

Our Covenant God – Part Twenty Two

The Lessons of the Ark: 5. Death and Resurrection

If we use the genealogy found in Genesis 5 to outline the births and deaths of the people, we find that there was an acceleration of deaths after Noah was born. In the 1056 years before Noah's birth, nine people were born and two died. After Noah's birth, over a course of 600 years before the Flood, only three people were born while six died. (Of course, we know that there were other people alive on the Earth during these time periods but it is highly probably that this was a good reflection of the overall picture. It is the pattern that is revealed in the Genesis 5 genealogy that we are looking at.)

In the Days of Noah			
Event	Year		
Adam born	0		
Seth born	130	> By 1056, Noah's birth, 9 people were born and 2 died.	
Enosh born	235		
Cainan born	325	> After Noah's birth, and before the Flood in 600, 3 people were born and 6 died.	
Mahalalel born	395		
Jared born	460		
Enoch born	622	> Those 3 people were only born after Noah started to build the Ark.	
Methuselah born	687		
Lamech born	874		
Adam died	930	> Methuselah, the longest-living human being, died the year of the Flood.	
"Adamic curse" over	930		
Enoch raptured	987		
Seth died	1042		
Noah born	1056	Noah's age	
Enosh died	1140	84	* It appears that God gave people 120 years to live when He pronounced the judgment of the Flood. Therefore it seems logical that Noah started to build the Ark 120 years before the Flood.
Cainan died	1235	179	
Mahalalel died	1290	234	
Jared died	1422	366	
The world was full of sin			
Noah started to build the Ark*	1536	480	
Japheth born **	1556	500	** The order of the birth of Noah's three children is unclear but it seems that Japheth was the eldest and Shem the youngest.
Ham born **	?		
Shem born **	?		
Lamech died	1651	595	
Methuselah died	1656	600	
THE FLOOD	1656	600	According to Jewish tradition, Methuselah died seven days before the Flood began.

Thus, we see that death is a predominant theme in the days of Noah. It is death that the Apostle Paul calls the final enemy to be destroyed in 1 Corinthians 15:26.

Death entered the picture in Genesis as a result of Adam and Eve's sin. We all know the story: God told Adam, in Genesis 2:16, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 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 surely die."

Where did this tree come from? We don't know. What we do know is the trees that God made were pleasant to the sight and good for food (Genesis 2:9), but the tree of knowledge of good and evil –

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although it was pleasant to the sight - it was not good for food. Thus, many Bible scholars question the assumption that it was God who planted it in the Garden. I think that is wise because nowhere in the Bible does it ever state that it was planted by God. In fact, if we look at the parable of the wheat and the tares told by Jesus in Matthew 13, an enemy was the culprit, for the parables tell the patterns of the stories about the Beginning and the End.

In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve both ate of the forbidden fruit and death then entered this world as a result. This happened because the serpent, who is Satan, deceived Eve into eating the fruit. It is interesting to note that Eve was never told directly by God not to eat it, because that command was made before she was removed from inside Adam. In fact, it seems that she did receive the command secondhand from Adam because she believed that God forbade them to even touch it as that would even cause death. She first examined it with her eyes, relying on her own sight instead of God's sight. That was her first mistake. (Remember that sight means to know, discern and experience. It is so much more than just the physical sense of sight.) Then she took hold of it. Imagine her surprise when she did not die from touching it? Then she then ate it. Adam, on the other hand, could not plead ignorance or deception for he ate of that fruit with full knowledge and understanding of God's commands.

Later on in this study we will examine Satan: what the Bible says about him, when he was thrown out of Heaven, etc. But for now, it is interesting to note that when he was in the Garden in Eden, he was still the beautiful shining Lucifer – not Satan. The Bible describes him as “the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty” when he was in the Garden in Eden. Then he sinned. Sin is an action which always starts with a heart problem. I submit to you that his sin was tempting Eve to eat the forbidden fruit and it started with him having pride in his heart, and possibly jealousy towards Adam and Eve (see Ezekiel 28:12-19.) His name was changed from Lucifer, which means “morning star, as in the sense of brightness,” to Satan, which means opponent, adversary, or enemy. When Lucifer tempted Eve to turn against God, he became the opponent of God.

Another name change that occurred as a result of eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is Eve's name. She was originally called Ishsha, meaning “Woman / Wife”. After they sinned, her name was changed to Eve, meaning “Origin of life / Life-giver.”

Genesis 2:23 (NKJV) And Adam said: “This *is* now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

Originally, they were both called Adam when Eve was inside of Adam. Adam, meaning “red / ruddy” was made from adamah, meaning “red soil”. Out of Adam then came Ishsha, meaning Woman or Wife. Adam is then referred to as Ish, meaning “man / husband” in relation to his wife. They are masculine and feminine equivalents. They are the same, yet different. They are co-equals in a dynamic and organic unity... until they sinned.

Sin damaged the relationship between them. We see this clearly in Genesis 3:16, where God tells her that her desire would be for her husband and he would rule over her. God never said that was his will, He was simply telling her how sin would destroy the unity between a man and wife.

However, there was one ray of hope in Genesis 3:15. God told the serpent: “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

God was pointing to Eve, declaring that one day someone would come from her body that would destroy Satan. The same person that he had tricked was the same one that God would use to defeat him. A bruise on the heel is easily healed and will only make you limp for a short while, but a bruised head is fatal. This is recognized as the first Messianic prophecy in the Bible because we know that Jesus is the One who fulfilled this. As Jesus' foot crushed Satan's head, Satan was able to bruise His heel. Jesus died

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but it was not fatal because He rose from the dead. Satan, on the other hand, will never have eternal life because he is destined for eternal death, which is called the second death.

After they sinned, in Genesis 3:20, Adam changed her name to Eve, meaning “Life-giver” or “Origin of Life.”

Picture the situation. God told them that they would die if they ate that fruit. They had eaten it and just heard the death sentence from God. Thrice God had alluded to Adam’s death. But in that death sentence was a promise that one day God would save them through a child who would come from the Woman. And thus, Adam changed her name to “Life-giver.” Their hope was in her. Life would come through her.

If we look at Eve’s responses when she had Cain and Seth we can see that she fully expected one of her sons to somehow be the one who would save them from the death sentence and give them life.

Genesis 4:1 (NKJV) Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the LORD.”

Genesis 4:25 (NKJV) 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.”

Jesus did indeed come from Seth’s bloodline. This is why, throughout the Bible, we find genealogies listed, where the authors have gone into much detail – because the purpose of most of those lists is to show the Messiah’s bloodline, from Eve to Seth to Noah to Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to Judah to David to Jesus. If you look closely you will realize that there are blood covenants attached to many of the names in the blood line of Jesus because the blood covenants are how God ties it all together.

At the end of Genesis 3, Adam and Eve are banished from the Garden in Eden:

Genesis 3:22-24 (NKJV) Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the Garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

This is a hard passage to understand because, on the surface, it does not make sense. Why? Because the aim of the whole Bible and all the covenants is to give people life. Why then would God block them from access to the Tree of Life? Think about it for a minute. Death is a reversal of Creation, the disintegration of the world that God loves so much! Jesus said, in John 10:10 that His whole purpose was to give life and to give it more abundantly. Why then would God cause them to die?

I call this the gift of Death.

In God’s mercy and love, He removed them from the Tree of Life so that they would not live forever in a state of sin, disease, and decay.

1 John 3:8 For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

In John 10:10, we see what the works of the devil are: to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. And so, with sin came sickness, disease, destruction, decay, disintegration, and death. God had to destroy the works of the Devil, and He did so through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Resurrection was the only way to remove all the effects of sin from this world.

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Imagine a person with a disease that causes them great pain having to endure that forever. Imagine someone else who is blind and will have to stay that way throughout eternity. If God had allowed Adam and Eve to eat from the Tree of Life, humanity would have been trapped in diseased bodies forever. The hope of a paraplegic is that he will be able to walk again. The hope of an amputee is that she will have her arms restored one day. Those hopes can only be realized through resurrection.

A resurrected body is free from all the effects of sin, sickness, decay and death. Resurrection life is only available to us on the other side of death. That is why I call this the gift of death. It is almost as if death is a sieve that catches all the vile, awful things and allows all the good to get through to the other side. It doesn't allow any of the bad to cross over. Am I saying that nobody on this Earth could be healed? Absolutely not!

When Jesus walked on this Earth, He healed ALL who came to Him: the lame, the blind, the deaf, even the dead. He reached forward to the future Resurrection and lived in its power here on Earth, showing us what resurrection life is all about. He had not yet died so the price for our healing had not been paid at that time but with God, if He says He will do it then it is as much a fact as if it was already done. He was indeed the Resurrection walking here on this Earth. Whoever He touched He healed because through the Resurrection life that was in Him, eternity was loosed here on Earth. Today we live on the other side of His Resurrection and so we walk in the confidence of what He already did. We are inside Him and so His Resurrection power still walks this Earth, touching lives through us today.

John 11:25 (NKJV) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes [into] Me, though he may die, he shall live.

Death had to happen because they had eaten the forbidden fruit but that would not be the end of the story. In part eight of the study we saw how God taught Abraham about Resurrection. He taught Noah the same lesson.

The Flood itself is a lesson of Death and Resurrection.

The Flood: 1. Death

Noah, his family, and the animals all entered the Ark in Genesis 7:5-9.

In Genesis 7:11 (NKJV) we read, "on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened."

Compare this with Genesis 1:6-8: "Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

In *The Five Books of Moses: A Translation with Commentary*, Robert Alter says, "The surge of waters from the great deep below and from the heavens above is, of course, a striking reversal of the second day of creation, when a vault was erected to divide the waters above from the waters below."

As we look at what God did on each day of Creation, we see this clearer: The Flood reversed Creation and set it back to day number 2.

- **On Day 6**, animals and then Man were made. Both were destroyed in the Flood.
- **On Day 5**, birds and water-creatures were made. The birds were destroyed in the Flood.
- **On Day 4**, the Solar System was made. It was not destroyed in the Flood but the force of the waters erupting sent rocks and debris spinning into Outer Space.

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- **On Day 3**, the dry land appeared and plants were made. The Flood destroyed the plants and there was no more dry land.
- **On Day 2**, God divided the subterranean waters from the atmosphere. This division was destroyed by the Flood.

Genesis 7:21-23 (NKJV) And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. All in whose nostrils *was* the breath of the spirit of life, all that *was* on the dry *land*, died. So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who *were* with him in the ark remained *alive*.

In a sense, God's precious Creation died in the Flood. The great news is that it did not stay that way and God kept a remnant inside the Ark that He saved! It is as if God reset Creation to the second day and then started all over again. I submit to you that this will happen once again, except that next time God will reset the clock all the way back to the first day of Creation, making everything brand new with fire.

The Flood: 2. Resurrection - The Earth lives again

Once again, God followed the pattern of Genesis 1:

1. The Spirit (Wind) hovered over the waters

Genesis 1:2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit [wind / breath] of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Genesis 8:1b And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided.

2. The waters of the land and the atmosphere are separated.

Genesis 1:6-7 Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament; and it was so.

Genesis 8:2 The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained.

3. Dry land appeared

Genesis 1:9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry *land* appear"; and it was so.

Genesis 8:3-5 And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth *month*, on the first *day* of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

4. Plants

Genesis 1:11 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth"; and it was so.

Genesis 8:11 Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf *was* in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth.

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5. Birds

Genesis 1:20 Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.”

Genesis 8:7-12 Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters *were* on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf *was* in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.

6. Animals and people

Genesis 1:24 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, *each* according to its kind”; and it was so.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Genesis 8:15-19 Then God spoke to Noah, saying, “Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that *is* with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him. Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, *and* whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.

And so God started all over again. The first time He started with Adam and Eve. The second time He started with Noah and his family.

You have heard it said that Jesus is the Second Adam. Actually, the Bible never calls Him the Second Adam. It calls Him the Last Adam. Adam was the start of all humanity. Noah was, in fact, a second Adam. After the Flood all of humanity started with Noah and his family.

There are many similarities between Noah and Adam:

1. God blessed both Adam and Noah and their families, saying “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the Earth” (Genesis 9:1).
2. Both had three sons named in the Bible (Genesis 9:18).
3. Both were farmers (Genesis 9:20).
4. Both fell because of a fruit.
5. That fruit caused their nakedness to be exposed.
6. Both had a son whose lineage was cursed.

Next week we will see how God started all over with Noah, establishing His covenant with him, his family, and all of Creation.

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Homework Question # 1: What is the significance of Eve's name change?

Homework Question # 2: Why did God stop them from eating from the Tree of Life?

Homework Question # 3: We see that the Flood followed the pattern of Creation in Genesis 1. Why do you think that God works in patterns?

Homework Question # 4: Why is Jesus not the Second Adam; why is He called the Last Adam?
