

Harmony Church – Chronological Bible Study Guide - Genesis Chapters 8-11

Chapter 8

Key Verses Genesis 8:1-5, “And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged;2 The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained;3 And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated.4 And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.5 And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.”

Promise: Verse 22, “While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”

Summary

After the flood, God forced more consequences on humanity. Genesis, Chapter 8 details the actions of Noah and those animals and people who gathered with him on the ark. God set into motion a great wind to dry the water which was left over after the great flood. He stopped the rain, a process which took one hundred and fifty days. After the flood, Noah’s ark is said to have settled on the mountains of Ararat. And after a ten-month period, the peaks of mountains could finally be seen.

Day 150 The ark lands on Mount Ararat. Noah is 600 years, 7 months, 17 days old Genesis 8:3-4

Day 223 The tops of other mountains are seen. Noah is 600 years, 10 months old Genesis 8:5

Day 263 Noah sends out a raven and a dove (the dove returns empty beaked) Genesis 8:6-7

Day 270 Noah sends out another dove (the dove returns with a twig) Genesis 8:10

Day 277 Noah sends out another dove (the dove doesn't return) Genesis 8:12

Day 283 Noah has his 601st birthday...on the ark. The flood waters are gone. The earth is dry. Genesis 8:13

Day 370 Noah is 601 years, 2 months, 27 days old. God tells them to leave the ark. Genesis 8:14

Is it not interesting that Noah and his family stayed on the ark for 87 days after the land appeared dry? That, in itself, constitutes an act of faith. How many would have reasoned that if it's dry outside, why not go ahead and get out there. It is worth noting the difference in the expressions between verses 13 and 14. We are told in verse 13 that on day 283 "the face of the ground was dry." In verse 14 we are told "was the earth dried." The Hebrew word used for face there is usually a reference to a human face. It is likely that verse 13 expresses the mere appearance of the surface while verse 14 declares that all conditions are now safe. However, they waited for God's command to leave. Come to think of it, they may not have had a choice but to stay on the ark for those additional 87 days. According to Genesis 7:16 (see notes), before their 370-day odyssey began, it specifically says "and the LORD shut him in." Since God had shut them in, one might very well assume that no one leaves until God lets them out.

Chapter 9

Key Verses Genesis 9:18-29, “And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan.19 These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread.20 And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard:21 And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.23 And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.24 And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him.25 And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.26 And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.27 God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.28 And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.29 And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years: and he died.

Promise: 15-16, “And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

16 And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.”

Summary

When the flood subsided, Noah and his family left the ark with God's blessing. He instructed them to be fruitful and multiply to replenish the earth. He also gave them dominion over every beast of the earth including birds and fish. However, God commanded Noah never to ingest animal blood, or to shed the blood of another man. After Noah and his family had departed from the ark, God promised that he would never unleash a flood that would destroy the earth again. He caused a rainbow to appear in the sky alongside the rains as a reminder of the covenant that he had made with Noah. With the rains gone and the land dry again, Noah became a farmer. He planted a vineyard and took to drinking the wine. Noah became drunk and fell asleep in his tent, naked. His youngest son, Ham, noticed this and told his brothers. Shem and Japheth then procured a piece of cloth and covered their father's nakedness. Upon waking up, Noah realized what Ham had done and cursed him and his descendants to be servants to the houses of his brothers.

Chapter 10

Key Verse Genesis 10:32, "These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood."

Summary

Genesis 10 explains the origin of our nations. It is a comprehensive narrative of how Noah's family increased after the catastrophic flood. After Noah and his family settled themselves, his three sons sought out to accomplish what God instructed them to do when he handed down the ark covenant: peopling the world. The second verse of chapter 10 discusses Japheth's family, which consisted of seven children: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Tubal, Javan, Tiras and Meshech. It is believed that Japheth's people inhabited mainly coastal areas around the Palestinian coastline. They are the descendents of the people of today's modern Greece. Ham fathered many sons. Nimrod was his most outstanding son, a mighty warrior who lived in Canaan, Philistine, and Assyria. These people were the family of Noah, nations spreading all over the known Earth after the flood.

These genealogies contain very important details which help us date the age of the earth. Using the information in Genesis 4, 5, 10, and 11, we can date the creation, the flood, and the rest of the book of Genesis. This information reveals the earth isn't nearly as old as some scientists suggest. The Bible's timeline matches current archeological discoveries regarding the rise of civilizations.

Chapter 11

Key Verses Genesis 11:1-9, "1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."

Summary

Genesis 11 outlines how the different languages of the world came into being. As the human race grew, the whole world was speaking one language and all descendants of Ham, Japheth and Shem still could communicate with one another regardless of their different locations and social habits. With time, as they migrated eastwards to occupy new territories of the world, they reached a plain land called Shinar. Here, they decided to build a city and a tower tall enough to touch the heavens. The tower would be a symbol to unite the people in case they became scattered across the land. God realized that the people were poised to accomplish anything in their unity so he caused the people to speak different languages. He confused their tongues so they would be limited to a certain scope of thinking. The city was called Babel, which means "a place of confusion." Shem begot Arphaxad, who begot Salah. Salah begot Eber, who begot Peleg. Peleg begot Reu, who begot Serug. Serug begot Nahor, who begot Terah. Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot and died before his father Terah in Ur of the Chaldees. Abram took for a wife a woman by the name of Sarai, who turned out to be barren. His brother Nahor married a woman called Milcah. Terah took his sons and their families out of the land of Ur to a place called Haran where he died at the age of 205.