two sexes, different but complementing each other. And Adam needed a helper to make him complete.



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Who was watching when God created Adam and Eve?
2. Who is Satan, the adversary?
3. What command did God give Adam (Gen 2:17)?
4. Did Adam know what God meant by the words, "when you eat of it you will surely die."

## **Unit 5. A HELPER FOR ADAM**



### **Read Genesis 2:18-24**

There were many things Adam did not understand. He saw the world around him, he heard the sweet singing of the birds and he watched the fish jump in the river. And he must have wondered why there was no other being like himself on the earth.

"It is not good for the man to be alone," God said. "I will make a helper suitable for him" (Gen 2:18). God planned a wife for Adam, a male-female union in which each partner would help the other.

While Adam slept, God worked. God took part of the man's side and created woman or 'she man.' He breathed the same "breath of life" into woman. She was made in God's image and likeness just as the man was.

God brought the woman to the man and they became husband and wife. Adam looked at the woman and said, "This is...bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman'... (Gen 3:24).

A man needs a wife and a woman needs a husband. God made them male and female. One may say, though some will not agree, that male without female is less than a complete person. We believe this because God said so. He said, "for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Gen 2:24).

A man must leave his parents (father and mother) to begin a new family. In the new family, he will take full responsibility to provide for his wife and any children born to them.

Today men leave home for no reason at all. This was probably not so in early civilizations. Until a man chose a wife and set up a home of his own, he worked with other members of his family to produce what the family needed.

In Bible times, most young men depended on his father. After a man married he had to depend on God:

- a. That his family made the right choice of a bride.
- b. To find a place to live within his tribe.
- c. That God would bless him and his bride with sons and daughters.

God chose the marriage of a man and woman to picture His own relationship with His people Israel (Hoses 2:19-20; Jer 2:1-2). Paul used the same symbolism of Jesus Christ and His Church (Eph 5:25).



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Why was Adam lonely?
2. Was Adam pleased with his wife (Gen 3:24)?
3. Was she an equal or inferior to Adam?
4. In the first family, what was the woman's role to be?
5. Do you expect God to help you find the right husband or wife?

## **Unit 6. ADAM AS HEAD OF CREATION**



### **Read Genesis 3:1-6**

Someone said, "If man is head of the human race, woman is the crown."

God blessed Adam and Eve. He told them, "Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over...every living creature" (Gen 1:28). The writer of old said, "The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth He has given to man" (Psa 115:16).

God told Adam and Eve to have children and people the garden (and then the whole earth) with their own kind. Adam lived under God's command.



Children are a gift from God. Marriage is God's law and children are His heritage. Some men don't want children. Some governments seek to limit the number of children born to a couple, but God said "have children."

Adam was head of the new world. He ruled over it as God's representative. He worked in the garden and worked it to produce food. 'Subdue' and 'guard' mean to protect what God had given them.

## **EVIL ENTERED THE GARDEN**

One day Satan came to the garden in Eden. He asked Eve, "Did God really say you must not eat from any tree in the garden" (Gen 3:1)? Eve told Satan God's command.

Satan said to Eve, "You will not surely die" (Gen 3:4). That was a lie. Satan tempted Eve to disobey God's command. To not obey God is sin. It is going against God's command.

Eve ate the fruit and gave some to Adam and Adam ate it, too (Gen 3:6). Adam and Eve listened to Satan and obeyed him. They turned their backs on their Creator. They thought they could do it their way and live without God! But their conscience told them they had done wrong, and they were ashamed.

When they ate "the fruit" they embraced "the tree" and all that was evil. They gave Satan an open door to their minds and he became their master. They gave themselves up to his control. They became slaves of Satan and of sin!

Think about that! If you do not trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you are a Satan's slave (John 8:44; Rom 6:16).

God wanted only good for Adam and Eve. Obeying His command was their very best protection against evil. God want only good for us. Turn to God's word and obey His commands.



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. How can we know right from wrong?
2. Did Adam and Eve obey God's command?
3. Why do we feel guilty when we do wrong?
4. What did God plant inside each one of us to help us know right from wrong?

## **Unit 7. THEIR EYES WERE OPENED**



### **Read Genesis 3:7-13**

Adam ate the fruit! At once, "his eyes were opened" and he saw that he was naked. We believe this means the "eyes of his understanding" (Eph 1:17-18). He looked at his wife and she stared back at him. They stood naked before God, naked in spirit and in body. And they saw each other 'naked' and without

the 'glory' God had given them. They could never be the same again and they were afraid.

They felt shame, so Eve hurried to gather some large leaves. She made a covering for them from the large leaves, but they were ill-fitting and not comfortable. And the covering did not take away the shame and guilt they felt, so God covered them with skins. An innocent animal had to die to cover their naked bodies.

God gave men and women a conscience. It tells them when they have done wrong. Shame and guilt come from sin. We all feel guilty when we do wrong, and we try to hide our sin.

## **ADAM WAS HIDING**

God came to the garden in the cool of the evening. He came often to walk and talk with Adam and his wife. Adam may have rested in the heat of the day, so God chose the evening to talk with Adam. But Adam was not there to meet God, so God called to Adam, "Where are you?"

God wanted to walk and talk with Adam, but Adam was hiding in the bushes. Adam answered, "I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid" (Gen 3:10).

God asked Adam, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from that tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

God knew what Adam had done, but He wanted Adam to confess his in and say he was sorry. God wants all of us to confess our sin and receive His forgiveness. God has said that He is "slow to anger...forgiving wickedness and sin..." (Ex 34:7).

Adam did not repent and confess his sin. He blamed God for giving him Eve and he blamed Eve for giving him the fruit. He said, "The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Who came to the garden to tempt Adam and Eve?
2. Who is Satan?
3. Which animal did Satan use?
4. What command of God did Eve break?
5. What happened to the man and woman when they disobeyed God?

## **Unit 8. GOD CURSED THE GROUND**



### **Read Genesis 3:14-24**

God said to Adam, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you...Cursed is the ground because of you; through pitiful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and

thistles for you...By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground...for dust you are and to dust you will return" (Gen 3:17-19).

Adam was nothing but dust, but his pride (and Satan) blinded his eyes. Men who have faith in God recognize how small and weak they are before Almighty God. Father Abraham confessed, "I am nothing but dust and ashes..." (Gen 18:27).

## **ADAM AND EVE'S CHILDREN**

Adam and Eve went out of the garden into a harsh world. All that God said came true. Adam had to work hard to grow food for his family.

Adam and Eve had children "according to his kind" (Gen 1:11). We say "like father, like son." This was the order which God stamped on creation.

Just think how confusing life would be if you planted a corn seed and it came up something else. Every 'kind' reproduces its own kind. So man passed on to his children (by chromosome and gene) "the divine image." Even so, the image of God in man was greatly twisted by sin.

For all the hardship and pain in childbirth, Eve rejoiced when her first son was born. She sang, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man" (Gen 4:1). They named him Cain. Later Eve gave birth to another son. They named him Abel.

The sad story of how Cain killed his brother Abel follows. Many other sons and daughters were born to them (Gen 5:8).



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. What did God do to cover Adam's naked body (Gen 3:21)?
2. Why did Adam hide from God?
3. Why did God call "Where are you?" when He knew where Adam was?
4. Did Adam confess his sin?

## **Unit 9. THE PROMISED SEED**



### **Read Genesis 3:15**

The moment man sinned, God promised Satan: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel" (Gen 3:15). God's promise comes like a pause or a parenthesis amidst the curses; a rose among thorns. It was spoken more directly to Satan, but also to the woman and the man.

At once the forces of God were set against the forces of Satan. Had they not always been opposed? Yes, we believe it has ever been so from eternity! It is so in the history of our world and of in our own times.

The world, under Satan's control, hates God's people and tries to destroy them. (Matt 10:17-22).

God's promise was prophetic and veiled in difficult language. It was fulfilled when Christ died on the cross. The woman's "offspring or seed" (singular) refers to the virgin birth of our Lord Jesus (Gal 3:16; 4:4).

"Offspring" also means all Eve's posterity who believe in Christ. They are all Christians who make up the Body of Christ, the Church.

For all time believers have had the 'fallen sons of Adam' set against them. Because of his faith in God, Abel had his brother against him from the start. Jesus said of Satan, "He was a murderer from the beginning..." (John 8:44). And Satan filled Cain with anger to murder his brother, Abel.

## **FAMILY RECORDS AND ORAL TRADITION (Genesis 5:1)**

Before men kept written records, they told their children the history of their lives. Each generation told the next. This is called "oral tradition."

We do not know what language Adam spoke, but we do know he "talked with God" and God answered him in a language he could understand and with words he could appreciate.

"These are the generations of Adam" (Gen 5:1), could have been his family's records, just as "This is the account of the heavens and the earth" (2:4) was a record of creation as God gave it to Adam. The author of Genesis uses this heading eleven times. The history recorded in each section was well known to the person whose name appears in the heading (2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1).

We note the antiquity of the record. How quickly family history is lost!

I am writing my own family history and I find it is hard to go back 100 years. We may well ask, "Who kept Adam's family records for all these years?" Some say these are the sources the author (probably Moses) used when putting together the Genesis record.

Most important was the record of the line of men who had faith in the living God (Gen 5:1-28). These were: Adam (5:1-5), Seth (5:6-8), Enosh (5:9-11), Cainan (5:12-14), Mahalalel (5:15-17), Jared (5:18-20), Enoch (5:21-24), Methuselah (5:25-27), Lamech (5:28) and Noah (Gen 5:29-32).

These men lived very long lives. The judgment of 'death' that God said would come on Adam because of his sin did not come for a long time by our reckoning. But they all died in the end.

After these ten ancestors, the length of a man's life was greatly reduced.

Methuselah lived longer than any other person. His name means "it will come." The day he died, if calculations are correct, the flood started.

Adam lived on to be 930 years old, then he died (Gen 5:5).



## TALK ABOUT

1. What things have you learned about Adam? And about Eve?
2. Did Adam and Eve know right from wrong? Why?
3. What judgment came upon them because of their sin?
4. Are we under the same judgment of God?
5. Who was the promised 'seed,' born of a woman (Gal 3:16)?

## Unit 10. GOD TOLD MAN HOW TO WORSHIP

We believe God told Adam how to worship his Creator. Adam taught his sons to honour God and to worship Him. Each chose his own way of life, "Abel kept flocks and Cain worked the soil" (Gen 4:2). Abel had faith in the living God, but Cain did not (Heb 11:4).

The murder of the son Abel must have broken Adam and Eve's hearts. Perhaps Adam's grief was grater because of his own guilt and his failure to lead his son Cain to faith in Yahweh. Cain was a rebel and rejected God.

God had compassion on Adam and Eve. The 'seed' God had promised (Gen 3:16) did not perish with Abel. Many years after Abel's death, Eve gave birth to a son and named him Seth (Gen 4:25).

Eve cried out in pain and with joy, "God has given me another son in place of Abel..." She held in her heart God's promise of a 'seed' or child who would defeat Satan.

In Seth God continued the godly line through which the "seed of the woman," Jesus Christ, came into the world (Luke 3:38). Jesus Christ was "the seed of the woman" God had promised Adam and Eve (Gal 3:16). His death on the cross "crushed Satan's head" and robbed him of his power (Heb 2:14).

## A REVIVAL OF FAITH

God gave Adam many years. In later life Adam saw a revival of faith in his family and among his descendants, of which there must have been many hundreds, even thousands. Adam and Eve saw their seed's seed (grand-children and great grandchildren to many generations) grow up in the earth.

Seth's family loved God (Gen 4:26). "Then men began to call on the name of the Lord (Yahweh)." They began to distinguish themselves. Some read the Hebrew text as "Men began to be called by the name of the Lord."

"And Enoch walked with God" (Gen 5:22). To walk with God is to set God always before us, and to act as those who are always under His eye" (Matthew Henry Commentary).



## TALK ABOUT

1. What was God's promise to Eve (Gen 3:16)?
2. What work did Abel do?
3. What did Abel bring as an offering to God (Gen 4:4)?

4. Why was God pleased with Abel's offering (Heb 11:4)?
5. Who "walked with God" in the generations after Cain (Gen 5:22)?

## **Unit 11. NOAH, A RIGHTEOUS MAN**



### **Read Genesis 6:1-9**

Satan took control in the hearts of men. He is an agent of death and death reigned. Just a few of those early patriarchs had faith in the living God. Enoch was born in the tenth generation after Adam. It is recorded that "Enoch walked with God" (Gen 5:22). God wanted to have fellowship with the beings He had created. But "The earth was corrupt in God's sight and full of violence" (Gen 6:11). The earth God had created was beautiful, but man was corrupt. And "The Lord was grieved that He had made man on the earth, and His heart was filled with pain" because of man's sin (Gen 6:6). God created a perfect world. He created Adam and Eve "in His own image" (Gen 1:27).

### **SIN SPOILED THE PERFECT CREATION**

Because men did not obey God's commands, sin spoiled the perfect creation and brought darkness to the souls of men. Cain's descendents were called Cainites. Cain built a city to make a name for himself. He built an artificial paradise and an artificial religion. Man worshipped himself and mighty men, named as gods, may have kept many women in harems. They fought each other and there was much violence and murder. The Cainites seem to have developed quicker than the Sethites. Three women from the clans of Cain are named, but not one in the genealogy of Seth. Their names were: Ada, 'ornament' or 'beauty.' Zilla, 'the shady', maybe because of her long hair. And Naama, 'loveliness.'

Such women may have shown themselves off to the Sethites and captured their interest. Sethite men – the "sons of God" – married Cainite women and mixed the 'good' and the 'bad'. The Cainite women with their beauty, forwardness, sexual prowess, married the godly sons of Seth! (6:4).

Others say this means that 'fallen angels' lived with humans (Jude 6, 7). If this happened, occultism and spiritism had already developed in the Cainite nation. We discredit this theory because of Jesus' words to the Pharisees, "When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven" (Mark 12:25). Jesus said spirit beings do not marry.



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Who turned his back on God and went off to another land to live?
2. What did Cain do when he reached the land of Nod (Gen 4:16-17)?
3. Were the generations after Cain very wicked?
4. Was God pleased with the way men lived?

## **Unit 12. "MY SPIRIT WILL NOT STRUGGLE WITH MAN"**

Then the Lord said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be one hundred and twenty years." (6:3) These words are not easy to explain. The verb "contend" can mean 'act in', 'rule in' and 'strive with.' God's Spirit was at work, but man refused to listen or take heed.

It may mean the period of 'grace for man' was to be cut short. From the time God announced this judgment until it finally came would be 120 years.

All this time Noah preached righteousness (1 Pet 3:20).

Again, this has been taken to mean man's life-span, but look at the names in Genesis 11:10-26. God was sad to see man fill the earth with violence and wickedness. His Spirit called to men's hearts to repent, but they did not. Only in Noah which means 'rest' did God find a man after His own heart.

God's answer was a universal judgment in the form of a flood. At the same time, God moved to preserve the 'seed' of the woman – the line of faith in the earth. Evil could have overcome Noah and his family quite easily and I am sure he was persecuted for his faith. His prayer might well have been in the words of our Lord Jesus, "Deliver us from the Evil One" (Matt 6:13).

We note the large amount of space given to the flood story in the Bible and the words used to describe it. We should remember that it was probably reported just as Noah saw it from his very limited and local vantage point.

The flood happened in the tenth generation – the full time. Jesus said in days like those of Noah, "the Son of Man will come" (Matt 24:37).

We believe the waters covered the highest mountains to 20 feet and that ALL LIFE, except that preserved in the Ark, died (Gen 7:20).



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. What were the people like in the time of Noah?
2. What did Jesus say they were doing? (Luke 12:19)
3. Name some things that are the same today?
4. What two great spiritual forces were 'striving' with the people on the earth (Gen 6:3)?
5. Are these same two spiritual forces active in the world today?

## **Unit 13. GOD CHOSE RIGHTEOUS NOAH**



### **Read 1 Peter 3:18-20**

God said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth" (Gen 6:3, 7). Yet God had compassion on His creation and He remembered His promise (Gen 3:16). He found Noah "a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time" (Gen 6:9-10).



Noah had a wife and three sons. They probably tilled the soil, tended a vineyard and herded animals for food. But above all else "Noah walked with God." He knew God and worshipped Him only.

One day God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, because the earth is filled with violence because of them."

Perhaps Noah asked God to spare his family, and maybe his neighbours and others. Maybe Noah prayed for the whole world. Of course God knew everything that would happen to creation from eternity. He had already promised Adam and Eve that Eve's offspring would crush man's enemy, Satan (Gen 3:15). If Noah knew of this promise he had grounds for his request God to spare his family and friends. A 'remnant' must survive the flood, so that the 'seed of the woman' could crush Satan's head!

## **NOAH HAD FAITH IN GOD**

Noah's righteousness was because of his faith and not because of anything he had done. He did not stop serving God because of mocking neighbours or his aloneness. He could not see any need for a ship, but he believed God, just as Abram did many years later (Gen 15:6).

Noah was a just man, but no better than the grace of God had made him. He was justified in God's sight. How was this? His faith was in the promised "seed" that would crush the serpent's head. The Bible called Noah "an heir of the righteousness that is by faith" (Heb 11:7).

"But Noah found favour in the eyes of the Lord" (Gen 6:8). He walked with God (Gen 6:9). He sought only the counsel of God and not of men. It is well that we do likewise. It is easy to be religious when religion is in favour. Noah swam against the stream. Perhaps Noah was pleading for his world as Abraham did for the righteous people in Sodom. In the quietness of his spirit, Noah heard God's voice say: "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth..." (Gen 6:7). Noah was troubled and called on men to repent and turn back to God, but no one listened to his words.



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Why did evil get worse and worse in the earth at that time (Gen 6:5)?
2. Did God notice man's wickedness?
3. What do you know about Noah?
4. What did God tell righteous Noah (Gen 6:13)?
5. Did Noah obey God?
6. Who went into the ark with Noah?



## Unit 14. THE SECRETS OF THE LORD



### Read Hebrews 11:7

"The secret of the LORD was with His servants...by His Spirit of revelation, informing them of His purposes" (Amos 3:7). God gives all true believers wisdom and faith (Col 1:9). This wisdom and faith enables them to understand what God is doing. And His promises support them as they play their part.

Through Noah's preaching, God warned men of judgment to come. God has always warned of coming judgments, that men might not bring them upon themselves. Through Noah, He warned of the flood (Gen 6:13). Through Joseph He warned of the seven-year famine in Egypt (Gen 41:30).

Through Moses God warned Pharaoh of the ten plagues that would come on Egypt (Ex 7:1). Through Jonah God warned the city of Nineveh (Jonah 1:2; 3:4). Through Amos God warned of the downfall of the nations (Amos 1-2).

### BUILD YOURSELF AN ARK OF WOOD

God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people...so make yourself an ark of cypress wood...this is how you will build it" (Gen 6:13-14). This word from God probably began the countdown noted in Genesis 6:3 and came as Noah warned men of coming judgment. They scoffed and ridiculed his preaching and took no notice of God's warning.

The Ark was designed by God. The word 'ark' is very old. It is used in Exodus 2:3, where it comes from an Egyptian word. The word here has nothing to do with "the Ark of the Covenant" which God commanded Moses to build many centuries later. (Ex 25:10-22) Moffatt translates 'ark' as 'barge' – it was meant to float and carry a load, not to be navigated as modern ships.

Noah's 'ship' had the ideal dimensions – 450 x 75 x 45 feet – because God gave them! In 1609 the Dutch Mennonite Peter Jansen had a ship built to the same proportions as the Ark, but one third the size. It was found to be very stable and carried "one third more cargo" than any ship of that size.

The New Bible Commentary says of the Ark, "the course, knots and destination were completely in the hands of God." Salvation is "of the Lord, by faith" (Heb 11:7).



### TALK ABOUT

1. What did God say about Noah (Gen 6:9)?
2. Why was God sorry that He had created man (Gen 6:5)?
3. What did God tell Noah to do?
4. Did Noah invite his neighbours to join him in the ark?
5. What did his neighbours think of this?
6. What happened to them?
7. What will happen to us if we do not repent (Luke 13:1-5)?

## Unit 15. GOD CALLS WITH A TENDER LOVE



### Read Genesis 7:1-16

God's call is tender, like a father calling his children to come indoors away from the danger of a coming storm. "Come in! Come in!" He calls, but they are busy, "eating and drinking and making merry" (Luke 12:19).

This call of God is not the same as His 'go in' spoken to Noah and his family. That was God's command. It says to us that God would 'go in' also.

He would be with Noah and his family through this trying time.

God's call through Noah's preaching to the men of his day is like the 'call of the gospel' to sinners. Jesus called, "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest..." (Matt 11:28).

Christ is our ark, already prepared. We can go to Him and be safe when the waters of judgment and death come upon us.

The Ark may also be a type of the Christian Church. Christ's Church will be born up above the waters of judgment in that Last Day, and His people will be kept safe.

We do not know why seven pairs of birds were taken into the Ark. 'Clean' animals seems to mean that Noah and his family ate a diet with meat in it even before Genesis 9:3. Or were these only for sacrifice?

God caused the animals and birds to come to Noah. He did not have to go out and find them or fence them in. Surely this would be a sign to that generation that God was in control! Then Noah and his wife and his sons and their wives went in, 8 persons in all (1 Peter 3:20).

Genesis 7:11-12 makes us believe that God shut Noah in. Why was this necessary? To make sure Noah and his family were safely inside, and did not come out again, and to keep out all others. Up to that moment in time, the door of the Ark stood open. God was saying, "WHOSOEVER WILL MAY COME" (Rev 22:17).

God gave man a final countdown of seven days. Would another person step forward and accept God's call to be saved? Even a child? Or a teenager? But no, the seven days were trifled away like the rest, while men and women went on with their "eating, drinking and making sport."

Now THE JUDGE was 'at the door' (Jas 5:9). The same day that Noah was shut up in the Ark, the rain began. "The fountains of the deep" many regard as the sea. The rain came down in 'bursts' or 'spouts' and the rain did not stop for forty days and forty nights. By this time the Ark was bobbing around on the surface, and the earth was completely covered with water.



### TALK ABOUT

1. Why does man, left to himself, sink lower and lower into sin?

2. Why is God so patient with us? (2 Peter 3:9)
3. What will be the end of this earth?
4. Does God want His sons to be different to the world of men? What did He do to make this possible?
5. Did God warn men of a coming flood? How did He do this?
6. Who shut the door of the Ark?
7. Why did God do this and not Noah?

## **Unit 16. A FLOOD CAME ON THE EARTH**

All the mountains were covered with water "to a depth of more than twenty feet" and all living creatures died. We cannot fail to notice the force of these words: a) "Every living thing..." (Gen 7:21). b) "Everything on land that had the breath of life..." (7:22). c) "Every living thing on the face of the earth..." (7:23). d) "Only Noah was left, and those with him in the Ark" (7:23).

Noah did not know where he was, except that he was 'shut up to God' and completely at God's mercy. This is a great example of man's faith resting in the hands of God, trusting only in Him. For 150 days Noah waited for God to 'remember' him. This reminds us of Rahab, and those that were with her in the house. They must have had some anxious moments as they heard the walls of Jericho crashing down around them and they waited for God to deliver them (Joshua 6:22-23).

We read that "the Ark floated on the surface of the water" (Gen 7:18). There was no effort made to get to any place. In the will of God, the spirits of Christians are borne up above the evil around them (even above our trials) and we are carried along by the 'wind' of His Spirit. Think of the prophet's words: –

'I mount up with wings like the eagle – I run and am not weary (in my spirit) – I walk, with my Lord, and do not faint' (Is 40:31).

This is just the opposite to Adam going out to work the dry ground without God at his side! Or Cain building a society which ignored Jehovah.



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Why did God send the flood?
2. Did God warn men that there would be a great flood?
3. Who built an Ark to save people from the flood?
4. Did anyone join Noah and his family in the Ark? Why not?

## **Unit 17. THE ORDER OF REDEMPTION IN THE EARTH**



### **Read Genesis 8:1-22**

"But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and livestock that were with him in the Ark" (Gen 8:1). Why no word of his family? Because Noah was the 'head' and represented his wife, his sons, their wives and all the animals and birds. He was the head of mankind in a renewed earth.

'God remembered' is the key word here. God remembered Moses, in basket on the river Nile (Ex 2:5-6). God remembered Jonah in the belly of a great fish (Jonah 2:1-2). God remembered Daniel in the lions' den (Dan 6:22), and He remembers you and me. He remembers us in the midst of our trials and temptations and 'opens a way of escape' (1 Cor 10:13).

"Now the springs of the deep and the flood gates of the heavens had been closed..." (Gen 8:2). The rain stopped and the water drained off the earth. At the end of 150 days and the Ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat, in Armenia, north of Assyria and east of Turkey.

After 40 days Noah opened the window at the top of the Ark and let out a search team... first a raven, then a dove. Why did Noah wait 40 days? Because he walked with God; he was in step with God's Spirit (Amos 3:3; Gal 5:25). Every morning Noah got up and opened his heart to his Lord. He waited for God's instructions. And God gave Noah the answers he needed to live that day (Prov 3:5-6).

The dove came back to the Ark with an olive leaf in its beak. Noah waited seven more days. Then he sent the dove out again (Gen 8:12).

This time the bird did not return and Noah removed 'the covering' (part of the roof?) and saw that the land was drying up. Noah did not open the door of the Ark or try to leave. He waited on God.

We might have jumped out and shouted 'Hallelujah', but Noah waited for God's time. Then God said, "Come out of the Ark...Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you..." (Gen 8:15-17).

Noah and his wife and his three sons and their wives were not in any hurry, it would seem, to jump out and run. Maybe the earth was all soft mud and they did not know if they would sink into it.

## **THE EARTH BECAME DRY AGAIN**

We can talk a lot about the flood that wiped the slate clean, but little that is new comes to light. Noah represented the 'new creation' as Adam did the first creation. This is spelled out for us in 'a new relationship' or covenant (Gen 9:8-17), and a covenant sign, the bow in the clouds.

One hundred and ten days after God shut the door of the Ark, Noah stepped out on dry ground in Armenia. It was like a 'resurrection.' The earth had passed through death, and had come out into newness of life.

Before him lay a brand new world. The shape of the land and the course of the rivers had changed. "Then Noah built an altar to the Lord...and sacrificed burnt offerings on it" (Gen 8:20). The word 'altar' means 'lifting up of the sacrifice' or ascending, or going up to God. The sweet smell pleased God, just as a holy life pleases Him (Psa 95:6-7). God accepted Noah's thank offering. He had given man instruction in how to walk by faith and in how to worship the living God.

Covenant and sacrifice always go together. God was able to fellowship with Noah and sanctify Noah's family because Noah's sacrifice looked forward to Jesus' death for man's sin (1 Pet 1:19-21; Heb 9:22).

Noah represented a 'remnant' of people saved by God's grace. Whenever God brought a great judgment on the earth because of man's sin, He always saved a 'remnant' of faithful believers.



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Who was head of the new civilization?
2. What was the first thing Noah did after he came out of the Ark (Gen 8:20)?
3. Was God pleased with Noah's worship?
4. Have you asked Jesus to forgive your sins? If you have, you will be one of a 'remnant' of people He will take to heaven to be with Him forever (1 Thess 4:16-18).

## **Unit 18. GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH**



### **Read Genesis 8:20-22**

After the flood, God made a promise to Noah. God gave Noah:

- a. A new covenant with Noah, his family and the earth (8:20-22).
- b. New ordinances to be kept (Gen 9:1-7).
- c. A new relationship to enjoy (Gen 9:8-17).
- d. A new temptation to test Noah's faith (Gen 9:18-23).
- e. A final word of prophecy (Gen 9:24-29).

The order set up from the beginning of creation would continue. From this we learn that God is man's benefactor – His provision is seen at all seasons, in plenteous harvests and in rest given at night (so that man would not wear himself out, Act 14:17).

God's covenant with Noah was really a promise, made to creation. Noah was named because he represented the new beginning – he was the head of the human race, and God's covenant was a reaffirming of His order and government in the earth. Noah stood at the head of the 'new creation' as Adam did the first creation. His role is spelled out for us in 'a new relationship' (9:8-17) and a covenant sign – the bow in the clouds:

1. God's order in nature would continue.
2. God's order for man's social life had been established.
3. God's order in redemption (pictured in altar and sacrifice).

After 1600 years of no command or law, called 'the age of freedom of choice,' God started out on a new relationship with man.

A summary of God's providence is given in ancient poetry: "As long as the earth endures, seed time and harvest, cold, heat, summer, winter, day and night will never cease" (Gen 8:22).

## **GOD SET A SIGN IN THE CLOUDS**

Why was God able to establish this sort of relationship with man? Because of:

1. His enormous GRACE which He had toward the man He had created and now delivered!
2. Noah's obedience and faith.

By making a new covenant with Noah, God encouraged man to further duty and obedience. He was saying, 'I now establish with you (the holy remnant) and your families yet to be born, a new day of opportunity.'

What should be our response? David said, "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care" (Ps 95:6-7).

Agreements between parties were always "signed" and God signed His covenant with a rainbow of hope and promise (Heb 6:17). We may take it as our 'sign', too. The thicker and darker our 'clouds of trouble' the brighter God's promises shine through! This was probably not the first rainbow seen by man, but now it had new meaning.

Only half the bow is seen from earth, for "Now we see through a glass darkly..." In Revelation we see the full circle of the bow "around the throne" of the King (Rev 4:3), "for then we shall see face to face" (1 Cor 13:9-12).

The rainbow told of the triumph of God over the tempest, over the flood and death. The victory of divine love over wrath and judgment, and the triumph of SON over death. (1 Cor 15:26, 54).



### **TALK ABOUT:**

1. Noah walked with God every day. Can we?
2. The world was corrupt and filled with violence. Why?
3. Noah had a wife and three sons. Can you name them.
4. Noah heard God speak to him.
5. He obeyed God in all he did (Gen 6:22).
6. Is God pleased when we obey Him?
7. Noah built the Ark that saved 'the believing remnant'.
8. He and his family (8 persons) survived the flood.
9. After the flood, Noah built an altar and worshipped God.

## **Unit 19. GOD MADE A NEW START WITH NOAH**

God told Noah His plan. He would sweep that civilization away in a great flood. Noah would build an ark of wood to save his family and any others who believed Noah's warning. God would begin again with a godly remnant who knew Him and worshipped Him only.

God does not send judgment on men and women without warning. Noah warned his generation of a coming flood. Noah cut wood and built all day and

preached whenever anyone would listen. He preached that men should repent and receive God's grace and mercy.

The patience of God waited until the very last moment. Noah and his family and two of each kind of animal and bird went into the Ark. God waited and waited, but no one else entered. Then God closed the door of the Ark and let the rain begin (Gen 7:1-10).

The great flood covered that region of the earth and all those who were not in the Ark perished. When the waters had dried up, Noah came out of the ark and built an altar to the Lord. He worshipped the living God and made sacrifice to Him on the altar (Gen 8:20).

God accepted Noah's worship. He made an agreement with Noah that He would not destroy man and beast again by flood.

Men like Sir Leonard Woolley have dug up the strata of mud laid down by the flood in the Mesopotamia Valley. Others have found it in other countries. The Bible is not the only record we have of a flood. The story of a great flood has been passed down in stories from other lands. In Babylonia was called "the Gilgamesh Epic," a tribal account of a flood and a ship that saved people from a great flood.

Woolley discovered Ur of the Chaldeans, the ancient city of Abraham. Long before this discovery, clay tablets were found with the strange story of an ancient king, Gilgamesh. For years no one could translate the small cuneiform symbols of the Akkadian language in which the twelve tablets were written.

The eleventh tablet tells how the king received a command from his god to build a ship. He brought into the ship his whole family and kinfolk and the cattle of the field. A flood and a cyclone devastated the land...Then the sea was calm and the flood ceased. All mankind had turned to clay...and the ship lay upon Mount Nisir.

Other Babylonian clay tablets locate Mount Nisir between the Tigris river and the Persian Gulf. Mount Ararat, where Noah's ark came to rest lies to the north of Turkey, near its border with Russia.



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Did the men of Noah's day have a chance to hear about God (1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5)?
2. Are there any other flood stories?
3. What did Noah do when he came out of the Ark (Gen 8:19)?
4. Why did God save a 'remnant' of people in the Ark?



## Unit 20. NOAH WAS A MAN OF THE EARTH



### Read Genesis 9:1-17

We believe that Noah's three sons had large families that spread out over the country. You may have a map in your Bible giving some idea of this spread of the first people groups (Gen 9:17).

At this time a new temptation came to Noah and his family. And it changed every society since. Noah was a farmer-preacher before he began to build the Ark. Now he went back to his farming. The Bible calls him "a husbandman." He tilled the soil and planted vineyards. After his grape vines bore fruit, Noah had a day of feasting and he drank old, fermented wine.

How did it become fermented? By accident, perhaps. We do not know! When there is security and plenty, beware!

"Noah became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent" (Gen 9:21; Prov 23:30-32). Noah was "uncovered" to his shame, as Adam was "naked" to his (Gen 3:7). The enemy had found a way of tempting to excess, then 'uncovering' Noah. This showed that Noah was a sinner by birth and a sinner by action, just as we are (Rom 3:23).

Ham made fun of his father's nakedness. Japheth and Shem covered their father's shame. Some may ask, "had Ham been drunk at some time himself?" It is always easier for those taken in a fault to rejoice over the same fault in others.

God warns us not to make fun of sin (Prov. 14:9). And not to publish the sins of others, particularly our parents, who are given to us by God. God's command is "honour your parents..." (Ex 20:12). The children suffer because of the sins of their fathers (Num 14:33). As generations come and go, they slip back morally. We see this all around us! Man is on a moral decline.

Man's pride makes him an easy prey to evil influences. His self-worship holds his attention. Look at the inordinate amounts of time we spend taking care of our own needs, or what we perceive as needs.

The world's answer is self-improvement courses, weight control or drying-out therapy. All these are billion-dollar businesses. Are we improving?

The Bible speaks plainly of the weaknesses of our flesh getting in the way of our faith. Jesus asked, when He comes will He find faith in the earth (Like 18:8)? Truly man is 'weighed in the balance and found wanting' (Dan 5:27).

We see that man is a failure; even good men fall. Sin in mankind guaranteed failure, "that men might seek the Lord."

Into God's ORDER sinful man brings his disorder. Only Christ can restore that part of God's image that was lost in the garden. God can even restore lost years and, where we've defaulted, make us fruitful again.



After the flood, God blessed Noah with long life and much peace. Even in this life, He rewards His faithful servants.

## **Unit 21. NOAH AWOKE FROM HIS WINE**

When Noah woke up, he pronounced a curse. The curse was not on Ham, but on his offspring. Did Noah refuse to speak Ham's name? At the same time Shem is singled out for a blessing as "Blessed be the Lord the God of Shem" (Gen 9:26-27). Japheth is associated with the same blessing in the words, "May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem" (9:27).

"In the most fateful manner, the history of the world has followed this prophecy. In Palestine, through the Semitic Jews, especially under Joshua, the Canaanites were subjugated or kept as servants (Jos 9:21-27; Jud 1:28-30).

"The lowest of slaves" (Gen 9:25) meant the lowest of them all. This was partly fulfilled when Joshua made the Gibeonites slaves (Jos 9:27). Also in the whole conquest of Canaan. The same was true under Solomon (1 Kings 9:20-21). And the North African peoples were conquered by Japhetic Persians, Greeks and Romans." (Eric Sauer, "The Dawn of World Redemption" p. 76)

Ham's sons were cursed, not because of what their father did, but because they followed in his steps (Ezk 18:20). This is a sad reality of life; sons often do as their fathers do (Ex 20:5). Any later argument that the curse on Ham made it right to have slaves came from Satan.

### **THE GOD OF SHEM**

"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem" (Gen 9:26). Did Noah know that Shem had more faith than his brothers? Or that Shem had believed in the God of his father and grandfather?

Despite this prophecy we note that, by the time of Terah and Abram, Shem's descendants seem to have been idolaters (Jos 24:2).

"May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem" (Gen 9:27). Japheth was to be blessed as he embraced the God of Shem. This prophecy is one of the greatest, in its scope, in the whole Bible. And it had far-reaching consequences which we only partially understand.

The tribes of Ham ruled Egypt and the Nile Valley for many years. Finally, (after some 2, 000 years) Babylon was taken by Cyrus (Japheth). Since then, no Hamitic or Semitic race has succeeded in breaking the world supremacy of Japheth. The Roman soldier Cornelius was the first to enter the tents of Shem without joining the nation of Israel.

The blessing: "May God give spreading out to the spreader out." (lit trans) is thought to have been fulfilled through Japheth in three areas:

1. Geographically – the Persians, Medes, Romans, Greeks, (Indo-Germanic) races achieved great political and intellectual influence.

2. Spiritually – Nothing less than the receiving of the Japhethites into full fellowship of the Gospel Church. This blessing seems to have reached less to the Hamites who have been oppressed in Africa by Islam (Gal 3:14).
3. Economically – the Canaanites became 'slaves' only through gigantic conflicts.



### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Did the order established in creation continue after the flood (Gen 8:22)?
2. What did God tell Noah about man's heart (Gen 8:21)?
3. How does sin make man's moral failure certain?
4. Is there a way open for all men to have peace with God.
5. What does it mean to be 'reconciled to God?' (2 Cor 5:18)

Noah spoke a prophecy about his three sons. Can you explain what became of their descendants?

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