

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

GENESIS 4-6

One day, the Adam's family was driving their car outside the Garden of Eden. The kids, Cain and Abel, were in the back seat, as they drove past the angel with the twirling, flaming sword guarding the tree of life.

The oldest boy, Cain, asked his father, Adam, "Dad, why can't we live in that beautiful garden?" Adam replied, "Son, we were living there, *but your mother ate us out of house and home.*" In reality, *both Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit*, and ended up in **a jam!**

They were barred from the garden of delights that God had planted, and driven out into a world where they would have to fend for themselves. *They had to grow their own food. Battled thorns and thistles. And eventually return to the dust from which they came.*

With the sin of Adam and Even, both the first family and all their descendants were sentenced to life in a fallen world... *and their struggles begin in Genesis 4...*

"Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." A more literal translation of the Hebrew text reads, "I have gotten a man, even Yahweh."

Recall from Genesis to Revelation the Bible is about a war between God and a serpent. From the outset of man's fall, 3:15, God promises to win that war through a special Son He calls "the seed of the woman." This Son is a Savior who crushes "the seed of the serpent."

It's possible that Eve thought her first boy was the fulfillment of that promise. That's why she called him "Cain" or "acquired." She believed she had *acquired* God's promise... but that impression didn't last very long... For as soon as she got the baby home from the hospital her illusion was shattered! **Cain was a pain!**

Eve's baby, like all babies, was self-willed. He threw tantrums and pouted. He was rebellious and deceptive. Eve realized Cain had come into the world as selfish and self-centered as she and Adam had become.

Hey, heredity is our problem... I got my double chin from my dad - insanity from my teenagers - and a rebellious nature from grandpa Adam. And so did you!

The old saying is true, "One bad apple can spoil the whole bunch." Adam ate a bad apple - became a bad apple - then filled a whole family tree with bad apples.

Genesis 4 is the classic example of the truth - *the apple never falls far from the tree*. Adam's own offspring, his first two sons, demonstrate the awful, destructive effects of sin. It reminds me of the question, "What were Adam and Eve doing after they were expelled from Eden?" Answer: "They were raising Cain." That's what mankind has been doing ever since.

But Eve also had a second son, "Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel." Cain wasn't the Savior, but a brat. And slowly, Eve became painfully aware of her sin's implications - not only for her family, but the entire human race. Her despair is seen in the name she chooses for this boy - "Abel" means "vanity."

Verse 2, "Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering." Did you hear of the church with the embarrassing blooper on their marquee? "Bible Study on Genesis. Were Adam and Eve really naked in the garden? Come, see for yourself!" Whoops!

It's true, Adam and Eve were naked until they sinned, and tried to cover up their self-awareness by sewing fig leaves. But they *fig-ured* wrong! Our redemption involves more than turning over *a new leaf!*

Human effort – good works, charitable deeds, religious rituals - is never enough to blot out sin and satisfy a holy God. The Almighty insists on a sacrifice.

The Bible teaches that the wages of sin is death, so God killed an innocent animal, and covered Adam and Eve in fur coats. And I'm sure their two sons were privy to this background. So when Cain and Abel came to offer their sacrifices they were aware of the truth of Leviticus 17:11, "it is the blood that makes atonement."

Abel a shepherd, sacrificed a lamb, but farmer Cain laid *a horn plenty* on the altar. God accepted Abel's sacrifice, but found Cain's offering lacking. Cain had assumed his own achievements would merit God's blessing, but Abel trusted in the blood of a sacrifice.

And these are still the two ways of coming to God. Come trusting in your own accomplishments - or come relying on the sacrifice of the spotless lamb. Abel came on God's terms and was accepted. Cain came on his own terms and was rejected. And as a result we read, "Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell."

And God saw Cain's disappointment. Verse 6, "the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?" If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." The NIV translates it, "*sin is crouching at your door.*" Sin is like

a wild animal ready to pounce on its prey. If not dealt with it wreaks havoc and causes chaos.

Again our enemy is depicted as a beast. Like the sea serpent in the waters of Genesis 1:2 - or the snake on the dry land in Chapter 3 - sin is a predator out to spoil God's creatures made in His image. But the serpent in the waters is now crouching at your door, ready to pounce. *And how do you overcome?* You come to God on His terms. You trust in the solution of a sacrifice. **You follow the faith of Abel, not the pride of Cain!**

Verse 8, "Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him." Cain's jealousy erupts, and in a rage Cain kills his brother.

"Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" And the answer for all of us is "Yes!" No man is an island. God expects us to care for the people He positions around us. *We are our brother's keeper!*

"And (God) said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground." It was crying out for vengeance. "So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you." What Cain had boasted in, his ability to farm and cultivate the ground, will no longer be his strength.

"A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth." And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear!" Notice, rather than repent, Cain resorts to self-pity. He feels sorry for himself!

"Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me."

Ancient justice required a brother to avenge a family member's death. This means Cain is in big trouble. For everyone alive at the time is Abel's relative. Cain has nowhere to hide, so in verse 15 God spares his life.

"And the LORD said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him." Here's the first tattoo. It saved Cain's life. But for the rest of his life, he roamed the earth as a marked man. "Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD..." Apparently, Cain bolted from God. Rather than repent and turn back to God, Cain struck out on his own... And as we'll see, *Cain's heirs will develop a civilization and culture apart from God.*

Cain ends up dwelling “in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.” And when you choose to live apart from God’s presence you *nod off*. You fall asleep spiritually and become vulnerable to danger. The land of Nod is a scary place. Too many people today live in *Nod*.

In Hebrews 10:7 Jesus says, “In the volume of the book it is written of Me.” Look closely, and you’ll find Jesus on every page of your Bible. Here’s an example.

Abel was a shepherd. His sacrifice was accepted by God. He was hated without a cause, and killed by his brother. He died violently, and his blood cries out. Who does that sound like but Jesus? And if Abel is a type of our Lord *Jesus*; then Cain typifies His killer, *the Jews!*

The Jews in the first century, like Cain, trusted in their own righteousness. God rejected them. They were jealous of Jesus, and in a rage killed Him. And as a result for the last 2000 years they’ve been fugitives and vagabonds on the earth. But as with Cain, those who hurt the Jews will receive a seven-fold vengeance.

Before Jesus returns there’ll be seven years of Great Tribulation on a world that’s persecuted the Jews. And during that time guess who gets a mark? Like Cain, 144,000 Jews receive a mark of protection! *Amazing!*

Verse 17, “And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch.” And here’s the question skeptics love to ask - *where did Cain get his wife? But I really don’t know why this causes such distress...*

Obviously, Cain married a sister or a niece. Tradition tells us Adam and Eve had 33 sons, and 27 daughters. Which means if you started with 27 couples, and each couple has six kids, within a hundred years, you would have a population of 40,000 people. Cain would’ve had plenty of women from which to choose a wife.

It seems that marriage between brothers and sisters is not intrinsically evil. It was prohibited in the Law of Moses out of necessity. By the time of Moses the human gene pool had weakened. For health reasons God prohibited the practice. But in the beginning the descendants of Adam and Eve were free to intermarry.

Now Genesis 4-6 is a valuable section of Scripture because it gives us a window into the antediluvian or pre-flood world. And Genesis tracks the development of two families: the family of Cain, *a worldly, carnal clan*, and the family of Adam’s son, Seth, *a faithful fam.*

Cain’s family is listed first... “And (Cain) built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son - Enoch.” Since Cain was no longer good at farming, he builds a city. He becomes the first urbanite, or city dweller. Cain is the first businessman. Rather than grow his own crops, he begins to barter for food.

Verse 18, "To Enoch was born Irad (or "wild man"); and Irad begot Mehujael (which means, "blot out the name of God" - what a evil thought), and Mehujael begot Methushael" (which means "those who are of God are dead") Notice the names get increasingly evil and blasphemous, as does the family of Cain.

Verse 18, "and Methushael begot Lamech." Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah."

Hey, one wife wasn't enough for Lamech. He thought he was too much man for one woman, so he married Adah and Zillah. He becomes the originator of polygamy. Of course, his punishment is inherent to his sin. He spends his life dealing with two mother-in-laws.

In reality, Lamech was guilty of a serious sin. God's order seen in creation was one man and one woman for a lifetime. Lamech becomes the first person to tamper with God's rules concerning sex and marriage. The name "Lamech" means "bringing low" - which is what he does to humanity by violating God's design.

Verse 20, "And Adah bore Jabal." Lamech had three sons: "Jabal", "Jubal", and "Tubal-Cain". And all three names are from a root word which means "to produce or invent." And Lamech's sons represent an age of technological advancement on the early Earth.

"(Jabal) was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock." Jabal was the first cowboy or cattle rancher. He was the first man to domesticate livestock... "His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute." Jubal was the first musician... "And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron." He was the first minor or medal worker. "And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah."

Understand, evolutionary propaganda assumes our early ancestors were primitive, and gradually advanced in their knowledge and know-how. *But not* so. All around the world there're ancient stories of advanced civilizations lost in a global flood. The legend of Atlantis may be a faint recollection of a pre-flood civilization.

I believe the antediluvian world featured a highly sophisticated society - in some ways rivaling the modern world. The pyramids of Egypt and Stonehenge in England are examples of the technology of pre-flood societies. We know Adam had a brilliant intellect. It's probable his immediate descendants were very smart.

Here's the picture we get of the world before the flood - it's occupants were advanced technologically, but terribly corrupt morally, and defiant spiritually.

Listen to Lamech's boast in verse 23, "Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man

for wounding me, even a young man for hurting me. If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.” Lamech is saying, “God avenges sevenfold, but mess with me and I’ll avenge myself seventy-seven-fold. I’m tougher than God!” *How arrogant!* Lamech was the leading example of the defiance that existed against God before the flood...

And this is more relevant to us than we might think. Jesus said in Luke 17:26, “as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man...” Jesus will return to planet earth at a time of tremendous technology and advancement, but coupled with arrogance and defiance against God. *Can you think of a time that fits that scenario?* How about today!

Verse 25, “And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, for God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.” The word “Seth” means “appointed.”

“And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh.” Which means “dedicated.” And we’re told, “Then men began to call on the name of the LORD.” With Seth comes revival! Over the next 1500 years of history, God uses Seth and his offspring as a witness to His truth in an increasingly wicked world.

In fact, Genesis 5 shifts to the family of Seth, and his genealogy. Beginning in verse 1 with his father, Adam. “This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.” And Adam lived 130 years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.” *Notice the digression here:* Adam bore the image of God, but Adam’s son Seth bears Adam’s **fallen** image. Seth is the marred and distorted version of what his father, Adam, was originally intended to be.

“After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were 800 years; and he had sons and daughters. So all the days that Adam lived were 930 years; and he died.” This was not God’s original plan. Adam could’ve lived forever, but God told him if he ate of the forbidden fruit he would “surely die”. **The wages of sin is death.**

Verse 6, “Seth lived 105 years, and begot Enosh. After he begot Enosh, Seth lived 807 years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Seth were 912 years; and he died. Enosh lived 90 years, and begot Cainan. After he begot Cainan, Enosh lived 815 years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enosh were 905; and he died. Cainan lived 70 years, and begot Mahalalel. After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived 840 years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Cainan were 910 years; and he died. Mahalalel lived 65 years, and begot Jared. After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Mahalalel

were 895 years; and he died. Jared lived 162 years, and begot Enoch. After he begot Enoch, Jared lived 800 years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Jared were 962 years; and he died.” And notice the repetition, from Adam to Jared, over and over and over the phrase, “and he died”. It was like father like son... All of Adam’s *kin* share his *sin* and his *end* - they die.

With one exception! Verse 18, “Enoch lived 65 years, and begot Methuselah. After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were 365 years...”

Implied is that Enoch didn’t walk with God until he had kids. Having a son is what made him a man. It’s said, “Parents help their kids grow-up, but equally so kids cause their parents to grow-up.” It could be the miracle of childbirth and obligations of fatherhood, woke Enoch up to his need for God. If so, he won’t be the last man to really seek God after becoming a dad.

Verse 24, “And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.” Once, a little girl was reciting this story to her mom, “One day Enoch and God took a walk. They walked and talked, and walked and talked, until Enoch finally said, “Lord, it’s getting late. I’d better go home.” But the Lord said, “Enoch, we’ve been walking so long together, I believe we’re closer to My house than yours. Why don’t you just come home with Me tonight?” That could be exactly how it happened!

We should all desire a walk with God so intimate that our hearts would become more in tune with heaven than with earth. The name “*Enoch*” means “*dedicated*.” And Enoch walked so close to God... that God did a little rapture practice on him. God snatched Enoch up.

In fact, Jude 14 explains just how much Enoch knew of God and His plans. It tells us Enoch was a prophet *AND what he prophesied*, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all...” Enoch was just the seventh from Adam, but he was already proclaiming the second coming of Jesus.

Verse 25, “Methuselah lived 187 years, and begot Lamech. After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Methuselah were 969 years; and he died.” You’ve heard the phrase, “*as old as Methuselah*.” This man is famous for he has the oldest recorded age in history.

And that becomes more than the answer to a trivia question. **For as Enoch the father, was a prophet; the son Methuselah, is a prophecy!** Methuselah was God’s prophetic timepiece. His name means “*when he dies, it will be sent*.” And Methuselah died the very year the Lord God flooded this wicked world with water.

Of course, this highlights God's patience and mercy. When God tied a judgment to a particular life span He chose the longest life ever lived. Obviously, he doesn't like to judge. He desires that we repent and be saved!

Notice too, the three people groups alive at the time of the flood... **First**, *the wicked* who drowned. **Second**, *Noah's family* who were saved from the storm. **Third**, *Enoch*, who is taken to heaven prior to the judgment.

And note the parallel... The next time the earth will be judged by God is at the end of the age, during the Great Tribulation - and the same three groups will be represented: The wicked will be judged... The Jews, like Noah, are protected by God... And the Church, just like Enoch, will *go up* before judgment *comes down*.

Seth's genealogy continues verse 28, "**Lamech** (not the polygamist, this is a different guy) **lived 182 years, and had a son. And he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed."** "Noah" means "**comfort or rest.**"

"**After he begot Noah, Lamech lived 595 years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Lamech were 777 years; and he died. And Noah was 500 years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.**"

Excluding Enoch, the average age in Genesis 5 is 908 years old. And some of these geezers were still having children at several hundred years old. Verse 32 tells us Noah sired sons at 500. *It's never too late! I'm sure none of these guys underwent a prostatectomy!*

Also, they all birthed "**sons and daughters**" - multiple children. *Think of how many kids you could have, if you were baby-making for 500 years? A lot!* This is why we think the Earth was as populated before the flood as it is now - 8 billion people - maybe even more.

And of course, the obvious question on your mind is *how did people live 900 years?* Well, recall 1:7 God divided the waters below the sky from the waters above. And some scholars believe "**the water above**" referred to more than simply the water vapor contained in our atmosphere today. It's possible that before the flood a dense, highly compacted, vapor canopy existed in the upper levels of the Earth's atmosphere.

The oldest written book, Job, seems to speak of this canopy in 38:9. God says, "**When I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band...**"

The latest theories on aging point to the sun as the main culprit. You ladies who like to tan and sunbathe beware! The sun is not your friend. Theoretically, the human body should be able to rejuvenate indefinitely, but around age 25 we begin to deteriorate. Scientists believe solar radiation sends a false signal to our DNA that triggers our aging.

But if a vapor canopy once shrouded the Earth and shielded us from the sun's radiation, it would explain how people live much older.

In addition, under this vapor canopy the antediluvian world would've been a paradise. Global temperatures were a constant 72 degrees. Since hot air never collided with cold air, storms and rain were nonexistent.

The world before the flood would've been a subtropical paradise, with lush vegetation from pole to pole. The Earth would've been a colossal greenhouse.

Through an unbiased eye, this idea is bolstered by pretty impressive evidence. Fossilized palm trees have been found above the Arctic Circle. In Siberia frozen, woolly mammoths have been discovered with tropical vegetation still in their mouths. It seems a cataclysm, like a global flood, could've caused an instant death.

Which brings up another question, *what happened to the dinosaurs?* I personally believe the dinosaurs were among the animals on Noah's Ark. They lived in the antediluvian world, and were contemporaries of man. Archeologists have found cave drawings in the Grand Canyon, and across the American West, of dinosaurs drawn by human artists. In fact, the Bible describes two animals that sound like dinosaurs in Job 40-41.

There're creatures today that many folks would call dinosaurs. In 1977, a Japanese trawler off the coast of New Zealand, caught in 900 feet of water, what some people labeled a plesiosaur. There're other examples.

I believe Noah carried two of every kind of dinosaur on board the Ark. And don't think of adult dinosaurs. He could've done it by taking infants, or dinosaur-eggs.

Extinction of the dinosaurs would've occurred shortly after the flood. The collapse of the vapor canopy, the upheaval of the flood, and the reduction of vegetation radically altered the earth and its climate. Dinosaurs could no longer survive in the post-flood ecosystem.

Genesis 6 describes the perversion that destroyed the antediluvian world, "**Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.**

And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be 120 years." God is omnipotent *or all powerful*. He is omniscient *or all knowing*. And God is omnipresent, *that is, everywhere*. *But God is not **omni-patient**.*

His long-suffering has limits. And here God issues a countdown. There were 120 years until D-day. This was also the time Noah would need to build an Ark.

Let me admit these verses give rise to two different interpretations... Some see in verse 2, the “sons of God” as the lineage of Seth, intermarrying “the daughters of men,” or the family of Cain. They believe the godly line of Seth compromised and took pagan wives... but this doesn’t explain why God wiped out the whole earth with a flood. Nor does it explain the description we’re given of their offspring in verse 4...

“There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.” This is why I believe more is going on here than believers marrying unbelievers. I’ve seen such marriages, but they never sired a giant. The phrase “sons of God” in Hebrew is “*bene Elohim*.” It appears four times in the OT, and each time it refers to angels.

Jude 6 speaks of the angels “who did not keep their proper domain...” I believe the “sons of God” in Genesis 6 are those angels. A perversion of the human race took place in the antediluvian world. Fallen angels materialized in human form and impregnated women. It produced a distorted race of mutant humanoids, or freaks of nature. Verse 4 labels them, “giants” - in Hebrew its “*nephilim*” which means “fallen ones.”

In Genesis 1 we discussed that when Satan couldn’t *stop* the creation of man, he tried to *spoil* it... And here again, he attempts to contaminate the human gene pool, and engineer the extinction of mankind. *And this is why God’s judgment was so severe.* God had to destroy the Earth with water, and wipe out an entire civilization - all but eight people - because it was the only way for Him to save the human race He created!

Every ancient culture has its myths about demigods, *beings half-human and half-divine*. Of course, myths are myths. But some of the stories could’ve been inspired by the actual events described in Genesis 6...

Verse 4 says there were giants in Noah’s day “and also afterwards.” Later when Israel spies out the land of Canaan they report “giants” or *nephilim*. Recall too, David’s famous opponent, *a giant named Goliath*.

There’s a Hebrew tradition, in the extra-biblical book of Enoch, where these fallen angels are identified as the agents who taught humanity *the evils of black magic, the science of war and weaponry, and how to abort unborn babies*. They were perpetrators of evil.

It’s also interesting, the subject of Genesis 6 is now a favorite Hollywood theme. The 1968 film, “*Rosemary’s Baby*” was based on a demon impregnating a woman. More recently, in the movie, “*Michael*”, John Travolta plays a lust-filled angel whose main desire is to hit on beautiful women. *This stuff is demonic!* The most intense occult

experience is sex with a demon. The offspring that can result is called a “*moon-child*.” This was the reason God destroyed the earth with water!

Verse 5, “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.” The word “*grieve*” is a love word. You can frustrate or anger anyone, but you can “*grieve*” only a person who loves you. **And the humans God had made grieved His heart!**

“So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations.” Bible expositors have taken the phrase “*perfect in his generations*” to mean Noah had not been perverted by the demonic activity occurring on Earth at the time. Thus, God could re-launch human society with Noah and his family.

For, “**Noah walked with God.**” He was a man who *loved God, listened to God, desired intimacy with God.* Yet no man *deserves* God’s favor. Verse 8 says Noah found grace. God chose to save him and use him. Hebrews 11:7 tells us he responded to grace by faith.

Verse 10, “**And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.**” These four men, along with their wives are the nucleus God uses to relaunch the human race.

One other point to mention, of the ten men named in Genesis 5 - from Adam to Noah - all but Noah was a contemporary of Adam. The first man God created, Adam, lived to be 930 years old. That means Adam didn’t die until Noah’s dad, Lamech, was 56 years old.

Thus rather than the creation story having to be passed down from mouth to mouth over hundreds of generations, and thus vulnerable to distortions, only three communications were required. *From God to Adam - Adam to Noah’s dad, Lamech - and Lamech to his grandson, Shem...* Just three people would’ve been able to link the creation to the post-flood world.

Verse 11, “The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.” Lawlessness and savagery and perversion were rampant. “**And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.”**

Verse 14, “**Make yourself an ark of gopherwood** (the word “*ark*” means **box** - technically it was a barge, not a ship. It was not self-propelled... *He continues*); **make rooms** (or cubicles) **in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch** (a waterproof material). **And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be 300 cubits, its width 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits.**

A cubit was the distance from the king’s elbow to the tip of his fingers - usually about 18 inches. If we’re using 18 inches as a cubit, then the Ark would’ve measured 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.

God’s instructions continue in verse 16, “**You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.**”

Prior to 1858 Noah’s Ark was the largest seagoing vessel ever constructed. Its trio of decks provided 100,000 square feet of floor space or 1.88 million cubic feet. It’s capacity was equal to 450 semi-truck trailers.

And its 6 to 1 ratio of length to width is by modern day shipbuilding standards the perfect proportion to survive rough waters. The Ark couldn’t capsize.

The Ark was also constructed with a window at the top, 18 inches high, which many scholars believe ran the length of the ship. This provided fresh air and much needed ventilation - *and the Ark needed fresh air!* With all the animals you can bet it stunk onboard! That’s why it’s often said, “**The Church is like Noah’s Ark. At times it may stink inside, but it still beats the alternative.**” No church is perfect. *At times it can reek!* But it still remains God’s alternative to a wicked world.

In verse 17 God says, “**Behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die.**” Notice, this wasn’t a local flood. It covered the whole Earth. And today, there exists tremendous physical evidence for a universal flood...

Some of the world’s tallest mountain peaks - the Himalayans for example - are made of sedimentary rock. *When were the 25,000’ peaks of the Himalayans underwater?...* We’ve also found marine fossils on the summits of some of the world’s tallest mountains.

And understand a global deluge is the most validated event in antiquity. All cultures - *Mexico, Middle East, Africa, China, American Indians* - have accounts of a great flood, a boat, and a family who survived. Though the stories are not identical to the biblical record, and are obviously, corrupted versions; nevertheless they all testify to the same historical event, a global flood.

Verse 18, “But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark - you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.” Only Noah, his three sons, and their wives survived the flood - along with two of each kind of animal - male and female. He took male and female so the animals could repopulate after the flood.

And notice how Noah loads the Ark. God tells him, “Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive.” They’ll **come** to Noah. He won’t have to gather them. They’ll flock to him. This may’ve been a reason God designed animals and birds with migratory instincts.

Verse 21, “And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.” To gather enough food for all the animals seems like a gargantuan task, but it could be that many of the critters hibernated after they boarded the Ark. They wouldn’t have to eat much.

Perhaps, both hibernation and migration - two animal traits that zoologists have a hard time explaining, could’ve been created as God’s way of assisting Noah.

Verse 22 tells us Noah obeyed God, “Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.” And I hope we too follow God with that same zeal...