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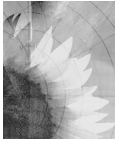
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Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths. PROVERBS 3:5-6



JANUARY 1

GENESIS 1:1-2:25

In the beginning God created* the heavens and the earth.²The earth was empty, a formless mass cloaked in darkness. And the Spirit of God was hovering over its surface.³Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.⁴And God saw that it was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness.⁵God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” Together these made up one day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be space between the waters, to separate water from water.”⁷And so it was. God made this space to separate the waters above from the waters below.⁸And God called the space “sky.” This happened on the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the waters beneath the sky be gathered into one place so dry ground may appear.” And so it was.¹⁰God named the dry ground “land” and the water “seas.” And God saw that it was good.¹¹Then God said, “Let the land burst forth with every sort of grass and seed-bearing plant. And let there be trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. The seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.” And so it was.¹²The land was filled with seed-bearing plants and trees, and their seeds produced plants and trees of like kind. And God saw that it was good.¹³This all happened on the third day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let bright lights appear in the sky to separate the day

from the night. They will be signs to mark off the seasons, the days, and the years.¹⁵Let their light shine down upon the earth.” And so it was.¹⁶For God made two great lights, the sun and the moon, to shine down upon the earth. The greater one, the sun, presides during the day; the lesser one, the moon, presides through the night. He also made the stars.¹⁷God set these lights in the heavens to light the earth,¹⁸to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.¹⁹This all happened on the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.”²¹So God created great sea creatures and every sort of fish and every kind of bird. And God saw that it was good.²²Then God blessed them, saying, “Let the fish multiply and fill the oceans. Let the birds increase and fill the earth.”²³This all happened on the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, “Let the earth bring forth every kind of animal—livestock, small animals, and wildlife.” And so it was.²⁵God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to reproduce more of its own kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make people* in our image, to be like ourselves. They will be masters over all life—the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the livestock, wild animals,* and small animals.”

27 So God created people in his own image;

1:1 Or *In the beginning when God created, or When God began to create.* 1:26a Hebrew *man*; also in 1:27. 1:26b As in Syriac version; Hebrew reads *all the earth*.

**God patterned them after himself;
male and female he created them.**

²⁸God blessed them and told them, “Multiply and fill the earth and subdue it. Be masters over the fish and birds and all the animals.” ²⁹And God said, “Look! I have given you the seed-bearing plants throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. ³⁰And I have given all the grasses and other green plants to the animals and birds for their food.” And so it was. ³¹Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was excellent in every way. This all happened on the sixth day.

^{2:1}So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. ²On the seventh day, having finished his task, God rested from all his work. ³And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from his work of creation.

⁴This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth.

When the LORD God made the heavens and the earth, ⁵there were no plants or grain growing on the earth, for the LORD God had not sent any rain. And no one was there to cultivate the soil. ⁶But water came up out of the ground and watered all the land. ⁷And the LORD God formed a man’s body from the dust of the ground and breathed into it the breath of life. And the man became a living person.

⁸Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had created. ⁹And the LORD God planted all sorts of trees in the garden—beautiful trees that produced delicious fruit. At the center of the garden he placed the tree of life

and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river flowed from the land of Eden, watering the garden and then dividing into four branches. ¹¹One of these branches is the Pishon, which flows around the entire land of Havilah, where gold is found. ¹²The gold of that land is exceptionally pure; aromatic resin and onyx stone are also found there. ¹³The second branch is the Gihon, which flows around the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴The third branch is the Tigris, which flows to the east of Asshur. The fourth branch is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and care for it. ¹⁶But the LORD God gave him this warning: “You may freely eat any fruit in the garden ¹⁷except fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat of its fruit, you will surely die.”

¹⁸And the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion who will help him.” ¹⁹So the LORD God formed from the soil every kind of animal and bird. He brought them to Adam* to see what he would call them, and Adam chose a name for each one. ²⁰He gave names to all the livestock, birds, and wild animals. But still there was no companion suitable for him. ²¹So the LORD God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. He took one of Adam’s ribs* and closed up the place from which he had taken it. ²²Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib and brought her to Adam.

²³“At last!” Adam exclaimed. “She is part of my own flesh and bone! She will be called ‘woman,’ because she was taken out of a man.” ²⁴This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. ²⁵Now, al-

though Adam and his wife were both naked, neither of them felt any shame.

MATTHEW 1:1–2:12

This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of King David and of Abraham:

- 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac.
Isaac was the father of Jacob.
Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.
- 3 Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (their mother was Tamar).
Perez was the father of Hezron.
Hezron was the father of Ram.*
- 4 Ram was the father of Amminadab.
Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.
Nahshon was the father of Salmon.
- 5 Salmon was the father of Boaz (his mother was Rahab).
Boaz was the father of Obed (his mother was Ruth).
Obed was the father of Jesse.
- 6 Jesse was the father of King David.
David was the father of Solomon (his mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).
- 7 Solomon was the father of Rehoboam.
Rehoboam was the father of Abijah.
Abijah was the father of Asaph.*
- 8 Asaph was the father of Jehoshaphat.
Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram.*
Jehoram was the father* of Uzziah.
- 9 Uzziah was the father of Jotham.
Jotham was the father of Ahaz.
Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.
- 10 Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh.
Manasseh was the father of Amos.*
Amos was the father of Josiah.
- 11 Josiah was the father of Jehoiachin* and his brothers

(born at the time of the exile to Babylon).

- 12 After the Babylonian exile:
Jehoiachin was the father of Shealtiel.
Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel.
- 13 Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud.
Abiud was the father of Eliakim.
Eliakim was the father of Azor.
- 14 Azor was the father of Zadok.
Zadok was the father of Akim.
Akim was the father of Eliud.
- 15 Eliud was the father of Eleazar.
Eleazar was the father of Matthan.
Matthan was the father of Jacob.
- 16 Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.
Mary was the mother of Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷All those listed above include fourteen generations from Abraham to King David, and fourteen from David's time to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah.

¹⁸Now this is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph, her fiancé, being a just man, decided to break the engagement quietly, so as not to disgrace her publicly.

²⁰As he considered this, he fell asleep, and an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to go ahead with your marriage to Mary. For the child within her has been conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus,* for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All of this

1:3 Greek *Aram*; also in 1:4. See 1 Chr 2:9-10. 1:7 *Asaph* is the same person as Asa; also in 1:8. See 1 Chr 3:10.

1:8a Greek *Joram*. See 1 Kgs 22:50 and note at 1 Chr 3:11. 1:8b Or *ancestor*; also in 1:11. 1:10 *Amos* is the same person as Amon. See 1 Chr 3:14. 1:11 Greek *Jecaniah*; also in 1:12. See 2 Kgs 24:6 and note at 1 Chr 3:16.

1:21 *Jesus* means "The Lord saves."

happened to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

23 "Look! The virgin will conceive a child!
She will give birth to a son,
and he will be called Immanuel*
(meaning, God is with us)."

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord commanded. He brought Mary home to be his wife, 25 but she remained a virgin until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

2:1 JESUS was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men* from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, 2:2 "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have seen his star as it arose,* and we have come to worship him."

3 Herod was deeply disturbed by their question, as was all of Jerusalem. 4 He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law. "Where did the prophets say the Messiah would be born?" he asked them.

5 "In Bethlehem," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote:

6 'O Bethlehem of Judah,
you are not just a lowly village in Judah,
for a ruler will come from you
who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'* "

7 Then Herod sent a private message to the wise men, asking them to come see him. At this meeting he learned the exact time when they first saw the star. 8 Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

9 After this interview the wise men

went their way. Once again the star appeared to them, guiding them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! 11 They entered the house where the child and his mother, Mary, were, and they fell down before him and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 But when it was time to leave, they went home another way, because God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

PSALM 1:1-6

1 **●**h, the joys of those
who do not follow the advice of
the wicked,
or stand around with sinners,
or join in with scoffers.

2 But they delight in doing
everything the LORD wants;
day and night they think about
his law.

3 They are like trees planted along
the riverbank,
bearing fruit each season
without fail.
Their leaves never wither,
and in all they do, they prosper.

4 But this is not true of the wicked.
They are like worthless chaff,
scattered by the wind.

5 They will be condemned at the
time of judgment.
Sinners will have no place
among the godly.

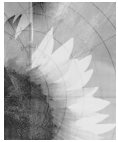
6 For the LORD watches over the
path of the godly,
but the path of the wicked leads
to destruction.

PROVERBS 1:1-6

These are the proverbs of Solomon, David's son, king of Israel. □ The purpose of these proverbs is to teach

people wisdom and discipline, and to help them understand wise sayings. Through these proverbs, people will receive instruction in discipline, good conduct, and doing what is right, just, and fair. These proverbs will make the simpleminded clever. They will give

knowledge and purpose to young people. □ Let those who are wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser. And let those who understand receive guidance by exploring the depth of meaning in these proverbs, parables, wise sayings, and riddles.



JANUARY 2

GENESIS 3:1–4:26

Now the serpent was the shrewdest of all the creatures the LORD God had made. “Really?” he asked the woman. “Did God really say you must not eat any of the fruit in the garden?”

²“Of course we may eat it,” the woman told him. ³“It’s only the fruit from the tree at the center of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God says we must not eat it or even touch it, or we will die.”

⁴“You won’t die!” the serpent hissed. ⁵“God knows that your eyes will be opened when you eat it. You will become just like God, knowing everything, both good and evil.”

⁶The woman was convinced. The fruit looked so fresh and delicious, and it would make her so wise! So she ate some of the fruit. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. Then he ate it, too. ⁷At that moment, their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they strung fig leaves together around their hips to cover themselves.

⁸Toward evening they heard the LORD God walking about in the garden, so they hid themselves among

the trees. ⁹The LORD God called to Adam,* “Where are you?”

¹⁰He replied, “I heard you, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”

¹¹“Who told you that you were naked?” the LORD God asked. “Have you eaten the fruit I commanded you not to eat?”

¹²“Yes,” Adam admitted, “but it was the woman you gave me who brought me the fruit, and I ate it.”

¹³Then the LORD God asked the woman, “How could you do such a thing?”

“The serpent tricked me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, you will be punished. You are singled out from all the domestic and wild animals of the whole earth to be cursed. You will grovel in the dust as long as you live, crawling along on your belly. ¹⁵From now on, you and the woman will be enemies, and your offspring and her offspring will be enemies. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

¹⁶Then he said to the woman, “You will bear children with intense pain and suffering. And though your desire will be for your husband,* he will be your master.”

¹⁷And to Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate the fruit I told you not to eat, I have placed a curse on the ground. All your life you

3:9 Hebrew *the man*, and so throughout this chapter. 3:16 Or *And though you may desire to control your husband*.

will struggle to scratch a living from it. ¹⁸It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. ¹⁹All your life you will sweat to produce food, until your dying day. Then you will return to the ground from which you came. For you were made from dust, and to the dust you will return.”

²⁰Then Adam named his wife Eve,* because she would be the mother of all people everywhere. ²¹And the LORD God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

²²Then the LORD God said, “The people have become as we are, knowing everything, both good and evil. What if they eat the fruit of the tree of life? Then they will live forever!” ²³So the LORD God banished Adam and his wife from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. ²⁴After banishing them from the garden, the LORD God stationed mighty angelic beings* to the east of Eden. And a flaming sword flashed back and forth, guarding the way to the tree of life.

^{4:1}Now Adam* slept with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When the time came, she gave birth to Cain,* and she said, “With the LORD’s help, I have brought forth* a man!” ²Later she gave birth to a second son and named him Abel.

When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain was a farmer. ³At harvesttime Cain brought to the LORD a gift of his farm produce, ⁴while Abel brought several choice lambs from the best of his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his offering, ⁵but he did not accept Cain and his offering. This made Cain very angry and dejected.

⁶“Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked him. “Why do you look so dejected? ⁷You will be accepted if you re-

spond in the right way. But if you refuse to respond correctly, then watch out! Sin is waiting to attack and destroy you, and you must subdue it.”

⁸Later Cain suggested to his brother, Abel, “Let’s go out into the fields.”* And while they were there, Cain attacked and killed his brother.

⁹Afterward the LORD asked Cain, “Where is your brother? Where is Abel?”

“I don’t know!” Cain retorted. “Am I supposed to keep track of him wherever he goes?”

¹⁰But the LORD said, “What have you done? Listen—your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground! ¹¹You are hereby banished from the ground you have defiled with your brother’s blood. ¹²No longer will it yield abundant crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless fugitive on the earth, constantly wandering from place to place.”

¹³Cain replied to the LORD, “My punishment* is too great for me to bear! ¹⁴You have banished me from my land and from your presence; you have made me a wandering fugitive. All who see me will try to kill me!”

¹⁵The LORD replied, “They will not kill you, for I will give seven times your punishment to anyone who does.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain to warn anyone who might try to kill him. ¹⁶So Cain left the LORD’s presence and settled in the land of Nod,* east of Eden.

¹⁷Then Cain’s wife became pregnant and gave birth to a son, and they named him Enoch. When Cain founded a city, he named it Enoch after his son.

¹⁸ Enoch was the father of* Irad.

Irada was the father of Mehujael.

Mehujael was the father of Methushael.

3:20 *Eve* sounds like a Hebrew term that means “to give life.” **3:24** Hebrew *cherubim*. **4:1a** Hebrew *the man*. **4:1b** *Cain* sounds like a Hebrew term that can mean “bring forth” or “acquire.” **4:1c** Or *I have acquired*. **4:8** As in Samaritan Pentateuch, Greek and Syriac versions, Latin Vulgate; Masoretic Text lacks “Let’s go out into the fields.” **4:13** Or *My sin*. **4:16** *Nod* means “wandering.” **4:18** Or *the ancestor of*, and so throughout the verse.

Methushael was the father of Lamech.

¹⁹Lamech married two women—Adah and Zillah. ²⁰Adah gave birth to a baby named Jabal. He became the first of the herdsmen who live in tents. ²¹His brother's name was Jubal, the first musician—the inventor of the harp and flute. ²²To Lamech's other wife, Zillah, was born Tubal-cain. He was the first to work with metal, forging instruments of bronze and iron. Tubal-cain had a sister named Naamah.

²³One day Lamech said to Adah and Zillah, "Listen to me, my wives. I have killed a youth who attacked and wounded me. ²⁴If anyone who kills Cain is to be punished seven times, anyone who takes revenge against me will be punished seventy-seven times!"

²⁵Adam slept with his wife again, and she gave birth to another son. She named him Seth,* for she said, "God has granted me another son in place of Abel, the one Cain killed." ²⁶When Seth grew up, he had a son and named him Enosh. It was during his lifetime that people first began to worship the LORD.

MATTHEW 2:13–3:6

After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up and flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to try to kill the child." ¹⁴That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, ¹⁵and they stayed there until Herod's death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: "I called my Son out of Egypt."*

¹⁶Herod was furious when he learned that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who

were two years old and under, because the wise men had told him the star first appeared to them about two years earlier.* ¹⁷Herod's brutal action fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah:

¹⁸ "A cry of anguish is heard in Ramah—
weeping and mourning
unrestrained.

Rachel weeps for her children,
refusing to be comforted—for
they are dead."*

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and told him, ²⁰"Get up and take the child and his mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead." ²¹So Joseph returned immediately to Israel with Jesus and his mother. ²²But when he learned that the new ruler was Herod's son Archelaus, he was afraid. Then, in another dream, he was warned to go to Galilee. ²³So they went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what was spoken by the prophets concerning the Messiah: "He will be called a Nazarene."

3:1 **In those days John the Baptist began preaching in the Judean wilderness. His message was, ²"Turn from your sins and turn to God, because the Kingdom of Heaven is near."*** ³Isaiah had spoken of John when he said,

"He is a voice shouting in the wilderness:

'Prepare a pathway for the Lord's coming!

Make a straight road for him!'"*

⁴John's clothes were woven from camel hair, and he wore a leather belt; his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People from Jerusalem and from every section of Judea and from all

4:25 *Seth* probably means "granted"; the name may also mean "appointed." 2:15 Hos 11:1. 2:16 *Or according to the time he calculated from the wise men.* 2:18 Jer 31:15. 3:2 *Or has come, or is coming soon.* 3:3 Isa 40:3.

over the Jordan Valley went out to the wilderness to hear him preach. ⁶And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

PSALM 2:1-12

- W**hy do the nations rage?
 Why do the people waste their time with futile plans?
² The kings of the earth prepare for battle;
 the rulers plot together against the LORD
 and against his anointed one.
³ “Let us break their chains,” they cry,
 “and free ourselves from this slavery.”
⁴ But the one who rules in heaven laughs.
 The Lord scoffs at them.
⁵ Then in anger he rebukes them,
 terrifying them with his fierce fury.
⁶ For the LORD declares, “I have placed my chosen king on the throne
 in Jerusalem, my holy city.*”
⁷ The king proclaims the LORD’s decree:
 “The LORD said to me, ‘You are my son.*”

2:6 Hebrew on Zion, my holy mountain. **2:7a** Or Son; also in 2:12. **2:7b** Or Today I reveal you as my son.

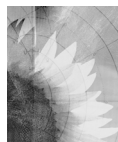
Today I have become your Father.*

- ⁸ Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, the ends of the earth as your possession.
⁹ You will break them with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots.”
¹⁰ Now then, you kings, act wisely! Be warned, you rulers of the earth!
¹¹ Serve the LORD with reverent fear, and rejoice with trembling.
¹² Submit to God’s royal son, or he will become angry, and you will be destroyed—in the midst of your pursuits— for his anger can flare up in an instant.

But what joy for all who find protection in him!

PROVERBS 1:7-9

Fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge. Only fools despise wisdom and discipline. □ Listen, my child, to what your father teaches you. Don’t neglect your mother’s teaching. What you learn from them will crown you with grace and clothe you with honor.



JANUARY

3

GENESIS 5:1–7:24

This is the history of the descendants of Adam. When God created people,* he made them in the likeness of God.

5:1 Hebrew man. **5:2** Hebrew man. **5:3a** Or his son, the ancestor of Seth, was born; similarly in 5:6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 25. **5:3b** Hebrew was in his own likeness, after his image. **5:4** Or After the birth of this ancestor of Seth; similarly in 5:7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 26.

²He created them male and female, and he blessed them and called them “human.”*

³When Adam was 130 years old, his son Seth was born,* and Seth was the very image of his father.* ⁴After the birth of Seth,* Adam lived another 800 years, and he had other sons and

- daughters. ⁵He died at the age of 930.
- ⁶When Seth was 105 years old, his son Enosh was born. ⁷After the birth of Enosh, Seth lived another 807 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ⁸He died at the age of 912.
- ⁹When Enosh was 90 years old, his son Kenan was born. ¹⁰After the birth of Kenan, Enosh lived another 815 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ¹¹He died at the age of 905.
- ¹²When Kenan was 70 years old, his son Mahalalel was born. ¹³After the birth of Mahalalel, Kenan lived another 840 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴He died at the age of 910.
- ¹⁵When Mahalalel was 65 years old, his son Jared was born. ¹⁶After the birth of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ¹⁷He died at the age of 895.
- ¹⁸When Jared was 162 years old, his son Enoch was born. ¹⁹After the birth of Enoch, Jared lived another 800 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ²⁰He died at the age of 962.
- ²¹When Enoch was 65 years old, his son Methuselah was born. ²²After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch lived another 300 years in close fellowship with God, and he had other sons and daughters. ²³Enoch lived 365 years in all. ²⁴He enjoyed a close relationship with God throughout his life. Then suddenly, he disappeared because God took him.
- ²⁵When Methuselah was 187 years old, his son Lamech was born. ²⁶After the birth of Lamech, Methuselah lived another 782 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ²⁷He died at the age of 969.
- ²⁸When Lamech was 182 years old, his son Noah was born. ²⁹Lamech named his son Noah,* for he said, “He will bring us relief from the painful labor of farming this ground that the LORD has cursed.”
- ³⁰After the birth of Noah, Lamech lived 595 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ³¹He died at the age of 777.
- ³²By the time Noah was 500 years old, he had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
- ^{6:1}WHEN the human population began to grow rapidly on the earth, ²the sons of God saw the beautiful women of the human race and took any they wanted as their wives. ³Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not put up with humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, they will live no more than 120 years.”
- ⁴In those days, and even afterward, giants* lived on the earth, for whenever the sons of God had intercourse with human women, they gave birth to children who became the heroes mentioned in legends of old.
- ⁵Now the LORD observed the extent of the people’s wickedness, and he saw that all their thoughts were consistently and totally evil. ⁶So the LORD was sorry he had ever made them. It broke his heart. ⁷And the LORD said, “I will completely wipe out this human race that I have created. Yes, and I will destroy all the animals and birds, too. I am sorry I ever made them.” ⁸But Noah found favor with the LORD.
- ⁹This is the history of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless man living on earth at the time. He consistently followed God’s will and enjoyed a close relationship with him. ¹⁰Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
- ¹¹Now the earth had become corrupt in God’s sight, and it was filled

with violence. ¹²God observed all this corruption in the world, and he saw violence and depravity everywhere. ¹³So God said to Noah, “I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. Yes, I will wipe them all from the face of the earth!

¹⁴“Make a boat* from resinous wood and seal it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. ¹⁵Make it 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.* ¹⁶Construct an opening all the way around the boat, 18 inches* below the roof. Then put three decks inside the boat—bottom, middle, and upper—and put a door in the side.

¹⁷“Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing. Everything on earth will die! ¹⁸But I solemnly swear to keep you safe in the boat, with your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁹Bring a pair of every kind of animal—a male and a female—into the boat with you to keep them alive during the flood. ²⁰Pairs of each kind of bird and each kind of animal, large and small alike, will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹And remember, take enough food for your family and for all the animals.”

²²So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

^{7:1}FINALLY, the day came when the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the boat with all your family, for among all the people of the earth, I consider you alone to be righteous. ²Take along seven pairs of each animal that I have approved for eating and for sacrifice, and take one pair of each of the others. ³Then select seven pairs of every kind of bird. There must be a male and a female in each pair to ensure that every kind of living creature will sur-

vive the flood. ⁴One week from today I will begin forty days and forty nights of rain. And I will wipe from the earth all the living things I have created.”

⁵So Noah did exactly as the LORD had commanded him. ⁶He was 600 years old when the flood came, ⁷and he went aboard the boat to escape—he and his wife and his sons and their wives. ⁸With them were all the various kinds of animals—those approved for eating and sacrifice and those that were not—along with all the birds and other small animals. ⁹They came into the boat in pairs, male and female, just as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰One week later, the flood came and covered the earth.

¹¹When Noah was 600 years old, on the seventeenth day of the second month, the underground waters burst forth on the earth, and the rain fell in mighty torrents from the sky. ¹²The rain continued to fall for forty days and forty nights. ¹³But Noah had gone into the boat that very day with his wife and his sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth—and their wives. ¹⁴With them in the boat were pairs of every kind of breathing animal—domestic and wild, large and small—along with birds and flying insects of every kind. ¹⁵Two by two they came into the boat, ¹⁶male and female, just as God had commanded. Then the LORD shut them in.

¹⁷For forty days the floods prevailed, covering the ground and lifting the boat high above the earth. ¹⁸As the waters rose higher and higher above the ground, the boat floated safely on the surface. ¹⁹Finally, the water covered even the highest mountains on the earth, ²⁰standing more than twenty-two feet* above the highest peaks. ²¹All the living things on earth died—birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all kinds of small animals, and all the people. ²²Everything died that

6:14 Traditionally rendered *an ark*. **6:15** Hebrew *300 cubits* [135 meters] *long, 50 cubits* [22.5 meters] *wide, and 30 cubits* [13.5 meters] *high*. **6:16** Hebrew *1 cubit* [45 centimeters]. **7:20** Hebrew *15 cubits* [6.8 meters].

breathed and lived on dry land. ²³Every living thing on the earth was wiped out—people, animals both large and small, and birds. They were all destroyed, and only Noah was left alive, along with those who were with him in the boat. ²⁴And the water covered the earth for 150 days.

MATTHEW 3:7–4:11

But when he [John] saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to be baptized, he denounced them. “You brood of snakes!” he exclaimed. “Who warned you to flee God’s coming judgment? ⁸Prove by the way you live that you have really turned from your sins and turned to God. ⁹Don’t just say, ‘We’re safe—we’re the descendants of Abraham.’ That proves nothing. God can change these stones here into children of Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever your roots. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize with* water those who turn from their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is far greater than I am—so much greater that I am not even worthy to be his slave.* He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.* ¹²He is ready to separate the chaff from the grain with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, storing the grain in his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”

¹³Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴But John didn’t want to baptize him. “I am the one who needs to be baptized by you,” he said, “so why are you coming to me?”

¹⁵But Jesus said, “It must be done, because we must do everything that is right.*” So then John baptized him.

¹⁶After his baptism, as Jesus came

up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with him.”

^{4:1}**T**HEN Jesus was led out into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted there by the Devil. ²For forty days and forty nights he ate nothing and became very hungry. ³Then the Devil* came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, change these stones into loaves of bread.”

⁴But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say,

‘People need more than bread for their life;
they must feed on every word of God.’* ”

⁵Then the Devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, ⁶and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,

‘He orders his angels to protect you.
And they will hold you with their hands
to keep you from striking your foot on a stone.’* ”

⁷Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘Do not test the Lord your God.’* ”

⁸Next the Devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him the nations of the world and all their glory. ⁹“I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will only kneel down and worship me.”

¹⁰“Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say,

‘You must worship the Lord your God;
serve only him.’* ”

3:11a Or in. 3:11b Greek to carry his sandals. 3:11c Or in the Holy Spirit and in fire. 3:15 Or we must fulfill all righteousness. 4:3 Greek the tempter. 4:4 Deut 8:3. 4:6 Ps 91:11-12. 4:7 Deut 6:16. 4:10 Deut 6:13.

¹¹Then the Devil went away, and angels came and cared for Jesus.

PSALM 3:1-8

A psalm of David, regarding the time David fled from his son Absalom.

- 1 **○** LORD, I have so many enemies;
so many are against me.
- 2 So many are saying,
“God will never rescue him!”
*Interlude**
- 3 **But you, O LORD, are a shield
around me,
my glory, and the one who
lifts my head high.**
- 4 I cried out to the LORD,
and he answered me from his
holy mountain. *Interlude*
- 5 I lay down and slept.
I woke up in safety,
for the LORD was watching over
me.
- 6 I am not afraid of ten thousand
enemies
who surround me on every side.
- 7 Arise, O LORD!
Rescue me, my God!

Slap all my enemies in the face!
Shatter the teeth of the wicked!

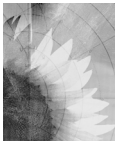
- 8 Victory comes from you, O LORD.
May your blessings rest on your
people. *Interlude*

PROVERBS 1:10-19

My child, if sinners entice you, turn your back on them! They may say, “Come and join us. Let’s hide and kill someone! Let’s ambush the innocent! Let’s swallow them alive as the grave swallows its victims. Though they are in the prime of life, they will go down into the pit of death. And the loot we’ll get! We’ll fill our houses with all kinds of things! Come on, throw in your lot with us; we’ll split our loot with you.”

Don’t go along with them, my child! Stay far away from their paths. They rush to commit crimes. They hurry to commit murder. When a bird sees a trap being set, it stays away. But not these people! They set an ambush for themselves; they booby-trap their own lives! Such is the fate of all who are greedy for gain. It ends up robbing them of life.

3:2 Hebrew *Selah*. The meaning of this word is uncertain, though it is probably a musical or literary term. It is rendered *Interlude* throughout the Psalms.



JANUARY
4

GENESIS 8:1–10:32

But God remembered Noah and all the animals in the boat. He sent a wind to blow across the waters, and the floods began to disappear. ²The underground

water sources ceased their gushing, and the torrential rains stopped. ³So the flood gradually began to recede. After 150 days, ⁴exactly five months from the time the flood began, * the boat came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵Two and a half months later,* as the waters continued to go down, other mountain peaks began to appear.

⁶After another forty days, Noah opened the window he had made in the

8:4 Hebrew *on the seventeenth day of the seventh month*; see 7:11. 8:5 Hebrew *On the first day of the tenth month*; see 7:11 and note on 8:4.