

## **CHAOS TO ORDER**

### **Noah and the Flood**

#### **Genesis 7:1-24**

#### **Introduction**

In Genesis 7, Noah has finished building the ark, and the time has come for Noah and his family to prepare to enter the ark. God sends birds, animals, and insects of every kind to join Noah in the ark. God says that the rain will start in seven days, and guess what? That is what happens.

It is God who shuts Noah, his family, and the animals into the ark. Then, the rain begins on a specific date in the history of the world.

#### **I. The final preparations**

In verse 1, Noah has finished the final preparations, and so God invites Noah into the ark.

"Then the LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen *that you are* righteous before Me in this generation." (Genesis 7:1 NKJV)

It is God who says, "Come into the ark." God was in the ark, so He called Noah to come into the ark with Him.

Spurgeon says, "Notice that the Lord did not say to Noah, 'Go into the ark,' but 'Come,' plainly implying that God was himself in the ark, waiting to receive Noah and his family into the big ship that was to be their place of refuge while all the other people on the face of the earth were drowned."

Before the Flood, Noah spent 120 years believing and obeying God. Noah believed God would send the Flood, so he obeyed what God told him to do to prepare for it. In response, God tells Noah, "I have seen that you are righteous."

In verse 2, Noah gathers all the animals and his family and plans to enter the ark.

"You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male, and his female; two each of animals that *are* unclean, a male and his female; also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made." And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him. Noah *was* six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth. So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the Flood. Of clean animals, of animals that *are* unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female,

as God had commanded Noah.” (Genesis 7:2-9 NKJV)

In Genesis 6, God told Noah, “And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every *sort* into the ark, to keep *them* alive with you; they shall be male and female.” Now God gives further instructions to take a male and female of every unclean creature and seven pairs of every clean creature into the ark.

The Flood will also begin in seven days and last forty days, destroying every living thing on the earth. Noah obeyed God. In Genesis 6:20, God said the animals would *come to* Noah by migration. God created a migratory instinct in some animals, so it wouldn’t be difficult for Him to miraculously place an urge for the animals to migrate to the ark.

Spurgeon said, “This largest and most complete menagerie that was ever gathered together was not collected by human skill; divine power alone could have accomplished such a task as that.”

God never has a problem getting the animals to do what He wants. It’s us – it’s mankind who are so resistant and rebellious to doing God’s will. God even says to Israel, “The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master’s crib; *But* Israel does not know, My people do not consider.” (Isaiah 1:3 NKJV)

## **II. The Flood**

In verse 10, time runs out for the inhabitants of the earth to repent and be saved. So God begins to bring the flood waters upon the earth.

“And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the Flood were on the earth. In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.” (Genesis 7:10-12 NKJV)

Noah, the animals, and his family had to wait in the ark seven days for the rain to come. They had never seen rain, so they didn’t really know what to expect. It was a real test of faith – to wait another week after more than 100 years of preparation.

But then, “The windows of heaven were opened.” The heavens that contained the great waters above the firmament mentioned in verse 7 of chapter 1 opened up. These were the waters that formed the massive blanket of water in the upper part of the earth’s atmosphere since creation. The fountains of the great deep were also broken up, and the waters that came up from under the earth were, no doubt, accompanied by some tremendous geological catastrophes.

The number 40 becomes associated with testing and purification, especially before beginning something new and significant. We see this in:

- The 40 days and nights of the Flood.

- The time Moses spends with God on Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:18, Deuteronomy 9:25).
- The spies' trip into Canaan to assess the Land (Numbers 13:25).
- Israel's wanderings in the wilderness (Numbers 14:33, 32:13).
- Elijah's miraculous journey to Sinai (1 Kings 19:8).
- Jesus' temptation in the wilderness (Mark 1:13).

In verse 13, Noah, his family, and all the chosen animals enter the ark, and the door is shut.

"On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark— they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which *is* the breath of life. So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in." (Genesis 7:13-16 NKJV)

The summary statement of this passage describes how everything was fulfilled exactly as God said. Noah has obediently followed God for a hundred years, and today is no different, "He went in as God had commanded him." All the preparations were made, and everything was ready for the Flood God was bringing upon the earth. By the grace of God,

Noah did not have to shut the door on anyone's salvation; God did it. It is never our job to disqualify people from salvation. If the door is to be shut, let God shut the door. God kept the door open until the last possible minute, but there came a time when the door had to shut. When the door is open, it is open, and you can still choose God's way. But when the door is shut, it is shut, and your time has run out. That was true for Noah and the inhabitants of his day, and it will also be true for the inhabitants of the last days. In Revelation 3:7 it says, "These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "HE WHO HAS THE KEY OF DAVID, HE WHO OPENS AND NO ONE SHUTS, AND SHUTS AND NO ONE OPENS."

On writer says, "The ark was salvation for Noah, but condemnation for the world. There were no second chances for those left out. "Yea, when the one hundred and twenty years were over, and God's Spirit would no longer strive with men, there stood the great ark with its vast door wide open, and still Noah continued to preach and to declare that all who would pass within that open portal into the ark of safety should be preserved from the coming destruction. Outside that door death would reign universally, but all would be peace within."

### **III. Noah and the Ark**

With Noah safely in the Ark, God pours out his judgment on the evil that has overtaken the earth. Verse 17 describes the Flood.

"Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. All in whose nostrils *was* the breath of the spirit of life, all that *was* on the dry *land*, died. So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who *were* with him in the ark remained *alive*." (Genesis 7:17-23 NKJV)

This passage's description of the Flood is so complete and specific that it is impossible to reconcile a local flood with the Biblical record. Despite the claims of some modern-day scientists and historians, this passage describes a global deluge. The ark itself would be unnecessary if it weren't a global flood. If this were only a local flood, God's promise to never again bring such a flood is false, and the Bible is false because it traces all of humanity back to Noah's sons.

There are other passages as well that speak of a universal flood.

Psalms 104:5 says, "*You who* laid the foundations of the earth, So *that* it should not be moved forever, You covered it with the deep as *with* a garment; The waters stood above the mountains. At Your rebuke they fled; At the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. They went up over the mountains; They went down into the valleys, To the place which You founded for them. You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, That they may not return to cover the earth." (Psalms 104:5-9 NKJV)

2 Peter 3:5 says, "For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water." (2 Peter 3:5-6 NKJV)

There are hundreds of people groups that have their own account of the Flood.

One of the most remarkable is the Babylonian account, which is similar to the Genesis account in many ways and is clearly drawn from it. Why is this? Since all mankind came from Noah's sons, all mankind remembers the Flood.

Writers specifically cite the legends of the Samo-Kubo tribe of New Guinea, the Athapascan Indians of America, the Papago Indians of Arizona, Brazilian tribes, Peruvian Indians, African Hottentots, natives of Greenland, native Hawaiian islanders, Hindus, Chinese, Egyptians, Greeks, Persians, Australian natives, the Welsh, Celts, Druids, Siberians, and Lithuanians.

Of the more than 200 cultures that have their own account of the Flood, the following aspects of the story are common:

- 88% describe a favored family.
- 70% attribute survival to a boat.
- 95% say the sole cause of the catastrophe is a flood.
- 66% say that the disaster is due to man's wickedness.
- 67% record that animals are also saved.
- 57% describe that the survivors end up on a mountain.
- Many accounts also specifically mention birds being sent out, a rainbow, and eight persons being saved.

Verse 20 says that the mountains were covered. Because of the earth's topography, the water collects into oceans. If the earth were a perfect sphere, the oceans would cover the land to a depth of two-and-a-half to three miles. Before the cataclysmic Flood, it's possible the earth may have been much nearer to a perfect sphere.

If Moses had meant to describe a partial deluge upon only a small part of the earth, he used very misleading language; but if he meant to teach that the deluge was universal, he used the very word which we might have expected that he would use.

Everyone outside the Ark perished in the flood waters.

Verse 22 says, "All in whose nostrils *was* the breath of the spirit of life, all that *was* on the dry *land*, died. "

In the Scopes Monkey Trial (in America, 1925), Clarence Darrow humiliated William Jennings Bryan by asking him if he believed every word in the Bible. When Bryan said he did, Darrow asked him how the fish drowned in the Flood. Bryan didn't know the answer, gave a long and confused speech, and died the next day.

If he had known the Bible better, he would have known what it says about the breath of the spirit of life. The fish didn't die in the Flood; only animals with the breath of life in them died, the animals on dry land. Noah's contemporaries did not believe God would do just as He said, but guess what, He did.

Even though it took 120 years, God demonstrated that He keeps His promises and is faithful.

## **Conclusion**

**Verse 24 says,** "And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days." ([Genesis 7:24 NKJV](#))

Some suggest that God put some or many of these animals into a period of hibernation, which would require less food, space, and supervision. Even today, many animals have an incredible instinct for hibernation. It certainly wouldn't be difficult for God to cause particular animals to hibernate miraculously.

The flood lasted one hundred and fifty days, and everyone remained safe in the ark. Throughout the flood, God sustained Noah and his family through this incredible time of catastrophe and judgment. God safely protected and sheltered them from the storm and Flood waters.

It's a marvelous picture of salvation. Noah underwent the burial to all the old things so that he might come out into a new world. Romans 6:8 says, "Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him" ([Romans 6:8 NKJV](#))