

good  
NEWS BIBLE

CHILDREN'S

**RAINBOW  
EDITION**

**READING TRAIL:****BIG  
STORY  
OF THE BIBLE**

This reading trail will help you to understand the whole story of the Bible. Give yourself one point for every bit of the Bible that you read, and see if you can reach the full 25 points.

You'll notice that there aren't many exact dates shown on this trail. For example, the story of Abraham and the Israelites says 'Around 1800–1500 BC'. This is because we don't always know exactly when some of the things in the Bible happened.



## CREATION

When: At the beginning of the world

God made a beautiful world with a perfect garden in it, and all kinds of animals and other creatures to live in it. Then he made a man called Adam and a woman called Eve, to be his friends and care for the garden. They were to have a family and live happily with God, enjoying all the good things he had made.

- Trail marker 1:  
Read Genesis 1.1–31  
4 POINTS



## FALL

When: Far back in time

Adam and Eve were allowed to eat anything they wanted from the garden – anything except the fruit of the tree that gave knowledge of what is good and what is bad. Eve was tempted by a snake to eat the fruit from that tree, and she did eat it, even though God had told them to leave it alone. Adam copied her and ate the fruit too. Because they had disobeyed God, they had to leave the perfect garden and go out to work hard for their food. Saddest of all, their friendship with God was spoiled, and Adam and Eve didn't have a way to fix it. But God had a plan.

- Trail marker 2:  
Read Genesis 3.1–13  
2 POINTS
- Trail marker 3:  
Read Genesis 3.22–24  
1 POINT



## ABRAHAM AND THE ISRAELITES

When: Around 1900–1500 BC

Some generations later, there was a man called Abraham who loved God. God was Abraham's friend. As part of his rescue plan, God told Abraham to go on a journey to a land called Canaan. He promised Abraham that he would have many descendants who would be God's special people. Abraham's family grew and grew into a big nation called the Israelites. His great-grandson, Joseph, became Prime Minister of Egypt during a great famine. The Pharaoh (the Egyptian king) then invited all the Israelites to move to Egypt, to be with Joseph.

- Trail marker 4:  
Read Genesis 12.1–9  
2 POINTS



## EXODUS: LEAVING EGYPT

When: Around 1500–1400 BC

After the Israelites had lived in Egypt for a long time, a new man became Pharaoh. He made the Israelites into slaves. God kept his promises to Abraham and sent an Israelite man called Moses to rescue them from slavery. Because Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let them go free, God made ten disasters strike Egypt and then made a dry path through the sea so that the Israelites could escape.

- Trail marker 5:  
Read Exodus 1.1–14  
2 POINTS
- Trail marker 6:  
Read Exodus 14.5–25  
3 POINTS



## IN THE DESERT

When: Around 1400–1300 BC

Led by Moses, the Israelites started walking across the desert, heading for the land that God had promised to them. After three months, they camped at the foot of Mount Sinai and Moses went on up the mountain. Here, God gave him Ten Commandments, which were rules to help the Israelites live well and stay friends with God and with each other. However, they kept arguing so much, and refusing to trust God, that they ended up wandering around in the desert for 40 years, until most of the people who escaped from Egypt had died.

○ Trail marker 7:

Read Exodus 20.1–17

2 POINTS



## THE PROMISED LAND

When: From around 1300 BC

After Moses died, a new generation of Israelites were led by Joshua and finally made it across the River Jordan into the promised land. They divided the land between their 12 tribes (big family groups), but then they spent many years fighting battles against the people who already lived in the land. The Israelites still kept forgetting about God and breaking his laws. But God never gave up on them. After Joshua died, the Israelites' leaders were known as Judges. They included Deborah, Gideon and Samson.

○ Trail marker 8:

Read Joshua 1.1–9

2 POINTS



## KINGS

When: Up to 586 BC

The Israelites asked God to choose one of them to be their king. The greatest king was David. He united the 12 tribes into one kingdom, with Jerusalem as his capital city. David's son Solomon was the next king. He built a temple as a place to worship God. He was known for being very wise, but he made some bad mistakes. When Solomon died, the Israelites were split into two kingdoms, Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Over the next 300 years, most of the kings were bad. God's people kept on forgetting about him and treating each other badly.

- Trail marker 9:  
Read 2 Samuel 5.1–5  
1 POINT
- Trail marker 10:  
Read 1 Kings 4.20–34  
3 POINTS



## PROPHETS AND EXILE

When: Around 850–400 BC

God sent messengers called 'prophets' to warn the Israelites that they shouldn't keep on ignoring God, but the people did not listen. Finally, they were conquered by their enemies, the Babylonians. Jerusalem was destroyed and the people were taken into exile (which means living away from home, in another country). Some of them returned home about 70 years later.

The prophets also spoke about God's plan for better times to come, and especially about a Saviour who would rescue the people and give them hope.

- Trail marker 11:  
Read 2 Kings 24.8–13  
3 POINTS
- Trail marker 12:  
Read Isaiah 9.2–7  
2 POINTS



## JESUS

When: Around 6 BC–AD 27

In the village of Bethlehem, Jesus was born. He was the Saviour people had been hoping for. He was known as the Son of God and was completely good. He taught people how God wanted them to live, and did amazing things to help others. Jesus was killed by being hung up on a wooden cross, even though he was innocent. Three days later, he came back to life and then went up into heaven. He left behind a group of followers who wanted to tell the world about him.

Christians believe that Jesus died to take away people's sins so they could be friends with God again, and he came back to life so that anyone who follows him can have eternal life.

- Trail marker 13:  
Read Luke 1.26–33  
1 POINT

- Trail marker 14:  
Read Matthew 6.25–34  
2 POINTS
- Trail marker 15:  
Read Matthew 27.3–50  
2 POINTS
- Trail marker 16:  
Read Mark 16.1–8  
1 POINT



## THE FIRST CHRISTIANS

When: Around AD 27–100

After Jesus had gone to heaven, his followers began to tell others all about him. God sent the Holy Spirit to them, and he completely changed their lives. They cared for one another and told stories about Jesus to each other.

Jesus' followers became known as Christians, and the Christian community was called the Church.

- Trail marker 17:  
Read Acts 2.36–47  
2 POINTS



## PAUL AND HIS TRAVELS

When: Around AD 35–65

Saul was an enemy of the Christians. However, he had a vision of Jesus and became a Christian himself. After changing his name to Paul, he travelled to different countries, teaching people about Jesus and setting up new churches. Paul and other Christian leaders, such as Peter, James and John, wrote letters to the Christians in those churches, to help them understand how to follow Jesus. Many of their letters are now books in the New Testament.

- Trail marker 18:  
Read Acts 9.1–20  
3 POINTS
- Trail marker 19:  
Philippians 1.1–11  
1 POINT



## NEW CREATION

When: In the future – date unknown

Back at the very beginning of the Bible's story, God had created the world as a happy place for people to live in as his friends. The wrongdoing of humans had spoiled it, but God's promise to Abraham and his people all through history was that he would make things new and make things right again. The story of the Bible finishes with a glimpse of how perfect things will be in the future, as God fulfils his promises.

- Trail marker 20:  
Read Revelation 21.1–4  
1 POINT



**THE**  
**OLD**  
**TESTAMENT**



# THE HISTORY BOOKS:

## THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

The first 17 books of the Bible tell the long story of the Israelites. They were a group of people who were chosen by God to set an example to the rest of the world about how to live in the way that God wants people to live. Sometimes the Israelites are known as 'the chosen people', 'the people of God', or 'the people of Israel'.

God made agreements with the Israelites that are known as 'covenants'. God promised that the Israelites would be a great nation and would live in a land he promised them, and that he would bless them (protect them and do good things for them). In return, the Israelites promised that they would only worship God, and that they would follow God's laws.

This meant that the Israelites needed to live very differently from all the other people around them. That wasn't easy. Often the Israelites either forgot or didn't bother to follow God's laws. Sometimes they even ignored him deliberately and worshipped other gods. The history books of the Bible tell the story of the Israelites from their first ancestor, Abraham, through all sorts of difficulties and problems, but also some exciting adventures.

### KEY WORDS

COVENANT:

see page 1265

ISRAELITES:

see page 1268

PROMISED

LAND:

see page 1270

# GENESIS

'Genesis' means 'beginning' in Greek, and the book of Genesis tells ancient stories about the beginnings of the universe and the beginnings of human life.

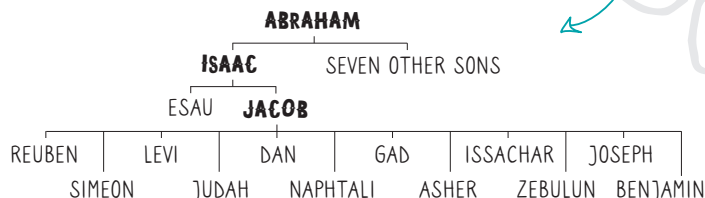
At the beginning of the book, God creates the world and everything in it, including the first humans. Everything is perfect, but things soon start to go wrong. The humans begin to ignore God and try to do things their way, thinking that they know best.

## THE ISRAELITES

Many years go by. Then, starting with just one man, Abraham, God chooses a family who will be his chosen people. God makes a special type of agreement known as a 'covenant' with Abraham. God promises that Abraham will have many descendants and live in a promised land.

From chapter 12 onwards, Genesis tells the story of the family of Abraham. Use this family tree to help you to keep track of who's who as you read.

By the end of the book, Abraham's great-grandson Joseph is the second-in-command to the king of Egypt, and the rest of God's chosen people, now known as the Israelites, are living with him there.



## HISTORY

### KEY WORDS

COVENANT:  
see page 1265

ISRAELITES:  
see page 1268

## BIG STORY OF THE BIBLE READING TRAIL

You have four trail markers to tick off in this book! Take a look at the reading trail on pages 11 and 12.



## The Story of Creation



**1** In the beginning, when God created the universe, **2** the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God was moving over the water. **3** Then God commanded, “Let there be light” — and light appeared. **4** God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness, **5** and he named the light “Day” and the darkness “Night”. Evening passed and morning came — that was the first day.

**6-7** Then God commanded, “Let there be a dome to divide the water and to keep it in two separate places” — and it was done. So God made a dome, and it separated the water under it from the water above it. **8** He named the dome “Sky”. Evening passed and morning came — that was the second day.

**9** Then God commanded, “Let the water below the sky come together in one place, so that the land will appear” — and it was done. **10** He named the land “Earth”, and the water which had come together he named “Sea”. And God was pleased with what he saw. **11** Then he commanded, “Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit” — and it was done. **12** So the earth produced all kinds of plants, and God was pleased with what he saw. **13** Evening passed and morning came — that was the third day.

**14** Then God commanded, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night and to show the time when days, years, and religious festivals begin; **15** they will shine in the sky to give light to the earth” — and it was done. **16** So God made the two larger lights, the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night; he also made the stars. **17** He placed the lights in the sky to shine on the earth, **18** to rule over the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God was pleased with what he saw. **19** Evening passed and morning came — that was the fourth day.

**20** Then God commanded, “Let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings, and let the air be filled with birds.” **21** So God created the great sea monsters, all kinds of creatures that live in the water,

and all kinds of birds. And God was pleased with what he saw. **22** He blessed them all and told the creatures that live in the water to reproduce, and to fill the sea, and he told the birds to increase in number. **23** Evening passed and morning came — that was the fifth day.

**24** Then God commanded, “Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: domestic and wild, large and small” — and it was done. **25** So God made them all, and he was pleased with what he saw.

**26** Then God said, “And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small.” **27** So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female, **28** blessed them, and said, “Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals. **29** I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat; **30** but for all the wild animals and for all the birds I have provided grass and leafy plants for food” — and it was done. **31** God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased. Evening passed and morning came — that was the sixth day.



God put humans in charge of the whole earth, to **care** for everything living on it.



How can **YOU** improve care for the earth? Create a Green charter showing all the things you could do to **look after your environment.**

2<sup>1</sup> And so the whole universe was completed. <sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God finished what he had been doing and stopped working. <sup>3</sup> He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day, because by that day he had completed his creation and stopped working. <sup>4</sup> And that is how the universe was created.



After God had created the world, he **RESTED**.

In Exodus 20.8-11, you can read about how God told his people that they should have one day of rest from work every week.

This day of rest is called the **SABBATH**.

Why do we all need times of rest? How do you like to **REST** and **RELAX**?

### The Garden of Eden

When the LORD God made the universe, <sup>5</sup> there were no plants on the earth and no seeds had sprouted, because he had not sent any rain, and there was no one to cultivate the land; <sup>6</sup> but water would come up from beneath the surface and water the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD God took some soil from the ground and formed a man out of it; he

breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live.

<sup>8</sup> Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the East, and there he put the man he had formed. <sup>9</sup> He made all kinds of beautiful trees grow there and produce good fruit. In the middle of the garden stood the tree that gives life and the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad.

<sup>10</sup> A stream flowed in Eden and watered the garden; beyond Eden it divided into four rivers. <sup>11</sup> The first river is the Pishon; it flows round the country of Havilah. <sup>12</sup> (Pure gold is found there and also rare perfume and precious stones.) <sup>13</sup> The second river is the Gihon; it flows round the country of Cush. <sup>14</sup> The third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria, and the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it. <sup>16</sup> He said to him, "You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, <sup>17</sup> except the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad. You must not eat the fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die the same day."

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to live alone. I will make a suitable companion to help him." <sup>19</sup> So he took some soil from the ground and formed all the animals and all the birds. Then he brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and that is how they all got their names. <sup>20</sup> So the man named all the birds and all the animals; but not one of them was a suitable companion to help him.

<sup>21</sup> Then the LORD God made the man fall into a deep sleep, and while he was sleeping, he took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the flesh. <sup>22</sup> He formed a woman out of the rib and brought her to him. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said,


"At last, here is one of my own kind — Bone taken from my bone, and flesh from my flesh.

'Woman' is her name because she was taken out of man."

<sup>24</sup> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they become one.

<sup>25</sup> The man and the woman were both naked, but they were not embarrassed.

## Human Disobedience

 **3** <sup>1</sup> Now the snake was the most cunning animal that the LORD God had made. The snake asked the woman, “Did God really tell you not to eat fruit from any tree in the garden?”

<sup>2</sup> “We may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden,” the woman answered, <sup>3</sup> “except the tree in the middle of it. God told us not to eat the fruit of that tree or even touch it; if we do, we will die.”

<sup>4</sup> The snake replied, “That’s not true; you will not die. <sup>5</sup> God said that, because he knows that when you eat it you will be like God and know what is good and what is bad.”

<sup>6</sup> The woman saw how beautiful the tree was and how good its fruit would be to eat, and she thought how wonderful it would be to become wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, and he also ate it. <sup>7</sup> As soon as they had eaten it, they were given understanding and realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and covered themselves.



Adam and Eve disobeyed  
God and were separated  
from him. This is known  
as the Fall.



Have you ever made a  
**BAD DECISION** and  
then **REGRETTED IT**?

<sup>8</sup> That evening they heard the LORD God walking in the garden, and they hid from him among the trees. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called out to the man, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup> He answered, “I heard you in the garden; I was afraid and hid from you, because I was naked.”

<sup>11</sup> “Who told you that you were naked?” God asked. “Did you eat the fruit that I told you not to eat?”

<sup>12</sup> The man answered, “The woman you put here with me gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

<sup>13</sup> The LORD God asked the woman, “Why did you do this?”

She replied, “The snake tricked me into eating it.”

## God Pronounces Judgement

<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD God said to the snake, “You will be punished for this; you alone of all the animals must bear this curse: from now on you will crawl on your belly, and you will have to eat dust as long as you live. <sup>15</sup> I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite her offspring’s heel.”


<sup>16</sup> And he said to the woman, “I will increase your trouble in pregnancy and your pain in giving birth. In spite of this, you will still have desire for your husband, yet you will be subject to him.”

<sup>17</sup> And he said to the man, “You listened to your wife and ate the fruit which I told you not to eat. Because of what you have done, the ground will be under a curse. You will have to work hard all your life to make it produce enough food for you. <sup>18</sup> It will produce weeds and thorns, and you will have to eat wild plants. <sup>19</sup> You will have to work hard and sweat to make the soil produce anything, until you go back to the soil from which you were formed. You were made from soil, and you will become soil again.”

<sup>20</sup> Adam named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all human beings.

<sup>21</sup> And the LORD God made clothes out of animal skins for Adam and his wife, and he clothed them.

## Adam and Eve are Sent Out of the Garden

 <sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God said, “Now the man has become like one of us and has knowledge of what is good and what is bad. He must not be allowed to take fruit from the tree that gives life, eat it, and live for ever.” <sup>23</sup> So the LORD God sent him out of the Garden of

Eden and made him cultivate the soil from which he had been formed. <sup>24</sup> Then at the east side of the garden he put living creatures and a flaming sword which turned in all directions. This was to keep anyone from coming near the tree that gives life.

### Cain and Abel

**4** <sup>1</sup> Then Adam had intercourse with his wife, and she became pregnant. She bore a son and said, "By the LORD's help I have acquired a son." So she named him Cain. <sup>2</sup> Later she gave birth to another son, Abel. Abel became a shepherd, but Cain was a farmer. <sup>3</sup> After some time, Cain brought some of his harvest and gave it as an offering to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Then Abel brought the first lamb born to one of his sheep, killed it, and gave the best parts of it as an offering. The LORD was pleased with Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but he rejected Cain and his offering. Cain became furious, and he scowled in anger. <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why that scowl on your face? <sup>7</sup> If you had done the right thing, you would be smiling; but because you have done evil, sin is crouching at your door. It wants to rule you, but you must overcome it."

<sup>8</sup> Then Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out in the fields." When they were out in the fields, Cain turned on his brother and killed him.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

He answered, "I don't know. Am I supposed to take care of my brother?"

<sup>10</sup> Then the LORD said, "Why have you done this terrible thing? Your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground, like a voice calling for revenge. <sup>11</sup> You are placed under a curse and can no longer farm the soil. It has soaked up your brother's blood as if it had opened its mouth to receive it when you killed him. <sup>12</sup> If you try to grow crops, the soil will not produce anything; you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth."

<sup>13</sup> And Cain said to the LORD, "This punishment is too hard for me to bear. <sup>14</sup> You are driving me off the land and away from your presence. I will be a homeless wanderer on the earth, and anyone who finds me will kill me."

<sup>15</sup> But the LORD answered, "No. If anyone kills you, seven lives will be taken in

revenge." So the LORD put a mark on Cain to warn anyone who met him not to kill him. <sup>16</sup> And Cain went away from the LORD's presence and lived in a land called "Wandering", which is east of Eden.

### The Descendants of Cain

<sup>17</sup> Cain and his wife had a son and named him Enoch. Then Cain built a city and named it after his son. <sup>18</sup> Enoch had a son named Irad, who was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael had a son named Methushael, who was the father of Lamech. <sup>19</sup> Lamech had two wives, Adah and Zillah. <sup>20</sup> Adah gave birth to Jabal, who was the ancestor of those who raise livestock and live in tents. <sup>21</sup> His brother was Jubal, the ancestor of all musicians who play the harp and the flute. <sup>22</sup> Zillah gave birth to Tubal Cain, who made all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal Cain was Naamah.

<sup>23</sup> Lamech said to his wives,

"Adah and Zillah, listen to me: I have killed a young man because he struck me.

<sup>24</sup> If seven lives are taken to pay for killing Cain,

77 will be taken if anyone kills me."

### Seth and Enosh

<sup>25</sup> Adam and his wife had another son. She said, "God has given me a son to replace Abel, whom Cain killed." So she named him Seth. <sup>26</sup> Seth had a son whom he named Enosh. It was then that people began using the LORD's holy name in worship.

### The Descendants of Adam

(1 Chr 1.1-4)

**5** <sup>1</sup> This is the list of the descendants of Adam. (When God created human beings, he made them like himself. <sup>2</sup> He created them male and female, blessed them, and named them "Humanity".) <sup>3</sup> When Adam was 130 years old, he had a son who was like him, and he named him Seth. <sup>4</sup> After that, Adam lived another 800 years. He had other children <sup>5</sup> and died at the age of 930.

<sup>6</sup> When Seth was 105, he had a son, Enosh, <sup>7</sup> and then lived another 807 years. He had other children <sup>8</sup> and died at the age of 912.



<sup>9</sup>When Enosh was ninety, he had a son, Kenan, <sup>10</sup>and then lived another 815 years. He had other children <sup>11</sup>and died at the age of 905.

<sup>12</sup>When Kenan was seventy, he had a son, Mahalalel, <sup>13</sup>and then lived another 840 years. He had other children <sup>14</sup>and died at the age of 910.

<sup>15</sup>When Mahalalel was 65, he had a son, Jared, <sup>16</sup>and then lived another 830 years. He had other children <sup>17</sup>and died at the age of 895.

<sup>18</sup>When Jared was 162, he had a son, Enoch, <sup>19</sup>and then lived another 800 years. He had other children <sup>20</sup>and died at the age of 962.

<sup>21</sup>When Enoch was 65, he had a son, Methuselah. <sup>22</sup>After that, Enoch lived in fellowship with God for 300 years and had other children. <sup>23</sup>He lived to be 365 years old. <sup>24</sup>He spent his life in fellowship with God, and then he disappeared, because God took him away.

<sup>25</sup>When Methuselah was 187, he had a son, Lamech, <sup>26</sup>and then lived another 782 years. He had other children <sup>27</sup>and died at the age of 969.

<sup>28</sup>When Lamech was 182, he had a son, <sup>29</sup>and said, “From the very ground on which the LORD put a curse, this child will bring us relief from all our hard work”; so he named him Noah. <sup>30</sup>Lamech lived another 595 years. He had other children <sup>31</sup>and died at the age of 777.

<sup>32</sup>After Noah was 500 years old, he had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

### Human Wickedness

**6** <sup>1</sup>When the human race had spread all over the world, and daughters were being born, <sup>2</sup>some of the heavenly beings saw that these young women were beautiful, so they took the ones they liked. <sup>3</sup>Then the LORD said, “I will not allow people to live for ever; they are mortal. From now on they will live no longer than 120 years.” <sup>4</sup>In those days, and even later, there were giants on the earth who were descendants of human women and the heavenly beings. They were the great heroes and famous men of long ago.

<sup>5</sup>When the LORD saw how wicked everyone on earth was and how evil their thoughts were all the time, <sup>6</sup>he was sorry that he had ever made them and put them

on the earth. He was so filled with regret <sup>7</sup>that he said, “I will wipe out these people I have created, and also the animals and the birds, because I am sorry that I made any of them.” <sup>8</sup>But the LORD was pleased with Noah.

### Noah

<sup>9–10</sup>This is the story of Noah. He had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Noah had no faults and was the only good man of his time. He lived in fellowship with God, <sup>11</sup>but everyone else was evil in God’s sight, and violence had spread everywhere. <sup>12</sup>God looked at the world and saw that it was evil, for the people were all living evil lives.

<sup>13</sup>God said to Noah, “I have decided to put an end to the whole human race. I will destroy them completely, because the world is full of their violent deeds. <sup>14</sup>Build a boat for yourself out of good timber; make rooms in it and cover it with tar inside and out. <sup>15</sup>Make it 133 metres long, 22 metres wide, and thirteen metres high. <sup>16</sup>Make a roof for the boat and leave a space of 44 centimetres between the roof and the sides. Build it with three decks and put a door in the side. <sup>17</sup>I am going to send a flood on the earth to destroy every living being. Everything on the earth will die, <sup>18</sup>but I will make a covenant with you. Go into the boat with your wife, your sons, and their wives. <sup>19–20</sup>Take into the boat with you a male and a female of every kind of animal and of every kind of bird, in order to keep them alive. <sup>21</sup>Take along all kinds of food for you and for them.” <sup>22</sup>Noah did everything that God commanded.

### The Flood

**7** <sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Noah, “Go into the boat with your whole family; I have found that you are the only one in all the world who does what is right. <sup>2</sup>Take with you seven pairs of each kind of ritually clean animal, but only one pair of each kind of unclean animal. <sup>3</sup>Take also seven pairs of each kind of bird. Do this so that every kind of animal and bird will be kept alive to reproduce again on the earth. <sup>4</sup>Seven days from now I am going to send rain that will fall for forty days and nights, in order to destroy all the living beings that I have made.” <sup>5</sup>And Noah did everything that the LORD commanded.