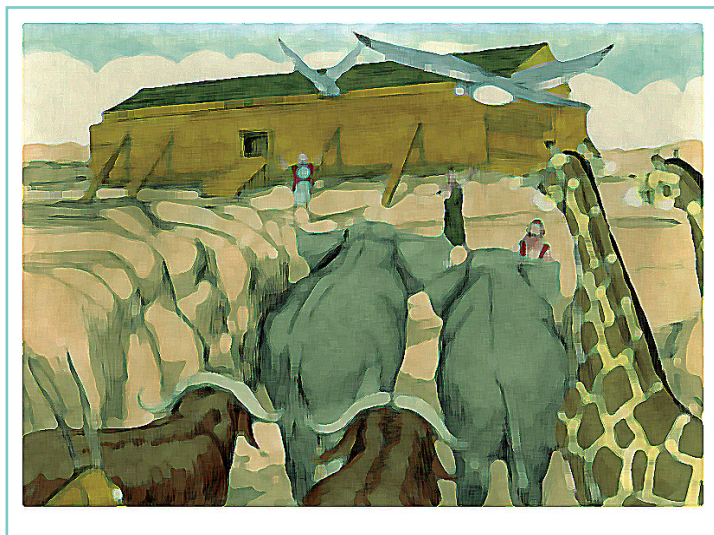


Lesson 2: Trust



Old Testament

New Testament

Where in the Bible?

Genesis Chapters 1-11
describe the era
of Pre-History

The Old Testament: Pentateuch

The first five books of the Bible are known as the **Pentateuch** — meaning “the five scrolls.” The early chapters of Genesis are important in describing humanity as a whole and our relationship with God as his special creation. We are meant to see ourselves reflected in the stories of human nature, sin, and the grace of God.

Biblical Time Period: Pre-History

There was a time in the ancient past, before writing was invented, that there was no written history. By the time the first stories and records were ever written down by human beings, the world in which we live already existed. This is what we commonly refer to as the prehistoric era — the time before history.

Ancient civilizations across the whole world (not just those in the Bible) share stories of a great flood in the Earth's past, pointing to the historical basis for such an event in our collective human memory.

Introduction

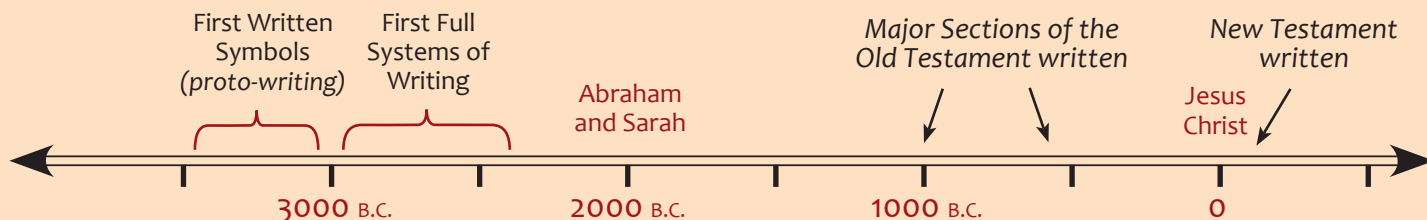
In the earliest days of human civilization, God saw that human beings had become wicked and sinful. He decided send a flood to wipe all life from the earth. However, in his mercy, he promised to save a remnant of all animals and other creatures, including a man named Noah and his family, who were kept safe in a great ark.

Genesis 6:5-22, 7:11-12, 8:1-4

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

When in Time?

The first historical instance of writing was among the Sumerians around 3400-3100 B.C. Called cuneiform, it consisted of wedge-shaped symbols pressed into clay, originally used to record merchant transactions and inventories. Fully written texts did not appear until centuries later.



Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son ... (Hebrews 1:1-2a).

Discuss: Genesis 6:5-22, 7:11-12, 8:1-4

1. Why did God decide to destroy the world? What was the problem? According to verse 6:6, how did this make God *feel*? Does it surprise you to know that God feels emotions? Why or why not?
2. From what substance did Noah build the ark? A cubit is about 1½ feet. What were the ark's measurements? How many levels did the ark have?
3. According to verse 6:18, what people did God save from the flood? How many human beings were saved on the ark?
4. Why did God want Noah to save a male and female of every animal? What was God planning for the future? What else did God tell them to bring?
5. How did Noah respond to God's command? Do you think that it was easy for Noah to trust God? Why do you think that Noah listened?
6. According to Genesis 7:11-12, for how long did it rain on the earth? Besides the rain, from where else did God produce the water of the flood? According to Genesis 8:3, after the rain stopped, how long did it take for the water to recede? On what mountain did the ark come to rest?
7. Read 1 Peter 3:20-22, in which Peter compares Noah's flood to the promise we have in Baptism. How did God use the waters of the flood to *clean* the world and lift Noah to safety? How is this like what God does for us in Baptism? What is God cleaning in us, and how are we like Noah?
8. Because of this story, most people think an ark is a type of boat. Literally, an ark is a box used to carry something, like a treasure chest. In the Bible, where else do we see an ark used, and what did it carry? How did Noah's ark serve as God's treasure chest? What does that tell us about what God values and desires to save — even when he is angry?

Where in the World?

The map shows lands described in the Bible, where some of the earliest civilizations in the world began. According to the Bible, after the flood, the ark came to rest on Mount Ararat, in Asia Minor (modern-day country of Turkey).

- a) Label **Mount Ararat**, marked with a triangle on the map to the right.
- b) Not far from the Ararat mountains is an archaeological site known as **Göbekli Tepe** (*go-BEK-ly TEH-pee*), which has the world's oldest megalithic stones, featuring stone carvings of many types of animals. Label the purple dot on the map.

