

SAMPLER

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DEEP BLUE

KIDS

BIBLE



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Kids will love exploring the vast ocean of God's Word with the *CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible*. It's full of notes, illustrations, Bible trivia, and on-topic devotions. The colorful 3-D characters and interactive features will engage young minds and hearts, helping them discover the Bible's message and meaning.

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The *CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible* is a great gift for birthdays, church events, and Sunday school promotions. It's perfect for kids ages 7-12. Moms and dads, grandparents, pastors, and Sunday school teachers will help create a lifelong thirst for God's timeless truth with the *CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible*.

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Join Asia, Kat, and Edgar as you use this Bible. Together you will discover, explore, and experience great stories and interesting people in the Bible. You will also see how God has been working throughout history to connect with us.

Edgar has a need to know. He wants to know how to get from here to there and then investigate whatever he finds in a new place. Edgar always keeps his spyglass with him as he navigates through the Bible to help you understand what you encounter as you travel through God's word.



Asia never leaves home without a way to communicate. She loves to keep track of the action around her, documenting and reporting on what she sees and hears. Whenever you see Asia, she'll have her microphone in hand ready to narrate the Bible journey as she travels with you from Genesis to Revelation.

Kat is an adventurer at heart. She loves all the opportunities in the Bible to explore how God connected with people centuries ago in ancient lands—and how God still connects with us today. Kat is always ready to go on an adventure with you—pirate hat on and jeans rolled up—as you discover the Bible together.



Fun, engaging call-outs and in-text notes help kids navigate through the Bible and lay the foundation for sound biblical knowledge.

LIFE PRESERVER



Life Preserver notes give responses to tough questions and context to hard passages.

SAILBOAT



Sailboat notes emphasize positive character traits and emotions.

LIGHTHOUSE



Lighthouse notes discuss core faith concepts at an age-appropriate level.

UMBRELLA



Umbrella notes address challenging character traits and emotions.

did you know?

Did You Know? call-outs highlight fascinating Bible trivia, customs, and practices.



Navigation Point

Navigation Point verses mark key promises and passages to memorize.



Bet You Can! challenges develop language skills while encouraging Bible reading.



God Thoughts/My Thoughts devotions dive deeper by explaining how the Bible applies to life.



Genesis

Genesis tells us that our world began with God's wind sweeping over the waters.

God spoke and then our world existed—the sun and the stars, the plants, the animals, and the people. God told the first man and woman to care for everything God made, including the beautiful garden in Eden. God created Adam and Eve to be partners, to have good relationships with God and each other.

This book tells a story of God's amazing creation but also explains the disaster of human sin. Adam and Eve didn't follow God's command. God sent a giant flood, but saved Noah in an ark that floated on the rising waters. Then God made promises to Abraham and his children as the first of God's new people. God sent this faith-filled follower on a daring journey from the distant city of Ur to Canaan, the land that is now Israel.

Genesis also tells the story of Joseph, a boastful young man who was sold as a slave by his brothers. God made Joseph a leader in Egypt, which made it possible for him to save Egypt and then his family from famine. In the end, Joseph and his brothers became friends again.

Genesis says that God created the world—and the stories show why. God wants to be connected with all people—including you! 💧



things YOU'LL DISCOVER

The book of Genesis tells us about the amazing beginning of the world. God created the earth, sky, and everything in the world. God made human beings to enjoy and take care of the world. This book also explains the beginning of God's people, the Israelites.

people YOU'LL MEET

Adam and Eve—the Bible's first man and woman (Gen 1-4)

Abraham—the father of the nation of Israel, first called Abram (Gen 11-25)

Sarah—Abraham's wife, first called Sarai (Gen 11-23)

Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel—Abraham's son and grandson and their wives (Gen 17-49)

Joseph—a young man who became a ruler in Egypt (Gen 37-50)

places YOU'LL GO

Eden, Ur (present-day Iraq),
Canaan (present-day Israel),
Egypt

words YOU'LL REMEMBER

"When God began to create the heavens and the earth—the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God's wind swept over the waters—God said, 'Let there be light.' And so light appeared" (Gen 1:1-3).

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World's creation in seven days

1 When God began to create^a the heavens and the earth—²the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God's wind swept over the waters—³God said, "Let there be light." And so light appeared. ⁴God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God named the light Day and the darkness Night.

There was evening and there was morning: the first day.

⁶God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters to separate the waters from each other." ⁷God made the dome and separated the waters under the dome from the waters above the dome. And it happened in that way. ⁸God named the dome Sky.

There was evening and there was morning: the second day.

⁹God said, "Let the waters under the sky come together into one place so that the dry land can appear." And that's what happened. ¹⁰God named the dry land Earth, and he named the gathered waters Seas. God saw how good it was. ¹¹God said, "Let the earth grow plant life: plants yielding seeds and fruit trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind throughout the earth." And that's what happened. ¹²The earth produced plant life: plants yielding seeds, each according to its kind, and trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind. God saw how good it was.

¹³There was evening and there was morning: the third day.

¹⁴God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will mark events, sacred seasons, days, and years. ¹⁵They will be lights in the dome of the sky to shine on the earth." And that's what happened. ¹⁶God made the stars and two great lights: the larger light to rule over the day and the smaller light to rule over the night. ¹⁷God put them in the dome of the sky to shine on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was.

¹⁹There was evening and there was morning: the fourth day.

^aOr In the beginning, God created

LIFE PRESERVER



Why are there two stories of creation? Genesis 1:1–2:25

If you read all the way through Genesis 1 and 2, you may be asking why there are two stories of creation. The first story tells us that the world was created in six days and ends with Sabbath, the day God rested. The second story begins with the garden and tells us that the very first thing God created was a human being.

As you read these two stories, notice the different styles of writing. The first story uses a lot of repetition. God is a bit distant and commands creation. The second story reads like we have zoomed in with a camera to get a close-up picture of the characters interacting with each other. God is much more personal and interacts with creation.

These stories are the work of writers who give us their perspectives on the beginning of life. The variety of voices invites us to think in different ways about the story of God, who lovingly created a world for us to live in and enjoy, a world entrusted to our care. 💧

²⁰God said, "Let the waters swarm with living things, and let birds fly above the earth up in the dome of the sky." ²¹God created the great sea animals and all the tiny living things that swarm in the waters, each according to its kind, and all the winged birds, each according to its kind. God saw how good it was. ²²Then God blessed them: "Be fertile and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth."

²³There was evening and there was morning: the fifth day.

²⁴God said, "Let the earth produce every kind of living thing: livestock, crawling things, and wildlife." And that's what happened. ²⁵God made every kind of wildlife, every kind of livestock, and every kind of creature that crawls on the ground. God saw how good it was. ²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth."

²⁷ God created humanity in God's own image, in the divine image God created them,^b male and female God created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it. Take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and everything crawling on the ground." ²⁹ Then God said, "I now give to you all the plants on the earth that yield seeds and all the trees whose fruit produces its seeds within it. These will be your food. ³⁰ To all wild-life, to all the birds of the sky, and to everything crawling on the ground—to everything that breathes—I give all the green grasses for food." And that's what happened.

³¹ God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good.

There was evening and there was morning: the sixth day.

2 The heavens and the earth and all who live in them were completed. ² On the sixth^c day God completed all the work that he had done, and on the seventh day God rested from all the work that he had done. ³ God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all the work of creation.^d ⁴ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

World's creation in the garden

On the day the LORD God made earth and sky—⁵ before any wild plants appeared on the earth, and before any field crops grew, because the LORD God hadn't yet sent rain on the earth and there was still no human being^e to farm the fertile land, ⁶ though a stream rose from the earth and watered all of the fertile land— ⁷ the LORD God formed the human^f from the topsoil of the fertile land^g and blew life's breath into his nostrils. The human came to life. ⁸ The LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east and put there the human he had formed. ⁹ In the fertile land, the LORD God grew every beautiful tree with edible fruit, and also he grew the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

did you know?

The word used for *image* in Gen 1:27 comes from the same root word used for *imagination*. So our ability to imagine and be creative is part of how we're made in the image of our creator.

¹⁰ A river flows from Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides into four headwaters. ¹¹ The name of the first river is the Pishon. It flows around the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² That land's gold is pure, and the land also has sweet-smelling resins and gemstones. ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It flows around the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is the Tigris, flowing east of

LIFE PRESERVER

Why are the trees important in the garden of Eden? *Genesis 2:9*

In the second story of creation, we read about two trees that were planted in the garden of Eden. One tree, sometimes called the tree of life, had fruit that would make whoever ate it live forever. The fruit on the other tree, sometimes called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, gave the person who ate it self-awareness and knowledge about life.

Although humans had work to do in the garden, they also had freedom to do as they pleased as long as they didn't eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. You may know what happened next. Eve and Adam did what they weren't supposed to do. They ate the fruit from the forbidden tree. Rather than being protected from the knowledge of everything good and everything evil, they gained knowledge meant only for God. They didn't have the wisdom to handle this knowledge.

This story reminds us that like Eve and Adam, we're all human. We'd all like to have the knowledge God has. But we don't have the wisdom to handle it. Like Eve and Adam, we do the wrong things and make bad choices. Even so, God forgives us, continues to love us, and stays with us as we try to live as God's faithful people. 💧

^bHeb has singular *him*, referring to *humanity*. ^cLXX, Sam, Syr; MT *seventh* ^dOr *from all his work, which God created to do*

^eOr *man* (Heb *adam*) ^fHeb *adam* ^gHeb *adamah* ^hHeb uncertain

Assyria; and the name of the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it. ¹⁶The LORD God commanded the human, "Eat your fill from all of the garden's trees; ¹⁷but don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!" ¹⁸Then the LORD God said, "It's not good that the human is alone. I will make him a helper that is perfect for him." ¹⁹So the LORD God formed from the fertile land all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky and brought them to the human to see what he would name them. The human gave each living being its name. ²⁰The human named all the livestock, all the birds in the sky, and all the wild animals. But a helper perfect for him was nowhere to be found.

²¹So the LORD God put the human into a deep and heavy sleep, and took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh over it. ²²With the rib taken from the human, the LORD God fashioned a woman and brought her to the human being. ²³The humanⁱ said,

"This one finally is bone from my bones and flesh from my flesh.

She will be called a woman^j because from a man^k she was taken."

²⁴This is the reason that a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵The two of them were naked, the man and his wife, but they weren't embarrassed.

Knowledge, not eternal life

3 The snake was the most intelligent^l of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say that you shouldn't eat from any tree in the garden?"

²The woman said to the snake, "We may eat the fruit of the garden's trees³ but not the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, 'Don't eat from it, and don't touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴The snake said to the woman, "You won't die! ⁵God knows that on the day you eat from it, you will see clearly and you will be like God,

knowing good and evil." ⁶The woman saw that the tree was beautiful with delicious food and that the tree would provide wisdom, so she took some of its fruit and ate it, and also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then they both saw clearly and knew that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made garments for themselves.

⁸During that day's cool evening breeze, they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden; and the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God in the middle of the garden's trees. ⁹The LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰The man^m replied, "I heard your sound in the garden; I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself."

¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree, which I commanded you not to eat?"

LIFE PRESERVER

What does the snake represent?

Genesis 3:1, 4-5, 14-15

The snake in the garden asked Eve the question that she and Adam had probably been thinking about. "Did God really say that you shouldn't eat from any tree in the garden?" So Eve was tempted by the snake's offer. Who wouldn't want to see clearly and be like God? When Eve and Adam ate the fruit, they realized they were naked and needed to find some clothes. And since they were ashamed of what they did, they hid from God when God came looking for them.

The snake wasn't some strange creature that came into the garden. The snake was there all along. Think about a time in your life when you were trying to figure out what to do. Perhaps like Eve there was something whispering in your ear, telling you what to do, and part of you knew it was wrong. That's like the snake speaking to Eve. The snake represents the temptation everyone faces to make poor choices.

Like Eve and Adam, we have choices to make in life. God knows us, loves us, and supports us as we try to make right choices. 💧

ⁱOr man (Heb adam) ^jOr wife (Heb ishshah) ^kOr husband (Heb ish) ^lHeb sounds like naked. ^mOr He

¹²The man said, "The woman you gave me, she gave me some fruitⁿ from the tree, and I ate."

¹³The LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?!"

And the woman said, "The snake tricked me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the snake, "Because you did this, you are the one cursed out of all the farm animals, out of all the wild animals.

On your belly you will crawl, and dust you will eat every day of your life.

¹⁵I will put contempt between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers. They will strike your head, but you will strike at their heels."

¹⁶To the woman he said, "I will make your pregnancy very painful; in pain you will bear children.

You will desire your husband, but he will rule over you."

¹⁷To the man he said, "Because you listened to your wife's voice and you ate from the tree that I commanded, 'You will not eat from it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you will eat from it every day of your life.

¹⁸Weeds and thistles will grow for you, even as you eat the field's plants;

¹⁹by the sweat of your face you will eat bread—until you return to the fertile land, since from it you were taken; you are soil, to the soil you will return."

ⁿHeb lacks some fruit.



God's Special Gift *Genesis 3:1-24*

Have you ever disobeyed? Adam and Eve did.

When God put Adam and Eve in the garden, God gave them everything they needed—food to eat, water to drink, sunlight to keep them warm, and soft grass to sleep on at night. God gave them love and visited with them every day.

God also gave Adam and Eve a special gift, something they couldn't see or feel. It was the gift of free will, which is the right to choose to obey or disobey God. God wanted Adam and Eve to show love by obeying, but their free will meant they had a choice. They chose to disobey and did not do what God had asked.

Even though their disobedience broke God's heart, God didn't stop loving Adam and Eve. God disciplined them, causing them to leave the garden and have to raise their own food, but God also cared for them, giving them clothes to wear and sending the rain and sunlight to make their crops grow.

God gave us the same gift of free will that Adam and Eve had. When we choose to obey, we show that we love God.

*How can you obey God?
Name two things God has given you.*



²⁰The man named his wife Eve^o because she is the mother of everyone who lives. ²¹The LORD God made the man and his wife leather clothes and dressed them. ²²The LORD God said, "The human being^p has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. Now so he doesn't stretch out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever," ²³the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to farm the fertile land from which he was taken. ²⁴He drove out the human. To the east of the garden of Eden, he stationed winged creatures wielding flaming swords to guard the way to the tree of life.

Cain and Abel

4 The man Adam knew his wife Eve intimately. She became pregnant and gave birth to Cain, and said, "I have given life to^q a man with the LORD's help." ²She gave birth a second time to Cain's brother Abel. Abel cared for the flocks, and Cain farmed the fertile land.

³Some time later, Cain presented an offering to the LORD from the land's crops ⁴while Abel presented his flock's oldest offspring with their fat. The LORD looked favorably on Abel and his sacrifice ⁵but didn't look favorably on Cain and his sacrifice. Cain became very angry and looked resentful. ⁶The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why do you look so resentful? ⁷If you do the right thing, won't you be accepted? But if you don't

did you know? Some people thought God put a sign on Cain as a punishment for murdering his brother Abel. But the Bible says God put the sign on Cain to show the world that Cain was under God's protection. Anyone who tried to harm Cain for revenge would be in trouble with God.

do the right thing, sin will be waiting at the door ready to strike! It will entice you, but you must rule over it."

⁸Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field."^r When they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹The LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

UMBRELLA

JEALOUSY

A Jealous Rage Genesis 4:5-6, 8

It is an awful truth that envy, jealousy, and shame often lead to violence and acts of anger. We can feel very upset when someone else gets the thing we want the most. When this happens, we may feel desperately angry. Cain was so filled with rage toward his younger brother Abel that he killed him. There are terrible and long-lasting consequences when we seek to solve our problems with violence. God wants us to find better ways to resolve our conflicts with each other. ☹

Cain said, "I don't know. Am I my brother's guardian?"

¹⁰The LORD said, "What did you do? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹You are now cursed from the ground that opened its mouth to take your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you farm the fertile land, it will no longer grow anything for you, and you will become a roving nomad on the earth."

¹³Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴Now that you've driven me away from the fertile land and I am hidden from your presence, I'm about to become a roving nomad on the earth, and anyone who finds me will kill me."

¹⁵The LORD said to him, "It won't happen;^s anyone who kills Cain will be paid back seven times. The LORD put a sign on Cain so that no one who found him would assault him. ¹⁶Cain left the LORD's presence, and he settled down in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Cain's descendants

¹⁷Cain knew his wife intimately. She became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain built a city and named the city after his son Enoch.

¹⁸Irada was born to Enoch. Irada fathered Mehujael, Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. ¹⁹Lamech

^oHeb sounds like live. ^pOr man (Heb adam) ^qOr created; Heb sounds similar to Cain. ^rLXX, Syr, Vulg, Sam; MT lacks Let's go out to the field. ^sLXX, Syr, Vulg, MT therefore

took two wives, the first named Adah and the second Zillah. ²⁰Adah gave birth to Jubal; he was the ancestor of those who live in tents and own livestock. ²¹His brother's name was Jubal; he was the ancestor of those who play stringed and wind instruments. ²²Zillah also gave birth to Tubal-cain, the ancestor of blacksmiths and all artisans of bronze and iron. Tubal-cain's sister was Naamah.

²³Lamech said to his wives,

"Adah and Zillah, listen to my voice;
wives of Lamech,
pay attention to my words:
I killed a man for wounding me,
a boy for striking me;

²⁴so Cain will be paid back seven times
and Lamech seventy-seven times."

²⁵Adam knew his wife intimately again, and she gave birth to a son. She named him Seth^u "because God has given me another child in place of Abel, whom Cain killed." ²⁶Seth also fathered a son and named him Enosh. At that time, people began to worship in the LORD's name.

did you know?

Methuselah was the oldest person ever to live. He didn't become a father until he was 187 years old, and he lived until he was 969 years old. Even if people in ancient times had fewer than 365 days in their year, as some people think, that's still really old.

Adam's descendants

5 This is the record of Adam's descendants. On the day God created humanity, he made them to resemble God ²and created them male and female. He blessed them and called them humanity^v on the day they were created. ³When Adam was 130 years old, he became the father of a son in his image, resembling him, and named him Seth. ⁴After Seth's birth, Adam lived 800 years; he had other sons and daughters. ⁵In all, Adam lived 930 years, and he died.

⁶When Seth was 105 years old, he became the father of Enosh. ⁷After the birth of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years; and he had other sons and daughters. ⁸In all, Seth lived 912 years, and he died.

⁹When Enosh was 90 years old, he became the father of Kenan. ¹⁰After Kenan's birth, Enosh lived 815 years; and he had other sons and daughters. ¹¹In all, Enosh lived 905 years, and he died.

¹²When Kenan was 70 years old, he became the father of Mahalalel. ¹³After the birth of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years; and he had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴In all, Kenan lived 910 years, and he died.

¹⁵When Mahalalel was 65 years old, he became the father of Jared. ¹⁶After Jared's birth, Mahalalel lived 830 years; and he had other sons and daughters. ¹⁷In all, Mahalalel lived 895 years, and he died.

¹⁸When Jared was 162 years old, he became the father of Enoch. ¹⁹After Enoch's birth, Jared lived 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. ²⁰In all, Jared lived 962 years, and he died.

²¹When Enoch was 65 years old, he became the father of Methuselah. ²²Enoch walked with God. After Methuselah's birth, Enoch lived 300 years; and he had other sons and daughters. ²³In all, Enoch lived 365 years. ²⁴Enoch walked with God and disappeared because God took him.

²⁵When Methuselah was 187 years old, he became the father of Lamech. ²⁶After Lamech's birth, Methuselah lived 782 years; and he had other sons and daughters. ²⁷In all, Methuselah lived 969 years, and he died.

²⁸When Lamech was 182 years old, he became the father of a son ²⁹and named him Noah, saying, "This one will give us relief^w from our hard work, from the pain in our hands, because of the fertile land that the LORD cursed." ³⁰After Noah's birth, Lamech lived 595 years; and he had other sons and daughters. ³¹In all, Lamech lived 777 years, and he died.

³²When Noah was 500 years old, Noah became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Ancient heroes

6 When the number of people started to increase throughout the fertile land, daughters were born to them. ²The divine beings

^uHeb lacks the ancestor of. ^vSounds like the Heb verb gave ^wHeb adam ^xHeb resembles the sound of Noah's name.

saw how beautiful these human women were, so they married the ones they chose. ³The LORD said, "My breath^x will not remain in humans forever, because they are flesh. They will live one hundred twenty years."⁴In those days, giants^y lived on the earth and also afterward, when divine beings and human daughters had sexual relations and gave birth to children. These were the ancient heroes, famous men.

Great flood

⁵The LORD saw that humanity had become thoroughly evil on the earth and that every idea their minds thought up was always completely evil. ⁶The LORD regretted making human beings on the earth, and he was heartbroken. ⁷So the LORD said, "I will wipe off of the land the human race that I've created: from human beings to livestock to the crawling things to the birds in the skies, because I regret I ever made them."⁸But as for Noah, the LORD approved of him.

⁹These are Noah's descendants. In his generation, Noah was a moral and exemplary man; he^z walked with God. ¹⁰Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹In God's sight, the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. ¹²God saw that the earth was corrupt, because all creatures behaved corruptly on the earth.

¹³God said to Noah, "The end has come for all creatures, since they have filled the earth with violence. I am now about to destroy them along with the earth, ¹⁴so make a wooden ark.^a Make the ark with nesting places and cover it inside and out with tar. ¹⁵This is how you should make it: four hundred fifty feet long, seventy-five feet wide, and forty-five feet high. ¹⁶Make a roof^b for the ark and complete it one foot from the top.^c Put a door in its side. In the hold below, make the second and third decks.

¹⁷"I am now bringing the floodwaters over the earth to destroy everything under the sky that breathes. Everything on earth is about to take its last breath. ¹⁸But I will set up my covenant with you. You will go into the ark together with your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives. ¹⁹From all living things—from all



LIFE PRESERVER

Why did people live so long?

Genesis 6:1-4

In Genesis humans lived for one hundred and twenty years. That's an amazing fact, especially since a life span today may be only forty or fifty years in countries where people don't have access to medical care or healthy living conditions.

As you continue to read stories in the Old Testament, you will read about people's long life spans. We don't really know how time was counted when these books were written or if one hundred and twenty years is the same as we count it. In Psalm 90, which was written later than the book of Genesis, a normal lifetime is described as seventy to eighty years.

Another way to make sense of longer life spans is that the biblical numbers refer to a good long life for very important people. 💧

creatures—you are to bring a pair, male and female, into the ark with you to keep them alive. ²⁰From each kind of bird, from each kind of livestock, and from each kind of everything that crawls on the ground—a pair from each will go in with you to stay alive. ²¹Take some from every kind of food and stow it as food for you and for the animals."

²²Noah did everything exactly as God commanded him.

did you know?

Imagine a modern-day football stadium. The ark Noah built would take up almost the whole field, stretching from end zone to end zone and from one side of the field to the other. Plus it would be taller than a three-story building. That's a big boat!

7The LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark with your whole household, because among this generation I've seen that you are a moral man. ²From every clean animal, take seven pairs, a male and his mate; and from every unclean animal, take one pair, a male and his mate; ³and from the birds in the sky as well, take seven pairs, male and female, so that their offspring will survive throughout the earth. ⁴In seven days from now I will

^xOr spirit ^yOr the Nephilim ^zHeb Noah ^aOr ark of gopher wood, an unknown species of tree ^bOr window ^cHeb uncertain

send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights. I will wipe off from the fertile land every living thing that I have made.”

⁵Noah did everything the LORD commanded him.

⁶Noah was 600 years old when the floodwaters arrived on earth. ⁷Noah, his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives with him entered the ark to escape the floodwaters. ⁸From the clean and unclean animals, from the birds and everything crawling on the ground, ⁹two of each, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, just as God commanded Noah. ¹⁰After seven days, the floodwaters arrived on the earth. ¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day—on that day all the springs of the deep sea erupted, and the windows in the skies opened. ¹²It rained upon the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³That same day Noah, with his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, Noah’s wife, and his sons’ three wives, went into the ark. ¹⁴They and every kind of animal—every kind of livestock, every kind that crawls on the ground, every kind of bird^d—¹⁵they came to Noah and entered the ark, two of every creature that breathes. ¹⁶Male and female of every creature went in, just as God had commanded him. Then the LORD closed the door behind them.^e

¹⁷The flood remained on the earth for forty days. The waters rose, lifted the ark, and it rode high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters rose and spread out over the earth. The ark floated on the surface of the waters. ¹⁹The waters rose even higher over the earth; they covered all of the highest mountains under the sky. ²⁰The waters rose twenty-three feet high, covering the mountains. ²¹Every creature took its last breath:

the things crawling on the ground, birds, livestock, wild animals, everything swarming on the ground, and every human being.

²²Everything on dry land with life’s breath in its nostrils died. ²³God wiped away every living thing that was on the fertile land—from human beings to livestock to crawling things to birds in the sky. They were wiped off the earth. Only Noah and those with him in the ark were left. ²⁴The waters rose over the earth for one hundred fifty days.

8 God remembered Noah, all those alive, and all the animals with him in the ark. God sent a wind over the earth so that the waters receded. ²The springs of the deep sea and the skies^f closed up. The skies held back the rain. ³The waters receded gradually from the earth. After one hundred fifty days, the waters decreased; ⁴and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day, the ark came to rest on the Ararat mountains. ⁵The waters decreased gradually until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the mountain peaks appeared.

⁶After forty days, Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made. ⁷He sent out a raven, and it flew back and forth until the waters over the entire earth had dried up. ⁸Then he sent out a dove to see if the waters on all of the fertile land had subsided, ⁹but the dove found no place to set its foot. It returned to him in the ark since waters still covered the entire earth. Noah stretched out his hand, took it, and brought it back into the ark. ¹⁰He waited seven more days and sent the dove out from the ark again. ¹¹The dove came back to him in the evening, grasping a torn olive leaf in its beak. Then Noah knew that the waters were subsiding from the earth. ¹²He waited seven more days and sent out the dove, but it didn’t come back to him again. ¹³In Noah’s six hundred first year, on the first day of the first month, the waters dried up from the earth. Noah removed the ark’s hatch and saw that the surface of the fertile land had dried up. ¹⁴In the second month, on the seventeenth day, the earth was dry.

¹⁵God spoke to Noah, ¹⁶“Go out of the ark, you and your wife, your sons, and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁷Bring out with you all the

! Bet you can
read
this in 8
minutes.
Ready,
set, go!

did you know? Noah’s family spent more than forty days and nights in the ark while it rained. The named days listed in Genesis 7:10, 12, 17 and 8:3, 10, 12 total 293 days. Using the dates the Bible says Noah entered and exited the ark gives us a total of 377 days. That’s more than a year on a boat with animals.

^dLXX; MT every bird, every winged thing ^eHeb lacks the door. ^fOr the windows of the skies

animals of every kind—birds, livestock, everything crawling on the ground—so that they may populate the earth, be fertile, and multiply on the earth.”¹⁸ So Noah went out of the ark with his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives.¹⁹ All the animals, all the livestock,⁸ all the birds, and everything crawling on the ground, came out of the ark by their families.

God’s promise for the earth

²⁰Noah built an altar to the LORD. He took some of the clean large animals and some of the clean birds, and placed entirely burned offerings on the altar.²¹ The LORD smelled the pleasing scent, and the LORD thought to himself, I will not curse the fertile land anymore because of human beings since the ideas of the human mind are evil from their youth. I will never again destroy every living thing as I have done.

²² As long as the earth exists,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and hot,
summer and autumn,
day and night
will not cease.

God’s covenant with all life

9 God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fertile, multiply, and fill the earth.”² All of the animals on the earth will fear you and dread you—all the birds in the skies, everything crawling on the ground, and all of the sea’s fish. They are in your power.³ Everything that lives and moves will be your food. Just as I gave you the green grasses, I now give you everything.⁴ However, you must not eat meat with its life, its blood, in it.

⁵ I will surely demand your blood
for a human life,
from every living thing I will demand it.
From humans, from a man for his brother,
I will demand something
for a human life.

⁶ Whoever sheds human blood,
by a human his blood will be shed;
for in the divine image
God made human beings.

⁷ As for you, be fertile and multiply.

Populate the earth and multiply in it.”⁸ God said to Noah and to his sons with him,⁹ “I am now setting up my covenant with you, with your descendants,¹⁰ and with every living being with you—with the birds, with the large animals, and with all the animals of the earth, leaving the ark with you.”¹¹ I will set up my covenant with you so that never again will all life be cut off by floodwaters. There will never again be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹² God said, “This is the symbol of the covenant that I am drawing up between me and you and every living thing with you, on behalf of every future generation.¹³ I have placed my bow in the clouds; it will be the symbol of the covenant between me and the earth.¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds,¹⁵ I will remember the covenant between me and you and every living being among all the creatures. Floodwaters will never again destroy all creatures.¹⁶ The bow will be in the clouds, and upon seeing it I will remember the enduring covenant between God and every living being of all the earth’s creatures.”¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the symbol of the covenant that I have set up between me and all creatures on earth.”

LIFE PRESERVER

What is a covenant?

Genesis 9:8–17; 15

Have you ever made a promise to someone? Maybe you have said to a friend, or to your mom or dad, “I promise, I won’t do that again,” or “I promise I will...” A promise is like a covenant. The word *covenant* is used a lot in the Old Testament. After the flood, God made a covenant with Noah. You can read about it in Genesis 9. God promised Noah that God would help protect every living thing on the earth—people, plants, and animals—so they would thrive and not be destroyed.

Another example is in Genesis 15, where God made a covenant with Abraham and promised to give him land for his family. As you continue to read through the Old Testament, you will see this word a lot. Whenever God made a covenant with someone or with the Israelites, God promised to love them and expected them to be faithful and show love in return. 💧

⁸LXX, MT lacks all the livestock. ¹¹LXX, MT includes for all the animals of the earth.

Shem's blessing and Canaan's curse

¹⁸Noah's sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth came out of the ark. Now Ham was Canaan's father. ¹⁹These were Noah's three sons, and from them the whole earth was populated. ²⁰Noah, a farmer, made a new start and planted a vineyard. ²¹He drank some of the wine, became drunk, and took off his clothes in his tent. ²²Ham, Canaan's father, saw his father naked and told his two brothers who were outside. ²³Shem and Japheth took a robe, threw it over their shoulders, walked backward, and covered their naked father without looking at him because they turned away. ²⁴When Noah woke up from his wine, he discovered what his youngest son had done to him. ²⁵He said,

"Cursed be Canaan:
the lowest servant
he will be for his brothers."

²⁶He also said,
"Bless the LORD,
the God of Shem;
Canaan will be his servant.

²⁷May God give spaceⁱ to Japheth;
he will live in Shem's tents,
and Canaan will be his servant."

²⁸After the flood, Noah lived 350 years.

²⁹In all, Noah lived 950 years; then he died.

Noah's descendants

10 These are the descendants of Noah's sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, to whom children were born after the flood. ²Japheth's

ⁱHeb sounds like *Japheth*.



Rainbows Remind Us to Trust God Genesis 9:12-17

If the sound of thunder exploding over your house makes you cover your ears in fear, you're not alone. Many people are afraid of storms—they can be really loud and scary! Now imagine what it would be like if it rained for more than a month.



Noah and his family had that scary experience. One day God told Noah to build a really big boat, and Noah did what God asked. Noah built an ark that he, his family, and a whole bunch of animals could live in. Then a wild and fierce rain came down. For forty days and nights it rained so hard that the earth flooded and all the humans and animals that were not in the ark died.

When they came out of the ark, God promised rain would never again flood the whole earth. As a sign of this promise, God caused a beautiful rainbow to appear in the sky. From that time, whenever a storm came, the rainbow was a reminder that Noah and his family could trust God and not be afraid.

Has someone ever broken a promise they made to you? People aren't always able to do what they say they will, but God is different. The next time you see a rainbow, remember that when God makes a promise, God will keep it.

*What does a rainbow remind you of? Why?
Name two promises God made.*

sons: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. ³Gomer's sons: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. ⁴Javan's sons: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Rodanim.^j ⁵From these the island-nations were divided into their own countries, each according to their languages and their clans within their nations.



Genesis 10 lists seventy people who were the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of Noah. In Bible times, the number seventy meant perfection. Noah's family is listed as having the perfect number of people to restart life on earth.

⁶Ham's sons: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan. ⁷Cush's sons: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. Raamah's sons: Sheba and Dedan. ⁸Cush fathered Nimrod, the first great warrior on earth. ⁹The LORD saw him as a great hunter, and so it is said, "Like Nimrod, whom the LORD saw as a great hunter." ¹⁰The most important cities in his kingdom were Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh in the land of Shinar. ¹¹Asshur left that land and built Nineveh, Rehoboth City, Calah, ¹²and Resen, the great city between Nineveh and Calah. ¹³Egypt fathered Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, ¹⁴Pathrusim, Casluhim, and Caphtorim,^k from which the Philistines came.

¹⁵Canaan fathered Sidon his oldest son, and Heth, ¹⁶the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, ¹⁷the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites, ¹⁸the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites. After this the Canaanite clans were dispersed. ¹⁹The Canaanite boundary extends from Sidon by way of Gerar to Gaza and by way of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zebaiim to Lasha. ²⁰These are Ham's sons according to their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations.

²¹Children were also born to Shem the father of all Eber's children and Japheth's older brother.

²²Shem's sons: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram. ²³Aram's sons: Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash. ²⁴Arpachshad fathered Shelah, and Shelah fathered Eber. ²⁵To Eber were born two sons: The first was named Peleg,^l because during his lifetime the earth was divided. His brother's name was Joktan. ²⁶Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, ²⁷Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, ²⁸Obal, Abimael, Sheba, ²⁹Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All of these were Joktan's sons. ³⁰Their settlements extended from Mesha by way of Sephar, the eastern mountains. ³¹These are Shem's sons according to their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations.

³²These are the clans of Noah's sons according to their generations and their nations. From them the earth's nations branched out after the flood.

Origin of languages and cultures

11 All people^m on the earth had one language and the same words. ²When they traveled east,ⁿ they found a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them hard." They used bricks for stones and asphalt for mortar. ⁴They said, "Come, let's build for ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky, and let's make a name for ourselves so that we won't be dispersed over all the earth."

⁵Then the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the humans built. ⁶And the LORD said, "There is now one people and they all have one language. This is what they have begun to do, and now all that they plan to do will be possible for them. ⁷Come, let's go down and mix up their language there so they won't understand each other's language." ⁸Then the LORD dispersed them from there over all of the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹Therefore, it is named Babel, because there the LORD mixed up^o the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD dispersed them over all the earth.

^jLXX, Sam, 1 Chron 1:7; MT Dodanim ^kOr Casluhim, from which the Philistines set out, and Caphtorim ^lOr separation

^mHeb lacks people. ⁿOr from the east ^oHeb balal, wordplay on Babel



LIFE PRESERVER

How did we get to be so different? *Genesis 11:1-9*

You may have heard the story about when people all spoke the same language. They liked this so much they decided to build a city and a tower so they could stay together. But God had a bigger plan. God knew it would be better if everyone on the earth could learn to live with difference—in language, culture, religion, even food. So God mixed up their language and sent the people to many places on earth. In doing this, God hoped they would learn how to listen to each other and live with people who were different from themselves.

In many Bibles this section is called “The Tower of Babel.” Here it is given the title “Origin of languages and cultures” because it is the first story in the Bible that helps us understand how we got to be so different. 💧

Shem's descendants

¹⁰These are Shem's descendants.

When Shem was 100 years old, he became the father of Arpachshad, two years after the flood. ¹¹After Arpachshad was born, Shem lived 500 years; he had other sons and daughters.

¹²When Arpachshad was 35 years old, he became the father of Shelah. ¹³After Shelah was born, Arpachshad lived 403 years; he had other sons and daughters.

¹⁴When Shelah was 30 years old, he became the father of Eber. ¹⁵After Eber was born, Shelah lived 403 years; he had other sons and daughters.

¹⁶When Eber was 34 years old, he became the father of Peleg. ¹⁷After Peleg was born, Eber lived 430 years; he had other sons and daughters.

¹⁸When Peleg was 30 years old, he became the father of Reu. ¹⁹After Reu was

born, Peleg lived 209 years; he had other sons and daughters.

²⁰When Reu was 32 years old, he became the father of Serug. ²¹After Serug was born, Reu lived 207 years; he had other sons and daughters.

²²When Serug was 30 years old, he became the father of Nahor. ²³After Nahor was born, Serug lived 200 years; he had other sons and daughters.

²⁴When Nahor was 29 years old, he became the father of Terah. ²⁵After Terah was born, Nahor lived 119 years; he had other sons and daughters.

²⁶When Terah was 70 years old, he became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

²⁷These are Terah's descendants. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran became the father of Lot. ²⁸Haran died while with his father Terah

in his native land,^p in Ur of the Chaldeans. ²⁹Abram and Nahor both married; Abram's wife was Sarai, and Nahor's wife was Milcah the daughter of Haran, father of both Milcah and Iscah. ³⁰Sarai was unable to have children. ³¹Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot (son of Haran), and his son Abram's wife, Sarai his daughter-in-law. They left Ur of the Chaldeans for the land of Canaan, and arriving at Haran, they settled there. ³²Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Haran.

Abram's family moves to Canaan

12 The LORD said to Abram, “Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, those who curse you I will curse; all the families of earth will be blessed because of you.”^q

⁴ Abram left just as the LORD told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. ⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and those who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out

did you know? Blessing is a big theme in the book of Genesis. The word *blessing* appears eighty-eight times in Genesis. To bless someone was to wish good would happen to that person.

^pOr birthplace ^qOr will bless themselves because of you; or will find a blessing because of you

for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, ⁶Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time. ⁷The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I give this land to your descendants," so Abram built an altar there to the LORD who appeared to him. ⁸From there he traveled toward the mountains east of Bethel, and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and worshipped in the LORD's name. ⁹Then Abram set out toward the arid southern plain, making and breaking camp as he went.

Abram and Sarai visit Egypt

¹⁰When a famine struck the land, Abram went down toward Egypt to live as an immigrant since the famine was so severe in the land. ¹¹Just before he arrived in Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know you are a good-looking woman. ¹²When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife,' and they will kill me but let you live. ¹³So tell them you are my sister so that they will treat me well for your sake, and I will survive because of you."

¹⁴When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw how beautiful his wife was. ¹⁵When Pharaoh's princes saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's household. ¹⁶Things went well for Abram because of her: he acquired flocks, cattle, male donkeys, men servants, women servants, female donkeys, and camels. ¹⁷Then the LORD struck Pharaoh and his household with severe plagues because of Abram's wife Sarai. ¹⁸So Pharaoh summoned Abram and said, "What's this you've done to me? Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? ¹⁹Why did you say, 'She's my sister,' so that I made her my wife? Now, here's your wife. Take her and go!" ²⁰Pharaoh gave his men orders concerning Abram, and they expelled him with his wife and everything he had.

Abram and Lot separate

13 Abram went up from Egypt toward the arid southern plain with his wife, with everything he had, and with Lot. ²Abram was very wealthy in livestock, silver, and gold. ³Abram traveled, making and breaking camp,

from the arid southern plain to Bethel and to the sacred place there, where he had first pitched his tent between Bethel and Ai, ⁴that is, to the place at which he had earlier built the altar. There he worshipped in the LORD's name. ⁵Now Lot, who traveled with Abram, also had flocks, cattle, and tents. ⁶They had so many possessions between them that the land couldn't support both of them. They could no longer live together. ⁷Conflicts broke out between those herding Abram's livestock and those herding Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites lived in the land.

⁸Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have disputes between me and you and between our herders since we are relatives. ⁹Isn't the whole land in front of you? Let's separate. If you go north, I will go south; and if you go south, I will go north."¹⁰Lot looked up and saw the entire Jordan Valley. All of it was well irrigated, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as far as Zoar (this was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah). ¹¹So Lot chose for himself the entire Jordan Valley. Lot set out toward the east, and they separated from each other. ¹²Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot settled near the cities of the valley and pitched his tent close to Sodom. ¹³The citizens of Sodom were very evil and sinful against the LORD.

SAILBOAT

GENEROSITY



Abram Is Generous Genesis 13:8-12

Abram trusted God, believing God's promise to give land to him and his descendants forever. Because of this Abram responded to Lot with a generous heart and told Lot to choose the land he wanted. When we trust in God's blessings, it is easier to respond with generosity. 💧



¹⁴After Lot separated from him, the LORD said to Abram, "From the place where you are standing, look up and gaze to the north, south, east, and west, ¹⁵because all the land that you see I give you and your descendants forever. ¹⁶I will make your descendants like the dust of the earth. If someone could count

the bits of dust on the earth, then they could also count your descendants.¹⁷ Stand up and walk around through the length and breadth of the land because I am giving it to you."¹⁸ So Abram packed his tent and went and settled by the oaks of Mamre in Hebron. There he built an altar to the LORD.

Abram rescues Lot

14 While Amraphel was king of Shinar, El-
lasar's King Arioch, Elam's King Chedor-
laomer, and Goiim's King Tidal² declared war
on Sodom's King Bera, Gomorrah's King Birsha,
Admah's King Shinab, Zeboiim's King Shem-
eber, and the king of Bela, that is, Zoar.³ These
latter kings formed an alliance in the Siddim
Valley (that is, the Dead Sea⁴).⁴ For twelve
years they had served Chedorlaomer, and in
the thirteenth year they revolted.⁵ In the four-
teenth year, Chedorlaomer and the kings of
his alliance came and attacked the Rephaim
in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the
Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim,⁶ and the Horites
in the mountains of Seir as far as El-paran near
the desert.⁷ Then they turned back, came to
En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and attacked the
territory of the Amalekites, as well as the
Amorites who lived in Hazazon-tamar.

⁸ Then the kings of Sodom, Gomorrah,
Admah, Zeboiim, and Bera (that is, Zoar)
took up battle positions in the Siddim Val-
ley⁹ against King Chedorlaomer of Elam,
King Tidal of Goiim, King Amraphel of Shi-
nar, and King Arioch of Ellasar, four kings
against five.

¹⁰ Now the Siddim Valley was filled with tar
pits. When the kings of Sodom and Gomo-
rrah retreated, they fell into them; and the
rest fled to the mountains.¹¹ They took every-
thing from Sodom and Gomorrah, including
its food supplies, and left.¹² They also took
Lot, Abram's nephew who lived in Sodom, and
everything he owned, and took off.¹³ When
a survivor arrived, he told Abram the He-
brew, who lived near the oaks of the Amorite
Mamre, who was the brother of Eshcol and
Aner, Abram's treaty partners.

¹⁴ When Abram heard that his relative
had been captured, he took all of the loyal
men born in his household, three hundred

eighteen, and went after them as far as Dan.
¹⁵ During the night, he and his servants di-
vided themselves up against them, attacked,
and chased them to Hobah, north of Damas-
cus.¹⁶ He brought back all of the looted prop-
erty, together with his relative Lot and Lot's
property, wives, and people.

Abram blessed by Melchizedek

¹⁷ After Abram returned from his attack
on Chedorlaomer and the kings who were
with him, the king of Sodom came out to
the Shaveh Valley (that is, the King's Valley)
to meet him.¹⁸ Now Melchizedek the king of
Salem and the priest of El Elyon⁵ had brought
bread and wine,¹⁹ and he blessed him,

"Bless Abram by El Elyon,
creator of heaven and earth;
²⁰ bless El Elyon,
who gave you the victory
over your enemies."

Abram gave Melchizedek one-tenth of
everything.²¹ Then the king of Sodom said to
Abram, "Give me the people and
take the property for yourself."



Giving Back to God Genesis 14:17-21

An important part of many church services is the offering, when people give money to be used for God's service. Giving an offering is a way to express thanks and gratitude for all that God has done. In this passage, Abram gave King Melchizedek one-tenth of everything. We still follow this model today by giving to the church one-tenth of what we have. With each offering we show our thanks to God and are part of creating God's kingdom here on earth. 💧

²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom,
"I promised the LORD, El Elyon, creator of
heaven and earth,²³ that I wouldn't take even
a thread or a sandal strap from anything that
was yours so that you couldn't say, 'I'm the
one who made Abram rich.'²⁴ The only excep-
tion is that the young men may keep what-
ever they have taken to eat, and the men who

⁴Or Salt Sea ⁵Or God Most High

went with me—Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre—may keep their share.”

God's covenant with Abram

15 After these events, the LORD's word came to Abram in a vision, “Don't be afraid, Abram. I am your protector.^t Your reward will be very great.”

²But Abram said, “LORD God, what can you possibly give me, since I still have no children? The head of my household is Eliezer, a man from Damascus.”^u ³He continued, “Since you haven't given me any children, the head of my household will be my heir.”

⁴The LORD's word came immediately to him, “This man will not be your heir. Your heir will definitely be your very own biological child.” ⁵Then he brought Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars if you think you can count them. He continued, “This is how many children you will have.” ⁶Abram trusted the LORD, and the LORD recognized Abram's high moral character.

⁷He said to Abram, “I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession.”

⁸But Abram said, “LORD God, how do I know that I will actually possess it?”

⁹He said, “Bring me a three-year-old female calf, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a dove, and a young

did you know? The vessel with the flame that passed between the split-open animals showed Abram that God would keep God's promise. Jeremiah 34:18–20 says when someone sealed a promise by walking between the two parts of an animal that had been killed and then split in half it meant, “May I die and be torn in two if I break this promise.”

pigeon.” ¹⁰He took all of these animals, split them in half, and laid the halves facing each other, but he didn't split the birds. ¹¹When vultures swooped down on the carcasses, Abram waved them off. ¹²After the sun set, Abram slept deeply. A terrifying and deep darkness settled over him.

^tOr shield or benefactor ^uHeb uncertain

LIFE PRESERVER



Does a covenant last forever? Genesis 15

Covenants between God and God's people were always started by God. In a covenant with Abram, God promised to give Abram many descendants and to give those descendants land.

Abram agreed to leave on a long journey with his family, not knowing what would happen or where he would end up. He did this because he believed and trusted God. In response to his trust, God made a covenant with Abram and his descendants.

Each time God made a covenant with God's people, God promised to be their God and they would be God's People (Exod 6:7, Deut 23:13) No matter how many times God's people forgot God, God always remembered the covenant God had made with them. God renewed this promise many times and continued to love all humankind just as God loves us today. 💧

¹³Then the LORD said to Abram, “Have no doubt that your descendants will live as immigrants in a land that isn't their own, where they will be oppressed slaves for four hundred years. ¹⁴But after I punish the nation they serve, they will leave it with great wealth. ¹⁵As for you, you will join your ancestors in peace and be buried after a good long life. ¹⁶The fourth generation will return here since the Amorites' wrongdoing won't have reached its peak until then.”

¹⁷After the sun had set and darkness had deepened, a smoking vessel with a fiery flame passed between the split-open animals. ¹⁸That day the LORD cut a covenant with Abram: “To your descendants I give this land, from Egypt's river to the great Euphrates, ¹⁹together with the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

Hagar and the Ishmaelites' origins

16 Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to have children. Since she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar, ²Sarai said to Abram, “The LORD has kept me from giving birth, so go to my servant. Maybe she will provide me



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