

THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD®

CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



The Earth Reborn



LEVEL 4
LESSON 3

The Earth Reborn

In this lesson, we will continue the story of Noah and his family, the life they led after the Flood and their experiences as the Earth was again filled with people. We will also see the origin of the many races on Earth today.

Finally, you will learn about the life of a very special man—a man who was actually a friend of God. You will learn about how his obedience to the Creator of the universe caused the nations of the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia and New Zealand to be so full of blessings today! That man's name was Abram.

Have your pen or pencil and Bible ready. We will read some very exciting and inspiring stories from God's Word!

In just the first two lessons, we covered the first 1,700 years of man's existence. Many things took place, including the recreation of the Earth and the creation of man. Also, an entire society formed after Adam and Eve were removed from the Garden of Eden for choosing to rebel against God.

The rebellion continued right up until the time that the first raindrops of the great Flood began falling. Inside the ark, Noah and his family heard the rushing water and heavy rains beating upon the sides of the ark. And that is where we left off...

Noah Remembers

After sealing up the door of the ark and having a chance to think about what was about to happen, Noah must have thought back

over the 120 years of trying to warn his friends, extended family, and fellow citizens about what their lives would result in.

He would have remembered God wanting to destroy the whole Earth, and Noah and his family being the only ones God chose to spare. It must have saddened Noah that he tried so hard, yet no one listened.

Noah must have been incredibly frustrated as the huge ark did not stir anyone to question their behavior. Would you wonder why someone, who was 500 years old when he started, was so serious that he built such a big boat? Remember, the ark was HUGE—nearly four stories high and as long as a city block.

The only questions he received were whether or not he was foolish for building a huge ship on dry land. Instead of listening to what he had to say, people judged him as being crazy. But Noah would not let himself become discouraged. He would use such interactions to tell people to repent—change—from sin. He wanted them to live and not have to die in the Flood.

But not a single person listened during those 120 years that Noah wholeheartedly preached (Genesis 6:3). None believed that they needed to obey and rely on God. "Times are good, why do we need God?" they thought.

Instead, they got involved in every kind of imaginable evil. They forced God to punish them. Like Noah, God wanted people to change (Ezekiel 18:23, 27; II Peter 3:9). He did not want to flood the Earth. But God cannot force people to do what is right.

God has allowed us to make choices for ourselves. This has been called “free moral agency,” meaning that we are free to decide our actions for ourselves. While God can direct and help us understand what will truly make us happy, He will never force us. Like the people of Noah’s time, we must actively choose to do what God wants. Unfortunately, none—except for Noah—chose God’s Way. This left God no other choice but to flood the Earth.

Noah’s Example

When you follow God’s Way, you stand out from people around you. Keeping the Feast of Tabernacles, attending Sabbath services, and not eating pork make you stand out from your friends. Imagine how hard this was for Noah. Like you do today, he had to resist the pulls of his friends. They wanted him to disobey God and live like them.

Unlike Noah, you have the support of your friends in the Church and your parents. They help you when times are hard. The entire world was against what Noah was trying to do. His example should be a lesson for us today.

Even if times are hard and it seems like the world is against us, we should look to God to support us. Your friends at school do not know what you know. They do not understand how exciting the Feast is, or how much of a rest the Sabbath brings.



However, God sees how you react. Since you have been given special knowledge, God expects you to act a certain way. He always helps you and watches over you. This also means He knows when you are turning your back on Him.

Noah’s story also had another important lesson: stick-to-it-iveness! This means that Noah stayed focused on what he had to do—no matter what happened. Imagine that you were Noah, with everyone telling you that you are wasting your time. They would tell you that you are crazy, and would say all sorts of other mean and hurtful things. Would you, like Noah, continue building the ark? Noah put up with such attitudes, day after day, year after year, for 120 years. That is a very long time. But Noah kept working, refusing to let anyone

stop him from obeying God. He understood that God had given him a responsibility and that he had to finish what was given to him.

Do you try and do this when your parents assign you a task? As you get older, they will give you more and more responsibilities. Each time you complete what they ask, they will trust you with more. Remember the following scripture when your parents or teachers give you something to do: “His Lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord’” (Matthew 25:21).

Noah’s example should inspire you. One day, you will be able to talk to Noah and tell him that what he did helped you to follow God’s Way.

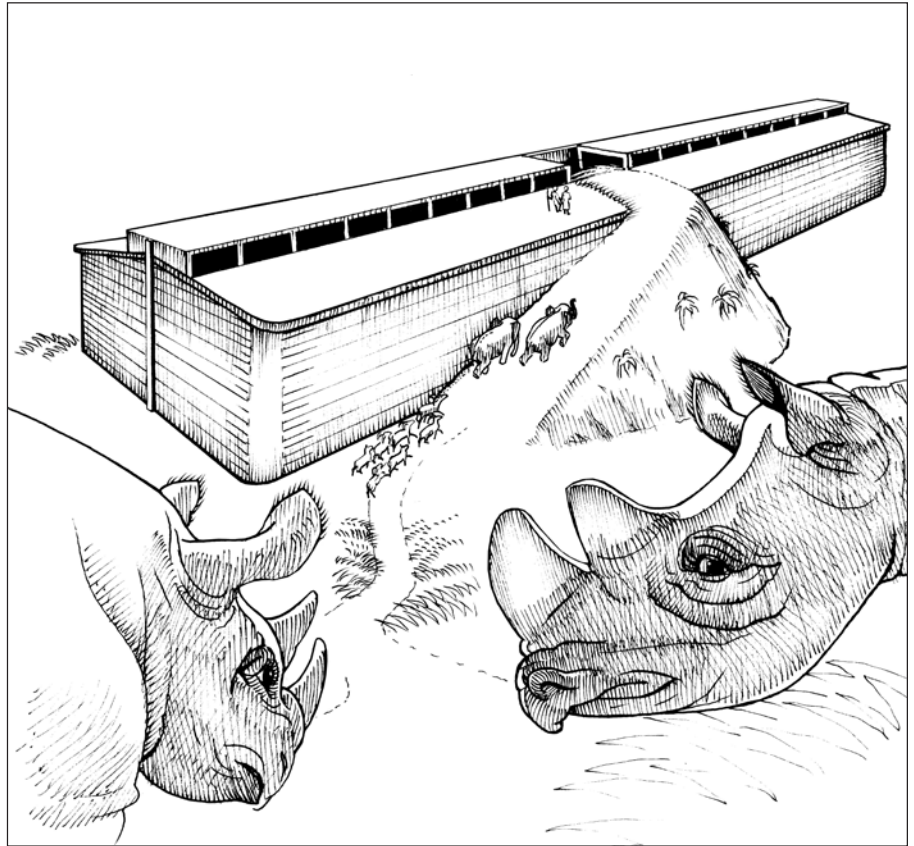
Test Your Memory:

- 1) How many years did Noah preach? _____
- 2) What is the important lesson of not giving up called? _____

Noah Finishes the Ark

After 120 hard years, Noah and his family finished building the ark. They then proceeded to load all the supplies required for them to survive the many months they would spend in the ark. Once all of these

things were on board, God performed an incredible miracle. He caused every animal and creature, large and small, to come in pairs to the ark. From all around the Earth, animals found their way to this great ship.



Under God’s power, the animals boarded the ship in an orderly fashion. Animals were not responsible for the evil that had grown on the Earth, and God wanted to maintain the amazing creatures that He had created.

Once all the food, animals and Noah’s family were on the ark, the great door on its side was closed and sealed.

The Flooding Begins

People saw Noah go inside the ark. Soon after, dark clouds appeared. Time had run out. The sky grew very dark. The first few drops of rain began to fall. The rain became

heavier and heavier. Soon, the rain was literally pouring from the sky.

Those who had ridiculed Noah began to get worried. It had never rained like this before. Suddenly, parts of the land broke

out—except for Noah and his family (Genesis 6:5-8, 11-13).

The rain continued and Noah and his family could hear the screams of the people outside. As the water rose, they felt the ark



pull to the left, then to the right. They could then feel it floating in the rising waters. The thunder was deafening as the storm outside raged on.

The rain continued for 40 days and 40 nights. Noah, his family, and all the animals were safe inside the ark (Genesis 7:21-23). Once the rain stopped, there was silence. It must have been very different to those inside the ark. For over one month, they had listened to the sound of pouring rain as the ark floated in the waves. But now there was silence, except for the sound of waves lapping up against this great ship.

God promised to start the Earth fresh, and God always keeps His promises. The

open and vast amounts of water came gushing out (Genesis 7:11). Panic began to set in!

People remembered the preaching Noah did for 120 years. They remembered the warnings he gave and they may have felt sorry for not listening. When times are going well, people do not have an interest in listening to, or relying upon, God. Now that the waters were starting to cover the Earth, people called out to God. But it was too late!

God was going to start mankind over again through the only righteous man—Noah. But before that, God had to wipe the Earth clean of the evil deeds that man had done. And with it, mankind was wiped

cleansing of the Earth was complete, and the rain had stopped. God then created a special wind to blow upon the waters so they would dry more quickly (Genesis 8:1). But it still took a very long time before Noah, his family, and all the animals could step upon dry land again.

Test Your Memory:

1) How many days and nights did it rain?

2) Who was the only righteous man? _____

3) Besides food and Noah's family, what else was on the ark? _____



A New Earth—A New Beginning!

Even with the special winds that God created, the ark continued to float upon the water for many more months. From the moments when the first rain began to fall until the ark touched ground, 150 days had passed. It rested upon the mountains of Ararat—the land of modern-day Turkey (Genesis 8:3-4). In fact, the ark appears to still be sitting there today!

However, there was still too much water for Noah and his family to leave the ark. With the rain stopped, and the ark no longer moving, he was able to open a window and see the land around him.

Four more months passed and Noah released a raven and a dove to see if it was okay to leave the ark. But the dove found no place to land and returned to the ark (Genesis 8:7-9). Noah knew it was not yet time to leave the safety of the ark.

After another week, Noah released a dove again. This time the dove returned with an olive branch in its mouth. Noah knew that the Earth was finally drying. But to be safe, he waited another seven days and released the dove again. This time, it never returned! It was now safe to leave the ark.

Noah and his family opened the door of the ark and released all the animals. They then departed from the ark and set foot in

the new world (Genesis 8:13-19). It had been one year and 10 days since they sealed the door of the ark. Even though the Flood had been a massive storm, covering the Earth, God protected Noah and kept him safe.

The same is true with you!

If you please God, following what He expects of you, He will protect you from the dangers of this world. He will give you strength to withstand the pulls of the world and friends at school.

God gave Noah a special sign to not only remind him of that protection, but to let mankind forever know that God would never flood the Earth again. That sign was a rainbow. Each time you see a rainbow

(Genesis 9:12-17), remember that it is God's sign to you and me, telling us that He will protect us and never again destroy all flesh on earth by a flood because of man's deeds.

Once Noah had left the ark and established a new home, he lived a long and prosperous life. He became a farmer and died when he was 950 years old.

Test Your Memory:

- 1) How many days did it take for the ark to touch ground again? _____
- 2) What kind of animal brought back an olive branch? _____
- 3) How long were Noah and his family in the ark? _____
- 4) What job did Noah have after he left the ark? _____

Noah's Sons—and the Races of Mankind

There was a special purpose for the children of Noah. Remember, they too came with him on the ark. God was using them to preserve the different races (Genesis 9:18-19). Through them, God would be able to repopulate the Earth.

Noah's sons had been married before they went on the ark. Each had married a woman of a different race. Their children would be the branch from which all races today came. Noah's son Ham's children would make up the black people today. Japheth's children would start the Asian races. And his son Shem would be the father of the white races. While God wanted to rid the Earth of evil, he wanted to preserve the diversity in both animals and people.

All people today—including you—are from one of those three men. This means that you are also a child of Noah!

The Children of Shem

One of Noah's children, Shem, lived a long and prosperous life like his father. He had many children. The Bible records that he had nine sons over the course of 500 years. Shem actually outlived most of his sons. One of Shem's sons, Eber, lived a very long time. This son may be the reason that the Israelites were called Hebrews. In the New Testament, this son is described as Heber—which is very close to the name Hebrew.

It was also during this time that God changed the lifespan of men. Allowing men to live for 950 or more years caused things to degrade very quickly in the world. And such corruption is why God had to flood the world. God quickly began reducing the lifespan of men in order to slow this slide into corruption (Genesis 11:10-32).

"Father of the Faithful"

The reason that the line of Shem was so important is that many years later, a man would be born who would change the path of mankind for good. This man's special relationship with God is the reason that America, Canada, Britain, Australia and New Zealand are so prosperous today!

This man's name is Abram. Even though God had started over with Noah and reduced the lifespan of men, corruption was already starting to gain a foothold in the world. Very few men would choose to be obedient to God, so when Abram followed God without question, this was a very rare thing.

This created a special relationship between him and God. It impressed God that someone in a darkening world would obey Him. When people obey their Creator, it makes them spe-

cial to God. He watches over them and blesses them for their obedience.

Are you obedient to God, your parents and ministers? If you are, you too will have a special place with God.

God will test us to see if we will truly be obedient. He did this with Abram. When Abram was 75 years old, God asked him to leave his land (Genesis 12:1-3). Abram had lived there his entire life. He was successful and well known in the community. This would be a great test of Abram's obedience to God.

What did Abram do? Read for yourself in Genesis 12:4. Write out Abram's response to God's command:

That is right! Without question, Abram left! He did not argue with God, or try to reason that he should stay in the land where he was born. He simply obeyed God. Is this how you react to parents, teachers or other adults in authority? You should try to follow Abram's example.

But even though Abram was asked by God, he had a choice. God has given everyone the ability to make choices—either good or bad. While God does not want us to be like machines that do not think, He does want us to obey Him. When you obey those above you—parents, teachers, ministers and especially God—blessings come from that obedience. When Noah obeyed God, he was saved from the Flood. And, as you will see, the blessings

Abram received for his obedience are absolutely incredible!

Unlike anyone who had lived, Abram had a complete and full trust in God. He had faith that God would protect him and watch over him. This is why God called Abram the "father of the faithful."

Over time, the relationship between God and Abram grew into a close friendship. Jesus Christ says this of us today. If we obey Him, He considers us His friends (John 15:15). You can actually be a friend of God!

Test Your Memory:

- 1) How many children did Shem have? ____
- 2) What did God change the lifespan of humans to? ____
- 3) Who was the man who became friends with God? ____
- 4) Why did they become friends? ____

The Right Attitude

Abram, with his family, wandered the countryside for many years. He had servants, thousands of heads of livestock, and vast possessions. His nephew Lot, with his family and possessions, also traveled with him. Their obedience to God caused their possessions to increase as well. Eventually, both families were so blessed that the land could not sustain both their herds (Genesis 13:2, 5-6).

This started to cause problems between Lot's workers and Abram's workers. Seeing the issue that was developing, Abram and



Lot decided that they must part company. They would divide the land so that each could sustain his vast herds.

Abram demonstrated a characteristic that is very central to God. Even though he was older and entitled to select the best land for himself, he allowed Lot to have the best land. This outgoing concern for others is a real example of the love of God.

We also should be concerned with the welfare of those around us. If we focus on everyone else and their well-being, then God will focus on our needs.

Again, Abram was showing character that truly pleased God. Because Abram did this out of a pure heart and sought nothing in return for his giving, God rewarded him! God promised Abram that his children would always possess vast amounts of land. God loves those who are kind and give to others. Notice what it says in the New Testament about giving. Write out II Corinthians 9:7: _____

Abram's Blessings Increase!

Over the years, Abram continued to remain obedient in everything that God asked him. This allowed God to pour even more blessings upon Abram. But there was one thing that Abram wanted most of all: a son with his wife Sarai (Genesis 15:2-3)!

While Abram never disobeyed God, he would sometimes get discouraged or waver in faith. Even the greatest servants of the Bible experienced this. So it should come as no surprise that it can sometimes happen to you as well. However, with time, all of God's servants learn to trust with complete certainty—just as Abram eventually did!

As Abram continued to obey God, the original promises of vast land and descendants was expanded even further. Notice the great promise in Genesis 15:5: _____

On top of this, God promised Abram that he would live to a “good old age” (verse 15). He also expanded the amount of land in verse 18! Truly, God was blessing Abram for his obedience. To further inspire Abram, God told him about what would happen to his descendants. Well before they were to become a nation, Abram knew of Israel, and the nation it would become (Genesis 15:13-21).

This deepened Abram's faith and trust in his Creator.

Test Your Memory:

1) Why did Abram and Lot part company?

2) Who was given the best land? _____

The Birth of a Son

All people have to be reminded about things in order to stay focused on what is important. As time passed, Abram's wife Sarai became concerned that she was too old to bear a son. She should have trusted God to provide for her, but instead took matters into her own hands. She planned for Abram to have a child with her handmaid, Hagar.

Showing that his confidence also wavered, Abram followed his wife's request for him to have a child with Hagar. Instead of solely trusting in God to solve their problems, they tried to solve them on their own.

From this point on, things under Abram's roof began to be problematic.

Eventually, Hagar had a son, and he was named Ishmael (Genesis 16:15). God promised that Ishmael would also be the father of a great many peoples. When Abram learned this, he thought that the promises God originally made would be fulfilled through his son Ishmael.

But God had other plans!

Since Hagar was able to produce a child for Abram, jealousy between Sarai and Hagar developed. Hagar felt superior to Sarai and, in turn, Sarai mistreated her. It got so bad that Hagar had to flee (Genesis 16:4-11).

A New Name for Abram —And a Promised Son

When Abram was 99 years old, God told him of His other plans. He said that if Abram would obey God, these promises would last forever—that indeed he would be the father of MANY NATIONS (Genesis 17:4) and Sarai would be the mother (verse 16). This shocked Abram!

God changed both his and Sarai's name to reflect their expanded role. From this point forward, Abram would be known as Abraham, which means "father of a great multitude." His wife Sarai would be known as Sarah, which means "princess."

This also meant that Hagar and her son Ishmael were not going to receive these newly expanded promises. Abraham was nearly 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old. It seemed impossible to have children. Again, Abraham's trust in God wavered. He felt unsure if God could fulfill His promise (Genesis 17:17-18).

God encouraged Abraham and told him that Sarah would definitely have a child. Age did not matter to God. If He promised something—it would happen! He told Abraham to

name his son Isaac and that the promises would be fulfilled through him (verse 21).

Test Your Memory:

- 1) What was the name of Abraham's first son? _____
- 2) What did Abraham's new name mean? _____
- 3) What name would his next son receive? _____

Nothing Is Impossible to God

The God of the universe created everything around you. Nothing would exist if He did not create it. So something as simple as a child should not have surprised Abraham and Sarah, but they still had some doubt.

One day, three strangers met Abraham when he was out working. Since Abraham always looked out for others, he was very gracious to these men and served them a meal with fine food. Abraham came to realize that these men were not just ordinary men. He stood in the very presence of the God being known as the Word—who would later become Jesus Christ—and two of His angels.

God stated they would return again in one year and that Sarah would have a son (Genesis 18:10). Hearing their words, Sarah laughed to herself. She doubted that this was possible, but with God, ANYTHING is possible. No matter what God promises, He will do it. He is all-powerful and if He was able to create the universe, He is definitely able to make anything happen within it.

The Birth of Isaac

And so, Sarah became pregnant—just as God had said (Genesis 21:1-5). Abraham was patient and waited for God to fulfill His

promise. Twenty-five years had passed since God first told Abraham that he would bear a son through whom these great promises would be fulfilled. He had to learn to develop patience.

God wants you to learn patience too! It is part of building the right kind of character inside you. God may take His time in fulfilling prayers so that you develop faith and patience. But you will find that even though you sometimes have to wait for your prayers to be answered, when God does answer them, it happens very quickly. Not only does this develop patience and faith, but your trust and confidence in God are also strengthened.

With the birth of Isaac, the expanded promises that God had made throughout Abraham's life were starting to come true. It took a quarter of a century for God to begin their fulfillment, but now it was starting to happen.

Isaac, Abraham's son of promise, was a very special miracle baby. Not only was he precious to Abraham and Sarah, but God also had a very important purpose to fulfill in him. That purpose affects you and me today! In Lesson 4, we will learn more about Isaac and the incredible test that

God put Abraham through and why that test affects you today!

Test Your Memory:

1) Who had dinner with Abraham and Sarah? _____

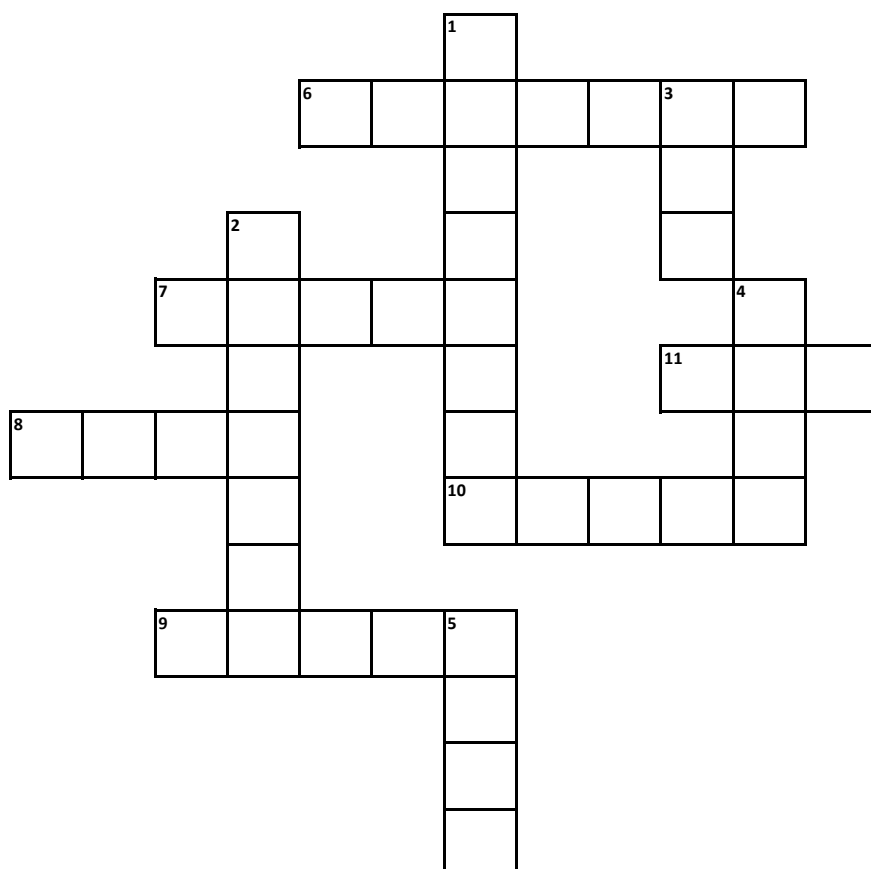
2) How many years did Abraham have to wait to have Isaac? _____

3) Why did God make him wait? _____



BIBLE MEMORY: Hebrews 11:1, 6-8

Crossword Puzzle



DOWN

1. Meaning of Sarah's name.
2. Son of Hagar.
3. Ship used in the Flood.
4. Preached for 120 years before entering the ark.
5. Bird that was released from the ark.

ACROSS

6. The man called the "father of the faithful."
7. Promised son of Abraham.
8. First son of Noah.
9. What God did to cleanse the Earth.
10. Mother of Isaac.
11. Received the best land from Abraham.