



Study #7

Genesis Chapter 7

Summary of this passage:

In Genesis chapter 7 God gave Noah a seven-day warning that the flood was to begin. Noah was to act immediately to gather in his family and the required quota of animals into the ark. The date is stated as the six hundredth year of Noah's life and down to the very day of his life which enables us to determine the exact time he and his family spent inside the ark. While there were 40 days of rain (v12), and the waters covered the earth for 150 days (v23) there was a total of one year and 10 days spent in the ark (Ch. 8:14). Only Noah and his family entered the ark, eight souls in all. The whole earth, even every high hill was covered with water by a depth of 15 cubits. The record is clear that all land creatures outside the ark died. That included man, land creatures and birds. The fate of fish is not mentioned.

Key verse: "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened." V11.

This verse gives Noah's age at the date of the flood. It records that the world was subjected to volcanic eruptions, which would have produced tsunami-like tidal waves along with unprecedented rain-fall. This verse reveals gigantic forces of destruction at work on the earth that go beyond heavy rainfall and account for the global geologic formations evident today.

Observations – Lessons from this chapter.

1. **The animals went into the ark two by two, but there were more than single pairs.** The clean animals and birds which were for food and for sacrifice were brought on board in pairs of seven. This was God's plan to sustain their species and provide for sacrifices (Genesis 8:20) and for food (Ch. 9:3). Due to a loss in vegetation and a harsher climate eating of animals for meat was sanctioned by God after the flood. Because verse 15 says they went in "two and two", "And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh..." I reject the idea that they went in by sevens forming three pairs with one extra for sacrifice,
2. **The animals were brought to the ark by God in a migratory manner.** The record shows that they came to the ark and went in of their own accord. Read verses 14 – 15 and note "And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two..." Noah did not need to hunt, nor drive the animals into the ark.
3. **The numbers of animals, birds and creeping things were limited to their "kind."** When you consider the difference between "kind," which means species, and "variety", one pair of animals would become the progenitors of many varieties. So, all varieties of dogs were not in the ark. The wolf and the poodle do not require separate lines of breeding. This applies to cattle, sheep and all species of animals. New varieties of the same species are developing in the world to this day. If we work backward in time and eliminate all the varieties of one species we would come a much smaller number of animals.
4. **The maintenance of animals in the ark could have been eased by hibernation.** That some animals still hibernate instinctively argues for the probability that many animals, if not all, were put into a state of hibernation for the duration of the flood (1 year and 10 days).
5. **The Genesis record thoroughly declares the world-wide nature of the flood.**
 - a. As stated in a warning to Noah, "*and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth*" (v4).

- b. In the reference to the height of the waters so that *“all the high hills that were under the heaven were covered”* v 19
- c. In the statement, that, *“The waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth”*, meaning that the waters triumphed over the cursed earth and all its rebellion to God.
- d. In the clear statement, *“And all flesh died...”* etc. v21-23.
- e. In the positive statement that limits survivors of the flood to Noah and those in the ark. V 23c.

To adopt any view other than a world-wide flood resulting in total death to man and animals is to blatantly deny the clear statements of Scripture. One must explain away the Biblical record if one should try to explain away the world-wide nature of the flood as God’s judgement upon all flesh.

6. **The extent of destruction of the former earth’s appearance is revealed in the words, “The same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up”** V11. Think of volcanic eruptions, magma, tidal waves, great volumes of water bursting forth from below the surface of the earth along with deluges of rain from above as the former water canopy around the earth emptied out in torrents covering the whole earth with water. It is likely that the surface of the earth was mostly flat at the time of the flood. Later, valleys were formed turning into seas, while earthquake plates pushed up the earth into mountains. We live in a very different world from the antediluvian world.

Application: – How does this apply to me?

There are gospel lessons in the history of Noah and the flood.

- God’s sovereignty in grace is seen in choosing Noah and his family.
- The longsuffering of God to the wicked is seen in allowing 100 years to build the ark and for Noah’s preaching to warn sinners. It is also seen in the seven days of grace given before God shut the door of the ark.
- The migratory instincts God used to draw animals into the ark parallels with God’s gracious but effectual drawing power exerted on sinners to leave their sins and seek salvation.
- There was one ark with one door, so there is one Saviour from sin and He is the door by which sinners must enter heaven.
- The safety of the ark during the turbulent waters pictures the care the Lord takes of our souls. If we are in Christ, we are kept by the power of God (1Peter 1:5).
- Judgment upon the wicked is not inconsistent with the character of a good and gracious God. His wrath is justified. His justice demands no tolerance of sin. All who are out of Christ are under the judgment of God every day. This incident of God’s judging the old world is good grounds to warn men of judgment to come upon the present world of sinners, who defy God and reject His Son.

Things to do in light of this study:

- Look for evidence of the global flood in stratified rocks. There is clear evidence of layers of differing types of rock in mountains.
- Look for igneous rocks – the kind used for landscaping - which are the result of volcanic activity spewing out magma (wait till they cool!).
- Look for traces of animals, fish and vegetation etc. that have been fossilized in rock.
- Check out www.answersingenesis.org/fossils/ to learn of fossils being made in days, not years and not billions of years.
- Remember that the massive supplies of oil, coal, peat and gas we enjoy today are a result of vegetation that was rapidly buried in layers of rock.
- Decide whether you will take your stand for a young earth, or become an evolutionist who denies the global flood and thereby deny God’s judgment upon the old world of Noah’s time.