

THE
code
BIBLE
for men

honour * integrity * compassion

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The Code Bible

Contemporary English Version

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Contents

Books of the Bible in alphabetical order	vi
Introduction to the Code Bible	vii
What is the Code?	ix
What to read when...	x
Foreword to the Contemporary English Version	xiii
Time-line of the Bible	xiv
How to read the Bible	xv
About the Contemporary English Version	xvi

Old Testament

Genesis	3	2 Chronicles	425	Daniel	862
Exodus	52	Ezra	460	Hosea	880
Leviticus	92	Nehemiah	472	Joel	893
Numbers	121	Esther	489	Amos	899
Deuteronomy	158	Job	498	Obadiah	910
Joshua	201	Psalms	529	Jonah	913
Judges	230	Proverbs	620	Micah	917
Ruth	259	Ecclesiastes	652	Nahum	925
1 Samuel	265	Song of Songs	662	Habakkuk	929
2 Samuel	300	Isaiah	670	Zephaniah	934
1 Kings	331	Jeremiah	738	Haggai	939
2 Kings	362	Lamentations	803	Zechariah	942
1 Chronicles	395	Ezekiel	812	Malachi	954

New Testament

Matthew	959	Ephesians	1187	Hebrews	1228
Mark	1002	Philippians	1194	James	1242
Luke	1028	Colossians	1199	1 Peter	1248
John	1070	1 Thessalonians	1204	2 Peter	1255
Acts	1100	2 Thessalonians	1208	1 John	1259
Romans	1136	1 Timothy	1211	2 John	1265
1 Corinthians	1153	2 Timothy	1217	3 John	1267
2 Corinthians	1169	Titus	1222	Jude	1269
Galatians	1180	Philemon	1226	Revelation	1272

Mini dictionary to the Bible	1293
Maps	1315

What is the Code?

The Code journey started about three years ago. For me it's always when I'm not expecting it that I hear God speak to me. On this particular occasion I was in the shower.

Out of the blue an idea popped into my mind accompanied by a panoramic vision of seeing a movement of men rise up across the UK. I got out of the shower and wrote down four statements under the heading "the Code".

If you are anything like me, I find walking with Jesus an up-and-down affair. Sometimes I feel like the afterburners are on and I'm slipping along at Mach 2 and nothing can stand in my way, but at other times I feel like the engines have flamed out and I'm in a flat spin!

I have looked for years for something that would help keep me on track, something that would help me and my brothers walk with Jesus at work, home, church, on the playing field, over a business deal, and in my relationships with others. The Code speaks straight into this.

When I looked at it, "the Code" looked like kind of modern-day monastic rules of life for men. It's not normally my thing, but I had that heart-in-my-mouth feeling that you get when you know God is there with you.

Cutting a long story short, I took it to the team I work with who loved the idea although they didn't like everything I had written down (a bit too much of me in some of the statements I think!)

So over the last two years we have wrestled to get to the heart of what we believe God wants for us. That initial four lines has now become 12 statements that cover many areas of life. Along the way we have had some amazing encounters with people who have felt similarly stirred and have seen God shine his light on us.

Imagine businesses signing up to the Code as a kind of Kingdom kite mark. What if issues such as sex trafficking got hit hard because men decided that they were going to take a stand? What if men decided that they were going to look away from the gutter but be prepared to pull people out of it? What if men decided to live once again by a code of honour with Jesus as their captain, brother, rescuer, and friend? The possibilities are limitless, the potential for transformation, huge!

The short book giving background to the Code is available from us at CVM, all bookshops, and from Amazon and on Kindle.

Now we have a Bible that sits with the Code. We think you will love it!

Join us for what could be the start of something amazing. Get gripped by God's Word. Be the man you know you ought to be. Do great things for God.

DEO OPTIMO MAXIMO!

Carl Beech
Christian Vision for Men

Genesis

BEGINNINGS, STRUGGLES, FAILURES, FLOODS, AND HEROES

About this book

The name “Genesis” comes from a Greek word meaning “beginning”. And this is a book of beginnings, because it talks about the beginning of the universe, the beginning of the human race, and the beginning of the people of Israel.

The first part of Genesis (1—11) tells about creation and the human race up to the time of Abraham. Everything God created was good, but the first two human beings, Adam and Eve, disobeyed him and brought evil into the world. People became so sinful that God decided to send a flood to kill everyone except a man named Noah and his family who worshipped him. God told them to build a large boat to save themselves and a few of each kind of animals and birds. After the flood people again spread out over the earth, and most of them stopped worshipping God.

The rest of the book of Genesis (12—50) contains the story of Abram and his family. God chose them to be the beginning of his own special people. God also changed Abram’s name to Abraham, and the name of Abram’s wife Sarai to Sarah. Abraham and his wife Sarah had no children, but God promised that they would have a child and that their descendants would some day have their own land and be a blessing for all nations.

Abraham and Sarah moved to Canaan, the land that God had promised to give their descendants, and had a son, Isaac, when they were very old. Isaac later had two sons, Jacob and Esau. As the book concludes, Jacob’s twelve sons and their families are living in Egypt. One of these brothers, Joseph, had become the governor of Egypt. But Joseph knew that God would some day keep his promise to his people:

Before Joseph died, he told his brothers, “I won’t live much longer. But God will take care of you and lead you out of Egypt to the land he promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

(50.24)

A quick look at this book

1. The story of creation (1.1—2.25)
2. The first sin and the first murder (3.1—4.16)
3. Descendants of Adam before the flood (4.17—5.32)
4. Noah and the flood (6.1—9.28)
5. The descendants of Noah and the tower of Babel (10.1—11.32)

6. The Lord chooses Abram (12.1-20)
7. Abram and Lot (13.1-14.24)
8. The Lord's promises to Abram (15.1-21)
9. Abram, Hagar, and Ishmael (16.1-16)
10. God changes Abram's name to Abraham and promises him a son (17.1-18.15)
11. Abraham, Lot, Sodom, and Gomorrah (18.16-19.38)
12. Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac (20.1-23.20)
13. Rebekah, a wife for Isaac (24.1-67)
14. The death of Abraham (25.1-18)
15. Isaac and his family (25.19-28.9)
16. Jacob and his family (28.10-35.29)
17. Esau and his family (36.1-43)
18. Joseph is sold by his brothers as a slave (37.1-36)
19. Judah and Tamar (38.1-30)
20. Joseph in Egypt (39.1-41.57)
21. Joseph and his brothers (42.1-45.28)
22. Jacob and his family go to Egypt (46.1-47.31)
23. Jacob blesses his family and dies (48.1-50.14)
24. Joseph dies (50.15-26)

The story of creation

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
² The earth was barren, with no form of life;† it was under a roaring ocean covered with darkness. But the Spirit of God‡ was moving over the water.

The first day

³ God said, "I command light to shine!" And light started shining. ⁴ God looked at the light and saw that it was good. He separated light from darkness ⁵ and named the light "Day" and the darkness "Night". Evening came and then morning—that was the first day.*

The second day

⁶ God said, "I command a dome to separate the water above it from the water below it." ⁷ And that's what happened. God made the dome ⁸ and named it "Sky". Evening came and then morning—that was the second day.

The third day

⁹ God said, "I command the water under the sky to come together in one place, so there will be dry ground." And that's what happened. ¹⁰ God named the dry ground "Land", and he named the water "Sea". God looked at what he had done and saw that it was good.

¹¹ God said, "I command the earth to produce all kinds of plants, including fruit trees and grain." And that's what happened. ¹² The earth produced all kinds of vegetation. God looked at what he had done, and it was good. ¹³ Evening came and then morning—that was the third day.

The fourth day

¹⁴ God said, "I command lights to appear in the sky and to separate day from night and to show the time for seasons, special days, and years. ¹⁵ I command them to shine on the earth." And that's what happened. ¹⁶ God made two powerful lights, the brighter one to rule the day and the other* to rule the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ Then God put these lights in the sky to shine on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule

* **1.1** *the heavens and the earth*: "The heavens and the earth" stood for the universe. * **1.5** *the first day*: A day was measured from evening to evening. * **1.16** *the brighter ... the other*: The sun and the moon. But they are not called by their names, because in Old Testament times some people worshipped the sun and the moon as though they were gods.

day and night, and to separate light from darkness. God looked at what he had done, and it was good. ¹⁹Evening came and then morning—that was the fourth day.

The fifth day

²⁰God said, "I command the sea to be full of living creatures, and I command birds to fly above the earth." ²¹So God made the giant sea monsters and all the living creatures that swim in the sea. He also made every kind of bird. God looked at what he had done, and it was good. ²²Then he gave the living creatures his blessing—he told the sea creatures to live everywhere in the sea and the birds to live everywhere on earth. ²³Evening came and then morning—that was the fifth day.

The sixth day

²⁴God said, "I command the earth to give life to all kinds of tame animals, wild animals, and reptiles." And that's what happened. ²⁵God made every one of them. Then he looked at what he had done, and it was good.

²⁶God said, "Now we will make humans, and they will be like us. We will let them rule the fish, the birds, and all other living creatures."

²⁷So God created humans to be like

PLEDGE

Instead of looking and walking like God (he was created in God's image), instead of controlling creation Adam colludes with the polluter and corrupter of creation. Jesus' ministry starts to bring creation back under Kingdom control (see his miracles re-ordering health, weather, and harvest).

PLEDGE TO PROTECT THE WORLD GOD HAS MADE AND BRING IT UNDER KINGDOM CONTROL (Code XI).

himself; he made men and women. ²⁸God gave them his blessing and said:

Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth.

²⁹I have provided all kinds of fruit and grain for you to eat. ³⁰And I have given the green plants as food for everything else that breathes. These will be food for animals, both wild and tame, and for birds.

³¹God looked at what he had done. All of it was very good! Evening came and then morning—that was the sixth day.

2 So the heavens and the earth and everything else were created.

The seventh day

²By the seventh day God had finished his work, and so he rested. ³God blessed the seventh day and made it special because on that day he rested from his work.

⁴That's how God created the heavens and the earth.

The Garden of Eden

When the LORD God made the heavens and the earth, ⁵no grass or plants were growing anywhere. God had not yet sent any rain, and there was no one to work the land. ⁶But streams came up from the ground and watered the earth.

⁷The LORD God took a handful of soil and made a man. * God breathed life into the man, and the man started breathing. ⁸The LORD made a garden in a place called Eden, which was in the east, and he put the man there.

⁹The LORD God placed all kinds of beautiful trees and fruit trees in the garden. Two other trees were in the middle of the garden. One of the trees gave life—the other gave the power to know the difference between right and wrong.

¹⁰From Eden a river flowed out to water the garden, then it divided into four rivers. ¹¹The first one is the River Pishon that flows through the land of Havilah, ¹²where pure gold, rare perfumes, and precious stones are found. ¹³The second is the River Gihon that winds through Ethiopia. * ¹⁴The River Tigris that flows east of Assyria is the third, and the fourth is the River Euphrates.

* **2.7** man: In Hebrew "man" comes from the same word as "soil". * **2.13** Ethiopia: The Hebrew text has "Cush", which was a region south of Egypt that included parts of the present countries of Ethiopia and Sudan.

1.26: 1 Co 11.7. 1.27,28: Gn 5.1,2. 1.27: Mt 19.4; Mk 10.6. 2.2,3: Ex 20.11. 2.2: He 4.4,10. 2.7: 1 Co 15.45. 2.9: Rev 2.7; 22.2,14.

XI
1
26

XI

¹⁵The LORD God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it. ¹⁶But the LORD told him, “You may eat fruit from any tree in the garden, ¹⁷except the one that has the power to let you know the difference between right and wrong. If you eat any fruit from that tree, you will die before the day is over!”

¹⁸The LORD God said, “It isn’t good for the man to live alone. I need to make a suitable partner for him.” ¹⁹⁻²⁰So the LORD took some soil and made animals and birds. He brought them to the man to see what names he would give each of them. Then the man named the tame animals and the birds and the wild animals. That’s how they got their names.

None of these was the right kind of partner for the man. ²¹So the LORD God made him fall into a deep sleep, and he took out one of the man’s ribs. Then after closing the man’s side, ²²the LORD made a woman out of the rib.

The LORD God brought her to the man, ²³and the man exclaimed,

“Here is someone like me!
She is part of my body,
my own flesh and bones.
She came from me, a man.
So I will name her Woman!”*

²⁴That’s why a man will leave his own father and mother. He marries a woman, and the two of them become like one person.

²⁵Although the man and his wife were both naked, they were not ashamed.

The first sin and the first murder

The first sin

3 The snake was more cunning than any of the other wild animals that the LORD God had made. One day it came to the woman and asked, “Did God tell you not to eat fruit from any tree in the garden?”

²The woman answered, “God said we could eat fruit from any tree in the garden, ³except the one in the middle. He told us not to eat fruit from that tree or even to touch it. If we do, we will die.”

⁴“No, you won’t!” the snake replied. ⁵“God understands what will happen on the day you eat fruit from that tree. You will see what you have done, and you will know the difference between right and wrong, just as God does.”

⁶The woman stared at the fruit. It looked beautiful and tasty. She wanted the wisdom that it would give her, and she ate some of the fruit. Her husband was there with her, so she gave some to him, and he ate it too. ⁷Straight away they saw what they had done, and they realized they were naked. Then they sewed fig leaves together to make something to cover themselves.

⁸Late in the afternoon a breeze began to blow, and the man and woman heard the LORD God walking in the garden. They were frightened and hid behind some trees.

The trouble with sin

⁹The LORD called out to the man and asked, “Where are you?”

¹⁰The man answered, “I was naked, and when I heard you walking through the garden, I was frightened and hid!”

¹¹“How did you know you were naked?” God asked. “Did you eat any fruit from that tree in the middle of the garden?”

¹²“It was the woman you put here with me,” the man said. “She gave me some of the fruit, and I ate it.”

¹³The LORD God then asked the woman, “What have you done?”

“The snake tricked me,” she answered. “And I ate some of that fruit.”

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the snake:

“Because of what you have done,
you will be the only animal
to suffer this curse—
for as long as you live,
you will crawl on your stomach
and eat dust.

¹⁵You and this woman
will hate each other;
your descendants and hers
will always be enemies.
One of hers will strike you
on the head,
and you will strike him
on the heel.”

¹⁶Then the LORD said to the woman,

“You will suffer terribly
when you give birth.
But you will still desire
your husband,
and he will rule over you.”

* 2.23 a man ... Woman: In Hebrew the words “man” and “woman” are similar.

¹⁷The LORD said to the man,

“You listened to your wife
and ate fruit from that tree.

And so, the ground
will be under a curse
because of what you did.

As long as you live,
you will have to struggle
to grow enough food.

¹⁸Your food will be plants,
but the ground will produce
thorns and thistles.

¹⁹You will have to sweat
to earn a living;
you were made out of soil,
and you will once again
turn into soil.”

²⁰The man Adam* named his wife Eve* because she would become the mother of all who live.

²¹Then the LORD God made clothes out of animal skins for the man and his wife.

²²The LORD said, “These people now know the difference between right and wrong, just as we do. But they must not be allowed to eat fruit from the tree that lets them live for ever.” ²³So the LORD God sent them out of the Garden of Eden, where they would have to work the ground from which the man had been made. ²⁴Then God put winged creatures at the entrance to the garden and a flaming, flashing sword to guard the way to the life-giving tree.

Cain murders Abel

4 Adam* and Eve had a son. Then Eve said, “I’ll name him Cain because I got* him with the help of the LORD.” ² Later she had another son and named him Abel.

Abel became a sheep farmer, but Cain farmed the land. ³ One day, Cain gave part of his harvest to the LORD, ⁴ and Abel also gave an offering to the LORD. He killed the firstborn lamb from one of his sheep and gave the LORD the best parts of it. The LORD was pleased with Abel and his offering, ⁵ but not with Cain and his offering. This made Cain so angry that he could not hide his feelings.

⁶ The LORD said to Cain:

QUESTION

Cosmic cover up; Cosmic clean up

Adam (3.8-10), Cain (4.8-12), Abraham (12.10-20): Genesis is full of blokes who are covering up their mistakes, mischief, and mess. The result is more mess. We know that we don’t get rid of mess by covering it up; we get rid of mess by coming clean. Are there areas of mess that you are trying to cover up? Come clean.

What’s wrong with you? Why do you have such an angry look on your face? ⁷ If you had done the right thing, you would be smiling. ⁸ But you did the wrong thing, and now sin is waiting to attack you like a lion. Sin wants to destroy you, but don’t let it!

⁸ Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go for a walk.” ⁹ And when they were out in a field, Cain killed him.

⁹ Afterwards the LORD asked Cain, “Where is Abel?”

“How should I know?” he answered. “Am I supposed to look after my brother?”

¹⁰ Then the LORD said:

Why have you done this terrible thing? You killed your own brother, and his blood flowed on to the ground. Now his blood is calling out for me to punish you. ¹¹ And so, I’ll put you under a curse. Because you killed Abel and made his blood run out on the ground, you will never be able to farm the land again. ¹² If you try to farm the land, it won’t produce anything for you. From now on, you’ll be without a home, and you’ll spend the rest of your life wandering from place to place.

¹³ “This punishment is too hard!” Cain said. ¹⁴ “You’re making me leave my home and live far from you. I will have to wander about without a home, and anyone could kill me.”

* **3.20** *The man Adam*: In Hebrew “man” and “Adam” are the same. * **3.20** *Eve*: In Hebrew “Eve” sounds like “living”.

* **4.1** *Adam*: See the note at 3.20. * **4.1** *Cain ... got*: In Hebrew “Cain” sounds like “got”. * **4.14** *live ... you*: At this time it was believed that the LORD was with his people only in their own land.

Quote

Someone or something whispered that they could become as gods ... They wanted some corner in this universe of which they could say to God, "This is our business, not yours." But there is no such corner.

CS Lewis

¹⁵ "No!"▶ the LORD answered. "Anyone who kills you will be punished seven times worse than I am punishing you." So the LORD put a mark on Cain to warn everyone not to kill him. ¹⁶ But Cain had to go far from the LORD and live in the Land of Wandering,▶ which is east of Eden.

Descendants of Adam before the flood

More and more people

¹⁷ Later, Cain and his wife had a son named Enoch. At the time Cain was building a town, and so he named it Enoch after his son. ¹⁸ Then Enoch had a son named Irad, who had a son named Mehujael, who had a son named Methushael, who had a son named Lamech.

¹⁹ Lamech married Adah, then Zillah. ²⁰⁻²¹ Lamech and Adah had two sons, Jabal and Jubal. Their son Jabal was the first to live in tents and raise sheep and goats. Jubal was the first to play harps and flutes.

²² Lamech and Zillah had a son named Tubal Cain who made tools out of bronze and iron. They also had a daughter, whose name was Naamah.

²³ One day, Lamech said to his two wives, "A young man wounded me, and I killed him. ²⁴ Anyone who tries to get even with me will be punished ten times more than anyone who tries to get even with Cain."

²⁵ Adam and his wife had another son. They named him Seth, because they said, "God has given* us a son to take the place of Abel, who was killed by his brother Cain."

²⁶ Later, Seth had a son and named him Enosh.

About this time people started worshipping the LORD.▶

Descendants of Adam

5¹⁻² God created men and women to be like himself. He gave them his blessing and called them human beings. This is a list of the descendants of Adam, the first man:

³⁻⁴ When Adam was one hundred and thirty, he had a son who was just like him, and he named him Seth. Adam had more children ⁵ and died at the age of nine hundred and thirty.

⁶ When Seth was one hundred and five, he had a son named Enosh. ⁷ Seth had more children ⁸ and died at the age of nine hundred and twelve.

⁹ When Enosh was ninety, he had a son named Kenan. ¹⁰ Enosh had more children ¹¹ and died at the age of nine hundred and five.

¹² When Kenan was seventy, he had a son named Mahalalel. ¹³ Kenan had more children ¹⁴ and died at the age of nine hundred and ten.

¹⁵ When Mahalalel was sixty-five, he had a son named Jared. ¹⁶ Mahalalel had more children ¹⁷ and died at the age of eight hundred and ninety-five.

¹⁸ When Jared was one hundred and sixty-two, he had a son named Enoch. ¹⁹ Jared had more children ²⁰ and died at the age of nine hundred and sixty-two.

²¹ When Enoch was sixty-five, he had a son named Methuselah, ²² and during the next three hundred years he had more children. Enoch truly loved God, ²³⁻²⁴ and God took him away at the age of three hundred and sixty-five.

²⁵ When Methuselah was one hundred and eighty-seven, he had a son named Lamech. ²⁶ Methuselah had more children ²⁷ and died at the age of nine hundred and sixty-nine.

²⁸ When Lamech was one hundred and eighty-two, he had a son. ²⁹ Lamech said, "I'll name him Noah because he will give us comfort,* as we struggle hard to make a living on this land that the LORD has put under a curse." ³⁰ Lamech had more children ³¹ and died at the age of seven hundred and seventy-seven.

³² After Noah was five hundred years old, he had three sons and named them Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

* **4.25** *Seth ... given:* In Hebrew "Seth" sounds like "given". * **5.29** *Noah ... comfort:* In Hebrew "Noah" sounds like "comfort".

Noah and the flood

The LORD will send a flood

6¹⁻² More and more people were born, until finally they spread all over the earth. Some of their daughters were so beautiful that supernatural beings[▶] came down and married the ones they wanted. ³ Then the LORD said, "I won't let my life-giving breath remain in anyone for ever."[▶] No one will live for more than one hundred and twenty years."[▶]

⁴ The children of the supernatural beings who had married these women became famous heroes and warriors. They were called Nephilim and lived on the earth at that time and even later.

⁵ The LORD saw how bad the people on earth were and that everything they thought and planned was evil. ⁶ He was very sorry that he had made them, ⁷ and he said, "I'll destroy every living creature on earth! I'll wipe out people, animals, birds, and reptiles. I'm sorry I ever made them."

⁸ But the LORD was pleased with Noah, ⁹ and this is the story about him. Noah was the only person who lived right and obeyed God. ¹⁰ He had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹⁻¹² God knew that everyone was terribly cruel and violent. ¹³ So he told Noah:

Cruelty and violence have spread everywhere. Now I'm going to destroy the whole earth and all its people. ¹⁴ Get some good timber and build a boat. Put rooms in it and cover it with tar inside and out. ¹⁵ Make it one hundred and thirty-three metres long, twenty-two metres wide, and thirteen metres high. ¹⁶ Build a roof[▶] on the boat and leave a space of about forty-four centimetres between the roof and the sides.[▶] Make the boat three storeys high and put a door on one side.

¹⁷ I'm going to send a flood that will destroy everything that breathes! Nothing will be left alive. ¹⁸ But I solemnly promise that you, your wife, your sons, and your daughters-in-law will be kept safe in the boat.[▶]

¹⁹⁻²⁰ Bring into the boat with you a male and a female of every kind of animal and bird, as well as a male and a female of every reptile. I don't want them to be

destroyed. ²¹ Store up enough food both for yourself and for them.

²² Noah did everything the LORD told him to do.

CHALLENGE

Will you obey God's commands, even if it makes you look stupid in the eyes of people you spend time with?

The flood

7 The LORD told Noah:

Take your whole family with you into the boat, because you are the only one on this earth who pleases me. ² Take seven pairs of every kind of animal that can be used for sacrifice^{*} and one pair of all others. ³ Also take seven pairs of every kind of bird with you. Do this so there will always be animals and birds on the earth. ⁴ Seven days from now I will send rain that will last for forty days and nights, and I will destroy all other living creatures I have made.

⁵⁻⁷ Noah was six hundred years old when he went into the boat to escape the flood, and he did everything the LORD had told him to do. His wife, his sons, and his daughters-in-law all went inside with him. ⁸⁻⁹ He obeyed God and took a male and a female of each kind of animal and bird into the boat with him. ¹⁰ Seven days later a flood began to cover the earth.

¹¹⁻¹² Noah was six hundred years old when the water under the earth started gushing out everywhere. The sky opened like windows, and rain poured down for forty days and nights. All this began on the seventeenth day of the second month of the year. ¹³ On that day Noah and his wife went into the boat with their three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives. ¹⁴ They took along every kind of animal, tame and wild, including the birds. ¹⁵ Noah took a male and a female of every living creature with him, ¹⁶ just as God had told him to do. And when they were all in the boat, God closed the door.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ For forty days the rain poured down without stopping. And the water became

* 7.2 animal ... for sacrifice: Hebrew "clean animals". Animals that could be used for sacrifice were called "clean", and animals that could not be used were called "unclean".

deeper and deeper, until the boat started floating high above the ground. ¹⁹⁻²⁰ Finally, the mighty flood was so deep that even the highest mountain peaks were about seven metres below the surface of the water. ²¹ Not a bird, animal, reptile, or human was left alive anywhere on earth. ²²⁻²³ The LORD destroyed everything that breathed. Nothing was left alive except Noah and the others in the boat. ²⁴ A hundred and fifty days later, the water started going down.

The water goes down

8 God did not forget about Noah and the animals with him in the boat. So God made a wind blow, and the water started going down. ² God stopped up the places where the water had been gushing out from under the earth. He also closed up the sky, and the rain stopped. ³ For one hundred and fifty days the water slowly went down. ⁴ Then on the seventeenth day of the seventh month of the year, the boat came to rest somewhere in the Ararat mountains. ⁵ The water kept going down, and the mountain tops could be seen on the first day of the tenth month.

⁶⁻⁷ Forty days later Noah opened a window to send out a raven, but it kept flying around until the water had dried up. ⁸ Noah wanted to find out if the water had gone down, and he sent out a dove. ⁹ Deep water was still everywhere, and the dove could not find a place to land. So it flew back to the boat. Noah held out his hand and helped it back in.

¹⁰ Seven days later Noah sent the dove out again. ¹¹ It returned in the evening, holding in its beak a green leaf from an olive tree. Noah knew that the water was finally going down. ¹² He waited seven more days before sending the dove out again, and this time it did not return.

¹³ Noah was now six hundred and one years old. And by the first day of that year, almost all the water had gone away. Noah made an opening in the roof of the boat and saw that the ground was getting dry. ¹⁴ By the twenty-seventh day of the second month, the earth was completely dry.

¹⁵ God said to Noah, ¹⁶ "You, your wife, your sons, and your daughters-in-law may now leave the boat. ¹⁷ Let out the birds, animals, and reptiles, so they can mate and live all over the earth." ¹⁸ After Noah

and his family had gone out of the boat, ¹⁹ the living creatures left in groups of their own kind.

The LORD's promise for the earth

²⁰ Noah built an altar where he could offer sacrifices to the LORD. Then he offered on the altar one of each kind of animal and bird that could be used for a sacrifice. * ²¹ The smell of the burning offering pleased God, and he said:

Never again will I punish the earth for the sinful things its people do. All of them have evil thoughts from the time they are young, but I will never destroy everything that breathes, as I did this time.

²² As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat; winter and summer, day and night.

God's promise to Noah

9 God said to Noah and his sons: I am giving you my blessing. Have a lot of children and grandchildren, so people will live everywhere on this earth. ² All animals, birds, reptiles, and fish will be afraid of you. I have placed them under your control, ³ and I have given them to you for food. From now on, you may eat them, as well as the green plants that you have always eaten. ⁴ But life is in the blood, and you must not eat any meat that still has blood in it. ⁵⁻⁶ I created humans to be like me, and I will punish any animal or person that takes a human life. If an animal kills someone, that animal must die. And if a person takes the life of another, that person must be put to death.

⁷ I want you and your descendants to have many children, so people will live everywhere on earth.

⁸ Again, God said to Noah and his sons:

⁹ I am going to make a solemn promise to you and to everyone who will live after you. ¹⁰ This includes the birds and the animals that came out of the boat. ¹¹ I promise every living creature that the earth and those living on it will never again be destroyed by a flood.

* 8.20 animal ... sacrifice: See the note at 7.2.

¹²⁻¹³ The rainbow that I have put in the sky will be my sign to you and to every living creature on earth. It will remind you that I will keep this promise for ever.

¹⁴ When I send clouds over the earth, and a rainbow appears in the sky, ¹⁵ I will remember my promise to you and to all other living creatures. Never again will I let flood waters destroy all life.

¹⁶ When I see the rainbow in the sky, I will always remember the promise that I have made to every living creature.

¹⁷ The rainbow will be the sign of that solemn promise.

Noah and his family

¹⁸ Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, came out of the boat. Ham later had a son named Canaan. ¹⁹ All people on earth are descendants of Noah's three sons.

²⁰ Noah farmed the land and was the first to plant a vineyard. ²¹ One day he got drunk and was lying naked in his tent. ²² Ham entered the tent and saw him naked, then went back outside and told his brothers. ²³ Shem and Japheth put a robe over their shoulders and walked backwards into the tent. Without looking at their father, they placed it over his body.

²⁴ When Noah woke up and learnt what his youngest son Ham had done, ²⁵ he said,

"I now put a curse on Canaan!
He will be the lowest slave
of his brothers.

²⁶ I ask the LORD my God
to bless Shem
and make Canaan his slave.

²⁷ I pray that the LORD
will give Japheth
more and more* land
and let him take over
the territory of Shem.
May Canaan be his slave."

²⁸ Noah lived three hundred and fifty years after the flood ²⁹ and died at the age of nine hundred and fifty.

The descendants of Noah and the tower of Babel

The descendants of Noah

10 After the flood Shem, Ham, and Japheth had many descendants.

PRAY Father, thank you for always giving me second chances to live my life for you. You delight in a man who has faith in you, like Noah, Abraham, and Joseph. Guide me to become a man of faith. In Jesus' name, amen.

The descendants of Japheth

²⁻⁵ Japheth's descendants had their own languages, tribes, and land. They were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

Gomer was the ancestor of Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

Javan was the ancestor of Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim, ▶ who settled along the coast.

The descendants of Ham

⁶⁻²⁰ Ham's descendants had their own languages, tribes, and land. They were Ethiopia, * Egypt, Put, and Canaan.

Cush* was the ancestor of Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca.

Raamah was the ancestor of Sheba and Dedan.

Cush was also the ancestor of Nimrod, a mighty warrior whose strength came from the LORD. Nimrod is the reason for the saying, "You hunt like Nimrod with the strength of the LORD!" Nimrod first ruled in Babylon, Erech, and Accad, all of ▶ which were in Babylonia. ▶ From there Nimrod went to Assyria and built the great city of Nineveh. He also built Rehoboth-Ir and Calah, as well as Resen, which is between Nineveh and Calah.

Egypt was the ancestor of Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, Pathrusim, Casluhim, and Caphtorim, the ancestor of the Philistines. ▶

Canaan's sons were Sidon and Heth. He was also the ancestor of the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites, the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites.

Later the Canaanites spread from the territory of Sidon and went as far as Gaza in the direction of Gerar. They also went as far as Lasha in the direction of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim.

* **9.27** *more and more*: In Hebrew "Japheth" sounds like "more and more". * **10.6-20** *Ethiopia*: See the note at 2.13.

* **10.6-20** *Cush*: See the note at 2.13.

TOP TEN FREEDOM SONGS

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Redemption song Bob Marley | 6. Flags of freedom Neil Young |
| 2. Chimes of freedom Bob Dylan | 7. Solsbury Hill Peter Gabriel |
| 3. Talkin' 'bout a revolution Tracy Chapman | 8. A great day for freedom Pink Floyd |
| 4. Bird on a wire Leonard Cohen | 9. Freedom Jimi Hendrix |
| 5. Free me Cast | 10. Where the streets have no name U2 |

⁴then he melted them and made an idol in the shape of a young bull.

All the people said to one another, "This is the god who brought us out of Egypt!"

⁵When Aaron saw what was happening, he built an altar in front of the idol and said, "Tomorrow we will celebrate in honour of the LORD."⁶The people got up early the next morning and killed some animals to be used for sacrifices and others to be eaten. Then everyone ate and drank so much that they began to carry on like wild people.

⁷The LORD said to Moses:

Hurry back down! Those people you led out of Egypt are acting like fools.⁸They have already stopped obeying me and have made themselves an idol in the shape of a young bull. They have bowed down to it, offered sacrifices, and said that it is the god who brought them out of Egypt.

⁹Moses, I have seen how stubborn these people are,¹⁰ and I'm angry enough to destroy them, so don't try to stop me. But I will make your descendants into a great nation.

¹¹Moses tried to get the LORD God to change his mind:

Our LORD, you used your mighty power to bring these people out of Egypt. Now don't become angry and destroy them.¹²If you do, the Egyptians will say that you brought your people out here into the mountains just to get rid of them. Please don't be angry with your people. Don't destroy them!

¹³Remember the solemn promise you made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You promised that some day they would have as many descendants as there are stars in the sky and that you would give them land.

¹⁴So even though the LORD had threatened to destroy the people, he changed his mind and let them live.

¹⁵⁻¹⁶Moses went back down the mountain with the two flat stones on which God had written all his laws with his own hand, and he had used both sides of the stones.

¹⁷When Joshua heard the noisy shouts of the people, he said to Moses, "A battle must be going on down in the camp."

¹⁸But Moses replied, "It doesn't sound like they are shouting because they have won or lost a battle. They are singing wildly!"

¹⁹As Moses got closer to the camp, he saw the idol, and he also saw the people dancing around. This made him so angry that he threw down the stones and broke them to pieces at the foot of the mountain.²⁰He melted the idol the people had made, and he ground it into powder. He scattered it in their water and made them drink it.²¹Moses asked Aaron, "What did these people do to harm you? Why did you make them sin in this terrible way?"

²²Aaron answered:

Don't be angry with me. You know as well as I do that they are determined to do evil.²³They even told me, "That man Moses led us out of Egypt, but now we don't know what has happened to him. Make us a god to lead us."²⁴Then I asked them to bring me their gold earrings. They took them off and gave them to me. I threw the gold into a fire, and out came this bull.

²⁵Moses knew that the people were out of control and that it was Aaron's fault. And now they had made fools of themselves in front of their enemies.²⁶So Moses stood at the gate of the camp and shouted, "Everyone who is on the LORD's side come over here!"