

Pentwater Bible Church

The Flood

Genesis Message Twenty-Five



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S H A U N H A S H I M

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Review:

GOD'S COMMAND TO ENTER THE ARK

In Genesis verse seven 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...

In Genesis 7: 2-3 we see 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). The 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.

In Genesis 7: 4-5 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 world 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.

In Genesis 7: 6-9 God gives us the date when Noah went into the ark. Noah was 600 years old. It was 1656 years from creation, Methuselah Noah's grandfather had just died and Noah would live for 350 more years.

It is interesting that Methuselah's life was, in effect, a symbol of God's mercy in forestalling the coming judgment of the flood. It is therefore fitting that his lifetime is the oldest in the Bible, symbolizing the extreme extensiveness of God's mercy. By entering the ark they were now cut off 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 (see chart in appendix).

The seven-day period of grace had expired (*Genesis 7: 10-12*) 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 somewhat unknown to us exactly 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 (see chart in appendix). 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!

Today's Message:

Genesis 7: 13-24 In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark; they, and every beast after its kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh wherein is the breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God commanded him: and Jehovah shut him in. And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lifted up above the earth. And the waters prevailed, and increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high mountains that were under the whole heaven were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered. And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both birds, and cattle, and beasts, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, of all that was on the dry land, died. And every living thing was destroyed that was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and creeping things, and birds of the heavens; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only was left, and they that were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed upon the earth a hundred and fifty days.

The very day that Methuselah died after repeated warnings for one hundred twenty years and a final seven-day last warning the Flood came upon the earth. The Flood of Noah did not come as a surprise. It had been preached on for four generations. But something strange happened when Enoch was 65, from which time "he walked with God." Enoch was given a prophecy that as long as his son was alive, the judgment of the flood would be withheld; but as soon as he died, the flood would be sent forth.

Enoch named his son to reflect this prophecy. The name Methuselah comes from two roots: *muth*, a root that means "death"; and from *shalach*, which means "to bring," or "to send forth." Thus, the name Methuselah signifies, "his death shall bring." And, indeed, in the year that Methuselah died, the flood came. Methuselah was 187 when he had Lamech, and lived 782 years more. Lamech had Noah when he was 182. The Flood came in Noah's 600th year. $187 + 182 + 600 = 969$, Methuselah's age when he died.

The Hebrew text states *again* that Noah, his family and all the world's animals when into the Ark. Jehovah God closed the door sealing them in protection for the destruction that was to follow. When the Bible repeats itself it is for emphasis because God knows that mankind in his sinful state will not believe God's truth and debunk the Flood as a valid historical event. This is probably why God is waiting to reveal the ark to the world, which has yet to be discovered. Noah believed and trusted God thereby taking Him at His Word in obedience. God's Word is *absolutely accurate* in all that it speaks about. We will never be able to convince the unbelieving world in this regard just as Noah too realized. We should not push the truth with scoffers.

Proverbs 9: 7-9 Anyone who rebukes a mocker will get an insult in return. Anyone who corrects the wicked will get hurt. So don't bother correcting mockers; they will only hate you. But correct the wise, and they will love you. Instruct the wise, and they will be even wiser. Teach the righteous, and they will learn even more (NLT).

Noah was in God's Will and therefore under His protection. It is important for us to realize this. Absolute surrender to God's Will provides us with the best protection that we can ever obtain from the wicked ways of the world. Christ said that He is truth and the truth will set us free (John 8: 32; 14:6). When we accept Christ and seek to follow Him all the days of our lives while growing in knowledge He delivers us from this present world.

Galatians 1: 4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen (KJV).

The Flood was upon the earth forty days after which it lifted up the ark, which began to float on the surface. The water continued to rise until eventually it covered by 15 cubits (about 22.5 ft.) the highest point of the highest mountain on earth. This dimension is half the height of the ark which compensating for its displacement in the water would allow it to float without being grounded on any mountaintop. Ararat for example is 17,000 ft. above seal level, so the water was at least 17,022.5 ft. deep.

It is important for us to realize that the historicity of the Flood must be taken as truth. Without a firm belief in the Flood our faith in the rest of Scripture becomes weakened. The entire concept of sinful mankind and divine retribution is unpalatable to most of this earth's population. With public schools embracing evolution to the extent of denying students the opportunity to have the Genesis account of Creation and the Flood presented they provide a false validity to the evolutionary origin and ascent of man. This results in many Christians trying to

fit both accounts together in some unbiblical scheme of biblical evolution. The Bible warns us of trying to please men instead of God in His characterization of the chief rulers who were concerned with what the Pharisees of His time would think if they openly expressed belief in Jesus. Because they were concerned for their social standing in the Temple environment they were politically motivated and were more inclined to follow their culture and appropriateness and adhere to its dictates than express their true belief.

John 12: 43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

The Bible says that we must believe and openly express this belief. This speaks clearly to those who are trying to combine God's Word with the ways of the world as if the two could be mingled.

Romans 10: 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed (KJV).

The text clearly states at least thirty times in the Flood account that it was a universal flood. The water prevailed which means that they were overwhelmingly mighty. Job the oldest book in the Bible clearly affirms that the Flood covered the earth.

Job 12: 15 Behold, he withholdeth the waters, and they dry up; Again, he sendeth them out, and they overturn the earth (ASV).

Because the account of the Flood is a very detailed account it is accepted by the orthodox Jews that Shem, Noah's son wrote it, which was part of the Genesis compilation of Moses.

Why?

- Dinosaurs quickly drowned and buried?
- Mammoths quickly drowned in North America, and quick-frozen in Siberia?
- Petrified forests found 100 miles from the South Pole by Admiral Byrd?
- Land animals found fossilized in locations below sea level?
- Sea animals found fossilized at high elevations?

Fossils

- Dead.
- Thus, *after* Adam
- No decay = sudden, quick, change
- Dating depends upon circular reasoning
- Why none today?

NEXT WEEK: THE FLOOD WATERS RECEDE

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

The Calendar in Israel					
Month	Old-Civil	New-Religious	Gregorian	Festivals	Farming Year
Tishri (Ethanim)	1	7	September-October	5. Tishri 1: Trumpets (Leviticus 23: 23-25) 6. Tishri 10: Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16; 23: 26-32) 7. Tishri 15-21: Tabernacles (Leviticus 23: 33-36)	Early Rains
Bul	2	8	October-November		Plowing Olive harvest
Chisleau	3	9	November- December	8. Chisleau 25: Dedication (Hanukkah) (John 10: 22)	Grain Planting
Tebeth	4	10	December-January		Latter rains
Sebat	5	11	January-February		Almond trees blossom
Adar	6	12	February-March		Citrus fruit harvest
Nisan (Abib)	7	1	March-April	1. Nisan 14: Passover (Exodus 12: 1-11; Leviticus 23:15) 2. Nisan 15-21: Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23: 6-8) 3. Nisan 21: Firstfruits (Leviticus 23: 9-14)	Latter rains Barley Harvest Flax Harvest
Zif	8	2	April-May		Dry Season Begins
Sivan	9	3	May-June	4. Sivan 6 (50 days after Fruitfruits): Pentecost (Leviticus 23: 15-22)	Early Figs Ripen Vine Tending
Tammuz	10	4	June-July		Wheat harvest First-ripe grapes
Ab	11	5	July-August		Grape harvest
Elul	12	6	August-September		Dates & Summer Figs

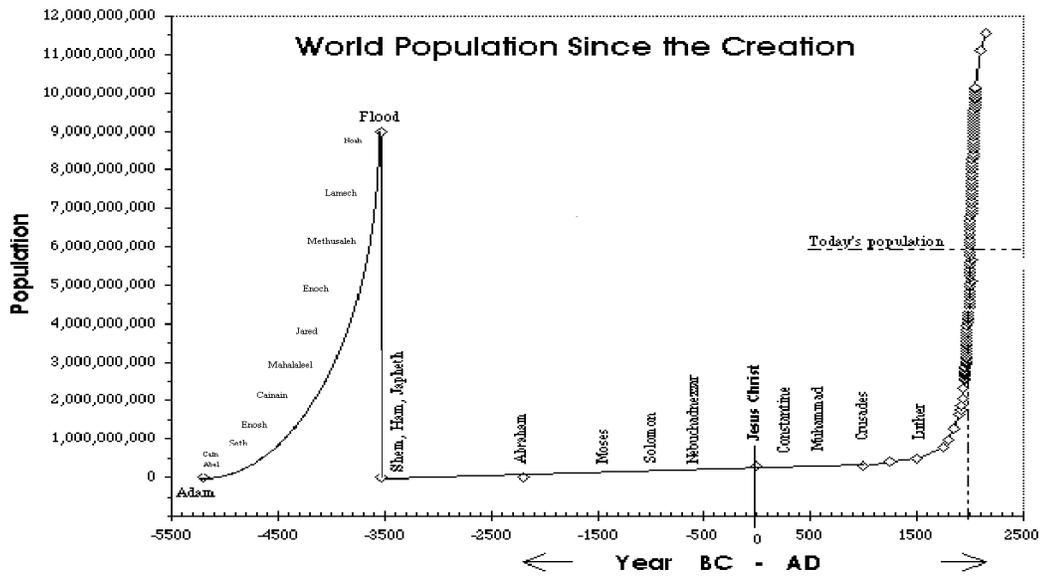


Chart by Gordon A. Hunt of Stanford University

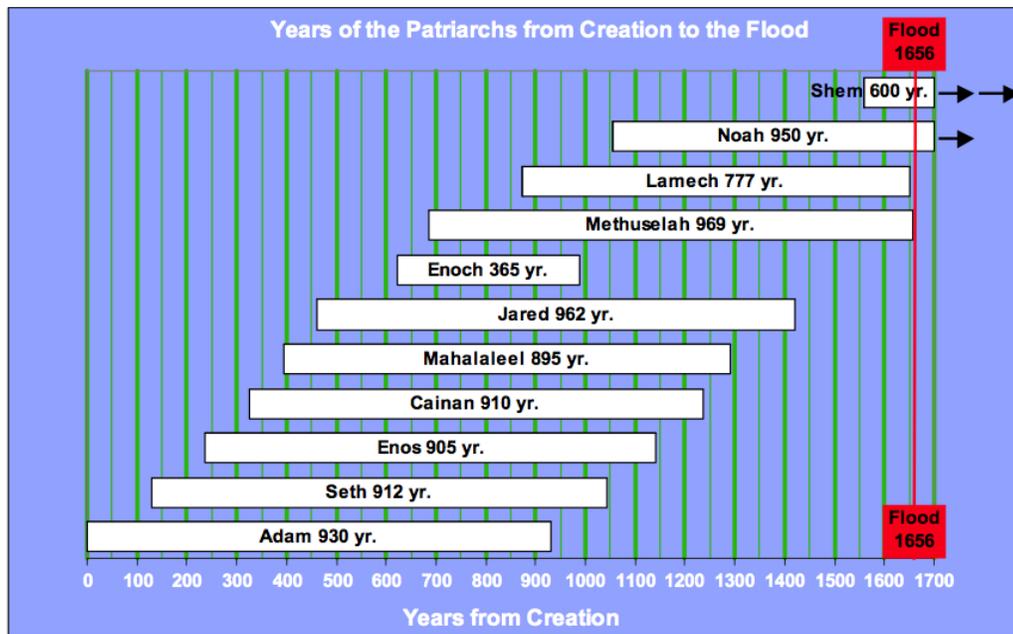


Chart by Donald L. Goddard