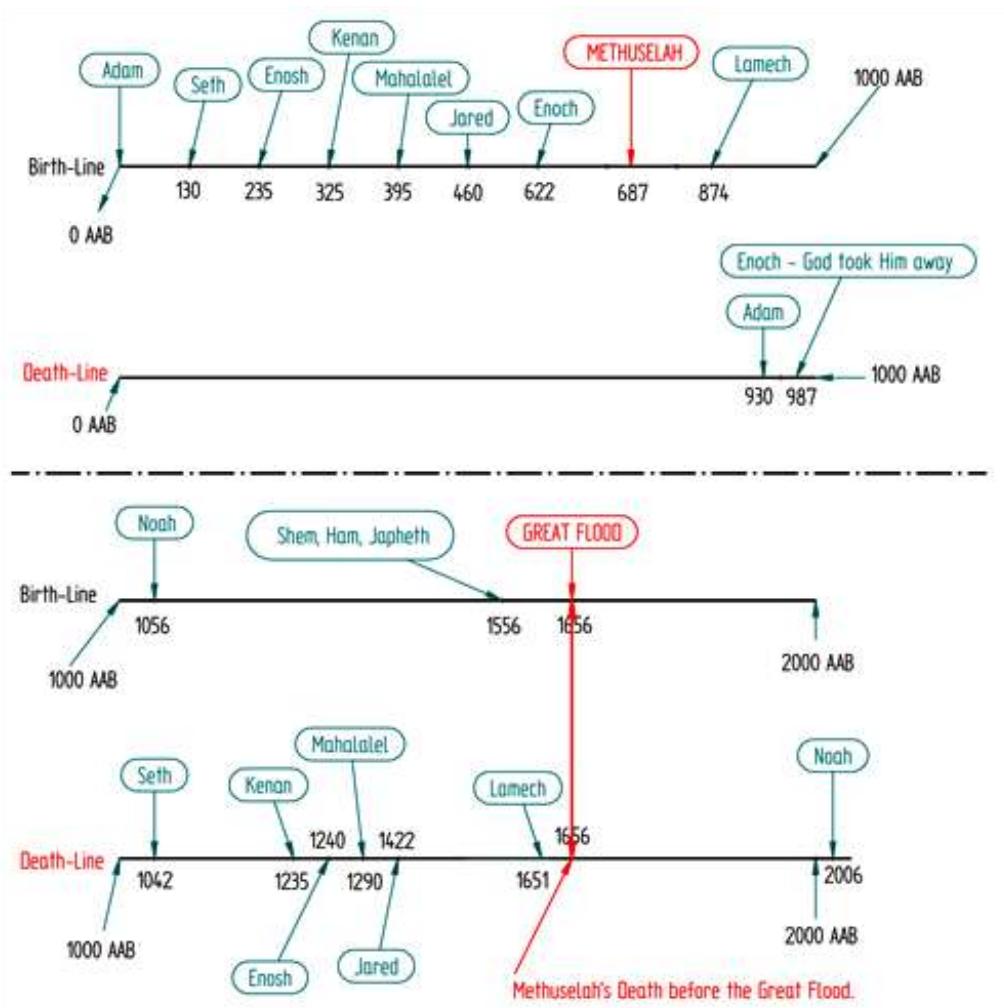


## THE GREAT ESCAPE



### 1. HE ESCAPED THE GREAT FLOOD

NOAH and his family were told by God to get into the Ark before it started to rain. His family was small, consisting of his wife, his three children and their wives, eight of them in total. There were no grandfathers or grandmothers. (Gen. 7:13). METHUSELAH who was gifted with the longest life of 969 years was living in the days of Noah. See the chart below to compare the year of birth and death of Noah's forefathers. Note: AAB- means the year "After Adams Birth." Adam- Born: 0. AAB Died: 930 AAB. The Historic TIMELINE showing the events as they took place:



Adam and Seth died and Enoch was taken away by God before the birth of Noah. Others were living during Noah's period. (Please read Gen.Ch.5). His forefathers had died as per the time marked in the chart. His father, Lamech too, died in the year 1651 AAB (After Adam's birth). Reckoning from the day of Adam's birth, Noah was born in the year 1056 AAB.

Noah had children when he was 500 years old. In the 600th year of Noah's life, i.e. in the year 1656 AAB, on the 7th day of the 2nd month.... the flood gates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. (Gen.7:11 & 12) It flooded the Earth. God destroyed all the sinful people on the earth by this great flood. That was in the year 1656 AAB. Methuselah who was born in the year 687 AAB lived for 969 YEARS. Adding his age 969 to the year 687 AAB (=1656) we can see that he had lived till that year 1656..! May be he died within that 2 months and 7 days of that year.

We see no record of Methuselah being taken into the Ark by Noah. So, God must have called him back home, before sending the great flood.

Thus, by His mercy, Methuselah had a GREAT ESCAPE from the punishment by floods, just in time...!

## 2. HE ESCAPED THE GREAT FIRE



THREE visitors came to Abraham. After the dinner, two of them left towards Sodom and Gomorrah. "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous" [Gen.18:20] - that God wanted to destroy these cities by fire. God stayed back to inform Abraham what his plan was for Sodom. Abraham, who remembered that his nephew Lot and his family lived there, began to intercede for Lot. (Read Gen.18:20 to 22)

Abraham: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city?"

God: "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake." Abraham understood, even that many righteous people were not there in Sodom. He went on pleading.

Abraham: "What if the number of righteous people is five less than fifty?" God: "I will not destroy"

Abraham: "What if only forty are found? God: "I will not destroy."

Abraham: "if thirty are there?" God: "No." Abraham: "if twenty?" God: "No."

Abraham: "If only ten?" God said: "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it" (Gen.18:32)

When the Lord had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home. (Gen. 18:33) He understood that there is no one righteous in the city of Sodom. But, he was sad and worried about his nephew Lot. God also knew it, and wanted to spare Lot for the sake of His good friend Abraham.

Two angels arrived at Sodom and told Lot and his family to leave to the faraway hill immediately. He delayed his going while he persuaded his sons-in-law to come with them. Finally he, his wife and his two daughters were forced out of the city. They were permitted to run away to the nearest city called Zoar.

And the Lord rained burning Sulphur on Sodom.

Thus, because of Abraham's prayer, Lot and his family had a GREAT ESCAPE from the fire, just in time..!

### 3. HE ESCAPED HELL



JESUS was crucified on the hill of Calvary and two criminals were crucified along with Him, one on his right and the other on his left. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" (Luke 23:39)

But the other criminal (some say the one at his right) rebuked him: "Don't you fear God" he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." (v.40 & 41)

Then he said: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."(V. 42)

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in Paradise." (v.43)

Thus, because of his repentance and prayer, the criminal had a GREAT ESCAPE from hell, just in time..!  
YOU AND ME TODAY

We too, by His Grace, have experienced a GREAT ESCAPE from punishment, by confessing our sins and giving our heart to JESUS, who has cleansed us with His blood and made us worthy of entering heaven. Why not tell about this to those who need the 'GREAT ESCAPE' from fiery Hell, before it is too late..!

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'Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight ...'



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