

## Genesis 7:1-24

### "Deep Trouble"

We left off last time w/Noah building a big boat. God spoke w/him & said to him, *"The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled w/violence through them; & behold, I will destroy them w/the earth."* & So God told Noah to build an ark (it was more of a giant barge), rectangular in shape, 450' L X 75' W X 45' H. No rudder, no sails, it wasn't meant to be directed or steered, simply to float. It was comprised of 3 decks & a window that probably wrapped around it's entirety 1 ½' from the top...

In the 17<sup>th</sup> Vs of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ch God told Noah, *"& Behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die."* We can only imagine how Noah must've felt when he heard God declare His coming judgment. **My suspicion is that he felt much like you or I would feel; it probably took his breath away, he was overwhelmed at the idea of such categorical, inescapable wrath that was to be poured out upon the world. & God was calling Noah to an essential role in the greatest judgment the world had ever seen & will ever see until the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ Himself.**

Yet even in judgment we note the grace of God in preserving a remnant, not wiping out mankind *completely* but saving Noah & his family so that *ultimately* a Savior might be born & mankind wouldn't have to suffer *condemnation* but would be extended the offer unto salvation through faith in J.C. "For God so *loved* the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, so that whosoever would *believe* upon Him would never perish, but have everlasting life."

**& For decades Noah prepared, he preached, he pleaded w/the people to repent. Noah spent *decades* building the ark; we don't read where he complained, he simply complied. It was a daunting task, would you agree?** "Right out here in this field I want you to build an ocean liner out of wood that contains more than a 1.5 million cubic ft, over 100,000 sq' & cover it inside & out w/pitch so as to preserve it & make it water tight, it needs to be 4 ½ stories high & made up of 3 decks. You don't get a construction crew, it's you & your boys... it's gonna take a minute so you better get busy." ☺

Noah didn't complain, he simply complied... how often we complain due to inconvenience or perhaps we feel insufficient for the task at hand. Imagine how Noah felt. What a model of godly subservience. "Oh & when you're done w/that begin to gather a food supply for you, your family & a "few animals" that will need to last over a year."

Look @ **Vs 22** of Ch 6 (Read).

He was busy about his Master's business; he was a faithful steward. Write it down, look it up later, Luke 19:11-26. We're to do business until our Master returns; we're to be busy about the work that He's committed to our trust until He comes again.

Let us not grow weary in doing well (Gal 6:9) for in due season we will reap if we do not lose heart. *Decades*, Noah was about his Master's business... but salvation was his reward when everyone else on the planet was suffering condemnation through the wrath of God. Don't lose heart, persevere, prepare, pray, be busy about the work that God has committed to your trust.

Now I don't need to tell you that there has been (over the years) a lot of controversy that has surrounded Noah's ark. As I mentioned the fact that it was covered w/pitch both inside & out would both waterproof the wood & also make it possible for the ark to be preserved for a long, long time. **Because of that there are people (no shortage of people) who claim to have found it, others who seek to discredit it... It's interesting that Peter relates the future judgment of fire, to the past judgment of the flood.** He said, **"For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water."**<sup>1</sup> & Perhaps God still has a purpose for the ark, using it to remind the world of a previous judgment just prior to a future judgment... God may make it even more necessary for people to "willfully forget" these things. The fact that it came to rest in the Mts of Ararat would've made it inconvenient to disembark, but a great environment to keep it preserved...

So Noah did according to all that God commanded him, notice Vs 1.

### **Vs 1**

Notice again the invitation unto salvation. God says to Noah, **"Come into the ark, you & all your household."** God doesn't say, "Go" into the ark, as though he's going in there apart from God's presence, but rather it's an invitation to "come". The idea is that God will be w/him in the ark. He's inviting Noah to abide in His presence; to take refuge in Him.

Even so God calls out to us to come to Him, to find refuge/salvation in Him. Over & over again we read of the invitation, **"Come now, and let us reason together,' Says the Lord, 'Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow;'"**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (2 Pe 3:5-6). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>2</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Is 1:18). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Jesus cried out & said, “*If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.*”<sup>3</sup> “If you’ve tasted of the waters of this world only to thirst again, or be left unsatisfied, Jesus says, “Come to Me.” Again He said, “*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*”<sup>4</sup> We read in the book of Rev “*And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*”<sup>5</sup>

The invitation unto salvation is found over & over again throughout the word of God... Does that mean we’ll never experience rough waters? Noah certainly did, but God was w/him, brought him *through* them & did a great work in his life on the other side of them.

God said to Noah, “I have seen that you are righteous b4 Me in this generation.” How so? We’ll talk about that in a minute but the short answer is through Noah’s faith. Noah *believed* God, responded *to* God in active obedience. Just like we read of Abe who believed God & it was accounted to him for righteousness (Gen 15, Rom 4).

Noah believed God, & because of that he obeyed the Word of God & God accounted it to him for righteousness. So his righteousness didn’t come by his good *works*, but his good works came as the result of his *righteousness*.

### Vs 2-5

There it is again, we see a pattern of obedience to the word of God in Noah’s life... Now here we see something that’s not often thought of & that is this; we often think of 2 of each kind of animal going on board the ark, but of the clean animals (animals that *could* be & after the flood *would* be used for food) he was to take 7.

& This is where people wonder: “Could the ark really hold all the animals necessary to represent every kind?” The answer is a resounding “Yes”. I mentioned earlier that there was over 100,000 sq’ in the ark, over 1.5 million cubic ft. The equivalent of some 569 railroad stock cars. So imagine waiting at a RR crossing for a train that was pulling 569 box cars behind it (that’d take a minute☺, call work you’re gonna be late).

What’s interesting is the fact that you don’t need 2 of every variation to maintain a “kind”. Meaning 2 dogs w/both dominant & recessive genes would contain the genetic make up to have every variation of dog on the planet today as their offspring. Same w/cats, cattle, horses etc... So we don’t need German Shepherds, Labradors, Boxers etc.

<sup>3</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Jn 7:37). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>4</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Mt 11:28). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>5</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Re 22:17). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Just 2 dogs. When you begin to narrow the scope like that it radically reduces the necessity of vast amounts of animals. Plus when you consider that the average size animal is the size of a sheep (give it a goog 😊) you're not talking a ton of space that's needed. Oh there'd be the giraffe, elephant, brontosaurus, (probably young, not full grown). But huge kinds run out quick, the vast majority isn't very big. Even as recent as 2012 Answers in Genesis was completing some research on this very matter. (You might check out their website on the issue).

There have been estimates of 16,000 animals on the Ark, even as many as 40,000 to allow for animals that have gone extinct & even w/that (you remember our 569 box cars) you can fit 40,000 sheep (avg size) in 167 box cars or just 29% of the ark's total capacity. Now, if you go to A.I.G. website they suggest that even as few as 1-2,000 animals would suffice to meet the genetic need to replenish all the variations w/in the different families of animals... Regardless, no matter how you divide it, the ark contained more than enough space for the animals, water reserves, food reserves; the whole thing.

God could've also caused many of the animals to enter into a state of hibernation, which would've radically reduced the demand of food (it wasn't necessary but He may have).

But here's what I want to hone in on, "Noah did all that the Lord commanded him." Because (again) it represents a *staggering* amount of work of which we read of no complaints, just compliance.

Noah obeyed the word of the Lord (regardless of how overwhelming it seemed *initially*) & it would make for his salvation *ultimately*. How important is it to put God's word into practice? Leave Genesis & make your way to **Matt 7** (24-27)

So both heard the word, but one responded in active obedience *to* the word. One stood strong in the midst *of* the storm, the other succumbed *to* the storm, what made the difference? Not being a hearer only, but a doer of God's word... Jesus is saying that to hear the word of God & not *do* the word of God is to invite certain destruction into/upon our lives. It does us no good to know it if we don't do it. It's like knowing that the sign says "Bridge out ahead" but continuing to barrel toward it at 70 mph. Just because you *know it*, if you don't respond appropriately *to* it, it's in no way going to save you, right?

As long as we're swimming around in these waters 😊 continue making your way to the right to **James 2** & lets see how James said that. (Vs 14-26)

We could go on & on but believe me when I tell you that the bible has a lot to say about being a doer of the word Vs the self-deceiving position of hearing it & thinking that somehow that's enough.

In the book of Ezekiel God said, *"So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them."*<sup>6</sup>

What's the implication? That by not *doing them*, it's not *doing them* any good. If anything it's heaping up greater condemnation because now they're w/out excuse, they know what God desires, what God requires, they just don't do it.

Think of what would've happened had Noah taken a position like that... "God, I know that You *said* that You were going to judge the earth, I know You *said* that all flesh in whom was the breath of life was going to die; You *said* I should build an ark because You're going to flood the earth...but I dunno. Maybe one day I will, it's not that I don't *trust* You, I'm just not really moved to *obey* You."

What kind of heart is that? Jesus said it's a heart that looks like this, *"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me."*<sup>7</sup> Why come to church if I have no desire for God's word to change my life? I've got to be willing to put God's word into practice.

Let's make this personal; what is God asking you to do? Are you going to complain... or comply? "It seems to big, it's *overwhelming* & I'm *under* qualified." Talk to Noah about that... Maybe God is simply asking you to trust in Him, the sufficiency of His grace. I would echo to you what Mary told the servants in Cana regarding an appropriate response to Jesus... *"Whatever He says to you, do it."* Jn 2:5

"You don't understand how ungodly the place is that I work..." Noah walked w/God, was obedient to God in an environment whereby the wicked ess of man was great in the earth & every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil *continually* (6:5).

I'm sure he was pressured, I'm sure he was tempted, I'm sure there were times he felt foolish, he persevered & God did a great work in his life.

Vs 6-9

<sup>6</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). [Eze 33:31-32]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>7</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). [Mt 15:8]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Now we know that God has placed w/in the animal kingdom incredible migratory capacity. But beyond that this wasn't something Noah had to do, God was bringing the animals to him even as He brought them to Adam in the beginning. God has never had a problem getting the animals to do what He wants, His trouble has been w/man! We read in Isaiah, "*The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider.*"<sup>8</sup> The problem isn't w/animals responding to God's word, it's w/man responding to God's word.

### Vs 10-12

God gives them a 7-day (last minute) preparation period of time & then "Boom"! Vs 11-12 (Read).

From having never rained, to 40 days of torrential downpour, the windows of heaven opened up. This is where we believe the water canopy that surrounded the earth (according to Gen 1:7) collapsed & the rains came. But not only were there torrential rains from above, the scripture notes cataclysmic upheavals from beneath, "*all the fountains of the great deep were broken up.*" We're talking earthquakes, tectonic plates shifting water erupting from beneath the earth.

Some theorize that the Grand Canyon was perhaps formed at this time. Not a little water & a whole lot of time, but a whole lot of water in a little bit of time!

A couple of months ago I ran across this article online. "**Rare Diamond Reveals Earth's Interior is All Wet**" The article said this: "A battered diamond that survived a trip from "hell" (a reference to an area near the lower mantle of the earth) confirms a long-held theory: Earth's mantle holds an ocean's worth of water."

### (Pic)

"The diamond from Brazil confirms that the models are correct: Olivine is ringwoodite at this depth, a layer called the mantle transition zone. And it resolves a long-running debate about water in the mantle transition zone... The results suggest there could be a vast store of water in the mantle transition zone, which stretches from 254 to 410 miles (410 to 660 km) deep.

"It translates into a very, very large mass of water, approaching the sort of mass of water that's present in all the world's ocean," Pearson told Live Science's Our Amazing Planet.

"It's actually the confirmation that there is a very, very large amount of water that's trapped in a really distinct layer in the deep Earth," said Graham Pearson, lead study author and a geochemist at the University of Alberta in Canada. The findings were published (March 12) in the journal Nature."

<sup>8</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Is 1:3). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



What an amazing discovery ☺! Published March 12 of 2014! They'd have known that much sooner had they just read their bibles & believed the word of God.

"All the fountains of the great deep were broken up & the windows of heaven were opened & the rain was on the earth for 40 days & 40 nights."

Of course 40 being a # associated w/trials/testing/purification. (Spies 40 days in Canaan, children of Israel 40 yrs in the desert, Jesus tempted 40 days, Moses on the Mt for 40 days etc).

### Vs 13-16

Salvation is of the Lord. Notice that Noah didn't shut the door on anyone's salvation; God did it. Even so it's not our job to disqualify people from salvation, that's God's job. As far as we're concerned the door is open, it's up to God to shut it. He's the One who opens so that no one can shut, or shuts so that no one can open.

But notice the same ark that was salvation for Noah, was condemnation to the world. Jesus said that we are for Him or against Him, to those who trust Him, He is salvation. To those who reject Him, He is condemnation...

Now I don't want to take too much liberty in the text but I just want to call to attention that the door to this boat was open until the last minute, did you catch that? We don't read where Noah went in & had his boys stand guard so as to keep anyone else from being saved. The door was open, the invitation to salvation (in essence) was there, but to the world the whole concept seemed ludicrous, "I'm not getting on that boat, I'm not entering through that door!" But it was the only way to be saved...

Are you picking up what I'm throwin down? There was only one way onto that boat & it was through the door; only 1 way to salvation that stood open to all who would enter by faith. What did Jesus say? He said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*<sup>9</sup> 1 way. He said, *"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved"*<sup>10</sup>, but most mock, the concept of salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus seems ludicrous, so they stand outside till it's too late & will perish. Because the time will come when God will shut the door & judgment will fall.

& Dad's let's not pass over this section w/out seeing Noah's example to his family. They followed his example. Hey dad... Get on board, watch your family follow.

### Vs 17-23

<sup>9</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Jn 14:6). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>10</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Jn 10:9). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Is it just me or is the word of God seeking to communicate something here & that is this: the judgment of God was categorical in nature. This was not a *local* flood, this was a *global* flood; go back & take note of the terms used. “Waters increased, the ark rose high above the earth, waters prevailed, greatly increased on the earth, waters prevailed *exceedingly*, *all* the high hills under the *whole heaven* were covered, 15 cubits (or over 22’ above the Mts. *All* flesh died, *all* in whose nostrils was the breath of life, *all* that was on dry land died, He destroyed *all* living things which were on the face of the ground, *only* Noah & those who were w/him remained alive.”

You cannot believe the biblical account & think that this flood was contained to a local area. There’s a reason that nearly every people group on the planet (over 200) have legends of a global flood; it’s because they’re descendants of Noah’s sons.

Peter believed the flood was global & used it to speak of the next global judgment, not by flood but by fire (2 Pet 3). Jesus believed the flood was global (Matt 24:36-39) & said even as the flood took all of mankind away even so His coming again will involve/impact all of mankind; suddenly/unexpectedly.

Not to mention the practical evidence of marine fossils & shells on Mt tops (meaning they were underwater at some point), fossil graveyards all around the world demonstrating a rapid deposit of sediment & enough pressure to preserve the animals rather than allowing them to decompose... You guys, evidence is everywhere. This planet testifies to the truth of God’s word. This world was underwater & only 8 souls survived.

**Vs 24**

Listen, judgment came... & judgment is coming. Right now the door is open, come to Christ, abide *in* Christ & you will be saved *by* Christ. Amen? Amen.

**Prayer Points:**

God, even in judgment You are gracious, You hold the door open till the last possible minute extending to mankind the invitation to “get on board”. We acknowledge today that salvation is of the Lord, & God having been saved *by* You, it’s our desire to be obedient *to* You. Whatever You say to us (Jesus) may we do it. Not being hearers only of Your word, but active doers of Your word as well.

The invitation goes out, “get on board”, the door is open, Jesus says “Come to Me”. If you need to come to Christ, that you might find forgiveness *in* Christ, than now is the time. Don’t wait another minute lest the door close & it be too late. Today is the day of salvation, turn from your sin, trust in J.C.