

BIBLE HELPS

NOAH

FAMILY TREE

The genealogy of Noah is given to us in the early chapters of the Bible. You can read about him in Genesis chapter 5. From the information we are given, it can be seen that Noah's life spanned 950 years. He was born 1056 years after the creation of Adam and Eve and died 2006 years after creation.

The following genealogy shows that Noah was the 10th from Adam –

Name	Years lived before next generation was born	Lived years after next generation born	Years of Whole life	Years born after Creation	Years died after Creation	Bible Reference
ADAM	130	800	930	0	930	Genesis 5:3-5
SETH	105	807	912	130	1042	Genesis 5: 6-8
ENOSH	90	815	905	235	1140	Genesis 5: 9-11
CAINAN	70	840	910	325	1235	Genesis 5:12-14
MAHALALEL	65	830	895	395	1290	Genesis 5:15-17
JARED	162	800	962	460	1422	Genesis 5:18-20
ENOCK	65	300	365	622	Taken 987	Genesis 5:21-24; Hebrews 11:5
METHUSELAH	187	782	969	687	1656	Genesis 5:25-27
LAMECH	182	595	777	874	1651	Genesis 5:28-31
NOAH	500	450	950	1056	2006	Genesis 5:32, 9:28-29

From the information given in the Bible, note the following: -

1. ENOCK did not die, because 'God took him'.
2. At the time Noah was born, those listed from ENOSH to LAMECH (except for ENOCK) were still alive. SETH died just 14 years before NOAH was born.
3. All those listed above had sons and daughters.
4. The main family tree does not include Cain and Abel. Cain killed his brother ABEL as recorded in Genesis chapter 4.
5. The fact that there is the repetition of the words 'and he died' just shows the awful effect of the fall (Genesis 3), as recorded in Genesis chapter 5.

POPULATION

In Bible Chronology Charts prepared by Prof. John C Whitcomb and Dr. H Morris, the following comments are given regarding the population at the time of the flood –

1. The patriarchs ‘begat sons and daughters’ and the age of fathers at the birth of each named son ranged from 65 to 500 years before the flood.
2. The Bible record clearly implies that these patriarchs lived typically for centuries.
3. Their procreative powers also persisted for centuries and
4. Through the combined effects of both long lives and large families, the earth would have been ‘filled’ (cf. Genesis 6:11) with people at the time of the flood.
5. This also shows that not many thousands of years elapsed between Creation and the Flood.
6. Dr H Morris has calculated that the population of the earth at the time when ADAM died could have reached 2.8 million. At the time of the flood this could have reached 137 billion!

THE FLOOD

Various historians believe that the flood came about 2349 BC. Others think it was probably slightly later. It is not always possible to pin-point exactly historical dates, particularly going back so many millennia.

In Genesis 6: 3 we read about God’s great longsuffering towards mankind – ‘And the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he also is flesh; ‘yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years’, meaning that at the time that God spoke these words, that there would only be another 120 years before the flood came (God’s judgement) on the earth i.e. 1656 years after creation. After the flood, the life span of mankind reduced considerably; Psalm 90: 10 shows us that a life span of 70-80 years was to be the norm.

METHUSELAH

Also notice that Methuselah died 1656 years after creation, the same year as the flood came. His name means ‘when he dies, it shall come’, or ‘at his death the sending forth of waters’, or ‘when he dies, judgment’. In other words, something dramatic was about to happen i.e. – the universal flood. It is quite conceivable that Methuselah would have known about the plans for the construction of the Ark which God gave to Noah. He would therefore not see the judgement that God brought on the earth because of their rebellion against Him.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT NOAH?

The Bible tells us that -

1. He 'found grace in the eyes of the LORD' (Genesis 6: 8).
2. He 'was a just man' (Genesis 6: 9).
3. He 'was perfect in his generation' (Genesis 6: 9).
4. He 'walked with God' (Genesis 6: 9).
5. He had three sons – Shem, Ham and Japheth (Genesis 5: 32; 6: 10; 1 Chronicles 1: 1-4). Noah was 500 years old at the time (Genesis 5: 32). Matthew Henry's commentary suggests that Shem was probably the eldest of the three, because he is the one mentioned in the covenant blessing given to him by his father in Genesis 9: 26. In the genealogy in Genesis 10: 21, Shem is shown as the eldest in the list of names and is included in the Messianic line shown in Luke 3: 36).
6. He was a 'preacher of righteousness' (2 Peter 2: 5). Before God, he was counted as righteous (Ezekiel 14: 14, 20).
7. Lamech, gave his son the name Noah, declaring that 'This same shall comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed' (Genesis 3: 17-19; 5: 29). The name Noah means REST.
8. He was 600 years old when the flood came (Genesis 7: 6, 9: 28-29).
9. He obeyed God's instruction to build an Ark in which God would save his family, birds, animals and creeping things (Genesis 6: 14-22).

THE STATE OF THE WORLD – GOD'S VIEW

What was God's view about the state of the world at the time Noah lived?

1. God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth (Genesis 6: 5).
2. That every thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Genesis 6: 5).
3. The He would destroy man and beast, birds and creeping things (Genesis 6: 7).
4. That the earth was filled with violence (Genesis 6: 13).
5. God was very longsuffering while the Ark was being built (1 Peter 3: 20; 2 Peter 2:4-6).
6. Only 8 people were saved from the flood in the Ark - Noah and his wife, Shem, Ham and Japheth and their wives.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BUILDING THE ARK

As we have already seen, God gave instructions for the building of the Ark to Noah, so that his family and the animals could be saved from the God's coming judgement (Genesis 6: 14-22). The dimensions of the Ark as recorded in Genesis chapter 6, show that it was to be 300 cubits long by 50 cubits wide and 30 cubits high – equivalent to approximately 130.5 metres (438 feet) long, 22.2 metres (72.9 feet) wide and 13.4 metres (43.8 feet) high. Most writers believe that the cubit was approximately 18 inches (approx. 46 cm). The Ark consisted of three decks, each 10 cubits high. Decks

was divided into 'rooms' or 'nests' to accommodate the animals, appropriate for the size of the individual animal, as well as accommodation for Noah and his family. It has been calculated by Dr H Morris, in his book 'the Genesis Record' that the Ark could have been able to hold the equivalent of 125,000 sheep! From a marine point of view, the dimensions given showed that the vessel was very stable and that it was virtually impossible to capsize. The timber used in construction was Gopher wood (Genesis 6: 14), which is very dense hard wood, but is unknown in today's world. The ARK was covered with pitch, both inside and out, to make it water-tight (Genesis 6: 14). The word for 'pitch' in the Hebrew language is the equivalent to the word 'to cover' – the same root word as is used for the 'atonement (cf. Leviticus 17: 11). The pitch was probably in the form of a resinous substance, rather than a bituminous material. The project took 120 years to complete (Genesis 6: 3).

PRESERVING LIFE

The whole idea of the Ark was to preserve life. It only had one door, through which everything had to pass – in or out. A reminder of the teaching from Christ's words in John 14: 6 and 10: 7-9. No doubt Noah was ridiculed by the surrounding population who took no notice of his preaching (2 Peter 2: 5) and mocked him as he proceeded steadfastly to 'prepare an Ark to the saving of his house' (Hebrews 11: 7).

Once the Ark was complete God gave the instruction for Noah and his family, the animals birds and creeping things to enter the Ark (Genesis 6: 19-20; 7: 1-3). Noah also took with him, food for both his family and the animals (Genesis 6: 21). Two of each of the unclean animals, birds and creeping things, 7 each of the clean animals and birds; the clean species were to be used for sacrifices at a later date. Noah obeyed God's instructions implicitly (Genesis 7: 5). God's timing was perfect: He shut the door (Genesis 7: 16). God had told Noah that in seven day's time, it would start to rain and would continue for 40 days (Genesis 7: 4). It is worth noting that God said – 'come' into the Ark, (Genesis 7: 1), not 'go' into the Ark. God would be with them in the Ark and although the flood would be a frightening experience, they were all safe in Him.

HOW LONG WAS THE ARK AFLOAT?

The Bible gives us details of how long the ARK was afloat and how long it was before the door was opened on the Mountains of Ararat (Genesis 8: 4) – in modern day Turkey. The following table sets out the details.

EVENT	BIBLE REFERENCE	DAYS	TOTAL DAYS	NOTES Calculations based on a 30-day month
The rain fell for 40 days	Genesis 7: 12	40	40	
Water continued to rise for a further 110 days	Genesis 7: 24	110	150	A total of 150 days that the waters prevailed on the earth
Water level fell for 74 days (AV margin = 'going and decreasing	Genesis 7:11; 8: 5	74	224	17 th day of the 2 nd month to the 1 st day of the 10 th month – 7 months x 30 + 14 days, less 150 days
40 days later the raven was sent out	Genesis 8: 6-7	40	264	
7 days later the dove was sent out (another 7 days)	Genesis 8: 8-10	7	271	
7 days later the dove was sent out again	Genesis 8: 10	7	278	
The dove was sent out a third time 7 days later	Genesis 8: 12	7	285	
Noah removed the covering of the ark 29 days later	Genesis 8: 13; 7: 11	29	314	
The earth was finally dry 57 days later	Genesis 8: 4, 13-14	57	371	The ark rested on Mount Ararat

Taken from the new Bible Commentary, by E F Kevan – Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1953, pp 84-85.

AFTER THE FLOOD

After the flood, Noah released all who had been in the Ark. God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them that they were to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 9: 1). God also said that the fear and dread of him would be upon every beast and creeping thing on the earth, every bird and all fish. Genesis 9: 2). They were to be given into mankind's hands for food, together with green herbs (Genesis 9: 3-7). The shedding of man's blood, i.e. murder was later incorporated into the ten commandments as set out in Exodus chapter 20.

THE RAINBOW COVENANT

God was gracious to the world in that He promised that never again would He send flood to destroy the earth. This covenant was sealed with a rainbow displayed in the clouds (Genesis 8: 20 - 9: 1-17; Isaiah 54: 9).

NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES TO NOAH

What does the New Testament have to say about Noah? We need to turn to the words of the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 24: 37-39 and Luke 17: 26-27.

1. NOAH's name appears in the genealogy recorded in Luke 3: 36. It shows that he is part of the Messianic line. Noah's name means 'rest' – so all can know 'rest' in the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 11: 28-30). He alone can give that rest which no other can, for it is in Him that we can have cleansing from sin and a peace that no other can give, as we confess and repent from our sin to Him, the One who gives eternal life to all who believe in Him.
2. The fact that Christ mentions Noah is enough to assure us that the Genesis record is absolutely true. He is the WORD, the eternal Son of God who knows everything that happened in time past (John 1: 1-3).
3. Christ knew about the state of the world at the time of Noah, and He knows the times that we now live in. A world which does not want to know God, a world which rejects the Salvation there is for all who trust the Saviour, a world which will not 'have this Man to reign over us'.
4. It may seem that life is going on as normal, but this is far from the truth. There is coming a day of judgement when many will be found guilty before a Holy God. Millions perished in the time of Noah; millions will perish at the coming of the Saviour. God is longsuffering but the day of Christ's appearing is coming very close. A wonderful day for those who trust in Him but a day of great fear for those who reject Him. Where do you stand?

NOTE –

1. Much of the information in these notes has been taken from the book entitled 'The Genesis Record' by Dr Henry Morris – 1976 edition.
2. In the Gospels of the Authorised Version of the Bible, NOAH's name is spelt 'NOE', but in the Pauline letters it is spelt 'NOAH'. In the New King James version the name NOAH is used throughout.