

ADAM VS. NOAH

Although I don't like to use the word "gap," I wholeheartedly support the belief that a unknown span of time exists between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. Truthfully, there are several time "gaps" to be found in scripture, this is just one of them. There is much evidence in the Bible supporting this (much too much to share in a short Facebook post). What follows is just a partial addressing of that evidence. You're free to believe it, or reject it, as it has no bearing on your salvation. But so what, it is what it is:

ADAM VS. NOAH: AND WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THEM

The interesting thing about the fact that the Bible many times uses the life and events of one man to picture the life and events of another, is that such a parallel pops up early in the Bible in a place where most would not expect it. This surprise reveals itself when we find certain events in the life of Noah mirroring those of Adam. Specifically, this reflection is discovered by comparing scripture with scripture and noting similar or identical details in events in each of their lives. Naturally, the most noteworthy and significant parallels are revealed by the scriptures which are most alike. Here are ELEVEN of the most outstanding parallels between Noah and Adam (and by the way, "eleven parallels" between two things is rare. Most of the time the similarities stop between one to three):

PARALLEL 1 – Both Noah and Adam are "blessed" by God. Adam is the first man in the Bible to be explicitly "blessed" by his Creator, Noah is the second:

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them..." Gen. 1:27-28

"Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created." Gen 5:2

"And God blessed Noah and his sons..." Gen 9:1

PARALLEL 2 – Both Noah, Adam, and their respective wives, find themselves the patriarch and matriarch of all the earth at some point in their lives. Adam and his wife are the first elder father and mother of mankind, Noah and his wife are the second:

"And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living." Gen. 3:20

"This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created." Gen. 5:1-2

"Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah...By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands..." Gen. 10:1-5

"These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood." Gen 10:32

PARALLEL 3 – The scriptures highlight only three sons for both Noah and Adam. This naming of only three sons is interesting, especially in the case of Adam. The reason this is strange is because Adam, clearly, fathered many more sons and daughters but they are never named (Gen. 5:4). Only three of Adam's sons are ever named: Cain, Abel, and Seth (Gen. 4:1-2 & 25). Likewise, only three of Noah's sons are ever named: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The interesting thing about Noah and his three-named sons is that they aren't born until Noah is 500-years-old:

"And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth." Gen 5:32

The fact that these three brothers (evidently being triplets) aren't born until Noah is 500 makes one wonder if Noah had children previously, but, like Adam, they're never named. It's certainly a possibility. The thought that a married man doesn't produce offspring until he's hundreds of years old is peculiar. Maybe he didn't, but maybe he did. But the Lord controls the womb, of course, and sometimes He provides children, and sometimes He doesn't. The thing that does help influence the idea that Shem, Ham, and Japheth were Noah's ONLY children, is that Hebrews states that Noah "prepared an ark to the saving of his house" (Heb. 11:7). The implication here is that this "saving" was the saving of Noah's whole house, not the saving of it in part. And if that's the case, then Shem, Ham, and Japheth were his only children. That's not 100 percent proof, but it's a good indicator. Likewise, since the Lord found Noah "perfect in his generations" (Gen. 6:9), and then saved those generations aboard the ark, it's doubtful that some of those perfect generations would've been left behind as targets of the Flood. This further points to the probability that Shem, Ham, and Japheth were Noah's only children. Again, they probably were, but there's a chance that they

weren't. Regardless, it's an established fact that Adam had many more children, but the Bible only mentions three. Why? Was it because Adam mirrored Noah? That certainly could be part of the answer.

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PARALLEL 4 – Both Noah and Adam live to be over 900-years-old:

“And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.” Gen 5:5

“And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years: and he died.” Gen 9:29

While it's true the scriptures record a total of seven men who lived over 900 years, the interesting thing about our two men in particular, is that Adam was the FIRST man recorded to have lived longer than 900 years, Noah was the LAST. Adam marked the beginning of this longevity of age in the history of man, Noah marked its end.

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PARALLEL 5 – Both Noah and Adam see the world's animals come unto them:

And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and BROUGHT THEM UNTO ADAM to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.” Gen. 2:19

“Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth, There WENT IN two and two UNTO NOAH into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah.” Gen. 7:8-9

“...and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort. And THEY WENT IN UNTO NOAH into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, ...” Gen. 7:14-16

Once the ark is prepared we do not find a period of time where Noah and his sons go out and GATHERED the animals. Instead, the scriptures seem to indicate that Noah had divine help in this matter. Especially after it was announced that the flood was only seven short days away (Gen. 7:4). Could Noah have gather all the world's animals in a week's time, by sevens and twos as instructed, without the Lord's help? I don't think so. The world's a big place. I believe that just as the Lord brought the world's animals unto Adam, so too, did He bring them unto Noah, and thus they “went in unto” him. And if the process wasn't identical, it was at least similar. In the end, the fact remains that only two important men who were ever blessed by God also interacted personally with all the world's animals. Such profound, worldwide, animal-based phenomena is seen nowhere else in scripture in connection to man. The circumstances are different, but the end result is the same – the world's animals go unto Adam for naming; and the world's animals go unto Noah for saving.

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PARALLEL 6 – Both Noah and Adam sin in a garden:

“[22] And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: [23] Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from THE GARDEN of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. [24] So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.” Gen. 3:22-24

“[20] And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he PLANTED A VINEYARD: [21] And he drank of the wine, and was drunken...” Gen. 9:20-21

Consequently, the scriptures link vineyards with gardens:

“And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy VINEYARD, that I may have it for a GARDEN...” 1Kgs 21:2

“And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a VINEYARD, as a lodge in a GARDEN...” Isa. 1:8

“...they shall plant VINEYARDS, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make GARDENS, and eat the fruit of them.” Amos 9:14

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PARALLEL 7 – Both Noah and Adam encounter trouble after putting something into their mouths:

“[6] And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and HE DID EAT. ... [9] And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said... [11] ...Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?” Gen. 3:6, 9 & 11

“[20] And Noah... [21] ...DRANK OF THE WINE, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.” Gen. 9:20-21

Adam’s transgression was the result of eating a forbidden fruit. Noah, in like manner, transgressed after drinking fermented wine. Both Adam and Noah would’ve never gotten into the messes they got into, had they never put those things in their mouths.

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PARALLEL 8 – Nakedness is connected to the sin of both Noah and Adam:

“[6] And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. [7] And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that THEY WERE NAKED... [9] And the LORD God called unto Adam... [11] And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?” Gen. 3:6-11

“[20] And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: [21] And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. [22] And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the NAKEDNESS of his father, and told his two brethren without. [23] And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father’s nakedness. [24] And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him.” Gen. 9:20-24

Adam is naked before his transgression, Noah is naked afterwards.

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PARALLEL 9 – Both Noah and Adam have close relatives under a curse:

“[9] And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper? [10] And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto me from the ground. [11] And NOW ART THOU CURSED from the earth...” Gen. 4:9-11

“[24] And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. [25] And he said, CURSED BE CANAAN; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.” Gen. 9:24-25

Adam has a son under a curse – Cain. Noah has a grandson under a curse – Canaan. Is it mere coincidence that the names of these cursed men are nearly identical?

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PARALLEL 10 – Both Noah and Adam are instructed to “replenish” the earth:

“[27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. [28] And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and REPLENISH THE EARTH, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” Gen. 1:27-28

“And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and REPLENISH THE EARTH.” Gen. 9:1

Noah and Adam’s instructions to “be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth” both come as a result of another coinciding parallel at this point in their lives, for at the time of these instructions, both Adam and Noah find themselves the sole patriarchs of planet earth. And this profound initiative, laid out to both men by their Creator, flows hand-in-glove with the final parallel between the two...

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PARALLEL 11 – The patriarchy of both Noah and Adam directly follows an era of waters covering the whole earth:

Now whether or not you believe in a global “judgement” before Adam or not, only an out-and-out infidel would deny the fact that the world was covered with waters prior to Adam’s patriarchy. Genesis 1:2 makes plain that “waters” covered the earth at that time. The bone of contention arrives with the purpose behind those waters. Some say they were part of God’s “constructive” process during the six days of creation; others say they represent God’s judgement and were part of a “destructive” process, instead. Construction or destruction, which is right? Help first arrives in solving this riddle when it is discovered that NOAH IS A PICTURE OF ADAM. And the reason behind the world being covered with waters in Noah’s day is not in question – it was a GLOBAL JUDGEMENT. This is precisely why both men were later instructed by identical instructions from their Creator to “be fruitful, and multiply, and REPLENISH the earth.” The only difference in this replenishment is that humans proceeded Noah, but in Adam’s case they did not. Adam and Eve were the first human beings. But other life forms DID precede Adam, and it was these other life forms which were judged in Genesis 1:2.

Note, specifically, the word “replenish.” Replenish means to “fill again.” The prefix “re” is put there to indicate repetition or the returning to a previous condition (re-fill, re-stock, re-store, re-supply, re-build, re-new, re-port – fill again, stock again, store again, supply again, build again, make new again, give an account again). This is evident in Noah’s case, but many are confused as to why this word is present with Adam’s instructions. But it’s only confusing if you reject that Genesis 1:2 was a judgement, or that Noah is a type of Adam. The use of the word “replenish” in Noah’s case, clearly TELLS US WHY it was used with Adam. Some form of life was present on earth before Adam, therefore, like Noah, he was instructed to “replenish” it. Noah was “replenishing” the earth, filling it again, after all life on earth had been decimated by a global deluge. That’s clear. But a problem pops up when we find the Lord using the same wording with Adam within the context of identical instructions. This is only a “problem,” however, if one rejects the light the scriptures are attempting to provide on the subject. It’s only a “problem” when one rejects the fact that CERTAIN EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF NOAH MIRROR THOSE OF ADAM. Because once this is understood, the answer presents itself – in both instances, GOD USES COVERING WATERS AS A JUDGMENT. And this is precisely why “the great dragon,” pharaoh (Ezk. 29:3), is drowned in the Red Sea. (Ex. 15:4) It pictures Genesis 1:2 – an ancient judgement upon the Devil by OVERFLOWING WATERS.

The scriptures use parallels and typologies to teach us. The Lord is saying that if you can understand one, then you can understand the other. Or, if understanding one is giving you problems, then you can look to its parallel to help with those parts that you DON’T understand. In other words, God is saying through the scriptures; “See, I know you can understand THIS. And by understanding THIS (points to one issue), then you can understand THIS (points to its typology).” If you can understand why the world was covered with waters prior to Noah’s patriarchy, then you can understand why the world was covered with waters prior to Adam’s. Now, the details of those covering-waters are different, but their purpose was the same – they were both JUDGEMENTS sent by the Lord. And we know this for a “fact” because of the parallels between the two. The scriptures plainly state in Genesis why the Lord covered the world with waters in Noah’s day. But such details are not immediately apparent with Adam. And THE USE OF A GLOBAL FLOOD by God as a means of judgment in Noah’s day, was NOT AN ARBITRARY ACT. Especially when the Lord could’ve dispensed any number of events to judge the earth – war, famine, pestilence, sending a legion of angels, etc. GOD USED A WORLDWIDE FLOOD PRIOR TO NOAH’S PATRIARCHY, PRECISELY BECAUSE HE HAD USED ONE PRIOR TO ADAM. Using a global flood as the worldwide judgment in Noah’s day was inevitable.

All through the Bible COVERING-WATERS TYPIFY THE JUDGEMENT OF GOD. This is precisely why God used a man named “drawn out of the water,” (Moses – Ex. 2:10) to save his people from “the great dragon” (Pharaoh – Ezk. 29:3). And this is precisely why the Lord Jesus Christ walks ON TOP OF THE WATER (Christ pictures THE ONLY WAY to avoid God’s wrath), and why Peter shouted “save me,” after sinking INTO THE WATER (Peter typifies the lost sinner).

Much, much more could be said about coving waters and those NEGATIVE THINGS associated with it as found in scripture, but our space here is limited to go into all the details. But to suffice for now, understanding that Noah, in many ways, typifies Adam helps us to understand that NOAH’S FLOOD was not an arbitrary choice of judgment. It was done precisely because a catastrophic flood preceded Adam:

“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. ...” Gen. 1:2

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A SUMMARY OF THE 11 PARALLELS OF ADAM AND NOAH:

- 1a.) Noah was blessed by God (Gen. 9:1).
- 1b.) Adam was blessed by God (Gen. 1:27-28 & 5:2).
- 2a.) Noah and his wife were once the patriarch and matriarch of all mankind (Gen. 9:19, Gen. 10:1-5 & 32).
- 2b.) Adam and his wife were once the patriarch and matriarch of all mankind (Gen. 3:20 & 5:1-5).
- 3a.) The Bible records the names of Noah’s three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth (Gen. 6:10).
- 3b.) The Bible records three of the names of Adam’s sons: Cain, Abel, and Seth (Gen. 4:1-2 & 25).
- 4a.) Noah was the last man to live over 900 years (Gen. 9:29)
- 4b.) Adam was the first man to live over 900 years (Gen. 5:5)
- 5a.) God brings all the world’s animals unto Noah (Gen. 7:7-16).
- 5b.) God brings all the world’s animals unto Adam (Gen. 2:19-20).
- 6a.) Noah sinned in a vineyard – a garden (Gen. 9:20-21)
- 6b.) Adam sinned in a garden (Gen. 2:8 & 15)
- 7a.) Noah put something in his mouth that got him in trouble: Wine (Gen. 9:21).
- 7b.) Adam put something in his mouth that got him in trouble: Forbidden Fruit (Gen. 3:6).
- 8a.) Noah was naked when it happened (Gen. 9:21-23).
- 8b.) Adam was naked when it happened (Gen. 3:6-10).

9a.) One of Noah's [grand]sons was put under a curse: Canaan (Gen. 9:24-25).

9b.) One of Adam's sons was put under a curse: Cain (Gen. 4:9-11).

10a.) Noah was told to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." (Gen. 9:1).

10b.) Adam was told to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" (Gen. 1:28).

11a.) Noah was told this after waters covered the whole earth – the purpose was God's judgement (Gen. 6-8).

11b.) Adam was told this after after waters covered the whole earth – the purpose was... (Gen. 1-2).

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