

## ***Chapter 1 - NOAH'S BIRTH AND EARLY LIFE***

Methuselah, the grandfather of Noah, had a son called Lamech. Lamech took a wife and she gave birth to a man child, Noah. When he was born, Noah's body was white as snow and red as a blooming rose. The hair of his head was long and white as wool. His eyes were like the rays of the sun and when he opened his eyes, he lit up the whole house. He was like the sun; the whole house was very full of light.

His father called him Noah saying, "This one will bring us comfort from our work and from the ground which the Lord has cursed." When Noah was given to his parents, he opened his mouth and praised the Lord. His father, Lamech, was afraid of him, and ran away. Lamech went to his father

Methuselah and said, "I have produced a strange son; he is not like a human being, but looks like the children of the angels of heaven. His nature is different, he is not like us. His eyes are as the rays of the sun, and his being is glorious. It seems to me that he is not come from me, but from the angels, and I am afraid that as he grows older, a wonder may come on the earth. And now, my father, I am here to beg you and plead with you. Please go to Enoch, your father, and learn the truth from him, for Enoch dwells among the angels."

And when Methuselah heard the words of his son, he went to the ends of the earth to find Enoch to ask about his grandson Noah. Methuselah yelled loudly. Enoch heard his voice, came to him, and said, "Why are you here?"



- G. Hoel

Methuselah told Enoch about the birth of Noah, and asked Enoch to tell the truth about his strangeness. Enoch answered and said, "The Lord will do a new thing in the earth. There will come a great destruction on the earth, and a flood for one year. After the flood, this son, Noah, will be left on the earth, and his three children will be saved with him. But all mankind that are on the earth shall die. There will be a great punishment on the earth, and the earth will be made clean from all its evilness. And now tell your son, Lamech, that this son is truly his son, and he is to call his name Noah, for he and his children will be saved from the

ruin which will come upon the earth.” Then Methuselah, returned to Lamech and repeated the words of Enoch.

The child was called Noah, for he would cause the earth to rejoice to make up for all destruction that was coming. However, at that time, only Methuselah called him Noah because he was afraid something bad might happen to his grandson if his true name was known. So, Methuselah kept the name a secret. Noah’s father and all others called him Menahem, but we today know him as Noah. Both names mean Comforter. This name is a good fit because Noah would bring comfort, but only if the evil-doers of his time would repent of their misdeeds.

At Noah’s birth, the people who were wise knew that Noah would bring relief and rescue. This is because when the Lord said to Adam, the first human, "Cursed is the ground for thy sake,"

Adam asked, "For how long a time?"

God answered, "Until a man child shall be born whose appearance is such that the rite of *circumcision* need not be practiced upon him." This became true in Noah as he was born circumcised from his mother's womb.

Noah had just come into the world when a huge change was noticed. There had been a curse on the earth because of the sin of Adam. When seeds were planted, the crops would turn out different than the seeds. For example, when wheat was planted, oats would sprout and grow. However, this stopped with the arrival of Noah. The earth went back to producing the products planted in it. Also, when Noah was

an adult, he invented the plough, the scythe, the hoe, and other implements for farming the ground. Before him, men had worked the land with their bare hands.



- 1882 print

There was another sign to predict that Noah was chosen for an amazing purpose. When God created Adam, He gave him power over all things. The oxen obeyed the man who was ploughing, and the crop rows were straight. But after the fall of Adam, all things rebelled against him. The oxen refused to obey the ploughman, and the crop rows would not stay straight. However, when Noah was born, all returned to the way it was before the fall of man.

Also, before the birth of Noah, the sea would go past its border twice a day, morning and evening, flooding the land up to the graves. After his birth, the sea stayed in its

borders. And, one more thing, the famine stopped its damages when Noah was born. This famine, the second of the ten great famines which will come, had upset the world ever since Lamech.

Noah was described by writers of old to be a giant, eighteen feet tall. He had not married until he was 498 years old. Then the Lord told him to take a wife. Noah did not want to bring children into the world because he thought that they would all have to die in the flood. So, Noah had only three sons. They were born to him just before the flood came. At that time, an angel taught Noah healing arts so that his children could overcome the wicked giants. God had given him so few a number of children so that Noah would not have to build the ark very, very big. And because, if the sons turned out to be godly, they and their wives would also have to be saved in the ark. And, if they were not godly, they too would die with the rest of the evil people. And Noah would be very sorry over their deaths.

Noah with his wife and three sons lived in a city called Enos, which was the first city in the world. It was built by Cain, the son of Adam, in Syria, not far from Jerusalem in the Holy Land. In the city of Enos, and throughout the land lived many powerful and terrible giants. Because of their great strength and power, they ruled over the people, doing whatever they wanted. The giants did many ungodly deeds, and did not fear God.

When he was an adult, Noah followed in the ways of his godly grandfather Methuselah, while all other men of the time rebelled against this spiritual king. The people followed the evil likings of their hearts, and did all sorts of

terrible deeds, instead of obeying the teachings of Methuselah. And the Lord said, “*I will not struggle with man forever. He is made of flesh and his days will be one hundred twenty years.*”



- P. Bruegel