

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #24

Genesis 7:1-24

Scientists have generally concluded that fossils come from catastrophe ...a quick burial (Rhodes, Zim, Shaffer, *Fossils*, p. 10) A worldwide flood is not speculation, it is a factual, provable (fossil and geological discoveries), Biblical and theological reality. God did not send the flood so scientists could explain fossilization; He sent the flood for judgmental destruction. With the exception of a few animals and one family, everything was destroyed and died as a judgment of God.

WHEN WICKEDNESS REACHES A CERTAIN LEVEL, GOD SENDS HIS DESTRUCTIVE JUDGMENT, BUT HE WILL PROTECT AND PRESERVE THOSE WHO ARE RIGHTEOUS.

NARRATIVE REALITY #1 - The entrance of Noah into the Ark. 7:1-9

Fact #1 - Their entrance was by Divine Command. 7:1

The verb “enter” is a command which means God is commanding Noah and his family to enter the ark. The basis for the command is the “righteousness” of Noah. Noah was not sinless because he needed sacrificial animals, but he lived his life God’s way and conformed to God’s standards.

Fact #2 - Their entrance was with animals. 7:2-3

There was obviously a known distinction in the mind of Noah between clean and unclean animals. This Levitical (Leviticus 11) and Deuteronomic (Deuteronomy 14) legal matter was apparently operative in the sacrificial system during the days of Noah. Clean beasts were required to be taken into the ark by sevens and unclean by twos. This numerical distinction has to do with both survival (Genesis 7:3b) and sacrifice (Genesis 8:20).

Fact #3 - Their entrance was according to Divine time. 7:4

At the time God commanded Noah to get into the ark with his family and animals, the earth had seven survival days left. Seven indicates that the complete amount of time had been fully allowed. This is God’s last word before judgment - “I will blot out...everything.”

Seven years before the coming of Jesus Christ at His ferocious judgment, believers will be commanded to enter the clouds to meet Christ in the air (I Thessalonians 4: 13-18).

Fact #4 - Their entrance was by immediate obedience. 7:5-9, 13-16

Obedience to God’s word was **THE** key feature that separated Noah from all others in the world. Noah always obeyed God and did what God’s word commanded (Gen. 6:22; 7:5, 9; 8:15-16, 18).

NARRATIVE REALITY #2 - The entrance of the flood into the world. 7:11-12; 17-20

Notice carefully how God fulfills prophecy - He does so literally (6:17-18). Waters below started to gush forth water and waters above began to pour water. All who were not in the ark were faced with a torrential outburst of water coming up from the ground and down from the sky. For forty days and nights the waters came and the gushing was so powerful that there have been animals discovered in Arctic regions that were literally frozen in mid-leap. Verses 17-20 inform us that the water level reached an unprecedented level - 15 cubits, about 22 ½ feet above the highest mountains in the world. This is staggering when one realizes that the highest mountain in the world is Mt. Everest which is 29,028 feet high - nearly 5 ½ miles high.

NARRATIVE REALITY #3 - The execution of the flood upon all life. 7:21-23

Obviously a flood of this magnitude would produce the results described in these verses - everything died. It has been discovered by geologists that many faster type animals were found fossilized in higher elevated spots of the world. Obviously as the flood came, those animals that could run fast tried to run to tops of mountains to escape the rising water. But when the purpose of God is to destroy life, there is no escape.

NARRATIVE REALITY #4 - The extent of the flood upon the whole world. 7:19, 21, 24

This chapter is very clear that the flood covered the whole world and destroyed all life.

(Evidence #1) - Rainbows are universal;

(Evidence #2) - Geology all over the world indicates there was high water all over the world;

(Evidence #3) - Size of ark to include Noah, his family and all animals demands a universal flood;

(Evidence #4) - Jesus used the flood as an illustration of Him coming to the world (Luke 11:26-27);

(Evidence #5) - Peter used the flood as proof that God would destroy the whole world one day by Fire (II Peter 3:6, 10-11)

The chronology of the universal flood looks like this:

- 1) 40 days and nights of rain (7:12). At this point the obvious total is 40 days (7:17).
- 2) 110 more days when water continued to rise which equals 150 days (7:24).
- 3) 74 more days water was “going and decreasing” - 17th day of seventh month (8:4) to 1st day of tenth month (8:5). Total at this point is 224 days.
- 4) 40 more days elapse before Noah sends out a raven (8:6-7). Total at this point is 264 days.
- 5) 7 days elapse before Noah sends out a dove (8:6, 10). Total is 271 days.
- 6) 7 more days elapse before Noah sends out a dove for the second time (8:10). Total is 278 days.
- 7) 7 more days elapse before Noah sends out a dove for the third time (8:12). So far the total is 285 days.
- 8) 29 more days elapse from second month on 17th day in year 600 (7:11) until the event on the first day of the first month in year 601 (8:13). Total is 314 days.
- 9) 57 more days until they could go out of the ark.

The grand total amount of time for this flood was 371 days. All judgment time was precisely calculated by God.

When Noah spoke of a future, coming judgment as he was building the ark, most people laughed at him. But he stayed faithful to God. He kept working and warning. Then one day, God said to him - you get into the ark and God said to the rest of the world - you are doomed. There were probably those who shook their fists at heaven and cursed God, but that did not altar His judgment because His judgment was not some Divine whim, it was carefully calculated by God to destroy everything.

People do not get away with sin forever. God may tolerate it for a while, but when He finally gets fed up, He pours out His wrath and nothing people do or say can stop it.

Only one man and his family escaped the wrath of God and it was because that man had found the grace of God (Genesis 6:8). There is only one way for you to escape the wrath of God and that is by finding God's grace and God's grace is found in Jesus Christ. Believe on Him and you shall be saved.