

Bethel Bible-Presbyterian Church
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DHW
BIBLE STUDY CLASS

BOOK OF GENESIS

Lesson 6

Genesis 7

INTRODUCTION

Genesis chapters 7 & 8 give the account of the Flood, which covered the whole earth. Contrary to some so-called biblical scholars, it was a universal flood that affected the entire Earth. The Genesis account of the universal Flood is of vital importance to Biblical Christianity. It is a thorny issue between Christians: those who believe in the plenary infallibility and inerrancy of the Bible and those who believe in the Darwin's Theory of Evolution. The scientific and historical arguments for the Genesis account of creation and the flood are adequately dealt with and discussed by not a few eminent Christian scientists.¹ Suffice to reiterate that there is no solid and sound reason against the fact that the Biblical

¹ There are a few books written by Christians on this issue: Henry Morris, The Genesis Record, pages 195-203; John C. Whitcomb & Henry Morris, The Genesis Flood, (Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1961); John C. Whitcomb, The World That Perished, (Baker Book House, revised edition 1988); Ken Ham & Paul Taylor, The Genesis Solution, (Master Books, Santee, California, 1988).

record is completely reliable and trustworthy and that the flood literally took place as described in Genesis.

The text of chapter 7 began at the end of 120 years, the grace period which God gave man to repent. The chapter records God's final instruction to Noah to enter the ark when it was ready. Noah obeyed the LORD and took his family into the ark when all the animals had gone in. The LORD then "shut him in". The flood came. It enveloped the whole earth, and every living thing died except Noah, his family, and all the animals in the ark were safe and secured. For convenience of study, the chapter can be divided into the following sections:

- 1) The LORD instructed Noah to enter the ark (7:1-4);
- 2) Noah obeyed the LORD (7:5-10);
- 3) The LORD shut them in (7:11-17); and
- 4) All living creatures perish except Noah, his family and the animals in the ark (7:18-24)

STUDY THE WORD

**The LORD Instructs Noah
to Enter the Ark**

The LORD had told Noah to make an ark because He had told him of His judgment to destroy *all flesh*. Consequently, when Noah had finished building the ark, the LORD said to Noah: *Come thou and all thy house into the ark* (7:1). And if Noah did not

respond to God's call, he too would likewise perish with all the others. But Noah *did according unto all that the LORD commanded him* (7:5). That is being sane and sensible on his part. This episode is an illustration of the call of God through the preaching of the Gospel of salvation to anyone who would respond to the call to come to Jesus Christ. And if one does not come, one deprives oneself of the eternal security God graciously offers like He offered to Noah and his family. Noah with childlike faith believed and obeyed God and entered into the ark. Similarly, if a sinner acts by faith to the call of God to come to Jesus Christ, he is assured of salvation from the penalty of sin in the lake of fire. The calling is only effective if the one who is called comes to the "ark" of Jesus Christ!

The fact that Noah had completed building the ark is not the reason why the LORD has seen him righteous in his generation (7:1b). The author of the book of Hebrews remarks that *By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house* (Hebrew 11:7a). The divine commentary puts to rest the fact that Noah's righteousness is imputed on him not by his works but by grace through faith.²

Further instructions were given to Noah. He was told to take *by sevens*

² Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

(not three pairs plus one, but seven pairs) of clean animals and *by two* (male and female) a pair of not clean animals into the ark.³ The reason for this is given clearly in Genesis 8:20. The clean animals were to be killed as a *sweet savour* offering unto the LORD. Therefore, if only one pair of them was taken, and one was killed that species would become extinct.

The intervening period of one hundred and twenty years from God's decision to destroy the people to His announcement to Noah to enter the ark was relatively silent. Very little is recorded. We can safely assume that Noah and his family were building the ark. He might even have engaged the help of others, who did not believe in the message preached to them by Noah, but they were willing to help him build the ark. Peter the Apostle in his second epistle wrote that Noah preached to the people in his time.⁴ The events described in chapter seven were at the end of the one hundred and twenty years. There were seven more days (v.3) before God would send the flood. That seven days gave Noah and his family time to make final preparations. God said to him that there would be rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights and that *every living*

³ Some understand the phrase "by sevens" of the clean animals as three pairs plus one. But this is in contrast to chapter 6:19-20 in which every animal was to be taken in pairs, male and female.

⁴ 2 Peter 2:5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

substance would be wiped out from the face of the earth (7:4).

Noah Obeys the LORD

God commanded Noah to carry out all things which he had been told to do. Noah obeyed all that the LORD had commanded him. This explains to us how *Noah walked with God* (6:9). Noah went into the ark with his wife, three sons and their wives. God not only saved Noah, but also his wife, their sons and wives too. God's wonderful grace is once again demonstrated. Hence, they were saved from the judgment of the flood. After the seven days. Noah, his family, and all the animals entered the ark, the rain came and the floods began to build up on the whole earth. It was in fulfilment of what God had exactly said to Noah that He would send rain and it would flood the whole earth (6:17; 7:4). God is always true to His word.

The exact day of the flood was given as the 600th year, 2nd month, and the 17th day of the month of Noah's life. The Bible describes how God flooded the whole earth. The source of water came from two places: *the fountains of the great deep* burst open and torrents of rain fell from heaven (v.11). The waters from these two sources were sufficient to flood the whole earth.⁵ It rained for forty days and forty nights, that is, no less than 960 hours continuously!

⁵ Morris, The Genesis Record, 196.

Noah and his family went into the ark. There were eight people altogether. The animals followed suit. Some criticised that all the animals could not have entered the ark in one day. One cannot fully know what can happen in an emergency of this kind. However, it must be considered that the animals could have entered the ark in the seven-day period before the flood came (7:4) and here the statement can mean that this was the day on which the entrance into the ark was completed.⁶ It must also be noted that God caused the animals to come to the ark where Noah was in charge.

The LORD Shuts Them In

The statement in verse 16 is very significant: *And they went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut them in.* Two features stand out: *God had commanded* Noah, and *the LORD shut them in* securely from the impending judgment. The use of the two names of God is interesting. The first name, *God* (Hebrew, *Elohim*), denotes the supreme awesome and powerful Creator who is the Sovereign Judge and Ruler of all creation. He was the One who commanded Noah, and they all obeyed. The second name, LORD (Hebrew, *YaHWeh*), which is sometimes translated "Jehovah" (Exodus 6:3), denotes that He is a covenant-keeping God, who keeps His Word, and who is always gracious and

⁶ Aadlers, Genesis, vol1, 172.

faithful. As He had said and promised Noah, He shut the door and kept them safe in the ark from the destructive elements of the turbulent and raging flood. But all who were outside the ark perished. One can imagine how man and animal would scramble and run to the hills and mountains to be safe from the flood. There was no escape for anyone.

The spiritual lesson here is so clear. If anyone obeys what God tells him to do, he can be sure that God will keep His promise and save him. For example: the jailer asked Paul: *What must I do to be saved?* Paul answered: *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house* (Acts 16:31). Noah was saved by divine grace, not by any of his human or heroic efforts or wisdom.⁷

All Living Creatures Perish

Was the flood or The Great Deluge local or universal? There are some pseudo-intellectuals and pseudo-theologians who hold the view that the flood is local. It affected only the land around the rivers Tigris and Euphrates. To hold this view is to ignore the clear and plain language of the text describing the flood. There is no shadow of a doubt! Single out all the words, which describe the flood, and they project the sense of universality or global (vv.17-24).⁸ Of interest is the

statement that all the high hills and the mountains were covered with flood water, which rose 15 cubits (about 22 _ feet) above their peaks (vv.19-20).

PRACTICAL VALUE

God's sovereignty and power over His creation are shown in this account of the flood, which bible scholars called it The Great Deluge. It demonstrates that God hates sin and that sin and the sinner will face the judgment of God. Man has sinned against God, and there is nothing which he possesses or can do to deserve goodness from God. If there is any goodness in man, it comes from God through His grace. The world had become corrupt and violent. Man and woman therefore perform wickedly and enjoy the immoral pleasures of life without any consideration for another. The sinful world must be put away. It cannot remain. God must punish and destroy the evil. Then can He be said to be both just and gracious. This account of the flood is used by the Lord Jesus Christ as an analogy for a future final judgment upon the world. Man has been wicked and corrupt and the sins and wickedness of men will eventually be removed forever. Those who obey God's call to repent and believe in Christ Jesus, who died that men might have their sins cleansed and forgiven, will enter into a new era in which Jesus

⁷ Gordon J. Wenham, *Genesis 1-15*, 182.

⁸ One rule of interpretation: The meanings of the words used are determined by the general and immediate context.

Christ rules as the Lord of lords, and the King of kings. Hallelujah! ⁹

In the time of Noah, judgment on the earth was by water. Man has not changed since the flood. Man continues with his wickedness and rebellion against God. God has warned that He will judge the world a second time. This second time will also be a global judgment. The earth and all its inhabitants will be destroyed by fire. ¹⁰ In view of this coming judgment on the earth, how should we live? The Apostle Peter has counselled believers (see footnote). Let us also do the will of the Lord by witnessing Christ to others so when they hear the gospel they may believe and be saved. Our work is to spread the good news. The work of the Holy Spirit is the convicting and the conversion. We are all looking forward to the day when Christ shall come and take us to be with Him forever.

GOD BLESS US!

⁹ Allen P. Ross, Creation & Blessing, 196.

¹⁰ **2 Peter 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. ¹¹ *Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, ¹² Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?