

GENESIS—WEEK 7

GOD SAYS, “ENOUGH!”



F. Michael Slay
A DEEP Study

The Fellowship of Ailbe

*The Cover Picture is The Creation by Michael van der Borch (~1300 – 1370)
On display at the Museum Meermanno in The Hague, Netherlands*

This section begins innocently enough, with Adam’s line of descendants listed. But sin infects the whole lot, and soon violence fills the Earth. So, God decides to put an end to all this.

Fortunately, God has one servant who walks with Him—Noah. So He tells Noah to build an ark.

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Thank you.

Genesis 5:1–7:10 — God Says, “Enough!”

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1 Genesis 5:1–24 (ESV)

This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created. When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.

When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered Enosh. Seth lived after he fathered Enosh 807 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died.

When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan. Enosh lived after he fathered Kenan 815 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died.

When Kenan had lived 70 years, he fathered Mahalalel. Kenan lived after he fathered Mahalalel 840 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died.

When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he fathered Jared. Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared 830 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.

When Jared had lived 162 years he fathered Enoch. Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died.

When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

For six generations, everything is perfectly consistent, then the pattern is broken. *Enoch walked with God*, and, instead of dying, he is taken up into heaven. This passage doesn't explicitly say all that, but Hebrews 11:5 does. *By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him.* (ESV)

Walking with God is what it's all about.

Great; so how do we walk with God? There are many good answers, but one is necessary. Walking with God means not running away from Him.

This gets heavy. Everyone wants to say, “I don't run away from God.” Oh, really?

Everyone has parts of their life they want God to stay out of. It's just who we are and what we are—sinners. The challenge is to uncover those hidden sins.

It takes serious prayer and introspection to see those things we don't want to see.

Others can see our faults far better than we can. That's why an accountability partner is so valuable.

2 Genesis 5:25–6:4 (ESV)

When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech. Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.

When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son and called his name Noah, saying, “Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.” Lamech lived after he fathered Noah 595 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died.

After Noah was 500 years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

Commentators are divided over whether *the sons of God* in this passage refers to angels or the descendants of Seth. This defense of the angel view based on the Hebrew grammar is impressive.

<https://vimeo.com/302766857>

However, Matthew 22:30 suggests that angels don’t reproduce, thus supporting the view that the sons of God were descendants of Seth. The greatness of the Nephilim can be understood in terms of hybrid vigor.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/264358/heterosis>

Noah is the tenth generation; Adam is Noah’s great(x7)-grandfather. Other than Adam and Noah, this genealogy only mentions one son for each father. The text only focuses on the key players—leaving out countless others. The human race split into two lines with Cain and Seth. Some of Cain’s line is recorded in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 is Seth’s line. There is no indication that these two lines intermarried.

Thus, the first crossbreeding could have produced hybrid vigor.

It’s sad that so many people think there’s a conflict between science and the Bible. Science is a great help in understanding scripture. Without the science of genetics, we wouldn’t know about hybrid vigor.

God gave us both special revelation (the Bible) and general revelation (His creation) to guide us. He is the creator of both, and both reflect His nature.

Science is the study of general revelation. Science, especially modern medicine, is a magnificent blessing.

3 Genesis 6:5–10 (ESV)

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Noah was different. Noah walked with God. This is obviously important, but what does it mean?

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’” — Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV)

This is one of the most troubling verses in the Bible. How can people who cast out demons in the name of Jesus Christ not get into heaven? What could they possibly have done wrong?

The key is what the *evildoers* don’t say; they don’t say they that did what Jesus told them to do. They were just showing off. They assumed those actions were what God wanted.

They weren’t walking with God. He didn’t know them. They called Him Lord, but was He really their Lord?

Your boss at your job is your boss 40 hours a week. The Lord is supposed to be your boss 24x7. Is He? There are a lot of ways we fall short.

For example, when you confess Jesus as Lord, are you saying He’s “the Lord” or “my Lord”? Even the demons know He’s “the Lord”—and tremble. Confess Him as “my Lord.” Obey Him as “my Lord.”

But that’s still not walking with Him. When you talk with your superiors, what do you talk about? Their agenda or your agenda?

It can be either, but even when it’s your agenda, it’s still supposed to be in the service of their agenda. So, when you pray, what do you talk about? The Lord’s agenda or your agenda?

Granted, it’s hard to pray about God’s agenda when we don’t exactly know what it is, but we should still have that focus.

Jesus saying, “I never knew you,” is like your boss saying, “You never came into my office. All I ever got from you were emails asking for favors.”

4 Genesis 6:11–22 (ESV)

Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.” Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

People ask a lot of questions about the flood. What’s a cubit? Was it a global flood or a local flood? How did that small crew care for so many animals? The list is endless.

Two points are worth noting. First, God was angry with man, not the animals. Carnivores are going to be carnivores. That didn’t bother God. Fish are mostly carnivores. Life in the sea is a great food chain of eating and being eaten, yet the flood spared them all. The purpose of the flood was to purge the humans.

Second, analyzing the flood isn’t the same as analyzing, say, the Nephilim. Science adds important perspectives to understanding the Nephilim.

But the flood was a miracle. God didn’t say, “An asteroid will strike the earth, wiping out everything.” He said, *“I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them.”*

It is good to ask tough questions about the flood, but don’t expect it to be a natural event.

Yesterday, we noted talking to the Lord the way you would talk to your boss. It’s okay to ask Him for favors, just not all the time. Yes, Jesus healed the sick and did many “favors” for people, but God does not exist for the purpose of helping us out. We need to get on His wavelength, not vice-versa.

Prayer should mainly be asking God to show us the way. And be prepared to have your plans change to conform to His.

Do not take this lightly. This is the key to discipleship. He gets to drive.

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. — John 15:7 (ESV)

5 Genesis 7:1–10 (ESV)

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. 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, and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on 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.” And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth. 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. Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth.

Most folks think that Noah took two pairs of each animal on the ark. Actually, for the clean animals, he took seven pairs. This is one of the most common misconceptions about the Bible. We’d expect Noah to take more of the clean animals on the ark. If they’re to be used for food and sacrifice, he’ll need extras.

We should care about how God and His word are so widely misrepresented and misunderstood. While we don’t always need to correct someone over an error that’s minor, errors like this can be significant. If someone is critical of the Bible based on a misconception, we should, gently, set the person straight.

It’s amazing how often unbelief is coupled with a misunderstanding of God’s word. Any time you hear someone reflecting a misconception about scripture, you have an opportunity to do some useful teaching. If that misconception affects their faith (or lack of it), then it’s important.

But be sensitive. When someone says something wrong about the Bible, that may be the perfect time to correct them—or maybe not. You can defer the issue by saying something like, “I should look that up some time,” or, “I think I’ve seen that translated differently.” Avoid confrontation, but if they’re curious about it, you have an open door.

Our job is not to win arguments, but to bring light into darkness.

This is one way that smartphones can be a real blessing. Whipping out a printed Bible to look up a verse looks more confrontational than fiddling with your phone (and it’s not easy to have a Bible to whip out anyway). Looking stuff up on a phone has become so common that most folks don’t think anything of it. We all have imperfect memories, and nowadays things are easy to check.

In addition to thanking and praising God for modern technology, it’s good to ask Him for an opportunity to discuss His word with someone who needs it.

And be sure to have the app.

Questions for reflection or discussion

1. When was the last time someone called you out?
2. Have you every learned something in science that helped you understand something in the Bible?
3. What does it feel like to walk with God?
4. How do you understand the flood?
5. What scripture errors or misquotes do you hear most often?