

The Book of Genesis

Lesson 10

Chapter 7

One hundred and twenty years transpired between the instruction given in Genesis 6 and that given in Genesis 7. In Genesis 6, Noah was 480 years old and 1530 years had passed since the creation of Adam. In Genesis 7, Noah is 600 years old and 1650 years had passed since Adam's creation. Noah was childless in Genesis 6; he now has three boys who are about 100 years old and they are married without children.

Lord's Choice of Noah

Genesis 7:1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your household; for you *alone* I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time.

Noah alone was righteous in the eyes of the LORD. All of the rest of the inhabitants of the earth were engaged in lifestyles that were deemed evil by the LORD. However, the major reason for the imminent destruction stemmed from their failure to enter into a relationship with the LORD; Noah walked with the LORD, they did not.

The LORD Jesus spoke of the failure of the pre-deluge people to be in a relationship with Him about four millennia later and foretold that the people would be living in the same denial at His Second Coming.

Matthew 24:37 For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. ³⁸For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be."

"Righteousness" means uprightness in the sense that the person adheres or conforms to the established standards of the LORD. Those who meet the standards are said to "walk with God"; those who ignore the standards do not. Noah was the only righteous man at the time of the flood. Notice that the LORD's statement does not include his wife, sons or daughters-in-law. They were saved from physical death in the flood because of their relationship with Noah and his righteousness.

Number of Animals

Genesis 7:2 "You shall take with you of every clean animal by sevens, a male and his female; and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and his female; ³ also of the birds of the sky, by sevens, male and female, to keep offspring alive on the face of all the earth.

For the first time in Scripture, the LORD distinguishes between the clean and unclean animals. Clean animals were suitable for offerings but the unclean were not. For us, in the Scripture, the distinction between the clean and unclean animals is not recorded until the Mosaic Law was given more than four hundred years after the death of Joseph, the last story in the book of Genesis. No doubt, the concept of clean and unclean animals was already in place at the time of the flood and Noah knew the difference. One hundred and twenty years before, in the original and general instruction to Noah, the animals would be coming **“two of every *kind* into the ark, to keep *them* alive with you; they shall be male and female.”**³¹ Here, the LORD gives the specific instruction that the ark will hold **“of every clean animal by sevens, a male and his female; and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and his female.”**

Notice the instruction **“by sevens, a male and his female.”** Of the clean animals, seven males and seven females were to board the ark, fourteen animals. The Scripture goes on to say of the unclean animals, **“two, a male and his female.”** At first glance it seems that the LORD’s instruction means one male and one female were to board the ark, but that is not the case; Noah was to take two males and two females of each unclean animal, four animals. Noah was to take seven pairs of the clean animals and two pairs of the unclean.

Also notice the change of number in verse 3 of the flying creatures; Noah was to take seven pairs of each, not just two pairs.

Seven More Days before the Rain

Genesis 7:4 **“For after seven more days, I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights; and I will blot out from the face of the land every living thing that I have made.”**⁵ **And Noah did according to all that the LORD had commanded him.**

Noah had seven days to load the ark before the 40 days of rain began. The animals were loaded along with all the food for the journey.³² What a task!

Notice again that the LORD is specific about what will be blotted out; only animals that dwell on “the face of the land” will be destroyed.

Age of Noah

Genesis 7:6 **Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of water came upon the earth.**

Here, the LORD records the time of the flood by indicating the age of Noah. From the information in Genesis 5 we learned that Noah was born 1049 years after the creation of Adam.

³¹ Genesis 6:19

³² Genesis 6:21

At this point in the story, Noah is 600 years old, a date which places the flood 1650 years after the creation of Adam.

Roster of Those Entering Ark

Genesis 7:7 Then Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him entered the ark because of the water of the flood. ⁸ Of clean animals and animals that are not clean and birds and everything that creeps on the ground, ⁹ there went into the ark to Noah by twos, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.

The parade into the ark was orderly; each male and female pair entered together and took their places in the stalls assigned to them.

Noah's Age and the Rain for 40 Days

Genesis 7:10 And it came about after the seven days, that the water of the flood came upon the earth. ¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. ¹² And the rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights. ¹³ On the very same day Noah and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark, ¹⁴ they and every beast after its kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, all sorts of birds. ¹⁵ So they went into the ark to Noah, by twos of all flesh in which was the breath of life. ¹⁶ And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, entered as God had commanded him; and the LORD closed *it* behind him. ¹⁷ Then the flood came upon the earth for forty days; and the water increased and lifted up the ark, so that it rose above the earth. ¹⁸ And the water prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark floated on the surface of the water.

The Scripture is clear in this passage. The most interesting fact included is the age of Noah on the day the rain began and “the great deep burst forth”; he was 600 years, 2 months and 17 days old. If this day coincided with the Jewish calendar, the deluge began in late October or early November; however, this is just speculation.

Height of the Water

Genesis 7:19 And the water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered. ²⁰ The water prevailed fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered. ²¹ And all flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; ²² of all that was on the dry land, all in

whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died. ²³ Thus He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark.

During the forty day deluge, the water rose fifteen cubits (20 feet) higher than the highest mountain. Was that 20 feet above Mount Everest? If Mount Everest was there at the time, the answer is yes. All the land of all the earth was covered by water and every land animal died.

150 More Days

Genesis 7:24 And the water prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days.

After the rain stopped at the end of the 40 days, the water remained at the same level for 150 more days. For more than half a year, the waters were more than 20 feet higher than the tallest mountain.

Chapter 8

Water Recedes

Genesis 8:1 But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the cattle that were with him in the ark; and God caused a wind to pass over the earth, and the water subsided. ² Also the fountains of the deep and the floodgates of the sky were closed, and the rain from the sky was restrained; ³ and the water receded steadily from the earth, and at the end of one hundred and fifty days the water decreased.

One hundred and ninety days after the rain started, the waters began to recede. The wind began to blow and the LORD reformed the earth to close up the fountains of the deep again and formed the land as we know it today.

Ark on Mt. Ararat

Genesis 8:4 And in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat. ⁵ And the water decreased steadily until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains became visible.

When the Scripture says “**in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat**”, it is a reference to the seventh month and 17th day after the rain began. Months were counted by the new moon which occurs every 29 ½ days; therefore, the ark rested on the mountain 7.57 months after the rain began, or 223 days. The bottom of the ark lodged on the mountain but the mountain was not visible for another 72 days.

Another 40 Days – Raven and Dove

Genesis 8:6 Then it came about at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made; ⁷ and he sent out a raven, and it flew here and there until the water was dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent out a dove from him, to see if the water was abated from the face of the land; ⁹ but the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, so she returned to him into the ark; for the water was on the surface of all the earth. Then he put out his hand and took her, and brought her into the ark to himself.

Forty days after the ark rested on the mountain, Noah released a raven to see if it could find land. The Scripture says that the raven ‘**flew here and there until the water was dried up from the earth**’, which means that the bird did not return to the ark but flew around looking for land and returned to rest upon the ark until the land was dry.

The dove was sent out and it returned to live in the ark with Noah after it found no place to rest.

Another Dove – Olive Leaf

Genesis 8:10 So he waited yet another seven days; and again he sent out the dove from the ark. ¹¹ And the dove came to him toward evening; and behold, in her beak was a freshly picked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the water was abated from the earth.

Seven days later, or forty-seven days after the ark lodged on the mount, Noah sent out another dove which returned with an olive leaf. Within flying distance for the dove, the water had decreased to expose an olive tree. Noah could not see the dry land at that time even though it existed somewhere.

Dove Fails to Return

Genesis 8:12 Then he waited yet another seven days, and sent out the dove; but she did not return to him again.

The ark lodged on the mountain 223 days after the rains began. Now, 54 days after the ark lodged on the mountain, or 277 days latter, the dove was sent out again. This time, it does not return. However, it was not time for Noah to leave the ark.

Noah’s Age – Earth Dry

Genesis 8:13 Now it came about in the six hundred and first year, in the first *month*, on the first of the month, the water was dried up from the earth. Then Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and behold, the surface of the ground was dried up.

This date refers to the age of Noah, not the date of the calendar in use at the time. Noah removed the cover to look out and see the dried ground on the 308th day after the rain began.

Instruction to Noah – Leave the Ark

Genesis 8:14 **And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry.** ¹⁵ **Then God spoke to Noah, saying,** ¹⁶ **"Go out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and your sons' wives with you.** ¹⁷ **"Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you, birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, that they may breed abundantly on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."** ¹⁸ **So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him.** ¹⁹ **Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by their families from the ark.**

From the first day of the first month until the 27th day of the second month is 57 days. Therefore, the time from the day the rain began to fall until the family and passengers left the ark was 365 days. Where was God? He was there and He told Noah to release all the animals onto the land.

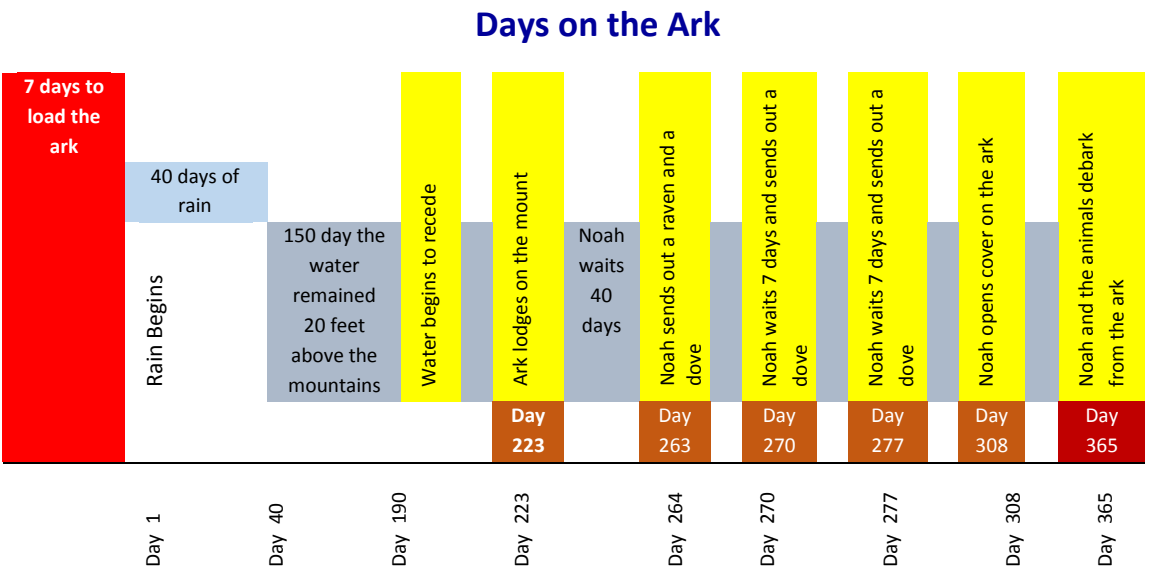


Figure 25: Events during the Flood and the Day of Occurrence

Altar and Offering

Genesis 8:20 **Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.**

Noah built a proper place to prepare a burnt offering to the LORD. It would have been on a high or elevated place on top of a hill or mountain. In Genesis 4, both Cain and Abel had brought

offerings to the LORD. However, the Scripture does not state that Abel's offering was prepared as a burnt offering; it states that he offered the fatty portions of the offering to the LORD; therefore, the animal had been killed before it was presented to the LORD but probably not burnt. No doubt, a regular offering was presented to the LORD every Sabbath in the years before the flood by the godly descendants of Adam. Therefore, altars were not new to Noah and neither was the process of taking the lives of animals for an offering to the LORD.

The Hebrew word used for "burnt" is *olah* and it means "ascending." Noah's offering was different from that of Abel's whose offering was a *minlah* or "gift" to the LORD. Under the Mosaic Law the burnt offering was almost totally consumed by the fire except the hide which was given to the priest for clothing, tents, leather, etc. In the case of Noah's offering, it is most likely that even the hides were burned. Therefore, the smell of the burnt offering ascended into the presence of the LORD Almighty.

Lord's Promise

Genesis 8:21 And the LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done. ²² "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, And cold and heat, And summer and winter, And day and night Shall not cease."

Noah and his family had been redeemed by the LORD from physical death in the flood, even though they would eventually die, and were given a new life in a new world. What a picture! As believers, we, too, are redeemed from spiritual death, and will be given a new life in a new world with the LORD. With Noah, the offering was the first earthly picture of what the LORD would do for all. **Ephesians 5:1-2** says, "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma." The "soothing" aroma of Noah's offering and the "fragrant" aroma of Christ's death mean exactly the same thing; both pleased God. The Greek words used by Paul in Ephesians 5:2 are the same words used in the Greek Septuagint to translate Genesis 8:21.

Here, the LORD makes a promise to "Himself" even though He knows that the descendants of Noah will repeat the same evil deeds as those who had been destroyed by the flood. Even in Noah's descendants, the "intent of man's heart" will be "evil from his youth." Even so, the LORD promised never to curse the ground again and destroy every living thing on earth. "Seedtime and harvest" means "spring and fall" and with "summer and winter", together they complete the four seasons which will never end; neither will the days and nights end. Many are looking for this world to be destroyed, but it will not; however, the LORD will one day destroy with fire all the evil ones who live on the earth as reported in Zephaniah 1:18. When will that happen? At His second coming! After that, the Holy City of God will move from heaven to this world and eternity will forever have its holy center on earth as reported in Revelation 21.