

genesis

God's Book of Beginnings

Chapters 7-8

^{7:1} The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. ² Take with you seven of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and two of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, ³ and also seven of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. ⁴ Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made." ⁵ And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him. ⁶ Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. ⁷ And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸ Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, ⁹ male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰ And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth. ¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month – on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. ¹² And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³ On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. ¹⁴ They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. ¹⁵ Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. ¹⁶ The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in. ¹⁷ For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. ¹⁹ They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. ²⁰ The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet. ²¹ Every living thing that moved on the earth perished – birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. ²² Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. ²³ Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. ²⁴ The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

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^{8.1} But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. ² Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. ³ The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, ⁴ and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵ The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.

⁶ After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark ⁷ and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. ⁹ But the dove could find no place to set its feet because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. ¹⁰ He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. ¹¹ When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. ¹² He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him. ¹³ By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. ¹⁴ By the twenty-seventh day of the 2nd month the earth was completely dry.

¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁷ Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you – the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground – so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number upon it."

¹⁸ So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. ¹⁹ All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds – everything that moves on the earth--came out of the ark, one kind after another. ²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. ²¹ The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. ²² As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

The Time of the Great Flood (Genesis 7)

There are over 270 flood stories told in cultures all over the world, indicating the Flood's historicity.

7:1 The LORD commended Noah's obedience by instructing him and his family to enter the ark.

The LORD's command to Noah marking the beginning of the Flood "Go into the ark..." is similar to His simple command that marked the end of the Flood: "Come out of the ark..." Genesis 8:16.

In spite of the rampant wickedness existing all around Noah and his family Matthew 24:37-39, the LORD listed him among the most righteous men in the OT, along with Daniel and Job Ezekiel 14:12-20.

7:2-3 God revised His count of the animals to be on the ark. Previously Genesis 6:19-20, He simply stated two of each kind of animal would come, which remained true for the "unclean" animals, but the LORD instructed there to be fourteen of each of the "clean" animals Leviticus 11:1-47.

The translations are unclear, but the Hebrew indicates 'seven pairs' of each of the clean animals. This number of clean animals was needed for the survival of the species Genesis 8:17, animal sacrifices to God Genesis 8:20 and food for Noah's family Genesis 9:3 immediately upon their departure from the ark.

7:4 God established the day the Flood would come, seven days from His announcement, and the length of the rain that produced the flood, forty days and forty nights Matthew 4:1-2.

In His incredible patience Numbers 14:18, God gave the sinners of the day one more week to repent.

7:5 Noah maintained his obedient lifestyle, fulfilling every one of God's commands Genesis 6:22.

7:6-9 These verses are the first of two sets of announcements of (1) the age of Noah when the Flood began (600 years) v.11, (2) the entrance of Noah's family into the ark v.13 and (3) the entrance of all of the animals into the ark v.14-15, prior to the Flood.

Noah did not have to gather the animals, because they "came to Noah" at God's direction v.9,15.

7:10 Being perfectly righteous Psalm 145:17, God produced the Flood right when He had promised.

7:11-15 Much of the information from four earlier verses v.6-9 is reiterated: Noah's age and the entrance of Noah's family and the animals; however, some additional details are also given. The Flood began on the seventeenth day of the second month (May? or October/November?), with not only rain beginning, but also waters welling-up from underground onto the surface.

7:16 Moses made one final reference to Noah's obedience to God's command about the animals. Then once all who God had called were safe inside, He "shut him in" (referring to Noah).

To be saved, Noah and his family entered the ark through the only door available John 10:9, 14:6.

Not only did God's shutting them in represent His divine care and protection of Noah and his family, but it also marked the end of the availability of God's grace for those who were outside Matthew 25:10.

This story is one of many illustrating the vital importance (and responsibility) of leadership.

Would Noah's wife, sons and his son's wives been called/allowed to enter the ark without Noah?

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Genesis 7-8

7:17-20 As promised by God ^{v.4}, the rains came for forty days, creating increasing floodwaters. The ark began to float, and the water rose until it covered everything at least 20 feet.

7:21-23 All people/animals living on or above the land died in the Flood of judgement ^{2 Peter 3:6}.

7:24 It rained for 40 days, but the flood did not start receding until almost 150 days ^{Genesis 8:3}. God took that long to guarantee that no human or land animal would/could survive.

There were three pre-Flood people groups: (1) he who was saved from the flood (Enoch ^{Genesis 5:24}), (2) those who were saved through the judgement (Noah & family ^{1 Peter 3:20}) and (3) those who died in the judgement (everyone else ^{v.4}). These groups parallel groups prior to the 70th Week of Daniel.

The End of Judgement and the Redemption of Life (Genesis 8)

8:1-2 At this time, God shifted His focus from the destruction of all the sinful people and the animals to the preservation of His remnant ^{Genesis 45:4-7}: Noah and his family. He started the process of receding the floodwaters with a wind (*rûah*: spirit) ^{Genesis 1:2, Exodus 14:21, Isaiah 11:15}.

When the Bible states God “remembers” someone, it does not suggest that He had forgotten them; it indicates His great concern and favor for ^{Genesis 19:29, 30:22-23} or anger toward ^{Revelation 16:19} someone.

The Hebrew word translated “wind” (*rûah*) ^{v.1}, appears in the OT 379 times. Of the 379 uses, *rûah* is translated “spirit” 176 times (including “Holy Spirit” ^{Psalms 51:11, Isaiah 63:10,11}) and “wind” 79 times.

8:3-4 The Flood had begun to recede “at the end of the hundred and fifty days”. The decrease in water depth was helped by a wind ^{v.1} that accelerated evaporation. After another 7 days, the ark became grounded on the “mountains of Ararat” on the 17th day of the 7th month.

The accepted geographical location of the mountains of Ararat is in the ancient area of Urartu, which in the present day is in extreme eastern Turkey, near the borders with Armenia and Iran. That significant mountain range has several mountains with elevations exceeding 17,000 feet.

Scholars have suggested the ark landing and the Resurrection both occurred on the same day.

The ancient calendars all had 360-days in each year, and consisted of twelve 30-day months.

8:5 After 74 more days, the water had receded enough for the mountain tops to be in view.

8:6-7 Forty days later, Noah released from a window a raven ^{Leviticus 11:13-15}, who flew away.

The text says Noah “opened the window”. With the necessity of ventilation during the Flood, this may imply the closed windows were slatted in order to keep some of the animals in the ark.

As an unclean bird, the raven eats virtually anything, and with only mountaintops to land on, the raven probably flew from body to body, eating from the remains of the many carcasses.

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8:8-9 Noah then released a dove, but after a time the dove returned to the safety of the ark.

Are we like the raven, feeding on the corrupt world, or doves, only finding rest in the ark (Jesus)?

8:10-12 After 7 more days, Noah released the dove again, and it returned to him in the evening, the dove had a fresh olive branch in its beak, indicating more exposed land. Ultimately, after another 7 days, Noah released the dove a third time, and it did not return.

Noah was confident the water had receded, because olive trees do not grow at high elevations.

Each time, Noah waited 7 days. Did he release the dove on a particular day? Perhaps the Sabbath?

8:13-14 Noah waited for another 22 days, then he removed the “covering”, enabling him to clearly see dry ground. This “dry ground” must have been ground with no standing water, because it took almost two more months before the ground was “completely dry”.

What the “covering” in the ark was is unknown. As a result, we must infer that prior to its removal Noah could not look down toward the ground, but only see horizontally toward the horizon.

8:15-17 God declared the second of His two commands characterizing the beginning ^{Genesis 7:1} and the end of the Flood. God’s command: “Come out of the ark...” signaled that it was safe and that it was the appropriate time for Noah, his family and all the animals to leave the ark.

In order for the process of repopulating the earth to begin, God repeated His encouraging words of fruitful blessings on the animals that He had spoken earlier at the time of the Creation ^{Genesis 1:22}.

8:18-19 Once again, Noah was perfectly obedient to God’s directions: they all left the ark.

Noah, his wife, his sons & wives, and all the animals were in the ark either 377 or 378 days.

8:20 Recognizing the magnitude of God’s grace in protecting him and his family in the ark through the Flood, Noah immediately worshipped the LORD by building an altar ^{Genesis 22:9}, and offering some of the clean animals as burnt sacrifices on the altar ^{Leviticus 1:1-4, 6:8-13}.

Noah’s understanding of his responsibility to build an altar and to offer burnt offerings of the clean animals to the LORD was additional proof that God had taught many aspects of the Mosaic Law to mankind ^{Genesis 4:3-7, 7:2-3} much earlier than when He taught Moses on Mount Sinai ^{Exodus 19-31}.

8:21-22 The burnt offering aroma pleased the LORD ^{Leviticus 1:7-13}, indicating He approved Noah’s offering, and He promised to never again “destroy all living creatures, as [He did]” ^{Genesis 9:11}. The LORD also promised to continue the seasons of life until the end of time ^{Matthew 24:35}.

Speaking of saints, Paul said: “For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ” ^{2 Corinthians 2:14-15}. Noah’s actions pleased the LORD, and a delight in His children’s worship ^{Ephesians 5:1-2, Philippians 4:18}.

As noted, the LORD recognized that man’s heart remained extremely wicked ^{Psalms 51:5, Jeremiah 17:9}, so He would have to provide a way for man to overcome it ^{Genesis 22:14, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Mark 10:45}.

Later, Peter described how the LORD’s future judgement will not be by water, but by fire ^{2 Peter 3:3-13}.

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