

# THE OLD TESTAMENT

REVISED STANDARD VERSION | SECOND CATHOLIC EDITION

TRANSLATED FROM THE ANCIENT TONGUES  
BEING THE VERSION SET FORTH A.D. 1611  
REVISED A.D. 1881 AND A.D. 1901  
COMPARED WITH THE MOST ANCIENT AUTHORITIES  
AND REVISED A.D. 1946, 1952 AND 1965  
(APOCRYPHA REVISED A.D. 1957 AND 1966)

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*LITURGIAM AUTHENTICAM*, 2001

# ABBREVIATIONS IN THE NOTES

In the notes to the books of the Old Testament, the following abbreviations are used: Ms for manuscript; Mss for manuscripts. Heb denotes the Hebrew of the consonantal Masoretic Text of the Old Testament; and MT denotes the Hebrew of the pointed Masoretic Text of the Old Testament. The ancient versions of the Old Testament are indicated by:

Gk	Septuagint Greek Version of Old Testament
Lat	Latin Version of Tobit, Judith, and 2 Maccabees
Sam	Samaritan Hebrew text of Old Testament
Syr	Syriac Version of Old Testament
Tg	Targum
Vg	Vulgate, Latin Version of Old Testament

Cn indicates a correction made where the text has suffered in transmission and the versions provide no satisfactory restoration but the Committee agrees with the judgment of competent scholars as to the most probable reconstruction of the original text.

References to quoted and parallel passages are given following the textual notes on pages where these are relevant.

**THE OLD  
TESTAMENT**



THE FIRST BOOK OF MOSES COMMONLY CALLED

# GENESIS

## SIX DAYS OF CREATION AND THE SABBATH

**1** <sup>\*</sup>In the beginning God created <sup>a</sup> the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit <sup>b</sup> of God was moving over the face of the waters.

<sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>And God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; he made the stars also. <sup>17</sup>And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

1:1—2:4 CCC 337 1:1 CCC 268\*, 279, 280, 290 1:2—3 CCC 292\* 1:2 CCC 243\*, 703\*, 1218\* 1:3 CCC 298\* 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21 CCC 299 1:14 CCC 347\*

<sup>a</sup> Or When God began to create. <sup>b</sup> Or wind.

\* 1:1—2:4a: The aim of this narrative is not to present a scientific picture but to teach religious truth, especially the dependence of all creation on God and its consecration to him through the homage rendered by man, who is the climax of creation. Hence its strong liturgical character and the concluding emphasis on the sabbath. It serves as a prologue to the whole of the Old Testament.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." <sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup>And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." <sup>29</sup>And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. <sup>31</sup>And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

**2** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF CREATION

<sup>4</sup>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

\* In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, <sup>5</sup>when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; <sup>6</sup>but a mist<sup>c</sup> went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground—<sup>7</sup>then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup>And out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>10</sup>A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. <sup>11</sup>The name of the first is Pi'shon; it is the one which flows around the whole land of Hav'ilah, where there is gold; <sup>12</sup>and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. <sup>13</sup>The name of the second river is Gi'hon; it is the one which flows around the whole land of Cush. <sup>14</sup>And the name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." <sup>19</sup>So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh; <sup>22</sup>and the rib which the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>Then the man said,

1:26–29 CCC 2402\* 1:26–28 CCC 307\*  
 1:26–27 CCC 1602\* 1:26 CCC 36\*, 225,  
 299\*, 343\*, 2501, 2809 1:27 CCC 355, 383,  
 1604\*, 2331 1:28–31 CCC 2415\* 1:28 CCC  
 372, 373, 1604, 1607\*, 1652, 2331, 2427\*  
 1:31 CCC 299, 1604\* 2:1–3 CCC 345  
 2:2 CCC 314\*, 2184 2:7 CCC 362, 369\*,  
 703\* 2:8, 15 CCC 378\* 2:17 CCC 376\*, 396,  
 400\*, 1006\*, 1008\*, 1605\*  
 2:18–25 CCC 1605\* 2:18 CCC 371,  
 1652 2:19–20 CCC 371, 2417\*  
 2:22 CCC 369\*, 1607\* 2:23 CCC 371

<sup>c</sup> Or flood.

\* 2:4b ff: This account of the state of the world at the beginning, which introduces the story of the first sin, comes from a different and earlier source and is composed in a very different style. There is nothing in these early chapters that commits us to any particular scientific view of the origins of the world or man, or that would exclude the evolution hypothesis.

“This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman,<sup>d</sup>  
because she was taken out of Man.”<sup>e</sup>

<sup>24</sup>Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

#### THE FALL OF MAN

**3** Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?’” <sup>2</sup>And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup>And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup>He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent beguiled me, and I ate.” <sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all cattle,  
and above all wild animals;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your seed and her seed;  
he shall bruise your head,<sup>\*</sup>  
and you shall bruise his heel.”

<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said,  
“I will greatly multiply your pain in childbearing;  
in pain you shall bring forth children,  
yet your desire shall be for your husband,  
and he shall rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said,  
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,  
and have eaten of the tree  
of which I commanded you,  
‘You shall not eat of it,’  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

<sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth to you;  
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup> In the sweat of your face  
you shall eat bread

2:24 CCC 372, 1627\*, 1644\*, 2335  
2:25 CCC 376\* ch. 3 CCC 390\*, 2795\*  
3:1–5 CCC 391\* 3:1–11 CCC 397\* 3:3 CCC  
1008\* 3:5 CCC 392, 398\*, 399\*, 1850  
3:6 CCC 2541, 2847 3:7 CCC 400\*  
3:8–10 CCC 29\* 3:9–10 CCC 399\*  
3:9 CCC 410\*, 2568 3:11–13 CCC 400\*  
3:11 CCC 2515 3:12 CCC 1607\* 3:13 CCC  
1736, 2568 3:14–19 CCC 2427\*  
3:15 CCC 70\*, 410\*, 489\* 3:16–19 CCC  
1607\* 3:16 CCC 376\*, 400, 400\*, 1008\*,  
1607\*, 1609 3:17–19 CCC 378\*  
3:17 CCC 400\* 3:19 CCC 376\*, 400, 400\*

<sup>d</sup> Heb *ishshah*. <sup>e</sup> Heb *ish*.

\* 3:15, *he shall bruise your head*: i.e., the seed of the woman, that is, mankind descended from Eve, will eventually gain the victory over the powers of evil. This victory will, of course, be gained through the work of the Messiah who is *par excellence* the seed of the woman.

The Latin Vulgate has the reading *ipsa conteret*, “she shall bruise.” Some Old Latin manuscripts have this reading, and it occurs also in St. Augustine, *De Genesi contra Manichaeos*, II, which is earlier than St. Jerome’s translation. It could be due originally to a copyist’s mistake, which was then seen to contain a genuine meaning—namely, that Mary, too, would have her share in the victory, inasmuch as she was mother of the Savior.

till you return to the ground,  
 for out of it you were taken;  
 you are dust,  
 and to dust you shall return.”

<sup>20</sup>The man called his wife’s name Eve, <sup>f</sup> because she was the mother of all living. <sup>21</sup>And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins, and clothed them.

<sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever”—<sup>23</sup>therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup>He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

CAIN AND ABEL

**4** <sup>\*</sup>Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten <sup>g</sup> a man with the help of the LORD.” <sup>2</sup>And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. <sup>3</sup>In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, <sup>4</sup>and Abel brought some of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup>but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. <sup>6</sup>The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? <sup>7</sup>If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

<sup>8</sup>Cain said to Abel his brother, “Let us go out to the field.” <sup>h</sup> And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. <sup>9</sup>Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” <sup>10</sup>And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground. <sup>11</sup>And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup>When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength; you shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” <sup>13</sup>Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear. <sup>14</sup>Behold, you have driven me this day away from the ground; and from your face I shall be hidden; and I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will slay me.” <sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! <sup>1</sup> If any one slays Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who came upon him should kill him. <sup>16</sup>Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, <sup>j</sup> east of Eden.

BEGINNINGS OF CIVILIZATION

<sup>17</sup>Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore E’noch; and he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. <sup>18</sup>To E’noch was born I’rad; and Irad was the father of Mehu’ja-el, and Mehuja-el the father of Methu’sha-el, and Methu-sha-el the father of La’mech. <sup>19</sup>And La’mech took two wives; the name of the one was A’dah, and the name of the other Zillah. <sup>20</sup>A’dah bore Ja’bal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have cattle. <sup>21</sup>His brother’s name was Ju’bal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. <sup>22</sup>Zillah bore Tu’bal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Na’amah.

<sup>23</sup>La’mech said to his wives:  
 “A’dah and Zillah, hear my voice;  
 you wives of Lamech, hearken to what I say:

3:20 CCC 489\* 3:21 CCC 1608\*  
 3:24 CCC 332\* 4:1–2 CCC 2335\*  
 4:3–15 CCC 401\* 4:3–7 CCC 2538\* 4:4 CCC 2569\* 4:8–12 CCC 2259\* 4:10–11 CCC 2259 4:10 CCC 1736\*, 1867\*, 2268\*

<sup>f</sup> The name in Hebrew resembles the word for *living*. <sup>g</sup> Heb *qanah*, get. <sup>h</sup> Sam Gk Syr Compare Vg; Heb lacks *Let us go out to the field*. <sup>i</sup> Gk Syr Vg; Heb *Therefore*. <sup>j</sup> That is *Wandering*.

\* 4:1: The story of Cain and Abel has the purpose of showing the effects of sin within society, the fratricide of Cain leading to the vengeance of Lamech and so to the Flood. We are, however, no longer in the first age of humanity, as can be seen from verses 14, 17, etc.



I have slain a man for wounding me,  
a young man for striking me.

<sup>24</sup> If Cain is avenged sevenfold,  
truly La'mech seventy-sevenfold.”

<sup>25</sup> And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, “God has appointed for me another child instead of Abel, for Cain slew him.” <sup>26</sup> To Seth \* also a son was born, and he called his name E'nosh. At that time men began to call upon the name of the LORD.

#### ADAM'S DESCENDANTS TO NOAH

**5** This is the book of the generations † of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. <sup>2</sup> Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created. <sup>3</sup> When Adam had lived a hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. <sup>4</sup> The days of Adam after he became the father of Seth were eight hundred years; and he had other sons and daughters. <sup>5</sup> Thus all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died.

<sup>6</sup> When Seth had lived a hundred and five years, he became the father of E'nosh. <sup>7</sup> Seth lived after the birth of E'nosh eight hundred and seven years, and had other sons and daughters. <sup>8</sup> Thus all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died.

<sup>9</sup> When E'nosh had lived ninety years, he became the father of Ke'nan. <sup>10</sup> E'nosh lived after the birth of Ke'nan eight hundred and fifteen years, and had other sons and daughters. <sup>11</sup> Thus all the days of E'nosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died.

<sup>12</sup> When Ke'nan had lived seventy years, he became the father of Ma-hal'alel. <sup>13</sup> Ke'nan lived after the birth of Ma-hal'alel eight hundred and forty years, and had other sons and daughters. <sup>14</sup> Thus all the days of Ke'nan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died.

<sup>15</sup> When Ma-hal'alel had lived sixty-five years, he became the father of Jar'ed. <sup>16</sup> Ma-hal'alel lived after the birth of Jar'ed eight hundred and thirty years, and had other sons and daughters. <sup>17</sup> Thus all the days of Ma-hal'alel were eight hundred and ninety-five years; and he died.

<sup>18</sup> When Jar'ed had lived a hundred and sixty-two years he became the father of E'noch. <sup>19</sup> Jared lived after the birth of E'noch eight hundred years, and had other sons and daughters. <sup>20</sup> Thus all the days of Jar'ed were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died.

<sup>21</sup> When E'noch had lived sixty-five years, he became the father of Methu'selah. <sup>22</sup> E'noch walked with God after the birth of Methu'selah three hundred years, and had other sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup> Thus all the days of E'noch were three hundred and sixty-five years. <sup>24</sup> E'noch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

<sup>25</sup> When Methu'selah had lived a hundred and eighty-seven years, he became the father of La'mech. <sup>26</sup> Methu'selah lived after the birth of La'mech seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had other sons and daughters. <sup>27</sup> Thus all the days of Methu'selah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died.

<sup>28</sup> When La'mech had lived a hundred and eighty-two years, he became the father of a son, <sup>29</sup> and called his name Noah, saying, “Out of the ground which the LORD has cursed this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the toil of our hands.” <sup>30</sup> La'mech lived after the birth of Noah five hundred and ninety-five years, and had other sons and daughters. <sup>31</sup> Thus all the days of La'mech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; and he died.

<sup>32</sup> After Noah was five hundred years old, Noah became the father of Shem, Ham, and Ja'pheth.

4:25–26 CCC 2335 4:26 CCC 2569\*  
5:1–2 CCC 2331 5:1 CCC 2335\*  
5:24 CCC 2569

\* 4:26: *Seth* takes the place of the murdered Abel and is the ancestor of Noah. In Ex 3:14 and 6:2–3 we find another account of the origins of Yahwism.

† 5:1, *generations*: It should be noted that these genealogies are selective and schematic, and the numbers, as often in the Old Testament, are symbolic.

## THE WICKEDNESS OF MANKIND

**6** When men began to multiply on the face of the ground, and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup>the sons of God \* saw that the daughters of men were fair; and they took to wife such of them as they chose. <sup>3</sup>Then the LORD said, "My spirit shall not abide in man for ever, for he is flesh, but his days shall be a hundred and twenty years." <sup>4</sup>The Neph'ilim were 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. These were the mighty men that were of old, the men of renown.

<sup>5</sup>The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. <sup>6</sup>And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. <sup>7</sup>So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the ground, man and beast and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." <sup>8</sup>But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

<sup>9</sup>These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. <sup>10</sup>And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Ja'pheth.

## NOAH MAKES THE ARK AS GOD COMMANDS

<sup>11</sup>† Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup>And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. <sup>13</sup>And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh; for the earth is filled with violence through them; behold, I will destroy them with the earth. <sup>14</sup>Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. <sup>15</sup>This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its breadth fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. <sup>16</sup>Make a roof<sup>k</sup> for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above; and set the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks. <sup>17</sup>For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall die. <sup>18</sup>But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you, to keep them alive. <sup>21</sup>Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them." <sup>22</sup>Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

## THE GREAT FLOOD

**7** Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. <sup>2</sup>Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate; <sup>3</sup>and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive upon the face of all the earth. <sup>4</sup>For in seven days I will send rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." <sup>5</sup>And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

<sup>6</sup>Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth. <sup>7</sup>And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark, to escape the waters of the flood. <sup>8</sup>Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, <sup>9</sup>two and two, male and female,

**6:3** CCC 990\* **6:5** CCC 401\* **6:9** CCC 2569 **6:12** CCC 401\*

<sup>k</sup> Or window.

\* 6:2, *sons of God* could mean simply "divine beings," as elsewhere in the Old Testament. The writer, however, may be using an old story or myth to point out the progressive degradation of mankind before the Flood and to warn against the evil effects of intermarriage either of the descendants of Seth with the Kenites or, more probably, of the Israelites with the native populations of Canaan.

† 6:11: Here begins the Flood narrative formed of two almost parallel accounts. This fact explains the existence of repetitions and discrepancies. It is, in places, remarkably similar to other Flood stories from the ancient Near East.

went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. <sup>10</sup>And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth.

<sup>11</sup>In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. <sup>12</sup>And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. <sup>13</sup>On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Ja'pheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, <sup>14</sup>they and every beast according to its kind, and all the cattle according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth according to its kind, and every bird according to its kind, every bird of every sort. <sup>15</sup>They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. <sup>16</sup>And they that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

<sup>17</sup>The flood continued forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. <sup>18</sup>The waters prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. <sup>19</sup>And the waters prevailed so mightily upon the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered; <sup>20</sup>the waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. <sup>21</sup>And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, birds, cattle, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm upon the earth, and every man; <sup>22</sup>everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. <sup>23</sup>He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the air; they were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. <sup>24</sup>And the waters prevailed upon the earth a hundred and fifty days.

#### THE FLOOD SUBSIDES

**8** But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the cattle that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided; <sup>2</sup>the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, <sup>3</sup>and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of a hundred and fifty days the waters had abated; <sup>4</sup>and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ar'arat. <sup>5</sup>And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

<sup>6</sup>At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made, <sup>7</sup>and sent forth a raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; <sup>9</sup>but the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put forth his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. <sup>10</sup>He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark; <sup>11</sup>and the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. <sup>12</sup>Then he waited another seven days, and sent forth the dove; and she did not return to him any more.

<sup>13</sup>In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. <sup>14</sup>In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. <sup>15</sup>Then God said to Noah, <sup>16</sup>"Go forth from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. <sup>17</sup>Bring forth with you every living thing that is with you of

all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may breed abundantly on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply upon the earth.”<sup>18</sup>So Noah went forth, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him.<sup>19</sup>And every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves upon the earth, went forth by families out of the ark.

#### GOD’S PROMISE TO NOAH

<sup>20</sup>Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.<sup>21</sup>And when the LORD smelled the pleasing odor, the LORD said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; neither will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.<sup>22</sup>While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

#### THE COVENANT WITH NOAH

**9** And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.<sup>2</sup>The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every bird of the air, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea; into your hand they are delivered.<sup>3</sup>Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; and as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.<sup>4</sup>Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.<sup>5</sup>For your lifeblood I will surely require a reckoning; of every beast I will require it and of man; of every man’s brother I will require the life of man.<sup>6</sup>Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for God made man in his own image.<sup>7</sup>And you, be fruitful and multiply, bring forth abundantly on the earth and multiply in it.”

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him,<sup>9</sup>“Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your descendants after you,<sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.<sup>11</sup>”I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”<sup>12</sup>And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:<sup>13</sup>I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.<sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,<sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.<sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will look upon it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.”<sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.”

#### NOAH AND HIS SONS

<sup>18</sup>The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Ja’pheth. Ham was the father of Canaan.<sup>19</sup>These three were the sons of Noah; and from these the whole earth was peopled.

<sup>20</sup>Noah was the first tiller of the soil. He planted a vineyard;<sup>21</sup>and he drank of the wine, and became drunk, and lay uncovered in his tent.<sup>22</sup>And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.<sup>23</sup>Then Shem and Ja’pheth took a garment, laid it upon both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father’s nakedness.<sup>24</sup>When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him,<sup>25</sup>he said,

“Cursed be Canaan;  
a slave of slaves shall he be to his brothers.”

<sup>26</sup> He also said,  
“Blessed by the LORD my God be Shem;<sup>m</sup>  
and let Canaan be his slave.

<sup>27</sup> God enlarge Ja'pheth,  
and let him dwell in the tents of Shem;  
and let Canaan be his slave.”

<sup>28</sup>After the flood Noah lived three hundred and fifty years. <sup>29</sup>All the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.

#### NATIONS DESCENDED FROM NOAH

**10** These are the generations \* of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Ja'pheth; sons were born to them after the flood.

<sup>2</sup>The sons of Ja'pheth: Gomer, Ma'gog, Ma'dai, Ja'van, Tu'bal, Me'shech, and Ti'ras. <sup>3</sup>The sons of Gomer: Ash'kenaz, Ri'phath, and Togar'mah. <sup>4</sup>The sons of Ja'van: Eli'shah, Tar'shish, Kittim, and Do'danim. <sup>5</sup>From these the coastland peoples spread. These are the sons of Ja'pheth<sup>n</sup> in their lands, each with his own language, by their families, in their nations.

<sup>6</sup>The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan. <sup>7</sup>The sons of Cush: Seba, Hav'ilah, Sabtah, Ra'amah, and Sab'teca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and De'dan. <sup>8</sup>Cush became the father of Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man. <sup>9</sup>He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD.” <sup>10</sup>The beginning of his kingdom was Ba'bel, E'rech, and Accad, all of them in the land of Shi'nar. <sup>11</sup>From that land he went into Assyria, and built Nin'veveh, Reho'both-Ir, Ca'lah, and <sup>12</sup>Re'sen between Nin'veveh and Ca'lah; that is the great city. <sup>13</sup>Egypt became the father of Lu'dim, An'amim, Leha'bim, Naph'tuhim, <sup>14</sup>Pathru'sim, Caslu'him (whence came the Philis'tines), and Caph'torim.

<sup>15</sup>Canaan became the father of Si'don his first-born, and Heth, <sup>16</sup>and the Jeb'usites, the Am'orites, the Gir'gashites, <sup>17</sup>the Hi'vites, the Arkites, the Si'nites, <sup>18</sup>the Ar'vadites, the Zem'arites, and the Ha'mathites. Afterward the families of the Canaanites spread abroad. <sup>19</sup>And the territory of the Canaanites extended from Si'don, in the direction of Ge'rar, as far as Gaza, and in the direction of Sodom, Gomor'rah, Admah, and Zeboi'im, as far as La'sha. <sup>20</sup>These are the sons of Ham, by their families, their languages, their lands, and their nations.

<sup>21</sup>To Shem also, the father of all the children of E'ber, the elder brother of Ja'pheth, children were born. <sup>22</sup>The sons of Shem: E'lam, Asshur, Arpach'shad, Lud, and Ar'am. <sup>23</sup>The sons of Ar'am: Uz, Hul, Ge'ther, and Mash. <sup>24</sup>Arpach'shad became the father of She'lah; and Shelah became the father of E'ber. <sup>25</sup>To E'ber were born two sons: the name of the one was Pe'leg,<sup>o</sup> for in his days the earth was divided, and his brother's name was Joktan. <sup>26</sup>Joktan became the father of Almo'dad, She'leph, Haz'arma'veth, Je'rah, <sup>27</sup>Ha-dor'am, U'zal, Diklah, <sup>28</sup>O'bal, Abim'a-el, Sheba, <sup>29</sup>O'phir, Hav'ilah, and Jo'bab; all these were the sons of Joktan. <sup>30</sup>The territory in which they lived extended from Me'sha in the direction of Se'phar to the hill country of the east. <sup>31</sup>These are the sons of Shem, by their families, their languages, their lands, and their nations.

<sup>32</sup>These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations; and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood.

#### THE TOWER OF BABEL

**11** <sup>†</sup>Now the whole earth had one language and few words. <sup>2</sup>And as men migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. <sup>3</sup>And they said to one another, “Come,

**10:5** CCC 56 **10:20–31** CCC 56\*

<sup>m</sup> Or *Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem.* <sup>n</sup> Compare verses 20, 31. Heb lacks *These are the sons of Japheth.* <sup>o</sup> That is *Division.*

\* 10:1, *generations:* This “table of the nations” makes use of old material to show how all the nations of the world as then known have descended from the generation that survived the Flood. It was from this world that Abraham was called to be the father of the chosen people.

† 11:1–9: The tower of Babel (= Babylon) is taken as a symbol of political power, empire-building, and the civilization that opposes God's plan. The tower was probably a ziggurat, i.e., Babylonian temple.

let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. <sup>4</sup>Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.” <sup>5</sup>And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the sons of men had built. <sup>6</sup>And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; and nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup>Come, let us go down, and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” <sup>8</sup>So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. <sup>9</sup>Therefore its name was called Ba’bel, because there the LORD confused<sup>p</sup> the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

DESCENDANTS OF SHEM

<sup>10</sup>These are the descendants of Shem. When Shem was a hundred years old, he became the father of Arpach’shad two years after the flood; <sup>11</sup>and Shem lived after the birth of Arpach’shad five hundred years, and had other sons and daughters.

<sup>12</sup>When Arpach’shad had lived thirty-five years, he became the father of She’lah; <sup>13</sup>and Arpach’shad lived after the birth of She’lah four hundred and three years, and had other sons and daughters.

<sup>14</sup>When She’lah had lived thirty years, he became the father of E’ber; <sup>15</sup>and She’lah lived after the birth of E’ber four hundred and three years, and had other sons and daughters.

<sup>16</sup>When E’ber had lived thirty-four years, he became the father of Pe’leg; <sup>17</sup>and E’ber lived after the birth of Pe’leg four hundred and thirty years, and had other sons and daughters.

<sup>18</sup>When Pe’leg had lived thirty years, he became the father of Re’u; <sup>19</sup>and Pe’leg lived after the birth of Re’u two hundred and nine years, and had other sons and daughters.

<sup>20</sup>When Re’u had lived thirty-two years, he became the father of Se’rug; <sup>21</sup>and Re’u lived after the birth of Se’rug two hundred and seven years, and had other sons and daughters.

<sup>22</sup>When Se’rug had lived thirty years, he became the father of Na’hor; <sup>23</sup>and Se’rug lived after the birth of Na’hor two hundred years, and had other sons and daughters.

<sup>24</sup>When Na’hor had lived twenty-nine years, he became the father of Te’rah; <sup>25</sup>and Na’hor lived after the birth of Te’rah a hundred and nineteen years, and had other sons and daughters.

<sup>26</sup>When Te’rah had lived seventy years, he became the father of Abram, Na’hor, and Haran.

DESCENDANTS OF TERAH

<sup>27</sup>Now these are the descendants of Te’rah. Terah was the father of Abram, Na’hor, and Haran; and Haran was the father of Lot. <sup>28</sup>Haran died before his father Te’rah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chalde’ans. <sup>29</sup>And Abram and Na’hor took wives; the name of Abram’s wife was Sar’ai, and the name of Nahor’s wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Is’cah. <sup>30</sup>Now Sar’ai was barren; she had no child.

<sup>31</sup>Te’rah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sar’ai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram’s wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chalde’ans to go into the land of Canaan; but when they came to Haran, they settled there. <sup>32</sup>The days of Te’rah were two hundred and five years; and Terah died in Haran.

THE CALL OF ABRAM

**12** <sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you,

11:4-6 CCC 57\* 12:1-4 CCC 145\*  
12:1 CCC 59

<sup>p</sup> Compare Heb *balal*, confuse.

\* 12:1-3: With Abraham’s call, sacred history in the strict sense begins. The promise theme runs through the whole patriarchal history, e.g., 18:18; 28:14.