

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

GENESIS 4-6

One day, Adam and Eve were driving the family SUV down the street next to the Garden of Eden. Their 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.

Cain asked, “Daddy, why can’t we live in that beautiful garden?” Adam told him, “Son, we would be living there... but your mother ate us out of house and home.”

In reality, both Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, and were forbidden to enjoy the garden of delights God planted for them. They were driven out into a world where they’d have to fend for themselves – battle the thorns and thistles - grow their own food - 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 live in a fallen world... and the struggle begins 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 appears in the Scofield Study Bible. It says, “I have gotten a man, even Jehovah.”

Recall in 3:15 that God promised the Savior would come through the woman. The “seed of the woman” would crush the authority of the “seed of the serpent”.

It’s possible that Eve thought her first son, *Cain*, 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 for long... 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 and selfish. He threw temper tantrums and pouted. He was rebellious, and deceptive, and envious. Eve realized that Cain had come into the world as self-centered as she and Adam had become.

Guys, heredity is a problem... I got my double chin from my dad - insanity from my teenagers - and a rebellious nature from my 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... and filled a whole family tree full of bad apples.*

Genesis 4 is the classic example of the truth - *the apple never falls far from the tree*. Adam’s own offspring demonstrates the awful, destructive effects of his sin. It reminds me of the question, *“What did Adam and Eve do when they were expelled from Eden?”...“They raised Cain.”* And that’s what mankind has done ever since.

But Eve had a second son, *“Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel.”*

Cain wasn’t a Savior, he was a brat. And slowly, Eve became painfully aware of the implications of her sin - not only for her family, but for the entire human race. Her despair was seen in the next name she chooses... *“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." Once, a church in Minnesota published a newsletter that contained an embarrassing blooper. It read, "Bible Study on Genesis. Were Adam and Even really naked in the Garden? *Come and see for yourself!*" Woops!

It is true, Adam and Eve were naked... until they tried to cover up their sin by sewing together fig leaves. They *fig-ured* wrong - our redemption involves more than turning over a *new leaf!* Human effort – good works, and charitable deeds, and religious rituals - is never enough to blot out sin and satisfy a holy God.

God insists on a sacrifice. 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. When Cain and Abel come to offer their sacrifices they're well aware of the truth of Leviticus 17:11, "*it is the blood that makes atonement...*"

Abel the shepherd, sacrifices a lamb that God accepts, but Cain the farmer lays on the altar *a horn plenty... that turns out not to be enough.* Cain assumes his own achievements will merit God's blessing. Abel trusts in the blood of a sacrifice.

There are still two ways to come to God. You can come on your own terms, or on God's terms. Abel came on God's terms, and offered what God required. Cain relied on what he

fig-ured - he came on his own terms – and was rejected.

And as a result, “Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.”

God saw that Cain was upset and depressed, so we’re told in 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 renders it, “*sin is crouching at your door*”. Sin is like a wild animal about to pounce on its prey. If not dealt with sin will wreak havoc and destroy.

When *Adam bombed* in the Garden of Eden, an *atom bomb* was detonated in the world - and the fallout continues to this day. Sin sets off a chain reaction that leads to death. Sin is destructive... Sin causes more sin... *until it’s disarmed*.

And how do you disarm an Adam bomb? You confess your sin – and do whatever it takes to turn from that sin – and then trust in Jesus, not your own efforts. You get re-clothed in His power, and strength, and righteousness.

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.”

Again, sin causes more sin... Cain was prideful. He thought his best efforts should be enough to please God. Thus, when his offering was rejected, his pride was wounded. Cain grew jealous of his brother, and in a rage killed Abel.

“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 right answer for Cain, and us, is “Yes!” No man is an island. God expects you and me to care for the people around us.

“And (God) said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.” It cried 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.”

“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!” Cain shows no repentance. He’s only 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.”

The ancient custom of avenging a brother’s death may’ve dated back to Cain and Abel. If that’s the case Cain is in big trouble... Everyone alive at the time was Abel’s little brother. 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, and I suppose it saved Cain’s life. But for the rest of his life Cain will roam the earth as a marked man.

“Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD...” This is an ominous expression. Cain bolted from God. He

separated himself from God and strikes out on his own.
Cain's heirs will develop a society and culture apart from God.

Cain went out from God **“and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.”**

Notice, when you leave the presence of the Lord you nod off and fall asleep spiritually. You become vulnerable to danger. You enter the land of Nod...

Here's what's happened to Cain... Verse 12 tells us God cuts off his green thumb, so to speak. He loses his ability to farm, and becomes a vagabond.

In Hebrews 10:7, Jesus says, **“In the volume of the book it is written of Me.”** In other words, look closely, and you can find Jesus on every page of your Bible.

Here's a good example... *Abel was a shepherd. He offered a lamb accepted by God. He was hated without a cause, and killed by his brother. He died violently, and his blood cries out from the ground.* Who does that sound like but Jesus?

And if Abel is a type of Jesus, who do you think Cain typifies? Well, *the Jews!*

Think about it... They trust in their own righteousness, but are rejected by God. They become jealous of Jesus, and kill Him. They're made fugitives on the earth - and everywhere they've been for the last 2000 years people have hated them.

And 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 has persecuted the Jews. And during that time guess who gets a mark? Just like Cain, 144,000 Jews receive a protective mark on their

forehead! Amazing!

Verse 17, “**And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch.**” And here’s the question that Bible skeptic loves to ask – *where did Cain get his wife?*

I really don’t know why this causes so much distress... Obviously, Cain married a sister. Tradition tells us that Adam and Eve had 33 sons, and 27 daughters.

If you start with 27 couples, and each had 6 kids – within 100 years, you’d have a population of 40,000 people. Cain had plenty of women from which to choose.

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

Genesis 4-6 is a valuable section of Scripture because it gives us one of our only pictures of the antediluvian world - or the earth before Noah’s flood. And the Genesis account tracks the development of two families: the family of Cain, a *worldly, carnal clan* - and the family of Adam’s son, Seth, a *faithful family*.

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 God no longer allowed Cain to work the earth he built a city. He became the first urbanite, or city dweller. Cain became the first businessman. He had to barter for food, rather than grow his own crops.

Verse 18, **"To Enoch was born Irad** (which means *"wild man"*); **and Irad begot Mehujael** (which means, *"blot out the name of God"* – what a evil thought), **and Mehujael begot Methushael"** (or *"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."**

One wife wasn't enough for Lamech. He thought he was too much of a man for one woman, so he married Adah and Zillah. He was the originator of polygamy.

Of course, Lamech's punishment was inherent – *he got two mother-in-laws.*

Hey, Lamech was guilty of serious sin. He was the first person to tamper with God's rules concerning sex and marriage... The name **"Lamech"** means *"bringing low"* – and that's what Lamech did to the human race by engaging in polygamy.

Verse 20, **"And Adah bore Jabal."** Lamech had *my three sons* – **"Jabal"**, **"Jubal"**, and **"Tubal-Cain"**. All three names are from a root word which means *"to produce, or invent."* Lamech's sons represent an age of technological advancement...

"(Jabal) was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock." The first cowboy, and cattle rancher. **"His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute."** The first musician. **"And as for Zillah, she also**

bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron.” The first medal worker. “And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.”

Guys, evolutionary propaganda assumes the ancients were primitive people – and gradually advanced in their knowledge and know-how - but not so. All over the world there’re ancient stories of advanced civilizations lost in a global flood.

The legend of Atlantis may a faint recollection of the world before the flood.

I believe the antediluvian world featured a highly sophisticated society - that in some ways might rival our modern world. The pyramids of Egypt and Stonehenge are examples of the technology of the pre-flood world. We know Adam had a brilliant intellect. It’s probable his immediate descendants were also smart.

Here’s the picture we get of the pre-flood world... The antediluvians were advanced technologically, but they were 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 seven-fold, 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 you and I than we might think. Jesus says 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 at a time characterized by tremendous technological advancement coupled with an extreme arrogance and defiance against God.

Can you think of a time that fits that scenario? Today could be the day!

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 revival occurred.

Over the next 1500 years of human history, God will use Seth and his descendants as a witness to His truth in an increasingly wicked world.

In fact, chapter 5 shifts to the family of Seth – and his genealogy.

It begins 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 sad digression...

Adam bore the image of God, but Adam’s son Seth bore

Adam's image – a marred and distorted version of what man 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 for Adam. He 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.”

Notice the repetition – from Adam to Jared - over and over the phrase - “and he died”. Like father like son... All of Adam's *kin* share his *sin* and his *end* - they die.

But there was 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..."

It's implied that Enoch didn't walk with God until he had kids. If that's so, the miracle of childbirth, and the responsibilities of fatherhood, woke him up to his need for God. Enoch isn't the last man who'll seek God after becoming a father...

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. She said, "One day Enoch and God took a walk together. 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?"

We should all desire a walk with God so intimate that our hearts would be more in tune with heaven than with earth. "Enoch" means "dedicated". And he walked so close to God... that God did some little rapture practice. He snatched Enoch up.

In fact, Jude 14 explains just how much Enoch knew of God and His plans. Jude 14 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 the 7th from Adam, but he already proclaimed 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 had the oldest recorded age in history.

And that becomes more than the answer to a trivia question when you realize that as his father, Enoch, was a *prophet* - the son, Methusaleh, was a *prophecy!*

Methusaleh was God’s prophetic timepiece. His name means “*when he dies, it will be sent*”. And Methusaleh died the very year the flood came upon the earth.

And of course, this highlights God’s patience and mercy. When God ties a coming judgment to a particular life span He chooses the longest life ever lived. Obviously, he doesn’t like to judgment. He desires that we repent and be saved!

Notice too, there were three groups of people alive at the time of the flood... *the wicked* who drown in the deluge – *Noah’s family* who is protected in the midst of the storm - and *Enoch*, who is taken to heaven prior to the judgment.

And note the typology... 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 are judged - the Jews, like Noah, will be protected by God - and the Church, like Enoch, will *go up* before judgment *comes down*.

Seth’s genealogy continues in verse 28, “Lamech 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.” The name “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 of the men in chapter 5 is 908 years old.

And some of these gezers were still having children at several hundred years old. We’re told in verse 32, Noah sired sons at age 500 – *hey, it’s never too late!*

Also, they all birthed “*sons and daughters*” – multiples. Now, *how many kids could you have, if you were baby-making for 500 years?* This is why I believe the Earth was as populated before the flood as it is now – maybe even more so.

And of course, the question on your mind is *how did people live 900 years?*

Remember, in Genesis 1:7 God divided the waters below the sky from the waters above. Some scholars believe the water above referred to more than simply the water vapor contained in our atmosphere. Before the flood a dense, highly compacted, vapor canopy existed in the upper levels of the 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 culprit. Theoretically, the human body should be able to rejuvenate itself indefinitely, but around the age of 25 it begins to

deteriorate. Some scientists believe solar radiation sends a false signal to the DNA that triggers the aging process. But if this canopy shrouded and shielded us from the harmful radiation, it would explain the very old ages.

In addition, with this vapor canopy the antediluvian world would've been a virtual paradise. Global temperatures would be a constant 72 degrees. Storms, even rain, would be nonexistent, since hot air would never collide with cold air.

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

It's interesting, that all around the world there's impressive evidence for this idea. Fossilized palm trees have been found above the Arctic Circle. In Siberia we've found frozen, woolly mammoths with tropical vegetation in their mouths.

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. We've found cave drawings of dinosaurs - put there by human artists. In fact, the Bible describes two animals that sound like dinosaurs in Job 40-41.

There are creatures that many people would call dinosaurs still alive today in remote parts of the world. In 1977, what some people think was a plesiosaur, was snagged 900 feet underwater near Christchurch, New Zealand.

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 eggs.

The extinction of the dinosaurs occurred shortly after they exited the Ark. The collapse of the vapor canopy, and the upheaval of the flood changed the earth and its climate. The dinosaurs could no longer survive in the post-flood ecosystem.

Chapter 6 describes the perversion that I believe 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.”** Understand, God is omnipotent, or all powerful – omniscient, or all knowing – omnipresent, or all present.

But God is not *omni-patient*. There are limits to God's longsuffering. God issues a countdown - 120 years until D-day. That's the time Noah needs 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 God's motivation for wiping out the whole earth – nor the description of their offspring in verse 4...

In verse 4 we're told, **“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 many a mixed marriage, but never have I seen one give birth to a giant.

The phrase “sons of God” in the Hebrew is “*bene elohim*”. This phrase appears four times in the Old Testament, and each time it's used 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, producing a distorted race of mutant humanoids. They were freaks of nature, and became common on the earth... Verse 4 calls them, “giants” which is the translation of the Hebrew word “*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... Here, he attempts to contaminate the human gene pool, and engineer the extinction of humanity. *This is why God's judgment was so severe.* God destroys the Earth with water, and wipes out an entire population - all but eight people - because it was the only way for Him to save the human race!

It's interesting that every ancient culture has its myths about demigods – beings that are half-human and half-divine. Of

course, myths are myths. But some of the stories could've been inspired by the actual events described Genesis 6...

Notice too, verse 4 says there were giants in Noah's day **"and also afterwards"**. Later when the Hebrews spy out the land of Canaan they report seeing giants (or *nephilim*). Remember 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 one's who taught humanity the evils of black magic - the science of war and weaponry - and how to abort unborn babies.

It's also interesting, that the subject of Genesis 6 is now a favorite Hollywood theme. The 1968 movie, *"Rosemary's Baby"* was based on this concept. More recently, in the movie, *"Michael"*, John Travolta, plays a lust-filled angel whose main desire is to hit on beautiful women... *Hey, this stuff is demonic.*

In the occult the highest experience possible is sex with a demon. The offspring 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." Remember the word **"grieve"** is a love word. You can anger anyone, but you can grieve only a person who loves you.

Verse 7, **"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." After the flood God promises to never again destroy the Earth with water - but He doesn't promise not to destroy the Earth again.

In fact, the Bible predicts that God will bring judgment to the Earth a second time. The first time he judged with water. The final time He'll do it with fire. And with the perversions we see in the world today, that judgment can't be far off.

"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." The implication could be that his pedigree had not been perverted by the demonic activity occurring on the earth.

We're also told, **"Noah walked with God."** Noah was a man who loved God, and desired an intimacy with God. Hebrews 11:7 also describes him as a man of faith.

Verse 10, **"And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth."**

These four men, along with their four wives – Noah and his family - are the nucleus from which God will start over with man, and repopulate the earth.

One other interesting point, of the ten men mentioned in Genesis 5 – from Adam to Noah – all but Noah was a contemporary of Adam. The first man lived to be 930 years old. He didn't die until Noah's dad, Lamech, was 56 years old.

Thus rather than the creation story needing to be past down from mouth to mouth over hundreds of generations – only

three communications are needed: *from God to Adam - from Adam to Lamech - and from Lamech to his grandson, Shem.* Just three people link the true account of creation to the post-flood world.

Verse 11, “The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.” Remember, the boast of the other Lamech, Cain’s kid, who killed a man, and promised to take vengeance 77-fold. He was one example of this violence...

“So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.”

Wickedness 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; make rooms (or cubicles) in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch (which made it waterproof).”

“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 tips of his fingers – usually 18 inches. If we’re using 18 inches as a cubit, then the Ark 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 three decks provided 100,000 square feet of floor space. To illustrate its capacity, imagine sitting at a railroad crossing watching a train pass that had 522 livestock cars, each packed with 240 sheep – that’s the Ark’s capacity - 125,280 sheep.

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 could never 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 it needed fresh air! You can bet it stunk onboard!

That’s why it’s been said, **“The Church is like Noah’s Ark. At times it may stink inside, but it still beats the alternative.”** The church is far from a perfect place – at times it reeks. But it remains God’s alternative to the wickedness of this 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.”** Note, this was not a local flood. It covered all the earth.

And there is tremendous 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 Himalayans underwater?...* We’ve also found marine fossils on the peaks of some of the world's tallest

mountains.

And understand a global deluge is the most validated event in antiquity. All cultures – Mexican, Middle Eastern, Chinese, even the 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 3 sons, and their wives survived the flood – along with two of each kind of animal - male and female.

It was male and female so they could repopulate the Earth after the flood.

And notice how Noah loads the Ark... In verse 20, 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 just come to Noah. He won’t have to gather them - they’ll flock to him. Perhaps this was the origination of the migratory instincts now found in animals and birds.

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.

Hibernation and migration – two animal traits that zoologists have a hard time explaining - could've been created in animals as God's way of assisting Noah.

Verse 22 confirms Noah's obedience, **“Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.”** I hope you'll follow God with that same exactness...