



KINGDOM
CHRONICLES
A BIBLE NARRATIVE





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by Elsie E. Egermeier



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OLD TESTAMENT

GENESIS—MALACHI

How the World Began

GENESIS 1—4

Long ago there was no world at all. There was no sun to shine, no stars to twinkle, no moonbeams to play through the night shadows. But even then there was God—He has always been the same unchanging God.

Then, at the beginning of time, God made the world. At first water covered everything, and darkness was everywhere. This must have been such a strange, unfriendly world. But God planned to make it beautiful, so He said, “Let there be light.” He called the light Day and the darkness Night. This was the very first day.

On the second day God made the beautiful blue sky and placed clouds in it to carry the moisture. He called the sky Heaven.

The third day God said, “Let the waters be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” He called the waters Seas and the dry land Earth. The whole earth was bare—no grasses, flowers, or trees—so God caused a carpet of grass to grow and colorful flowers to spring up from the ground. He made the trees and plants. God knew His work was good.

But God had more plans for His world. On the fourth day He made the sun, moon, and stars. The sun was to rule the day and the moon, the night.

Next God began to create living creatures. He made all kinds of fish to swim in the seas and birds of every description to fly in the sky. The fifth day passed, and the world had become a better place.

On the sixth day God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures.” Living things appeared in the woods, on the plains, in the air and sea.

Still this was a strange world because no people lived in it. There were no homes anywhere—not a man, woman, or child. But God had not finished creating His wonderful world yet. He planned to have people living on the earth to enjoy its beauties and take care of it. They would know who had made all these things. More than that, they would be able to love and worship Him.

So God decided to make the first man. Out of the dust of the earth, He made the body; then He breathed into that body the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

God called the first man Adam. Adam got to name the birds and animals. His job was to rule over all other living creatures.

Now Adam needed a helper. God said, “It is not good for man to be alone. I will make him a helper.” God made Adam a wife, and Adam loved her very much. He called his wife Eve.

When the sixth day ended, God had made the world and placed everything in it just as He had planned. On the seventh day God rested.



Adam and Eve were very happy in their garden home. God had given them good things to enjoy, and they knew nothing about evil and wrongdoing. God walked with them in the cool evenings.

In this garden God planted a wonderful tree called the tree of life. Whoever ate the fruit of this tree would live forever. Another tree was called the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God said, “You may eat the fruit of every tree in the garden except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat from this tree, you will surely die.”

One day the serpent asked Eve, “Will God let you eat the fruit of every tree in this garden?”

“We may eat from every tree except one,” Eve answered. “God told us not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, or we will die.”

“You will not die,” the serpent replied. “God knows that if you eat fruit from this tree you will become as wise as God, knowing good and evil. That is why He has forbidden you to eat it.”

Eve looked at the fruit. If it really would make her wise like God, she wanted to taste it. Reaching out her hand, she picked the fruit, ate it, and gave some to Adam. He ate the fruit too.



At once Adam and Eve knew they had disobeyed God. Fear filled their hearts, and they were afraid to meet with God. They had never been afraid before, but now they tried to find a hiding place among the beautiful trees in the garden. Their hearts had become wicked.

Soon a voice called, "Adam, where are you?"

Adam answered, "Lord, I heard Your voice and I was afraid, so I hid."

"Why should you be afraid to meet Me?" God asked. "Have you eaten the forbidden fruit?"

Adam said, "Eve gave me some of the fruit, and I ate it."

"What is this you have done?" God asked Eve.

She answered, "The serpent tempted me, and I ate."

God's heart was full of sorrow and pain because Adam and Eve had disobeyed Him by giving in to the tempter. Now they could no longer be with Him because sin had spoiled their lives. They were no longer fit to live in the beautiful garden God had made for them.

God sent them out into the world to make a home for themselves. At the gate of the garden, He placed an angel so that Adam and Eve could not come back to eat from the tree of life.

God said to Eve, "Because you have disobeyed Me, you will have pain and trouble."

God punished Adam too. Growing fruits and vegetables would no longer be easy. Weeds, thorns, and thistles would grow in his fields.

When Adam and Eve died, their bodies would become dust again. All this came because of sin.

As the years passed, however, the children and grandchildren of Adam and Eve remembered a promise. Someday God would send a Savior to free everyone from sin and death.

Because Adam and Eve had done wrong, they had to find another place to live, outside the Garden of Eden. They knew they were being punished because they had done wrong.

Adam had to work long, hard hours to get food for himself and Eve. No doubt his hands and feet were sometimes bruised and torn by thistles and thorns. Eve had pain and sorrow too. Her home was not as happy as it had been before she disobeyed God.

Adam and Eve could no longer walk and talk with God face to face, yet they still worshiped Him and confessed their sins to Him. They offered Him gifts on their altars. On a pile of stone or earth, they placed wood for a fire. Then they laid their offering on the wood, set fire to it, and the offering was burned.

Adam and Eve must have been lonely with no other people to talk to, but God planned that there would be more people. A baby boy was born to Adam and Eve. They named him Cain, and loved him so much. Later God gave them another little boy, and they named him Abel.

When Cain and his brother Abel grew old enough to understand, Adam and Eve told them about the great God. Adam and Eve wanted their sons to love and please God.

Cain and Abel grew to manhood. Like Adam, Cain worked in the fields. Abel took care of sheep. They built altars and offered their gifts to God. Cain brought food from the field for his offering, and Abel brought a fat lamb. God must have watched Abel and seen the sorrow for his sins and his desire to be forgiven. God must have seen his trust, and He was pleased with Abel's offering.

God was not pleased with Cain's offering, and Cain was very angry. God asked him, "Why are you angry? Why do you look so sad? If you do well, you will be accepted. If you do not, you will be taken by sin. Do not let sin get a hold on you. Master it instead."

Later when the brothers were in the field, Cain quarreled with Abel, and became so angry that he killed Abel.

Again God spoke to Cain. He asked, "Where is Abel, your brother?"

Cain replied, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

God knew what Cain had done. He told Cain, "Because you have done wrong, you will be punished. You will till the ground, but your crops will be poor. You will wander here and there without any one place to call your home."

Cain said, "God, this punishment is more than I can bear! What if people try to kill me when I wander from place to place?"

God answered, "I will put a mark on you so people will know not to harm you."

Cain wandered far into a land called Nod, where he lived for many years.

The Great Flood and What Happened Next

GENESIS 5:1—11:9

Adam and Eve's children lived to be very old. They had children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many great-great-grandchildren.

As the years passed, there were more and more people in the world. Most of them were very wicked, yet there was a man who tried to please God. This man was Enoch. He walked with God, talked to God, and listened when God spoke to him. Because Enoch put his faith in God most of all, he did not die. Instead, when he became old, God took him to heaven.

Enoch's son, Methusaleh was the oldest man who ever lived. He lived to be 969 years old. By this time even more people were in the world, but their hearts were full of sin. They did not try to please God because they did not love Him. They did not teach their children to love what was good and to do what was right. Sin was everywhere. The world had become a very sad place.

God was sorry He had made people. They were no longer fit to live. Finally God decided the only way to get rid of sin and wickedness in the world was to cover the earth with a great flood.

Then God remembered Noah. Even among these wicked people, Noah tried to do right and taught his sons to do right too. This pleased God.

Sometimes God talked to Noah. Now He told Noah about His plan to destroy the world. He promised Noah and his family that they would not be destroyed with the wicked people.

"Build an ark," God told Noah. "When it is finished, you and your wife and your sons and their wives may go into the ark. You will live there until the flood is over."

God decided to save a pair of each kind of living thing. These would also stay in the ark during the flood.

Because Noah believed God, he began building the ark. God had told him how to build it. While the people went their wicked way, Noah and his sons made the ark as God had said. It looked like a three-story houseboat perched up on dry land.

The people must have laughed at Noah and his three sons! They probably thought Noah and his sons were crazy. Where was the water for their boat?

Again and again, Noah warned the people to repent of their sins, or they would be destroyed in the flood. None of them believed him.

When everything was ready, God told Noah to take his wife, his three sons and their wives into the ark. Then God caused two of every kind of animal, bird, and creeping thing to go into the ark. Seven pairs of each kind of useful birds and animals came. When all were inside, God shut the door.

After a few days the rain began to fall—and such a rain! Great sheets of water poured down from the clouds. Soon the tiny streams were raging, and the rivers were overflowing their banks. People left their homes and rushed to the hills for safety. Animals ran pell-mell, trying to find refuge and shelter. Still it rained. Higher and higher, the waters rose. Now the people knew Noah had told the truth.

For forty days and nights it rained. Only Noah and his family were safe. The waters lifted the ark off the ground, and the ark began to float. For more than six months, it floated. Then one day it stood still on top of a mountain.

After waiting for some time, Noah opened a window and let out a raven. This bird had strong wings and could fly around until the waters had gone down. Several days later, Noah sent out a dove. The dove returned because she could not find a place to build her nest. A week later, Noah sent the dove out again. She stayed longer this time. When evening came, she flew back, bringing a green olive leaf in her mouth. Now Noah and his family knew the land was becoming green and beautiful. The next week, when Noah sent out the dove, she flew away and never came back.

Finally Noah believed it was time to open the ark and look out on the earth. He must have been so glad to see dry land again! For more than a year, his family and the animals had been inside the ark.

God said to Noah, “Come out of the ark with your wife and your sons and their wives and every living thing that is in the ark.”

Noah opened the large door, and he and his family stepped out on dry ground. All the animals, the birds, and the creeping things came out.

Noah was thankful to be alive. As soon as he came out of the ark, he built an altar and made his offering to God. God accepted the offering and was pleased with Noah and his family.

God promised He would never again send another flood to destroy every living creature. God said, "As long as the earth remains, there will be summer and winter, springtime and autumn, and day and night." To remind people of His promise, God made the rainbow in the sky.

A clean, new world lay before Noah and his three sons when they stepped out of the ark. There were no wicked people left.

Noah and his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth made new homes. After a while God gave them children, and these children grew up and made homes for themselves. Then there were other children. Again, many people lived on the earth.

From a mountain in Ararat, where the ark lodged after the flood, the human family moved south into the valley of Mesopotamia and lived on a plain in the land of Shinar.

"Let's build a city," said the people, "and let's make a tower so great and high that its top will reach up to the sky. Then we will not be scattered over the earth and separated from each other." And so the people began to work.

Some made brick, others mixed mortar, and still others carried brick and mortar to the workmen who were building the city and the tower. They all dreamed of the time their city and their wonderful tower, the Tower of Babel, would be finished.

Then a strange thing happened. God saw the city and the tower, and He was not pleased. He knew people would become more sinful if they finished the great tower. Already they were thinking more and more about their own work and less and less about the God who gave them strength to work. Soon they might forget God entirely and worship the things they had made. God decided to stop their building.

Until this time all the people spoke one language. Now God caused them to speak different languages. The people of one family could not understand what their neighbors were talking about. Nor could these neighbors understand the people who talked to them. They could not go on with their building because the workmen

could not understand each another. The people of Babel became restless and unhappy until finally those who spoke one language moved off by themselves.

Abram Follows God

GENESIS 11:27—22:19

The people who moved away from Babel forgot God and became more sinful. They prayed, but not to God. Wherever they went, they worshiped something. Many worshiped things God had made—the sun, moon, and stars. Later they even worshiped rivers, mountains, and hills. They made images, or figures of wood and stone. They called these images “gods” and worshiped them.

Near Babel, another city was built called Ur of the Chaldees. The people who lived there were known as Chaldeans. They worshiped the moon-god, Ur, and named their city in honor of their god.

On the plains near Ur lived old Terah, a shepherd and farmer. He had three grown sons—Abram, Nahor, and Haran—who worked with him. Haran died young and left a son named Lot. Abram did not worship the moon-god, but believed in the true God.

About this time the family left Ur. Terah took Abram and his wife, Nahor and his family, and Lot. They took all they owned—their tents, their large flocks of sheep, and their herds of cattle. Day after day, they journeyed up the great Euphrates River until they came to a place they called Haran. Here they settled. Time passed, and old Terah died.

One day Abram heard God calling him. God said, “Leave this country, your relatives, and your father’s house. Go to a land that I will show you. I will bless you, and through you, all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

As many people came to realize later, this meant a Savior would be born into the family of Abram. Jesus Christ would be a blessing to the whole world.

Leaving his brother Nahor and his family at Haran, Abram started out. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and their servants. Driving their flocks and herds before them, they turned away from the great river and journeyed southwest, toward the

land of Canaan. On one side the mountains rose wild and high. On the other side the barren desert stretched as far as they could see. They traveled on—across rivers, through valleys, over hills—each day farther from their homeland and nearer to the land God had promised.

When they reached the plain of Moreh, God spoke again to Abram, “This is the land I will give to you and your children.” Abram built an altar there and worshiped God.

This land was called Canaan, and the people were known as Canaanites. Abram did not live in their cities, but pitched his tents wherever he could find pasture for his cattle and sheep. His flocks and herds grew larger and larger, and Abram became rich.

Later there was a famine in the land, and the grass and water dried up. Nowhere could Abram find pasture, so he moved to Egypt. When the famine was over, he and Lot moved back to Bethel, where they had first pitched their tents in Canaan. Here Abram had built an altar to worship God. Now he sacrificed another offering and again talked to God.

Abram had become a very rich man. Not only did he have many servants, flocks, and herds but also much silver and gold. His nephew Lot owned many servants, sheep, and cattle too. Wherever these men and their servants pitched their tents, the place looked like a town, and the country all around them was dotted with cattle and sheep.

Later trouble arose between the servants of Abram and Lot. The servants who cared for the flocks quarreled because Abram’s servants wanted the best pastureland for Abram’s flocks. Lot’s servants wanted the same land for their master’s cattle, and so the trouble grew.

When Abram heard about the quarrel, he looked out over the countryside and saw how hard it must be for the servants. How could they always find places nearby with tender grasses and plenty of water? Abram saw the nearby villages of the Canaanites too. There was not enough room for everyone to live together in peace.

Abram told Lot, “Let there be no quarrel between us or our servants. There is not enough room for both of us to live together with our flocks and herds. But see, the whole land lies before us. Let’s separate. If you choose the west country, I will go east; but if you want the east country, I will take the west.”

Abram and Lot could see far to the east and the west. Because God had promised Abram all this land, Abram could have chosen the better part, or he could have sent Lot and his servants away. Instead, he offered Lot the first choice.

Lot, forgetting the kindness of his uncle, chose the east country where the Jordan River flowed. "I can always find plenty of grass and water there," he reasoned. "My flocks and herds will increase until soon I will be very rich."

Afterwards, God told Abram, "Lift up your eyes and look north, south, east, and west. All the land that you can see I will give to you and your children and your children's children."

As yet Abram and Sarai had no children, but Abram believed God. God also told Abram to journey through all the land to see how large it was. Abram came to a plain called Mamre. Here he pitched his tents under the oak trees, near the city of Hebron, and built another altar to worship God.

When Lot chose the fertile plains of Jordan, he thought he was making a wise choice. He saw the large cities of Sodom and Gomorrah in the distance. He knew he could become wealthy by selling sheep and cattle there, so Lot moved toward Sodom. Later he pitched his tents nearer the city walls. Finally he moved his family inside. This proved to be a huge mistake.

Sodom was not a place for good people to live. The people there cared nothing about God. Though some were very rich, they were also very wicked. Lot thought they were rich and clever.

One day trouble came to Sodom. There had been a war, and the kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, and three other cities had gone out to battle and were defeated. The conquering soldiers entered Sodom and Gomorrah, crowded through the streets, pushed their way into rich men's houses, and took away everything they could carry. They even captured people for slaves. Lot, his wife, and his children were taken with the others.

One captive escaped and fled across the country to find Abram. He told about the battle and what had happened to Lot. When Abram heard this, he took a few friends and 318 menservants to go after the captives.

After a long, tiring march, they found the enemy's camp at a place called Dan. Night had fallen, and the enemies lay asleep. Abram and his men rushed them and frightened them. The enemy thought a large army had come to fight, and they were not prepared for battle. They ran away, leaving their tents, all the goods, and the captives.

Melchizedek, king of Salem, came out to meet Abram and gave him food. Melchizedek was a priest who loved and worshiped the true God. He thanked God for giving Abram such a great victory and asked God to bless him. Because Melchizedek was a priest of the true God, Abram gave him a tenth of all the goods from the enemy's camp.

The people of Canaan honored Abram for his courage, and the king of Sodom went out to meet him. He offered Abram all the gold, silver, food, and clothing he had taken from the enemy's camp. He asked only that the people be returned to Sodom.

Abram would not accept any reward because he had promised God not to keep anything for himself. All the people and the things they owned were returned.

Lot, his wife, and his children went back to live in wicked Sodom, but Abram returned to his quiet tent home under the oak trees near Hebron.



Years passed, and Abram was growing old. Although he had great riches and many servants, he had no children. One night while he was asleep, God appeared to him and said, "Do not be afraid. I will protect you and will give you a wonderful reward because you are faithful."

"What will You give me for a reward?" Abram asked.

God promised that someday Abram would have a son. At God's command Abram got up, went outside, and looked up at the starlit heavens. "Someday the children of your family will be as many as the stars," God said, "so many that no one can count them."

Abram understood that his family would one day own the land of Canaan. Even though Abram did not have any children, he believed God's promise.



God revealed to him that the children of his family would be slaves in a strange land for four hundred years. After that they would return to Canaan and possess the land.

Years earlier, during the famine in the land of Canaan, Abram and his household had gone to Egypt. When they returned, they brought with them an Egyptian servant girl named Hagar. They taught Hagar about the true God.

One day Hagar displeased Sarai. Sarai punished Hagar severely, and Hagar ran away. For some time Hagar followed the sandy, desert road. When she got tired, she stopped to rest by a fountain, and there an angel of the Lord found her.

"Hagar, Sarai's maid, where did you come from and where are you going?" the angel asked.

"I am running away from my mistress because I am so unhappy," Hagar replied.

"Go back," the angel said, "and try to please Sarai. God will give you a son, who will grow up to be a strong man."

Hagar knew a messenger from God had spoken to her. God had known about her all the time. She obeyed and returned to Sarai. Afterward, the fountain in the wilderness where the angel had found her was called Beer-lahai-roi, which means "a well of the Living One who sees me."

Hagar had a son as God had promised. Abram named him Ishmael, which means "God hears." Abram loved Ishmael, but Ishmael was not the child that God had promised him.

When Abram was nearly one hundred years old, God spoke to him again. Abram fell on his face and listened.

God said, "I will make a covenant with you."

Abram knew a covenant was a promise between two people, each one agreeing to do something for the other. In this covenant God promised to give Abram a son, and Abram promised to serve God faithfully.

God said, "Your name will no longer be Abram, but Abraham, which means 'the father of many,' and your wife Sarai will be called Sarah, which means 'princess.'"