

Week ı Noah's Ark

The LORD saw how bad the sins of everyone on earth had become. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to everyone. They have filled the earth with their harmful acts. I am going to destroy them and the earth. So make yourself an ark out of cypress wood. I am going to bring a flood on the earth. Everything on earth will die. But I will make my covenant with you. You will go into the ark. Your sons and your wife and your sons' wives will enter it with you. Two of every kind of bird will come to you. Two of every kind of animal will also come to you. And so will two of every kind of creature that moves along the ground. All of them will be kept alive with you."

Noah did everything just as God commanded him.





For 40 days the flood kept coming on the earth. As the waters rose higher, they lifted the ark high above the earth. After 40 days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark. Then he sent out the dove from the ark. In the evening the dove returned to him. There in its beak was a freshly picked olive leaf! So Noah knew that the water on the earth had gone down.



Noah came out of the ark. His sons and his wife and his sons' wives were with him. All the animals came out of the ark, one kind after another.

The LORD said to himself, "I will never put a curse on the ground again because of human beings. I will never destroy all living things again, as I have just done. The rainbow is the sign of my covenant. I have made my covenant between me and all life on earth."



Week 6 David and Goliath

The Philistines gathered their army together for war. A mighty hero named Goliath came out of the Philistine camp. He was more than nine feet tall.

Goliath stood there and shouted to the soldiers of Israel. He said, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Choose one of your men. Have him come down and face me." Saul and the whole army of Israel heard what the Philistine said. They were terrified.

David reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions. The soldiers were shouting the war cry.

David said to Saul, "Don't let anyone lose hope because of that Philistine. I'll go out and fight him."

Saul replied, "You aren't able to go out there and fight that Philistine. You are too young. He's been a warrior ever since he was a boy."

But David said to Saul, "The LORD saved me from the paw of the lion. He saved me from the paw of the bear. And he'll save me from the powerful hand of this Philistine too."





Then David picked up his wooden staff. He went down to a stream and chose five smooth stones. He put them in the pocket of his shepherd's bag. Then he took his sling in his hand and approached Goliath.

Goliath looked David over. He saw how young he was. And he hated him. He said to David, "Why are you coming at me with sticks? Do you think I'm only a dog?"

David said to Goliath, "You are coming to fight against me with a sword, a spear and a javelin. But I'm coming against you in the



name of the LORD who rules over all. He is the God of the armies of Israel. He's the one you have dared to fight against."

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly to the battle line to meet him. He reached into his bag. He took out a stone. He put it in his sling. He slung it at Goliath. The stone hit him on the forehead and sank into it. He fell to the ground on his face.

So David won the fight against Goliath with a sling and a stone. He struck down the Philistine and killed him. He did it without even using a sword.



Week 8

Elijah Goes to Heaven

Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. The LORD was going to use a strong wind to take Elijah up to heaven.

So the two of them walked on. A group of men faced the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan River. Elijah rolled up his coat. Then he struck the water with it. The water parted to the right and to the left. The two of them went across the river on dry ground.

After they had gone across, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me. What can I do for you before I'm taken away from you?"

"Please give me a double share of your spirit," Elisha replied.

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"You have asked me for something that's very hard to do," Elijah said. "But suppose you see me when I'm taken away from you. Then you will receive what you have asked for. If you don't see me, you won't receive it."



They kept walking along and talking together. Suddenly there appeared a chariot and horses made of fire. The chariot and horses came between the two men. Then Elijah went up to heaven in a strong wind. Elisha saw it and cried out to Elijah, "My father! You are like a father to me! You, Elijah, are the true chariots and horsemen of Israel!" Elisha didn't see Elijah anymore.











"Things will be as they used to be for Jacob's people. I will make their community firm and secure. I will punish everyone who treats them badly. Their leader will be one of their own people. Their ruler will rise up from among them. I will bring him near. And he will come close to me. He will commit himself to serve me," announces the LORD. "So you will be my people. And I will be your God."

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Week 8 | Will Return to Zion

A message came to me from the LORD who rules over all.

"I will return to Zion. I will live among my people in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the Faithful City. And my mountain will be called the Holy Mountain."





He continued, "Once again old men and women will sit in the streets of Jerusalem. All of them will be using canes because they are old. The city streets will be filled with boys and girls. They will be playing there."

He continued, "All of that might seem hard to believe to the people living then. But it will not be too hard for me."





He continued, "I will save my people. I will gather them from the countries of the east and the west. I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem.



They will be my people. I will be their faithful God. I will keep my promises to them."





The Shepherd's Psalm

The LORD is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need.

He lets me lie down in fields of green grass.

He leads me beside quiet waters.

He gives me new strength.

He guides me in the right paths for the honor of his name.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I will not be afraid.

You are with me.

Your shepherd's rod and staff comfort me.







You prepare a feast for me right in front of my enemies. You pour oil on my head.

My cup runs over.





Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life.

And I will live in the house of the LORD forever.



Psalm 121

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I look up to the mountains. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD. He is the Maker of heaven and earth. He won't let your foot slip. He who watches over you won't get tired. In fact, he who watches over Israel won't get tired or go to sleep. The LORD watches over you.





The LORD is like a shade tree at your right hand. The sun won't harm you during the day. The moon won't harm you during the night. The LORD will keep you from every kind of harm. He will watch over your life. The LORD will watch over your life no matter where you go, both now and forever.



Week 6 Building the Temple

Solomon began to build the temple of the LORD. He built it on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem. That's where the LORD had appeared to Solomon's father David.

Solomon laid the foundation for God's temple. It was 90 feet long and 30 feet wide. The porch in front of the temple was 30 feet across and 30 feet high.

Solomon covered the inside of the temple with pure gold. He decorated the hall with palm tree patterns and chain patterns. He decorated the temple with valuable jewels. He covered the ceiling beams, door frames, walls and doors of the temple with gold. He carved cherubim on the walls.





He built the Most Holy Room. It was 30 feet long and 30 feet wide. He covered the inside of the Most Holy Room with 23 tons of fine gold. He also covered the upper parts with gold.



The gold on the nails weighed 20 ounces. For the Most Holy Room, Solomon made a pair of carved cherubim. He covered them with gold.



Week 8 Daniel and the Lions' Den

Daniel went home to his upstairs room. Its windows opened toward Jerusalem. He went to his room three times a day to pray. He got down on his knees and gave thanks to God. Some men saw him praying. They said to the king, "Didn't you sign an order? For the next 30 days no one of your people could pray to any god except you. If they did, they would be thrown into the lions' den." The king answered, "The order must be obeyed." The men spoke again: "Daniel doesn't obey the order. He still prays to God."





So the king gave the order. Daniel was brought out and thrown into the lions' den. The king said to him, "May God save you."

The king returned to his palace. He didn't eat anything that night. He couldn't sleep. As soon as the sun began to rise, the king got up. He hurried to the lions' den.


When he got near it, he called out to Daniel, "Daniel! You serve the living God. Has he been able to save you from the lions?"

Daniel answered, "My God sent his angel. And his angel shut the mouths of the lions. They haven't hurt me at all." The king was filled with joy. He ordered his servants to lift Daniel out of the den.





Angel Visits Mary and Jesus is Born

God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel said, "The Lord is with you." Mary was very upset. But the angel said, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is pleased with you. You will give birth to a son. You must name him Jesus."

"How can this happen?" Mary asked. The angel answered,

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"The Holy Spirit will come to you. The holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. Nothing is impossible with God."

> "I serve the Lord," Mary answered. "May it happen to me just as you said it would." Then the angel left her.





Caesar Augustus required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. All went to their own towns to be listed.

Joseph went to Bethlehem, the town of David. He went there with Mary. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby.

While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger.There was no room for them in the inn.



Week 4 God's Armor

Finally, let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor. Then you can remain strong against the devil's evil plans. Put the belt of truth around your waist. Put the armor of godliness on your chest. Wear on your feet what will prepare you to tell the good news of peace.

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Also, pick up the shield of faith. With it you can put out all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Put on the helmet of salvation. And take the sword of the Holy Spirit. The sword is God's word.

Week 5

Jesus Feeds the Multitude

Jesus saw a large crowd. He felt deep concern for them. He healed their sick people.

When it was almost evening, the disciples came to him. They said, "It's already getting late. Send the crowds away. They can go and buy some food in the villages."

Jesus replied, "They don't need to go away. You give them something to eat."

"We have only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

> "Bring them here to me," he said.



Then Jesus directed the people to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish. He gave thanks. He broke the loaves into pieces. Then he gave them to the disciples. And the disciples gave them to the people.



All of them ate and were satisfied. The disciples picked up 12 baskets of leftover pieces. The number of men who ate was about 5,000. Women and children also ate.



Week 6

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The Last Supper and Crucifixion

The day came to celebrate the Passover Feast. Jesus sent out two of his disciples. He told them, "Go into the city. A man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. He will show you a large upstairs room. Prepare for us to eat there."

The disciples went into the city. They found things just as Jesus had told them.

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So they prepared the Passover meal. When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve.

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While they were eating, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and broke it. He handed it to his disciples and said, "Take it. This is my body."

Then he took the cup. He gave thanks and handed it to them. All of them drank from it.

"This is my blood poured out to forgive the sins of many," he said. Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.





Jesus and his disciples went to Gethsemane. Jesus said, "Sit here while I pray." Judas came, guiding a group of soldiers. They were carrying torches and weapons. Jesus asked them, "Who is it that you want?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said.

Then the soldiers arrested Jesus. Then they handed him over to Pilate.

"Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate.

"Yes. It is just as you say," Jesus replied.

Pilate handed Jesus over to be nailed to a cross. Jesus had to carry his cross to a place called the Skull. There the soldiers nailed him to the cross. Jesus died.

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Week 7 The Empty Tomb

A rich man named Joseph took Jesus' body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb. He rolled a big stone in front of the tomb. Pilate put a seal on the stone and placed some guards on duty.





Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. They saw that the stone had been rolled away. They entered the tomb. As they did, they saw an angel dressed in a white robe. The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus. He is not here! He has risen, just as he said! Go! Tell his disciples and Peter." So the women hurried away from the tomb, they were afraid, but they were filled with joy. They ran to tell the disciples.



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