

Pentwater Bible Church

God's Commandment to Enter the Ark Genesis Message Twenty-Four



Painting by Jan Brueghel the Elder 1615

Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

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Genesis Message Twenty-Four God's Command to Enter the Ark

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Review:

God talks to Noah in this section (*Genesis 6: 14*) of Genesis seven times. Other Scriptures where God speaks in sevens are Psalm 29 and Revelation 10. He has just issued His decree of destruction and now He begins to give Noah detailed instructions for the construction of a large barge called an ark. The Hebrew text describes an unpowered sea vessel. The ark would be under construction for 120 years until the Flood came.

The first component mentioned is gopher wood. It is not known what type of wood this is and the word is only used one time in the Bible.

God then tells Noah to pitch (seal) the ark on the inside and the outside. Standard marine engineering only requires pitching on the outside to provide an adequate watertight seal. With this extra pitching it is probable that the ark will be found some day relatively intact. Many have tried. Some claim to have found pieces of it on the mountains of Ararat in Turkey. The extreme weather, spontaneous lightning storms, bandits and tortuous terrain have kept all but the most persistent away. One begins to think that the Lord has kept the ark for some future time when He will allow it to be revealed.

The Hebrew word for pitch is *kaphar*, which means a "covering." It has the same root as the word "atonement." In a direct parallel we are saved by the covering of the blood of Christ (Revelation 1:5; 7:14). Noah was saved from the worldwide catastrophe and we will be saved from the Great Tribulation, which is coming on the earth. Sinful mankind has ruined the earth twice with his propensity to sin so God will cause them to be ruined with fire as He did with water the first time.

The ark is measured in cubits (*Genesis 6: 15-16*). The traditional definition of a cubit is the length of a grown adult man's fingertip to his elbow. This can have many measurements depending on the man's size. Traditionally it ranges from 17.5 inches to 25 inches with 18 inches being the norm. Therefore with a length of 300 cubits and breadth of 50 cubits and a height of 30 cubits we have 450 ft. x 75 ft. x 45 ft. This would yield a displacement of 24,000 tons; 1,400,000 cubic ft. of space inside equal to the capacity of 550 livestock railroad cars. The Titanic was 882 Ft long and displaced 46,000 tons. It was over two times larger. A vessel of this size would be hydrodynamically stable. As the center of gravity pushed downward the buoyancy would be pushing upward. It could be tilted to any angle just short of 90° with an immediate righting of

itself. It would align itself parallel with the direction of a major wave advance and experience minimum pitching most of the time. Even in giant waves it would be impossible to capsize.

Each livestock car can carry about 240 sheep so the total capacity in sheep would be 132,000. Considering the fact that there only about 18,000 species of land and air creatures on the earth with the vast majority of them smaller than an adult sheep it is certain they all could have been carried on the ark.

The ark was to have a window that seems to be at the roof level, about 18 inches high, which travels around the entire circumference of the roof for ventilation and daylight. It would be three stories in floor space and have a door on one side. There was only one door and therefore one way in. In Bible typology (modeling) we see the same principles applied to the New Testament wherein Christ is said to be the door (John 10:7-9), the only Way (John 14: 6) and those who are saved are His sheep that follow Him at the sound of His voice (John 10: 8, 16).

God then said that the flood would cover the entire earth (*Genesis 6: 17-18*). Man has found the fossils of sea life on the highest elevation of the earth and mammal fossils at the deepest levels of the oceans. The flood covered the entire earth to destroy all the living beings both man and animal on the earth and in the air. Fossils came from the residue of the Flood not some evolutionary explanation offered by the paleontological community. God gives the first promise that after the Flood He would make a covenant with Noah, which is one, the eight major covenants in the Bible. He assures Noah that he would be saved as well as his family and their wives from the ravages of the waters upon the earth.

The purpose of the ark was to preserve life on the earth (*Genesis 6: 19-21*). God had them brought in pairs one of each sex for reproduction, to reproduce after their kind. There were three categories.

1. Birds after their kind
2. Cattle after their kind
3. Creeping things of the ground after their kind

Fish and the other sea creatures were not included since they could live in the water. The animals came to Noah. He did not have to go out and hunt them or chase them. God brought them to Noah. With about 18,000 species and each coming in pairs there was only about 36,000. Later God would have Noah bring clean animals in groups of seven pairs each. Given the exaggerated total of possibly 75,000 and ark's capacity of 132,000 this is only about 56.8% to capacity. There was plenty of room for all. Noah is told to provide his own food for the journey as well as that for the animal life.

The text states that Noah was obedient to all of God's commands (*Genesis 6: 22*). Just as we should be too for it is only in obedience that we can experience God's blessings and safety and comfort. All of Noah's contemporaries were disobedient and lost their lives. Only believers will experience the safety of Heaven and avoid the coming judgment of fire on this earth. Most of the earth's population will die in the Great Tribulation. Christ said only a small number of the total populations will find salvation (*Matthew 7: 13-14, Luke 13: 24*). Noah's obedience is repeated three times (*Genesis 7: 5, 7: 9, 7: 16*). This is biblical emphasis for an important concept, which we must grasp.

Today's Message:

Genesis 7: 1-12 And Jehovah said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee seven and seven, the male and his female; and of the beasts that are not clean two, the male and his female: of the birds also of the heavens, seven and seven, male and female, to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth. For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the ground. And Noah did according unto all that Jehovah commanded him. 9 And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creepeth upon the ground, there went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, male and female, as God commanded Noah. And it came to pass after the seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

GOD'S COMMAND TO ENTER THE ARK

Genesis 7: 1 And Jehovah said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

Finally the Lord issues His command to Noah to COME into his house, the ark, due to his righteousness. This does not mean that Noah was sinless. It means that he trusted God for his circumstances. He relied on God. (Proverbs 3: 5). Noah was righteous before God. We have the righteousness of God imparted to us at the point of belief (Romans 3: 22, 5: 17, 21, 8:10 etc.). We have come into the house of the Lord and are His when we believe. God does not push us into a relationship with Him. Just as we come to Christ, Noah was told by God to COME into the ark. God led the way. He was in the ark beckoning Noah to enter his life saving journey. This is what He asks of us too. Noah received God's grace and was spared from the judgment (in contrast with the wicked). When the Lord closed the door there was no more time for theological discussions of which truth is true, yours or mine. When the flood came there was no more time for witnessing. Some day our time will end too. There will be no more time for witnessing; God will shut the door so to speak. The flood (fire and tribulation) will come and all discussions of "which truth is correct" or whether "Mormonism can actually be characterized as Christian" will be over. There are many categories we can include instead of Mormonism. This should provide us with a greater sense of urgency to reach those that the Lord has placed in our path. He that hath an ear...

Genesis 7: 2-3 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee seven and seven, the male and his female; and of the beasts that are not clean two, the male and his female: of the birds also of the heavens, seven and seven, male and female, to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

This is the first introduction of the clean beasts in the Bible. Later in the Levitical Law the sacrificial system was systemized and would be codified in a much more exact manner (Leviticus 7: 19; 10: 10; 11: 47 etc.). Once Christ came the entire Levitical Law would be done away with because Christ fulfilled the Law (Luke 24: 44). Scripture makes it quite clear in the New Testament that after Christ the Church is not under the Law (Acts 10: 9-15; I Timothy 4:4). Here Noah is commanded to bring seven pairs of each of the unspecified "clean" animals into the ark for a total of fourteen of each species. The remaining animals, which are designated as "unclean," are to be brought into the Ark in pairs. Birds are to have the same number in the ark as the clean animals seven and seven pairs or fourteen in all of each species of fowl. The fact that God is so explicit in terms of *all* the animals entering the ark makes it clear that the floodwaters would cover the entire earth. He also clearly lets Noah realize that He will keep life on the earth through Noah and his willingness to keep God's Commands.

Genesis 7: 4-5 For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights. And Noah did according unto all that Jehovah commanded him.

God stated that the flood would start in seven days. The primary means will be rain upon the earth. The great network of caverns of water underneath the earth's surface would rise again to the top to flood the earth as well (Genesis 1:9; 7: 11). The rain that God predicted would be the first in human history. By giving the lead-time of seven days Noah could finish his preparations and witnessing to the unsaved. He could also properly mourn Methuselah who had just died. We see this tradition of seven days of mourning being carried out by Joseph personally when his father Jacob died (Genesis 50: 10). Once the flood rains started they would continue for forty days and forty nights. This would eradicate all living things from off the surface of the earth. The pre-flood had much lush vegetation due to its near perfect state. Entropy had not had time to wreak its havoc. The plant and animal life would become the material that would be fossil fuel for future generation of humans. Noah being righteous is again commended for being obedient. Noah did not hesitate he simply obeyed God.

Genesis 7: 6-9 And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creepeth upon the ground, there went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, male and female, as God commanded Noah.

The Bible now gives us the date when Noah went into the ark. Noah was 600 years old. It was 1656 years from creation, Methuselah had just died and Noah would live for 350 more years. By entering the ark they were now cut off

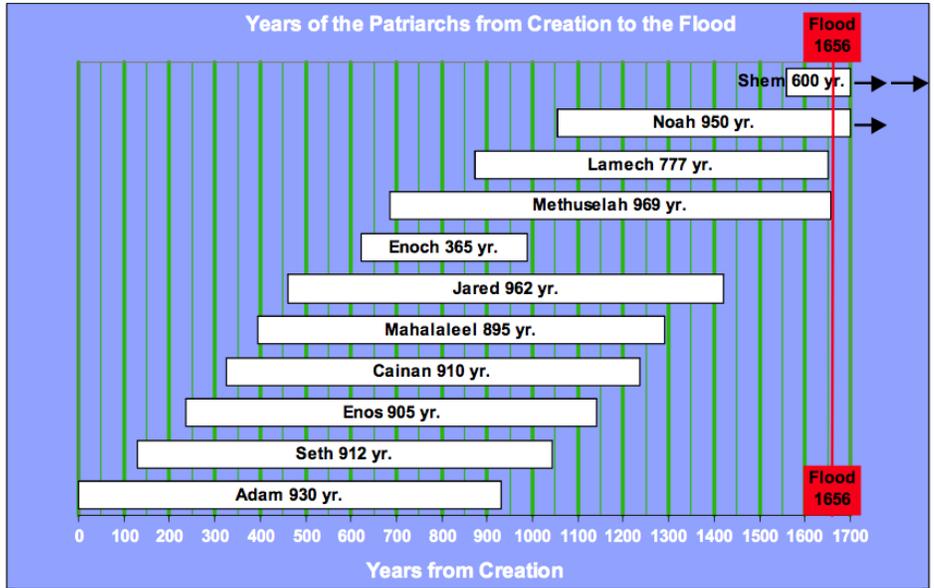


Chart by Donald L. Goddard

from all the rest of the people on earth who would die in the Flood. The most conservative population estimates say that there were at least one billion people on the earth. Gordon Hunt of Stanford University estimates more than nine billion.

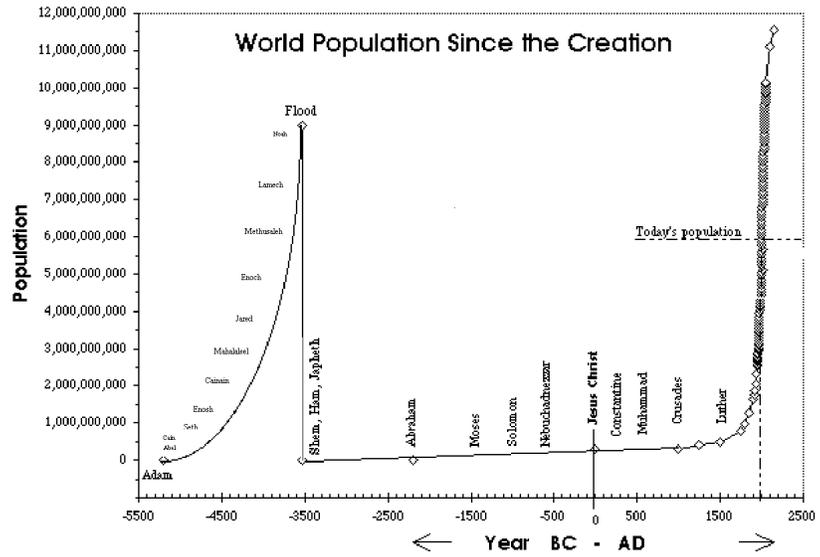


Chart by Gordon A. Hunt of Stanford University

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

The seven-day period of grace had expired and the Flood came. It was the seventeenth day of the second month in Noah's six hundredth year of life. God had a reason, which is unknown to us why He carefully identified the exact date of the Flood, which was 1,655 years, one month and seventeen days after Creation. The calendar was set at 30-day months with 360-day years. When the Flood was over the ark would rest on Ararat on the seventeenth day of the seventh month. Later the Lord changed the Hebrew calendar in Exodus 12 from a civil to a new-religious one. This is the calendar that they were to follow for their religious year. That is, festivals and feasts. Christ was sacrificed on the 14th of Nisan, the Passover. He was resurrected 3 days later on the 17th of Nisan, the same day the ark rested and life began after the Flood. His sacrifice gives those who believe a new beginning when we are born-again!

Month	Old-Civil	New-Religious
Tishri (Ethanim)	1	7
Bul	2	8
Chisleau	3	9
Tebeth	4	10
Sebat	5	11
Adar	6	12
Nisan (Abib)	7	1
Zif	8	2
Sivan	9	3
Thammuz	10	4
Ab	11	5
Elul	12	6

NEXT WEEK: THE FLOOD CONTINUED

Please Call or e-mail with any questions or comments. Daniel.Woodhead@pentwaterbiblechurch.com 616-928-097