

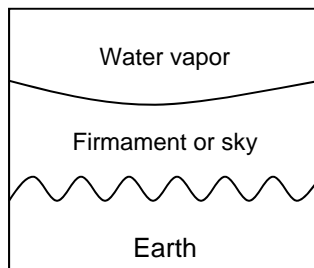
GENESIS

The Great Flood

Text: Genesis 7-9

Introduction: The 120 year warning (**Gen. 6:3** *And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he *is* indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."*) had expired. Grandfather Methuselah (whose name meant "when he dies, it shall come") was dead. After an approximate century of silence during which Noah faithfully obeyed God by building the ark, God again spoke to Noah.

We might be reminded of the setting. God was not only promising a flood which had never been seen, but the people of Noah's day had never seen rain. Genesis (**Gen. 2:5** *before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and *there was no man to till the ground;**) reminds us that the earth was watered by a dew from the ground – a result of the greenhouse effect discussed in the lesson on Genesis 1. As a reminder and to help understand the cataclysmic nature of the flood, see the graphic below.



I. THE FILLING OF THE ARK (Gen. 7:1-16)

A. The Animals

1. _____ Beasts and _____

How many? ___ Which animals were "clean" was either _____ privately to Noah or God allowed Noah to decide. Later God gave a list of animals "clean" for Israel (Lev. 11) but removed all such distinctions for Christians. (Acts 10:9-15, 1 Tim. 4:4)

2. Other Animals

How many? ____ of each kind. Notice that the animals went in according to _____. Two of every _____ were not saved – only two of each kind. (v. 14 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.) For instance, two of the “dog kind” would have entered, carrying with them the genetic potential for the many varieties of dogs. We have already seen the fantastic capacity of the ark. **It can be shown that two of every known _____ of animals could fit in the ark and only exhaust half of the room. The remainder could be used for kinds now extinct and for the storage of food. To be sure, our _____ category is far more specific than the _____ category.**

3. The Gathering of the Animals

Noah did not trap, drive, or herd the animals. How did the animals get in the ark? (Genesis 6:20 Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every *kind* will come to you to keep *them* alive.)

4. The Care of the Animals

_____ **God cared for the animals during their year in the ark is not recorded.** Many have refused to believe the account because they could not imagine how such a floating zoo could be practically maintained. Questions are often raised concerning the feeding, the removal of waste, the compatibility of the animals and their human caretakers, etc. **It is not difficult to imagine that after God brought them to the ark He put them into a state of _____ for the year to come. The stored food may have been primarily for a final feeding before departing into the new world.**

B. The People

Only one man in all the earth was righteous before God. His name was _____. His three sons were _____, _____, and _____. (1 Peter 3:20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.) 1 Peter says that eight people were saved in the ark. Who are the other four? Their _____.

II. THE GREAT DELUGE (7:10-24)

A. The Date of the Flood

After a final seven day notice, (7:4 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.") the great flood began. Verse 11 identifies the date as the _____ year of Noah's life, the _____ month, the _____ day. From these dates we can determine the date of the flood as the _____ year from creation.

B. The Source of the Flood Waters

(Genesis 7:11 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.) Genesis identifies places from which the flood waters came. List them in the two blanks below.

1. _____ – Recall that the rivers of the earth were all fed by underground sources rather than rainfall. Now these vast sources of water would be "broken up" very possibly by volcanic action and earthquakes. The water once stored below the surface for the benefit of man is now God's instrument of destruction. Most of the water of the flood probably came from this source.
2. _____ – Remember the "waters above the firmament" (Gen. 1:7)? The protective canopy of water vapor surrounding the earth begins to precipitate in the form of rain. How long did it rain? _____
Scientists tell us that if all the moisture in our atmosphere were to precipitate at the same time and rain everywhere on the earth, the rain would last only a few days and cover the earth to an average depth of only a few inches. The continuous downpour of water for 40 days was no regular thunderstorm.

The collapse of the water vapor canopy not only provided water for the flood but caused a great change in climatic conditions to be considered later.

C. The Extent of the Flood

1. How wide an area did the flood cover? (7:19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered.) _____

2. **How deep were the waters?** (7:19-20 19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. 20 The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered.) _____

_____ **above the highest mountain.**
 Since much of the topology of the earth was changed during the flood, we do not know the maximum depth of the waters. However, we can figure the minimum depth because the ark came to rest on Mt. Ararat, which means that Mt. Ararat was under water (at least to a depth of 22 ½ ft.) Complete the arithmetic below:

Height of Mt. Ararat	
+ Depth of flood above mountains	
= Minimum depth of the Great Flood	

3. **How long did the waters completely cover the earth?** (7:24 And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.)

4. **What was destroyed?** (7:21-23 21 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. 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. 23 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*.) _____

5. **What was saved?** (7:23 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*.) _____
 _____ . If the statements of the Bible concerning the flood are true, could this flood have been local or regional rather than worldwide? _____

D. External Evidence for a Worldwide Flood

The biblical testimony is clear. God destroyed the world in a great flood. Could we not expect to see some evidence that it occurred? Yes. Such evidence is all around us.

1. **The _____ (layers) of the earth** – Most geologists affirm that the layers of sediment in the earth were deposited by water. Although they attribute the deposits to numerous local floods, one after another, one great flood can account for the earth's layered effect. Rather than each layer being deposited with long periods of time in between, they were deposited according to sphericity (shape) and specific gravity (relative weight). The fact that the layers were deposited at the same time is confirmed by fossilized trees that extend vertically through several layers.
2. _____ – Fossils are a testimony of two things: death and sudden, complete burial. The fossil of a plant or animal cannot be produced unless it is suddenly and completely buried; otherwise it decays and the record of its existence is lost. The fossils we find of ancient life are often the remains of life destroyed in the flood.

III. THE WORLD AFTER THE FLOOD (8:1-14)

A. The Waters _____

1. **God stops the _____ of water.** (8:2 The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained.)
2. **The waters begin to run off to the newly made basins for them – now our _____.** (8:3 And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased.)
3. **The ark runs aground on Mt. _____.** (8:4 Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat.) When? _____ day, _____ month, _____ year.
4. Waters continue to recede. Other mountain tops are seen.
5. **Noah sends out a _____ and a _____.** The dove returns.
6. **One week later a dove is released and returns with an _____,** indicating that seedlings are springing up on the drying mountain sides.
7. **The dove is released and does _____ return.**

8. Twenty-nine days later, Noah removed the _____, probably part of the roof and saw that the face of the ground was dry.
9. But he waited _____ more days in the ark until the earth was completely dry. God gave the command to leave the ark. The day was the _____ day, _____ month, _____ year. (Gen. 8:13-14
 13 And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry. 14 And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.)
 Assuming a 30 day month, how long were they in the ark? _____

Noah leaves the ark and offers one of each of the clean beasts as a _____ to the Lord, leaving three pair of each to replenish the earth.

B. The Changed World (8:21 – 9:17)

1. God decrees:
 - a. Every living thing will never again be destroyed by _____.
 - b. The _____ will be distinctive and regular.
 - c. _____ between man and animals established.
 - d. Man is given permission to eat _____ as well as plants.

2. Additionally, the collapsed vapor canopy produces _____ changes for the new world.
 - a. Temperature and climate will be _____ – no more “greenhouse” effect.
 - b. This will cause _____ and _____.
 - c. _____ becomes a regular occurrence.
 - d. _____ is no longer plentiful everywhere.
 - e. Ultraviolet rays and cosmic radiation are no longer _____ out. This would cause a _____ in man’s life span and threaten the ability of many kinds to survive, especially large kinds requiring large quantities of food.

3. God makes a _____ with Noah.

- a. God establishes the covenant with Noah, his _____ which includes all people, and all _____.
- b. God promises to never destroy the earth again by a _____.
- c. God gives a “token” of His promise by putting His _____ in the _____. Why was the physical phenomenon of the rainbow not seen before the flood? _____

It is a fitting note to see in the Revelation that as Jesus comes to claim the world as His own, He wears not the crown of thorns but “the _____ upon His head.” (Rev. 10:1 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.)