

## Genesis 7-8

There is a lot of repetition in these passages, but God doesn't put words on the page for nothing

This is a pretty well-known section of Genesis, but we can still glean some insight here.

**Gen 7:1-5, 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 <sup>[a]</sup>time. <sup>2</sup> You shall take <sup>[b]</sup>with you of every clean animal <sup>[c]</sup>by sevens, a male and his female; and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and his female; <sup>3</sup> also of the birds of the <sup>[d]</sup>sky, <sup>[e]</sup>by sevens, male and female, to keep <sup>[f]</sup>offspring alive on the face of all the earth. <sup>4</sup> 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." <sup>5</sup> Noah did according to all that the LORD had commanded him.**

- **Verse 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 <sup>[a]</sup>time.**
  - Question? Noah has been building this ark for up to 100 years. There's no record of God speaking to him during that whole time until now. How is this a demonstration of faithfulness?
  - QUESTION? Of the billions of people living on earth at that time, how many did God find righteous?
  - QUESTION? When God calls Noah righteous in verse 1, He speaks in the first person singular, but also asks Noah to bring his family with him. What does "you alone" mean?
    - The word "alone" does not appear in the Hebrew, but was added by the translators to emphasize that God was speaking to Noah directly
      - The NCV renders verse one this way: "I have seen that you are the best person among the people of this time, so you and your family can go into the boat"
    - The blessing and protection God bestows on the righteous overflows to others!
      - Not talking about salvation here, but of God's abundant grace
  - Back in Gen 6:18, *But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you.*
  - QUESTION?, why does Gen 6:18 begin with the word "But"?
  - QUESTION? Who will God make the covenant with? This is in Chapter 9.
- **Verse 2-3, <sup>2</sup> You shall take <sup>[b]</sup>with you of every clean animal <sup>[c]</sup>by sevens, a male and his female; and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and his female; <sup>3</sup> also of the birds of the <sup>[d]</sup>sky, <sup>[e]</sup>by sevens, male and female, to keep <sup>[f]</sup>offspring alive on the face of all the earth.**
  - QUESTION, In Chapter 6, God says bring two of every creature, Here the first command God gives is to bring seven of every clean, and two of every unclean. Why?
  - QUESTION? Why does God make a distinction between clean and unclean?
    - Some say some animals are disgusting, pigs, vultures, shellfish
    - Some say it is for dietary reasons
    - Some say it is to eventually highlight the difference between God's people and the nations
    - A better explanation may be to teach us to distinguish and discern between the sacred and the profane, the holy and the unholy
      - God simply declared some things holy and some unholy

- Example building an altar out of natural stones or out of carved, shaped stones. Which was consider more holy?
  - In Acts 10:13-15, A voice came to him, “Get up, Peter, <sup>[a]</sup>kill and eat!” <sup>14</sup> But Peter said, “By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything <sup>[b]</sup>unholy and unclean.” <sup>15</sup> Again a voice came to him a second time, “What God has cleansed, no longer consider <sup>[c]</sup>unholy.”
    - QUESTION? What was the point God was trying to make?
  - Acts 10:25-28, When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and <sup>[i]</sup>worshiped him. <sup>26</sup> But Peter raised him up, saying, “Stand up; I too am just a man.” <sup>27</sup> As he talked with him, he entered and \*found many people assembled. <sup>28</sup> And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man <sup>[k]</sup>unholy or unclean.
    - QUESTION? Did Peter understand the meaning of the vision?
    - QUESTION? What’s the other point God was trying to make (clue Acts 10:15)?
      - It’s God that declares holy and unholy, and only God can make holy
- **Verse 4, <sup>4</sup> 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.”**
  - QUESTION? God already asked Noah and family to enter the ark. Why wait seven days?
    - One last chance for anyone else to enter!
    - The movie Noah, with Russel Crow, 2014, had a stowaway
  - QUESTION? How long did it rain?
    - And there the term “blot out” again... Erase everything!
- **Verse 5, <sup>5</sup> Noah did according to all that the LORD had commanded him.**
  - QUESTION? Did Noah ask God any questions?
    - Look back to Gen 6:22, Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did.
  - QUESTIONS? Have we ever said to our kids, “Because I said so”? Why do we have to say that? Did God have to explain himself to Noah? Do we have to explain ourselves to our children?

**Verses 7:5-12, Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of water <sup>[a]</sup>came upon the earth. <sup>7</sup> Then Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him entered the ark because of the water of the flood. <sup>8</sup> Of clean animals and animals that are not clean and birds and everything that creeps on the ground, <sup>9</sup> there went into the ark to Noah <sup>[b]</sup>by twos, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. <sup>10</sup> It came about after the seven days, that the water of the flood <sup>[i]</sup>came upon the earth. <sup>11</sup> 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 <sup>[j]</sup>floodgates of the sky were opened. <sup>12</sup> The rain <sup>[k]</sup>fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.**

- Noah gave birth to his sons when he was 500 (Gen 5:32). One hundred years have passed.
- Noah and his family entered the ark.
- QUESTION? Why is God so specific about the mnth and the day (we don’t even now what calendar they are on?)
- QUESTION? Did the rain start right away? No, after seven days.
  - Some say these seven days correspond to the seven-year tribulation, which is God’s final warning before he brings total destruction onto all the unrighteous.
  - QUESTION? Will people come to God during the tribulation?
- QUESTION? How many people would it have taken to repopulate the world?

- QUESTION? How many different races, colors, creeds, came from Noah?
    - *Act 17:27, He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation*
  - QUESTION? How many dogs would Noah have needed on the ark? How many finches?
  - QUESTION? Through selective breeding, man has created all the different breeds of dogs that exist today. Do these purebred dogs have more information or less information in their genomes than the original two dogs on the ark?
  - Again, God repeats about the clean and the unclean.
  - In Verse 10, How many days passed after Noah and his family boarded the ark until the rain began?
  - Verse 11-12, <sup>11</sup>*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 <sup>[j]</sup>floodgates of the sky were opened.* <sup>12</sup>*The rain <sup>[k]</sup>fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.*
    - In 7:4 the Hebrew word for rain *matar* is used. It means normal rain
    - In 7:12, the Hebrew word for rain *geshem* is used. It mean a torrential downpour.
    - 40 days of torrential rain would be impossible on today's earth
  - Fountains of the great deep, *tehōm rabah*, the springs of the great abyss
    - *Gen 1:6-7, Then God said, "Let there be <sup>[a]</sup>an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."* <sup>7</sup>*God made the <sup>[b]</sup>expanse, and separated the waters which were below the <sup>[c]</sup>expanse from the waters which were above the <sup>[d]</sup>expanse; and it was so.*
      - So there was water below the earth and water above it
      - Something catastrophic occurred to break up the super-continent and release the fountains of the abyss
        - *Psalm 104:5-7, He established the earth upon its foundations, So that it will not <sup>[a]</sup>totter forever and ever.* <sup>6</sup>*You covered it with the deep as with a garment; The waters were standing above the mountains.* <sup>7</sup>*At Your rebuke they fled, At the sound of Your thunder they hurried away.*
    - QUESTION? So where did all the water go?
      - *Psalm 104:8-9, <sup>8</sup>The mountains rose; the valleys sank down To the place which You established for them.* <sup>9</sup>*You set a boundary that they may not pass over, So that they will not return to cover the earth.*
    - The mountains rose up and the valleys sank down to contain all the water after the flood
    - THERE ARE FOSSILS in the limestone on the top of Mount Everest!
    - Jacques Cousteau calculated that if the mountains were brought low and the valleys raised up, water would cover every continent up to two miles deep
    - The bible says 15 cubits (22.5 feet) above the highest mountain
      - *Isa 24:1, Behold, the LORD lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface and scatters its inhabitants.*
- Floodgates of heaven... Sluice gates, like opening up a dam and letting the water out all at once!
  - For six weeks the water poured out of the heavens
  - How did this happen? Maybe the canopy water was bound up as ice encircling the planet, and the plate tectonics and volcanic activity of the continents breaking apart sent ash and dust 50,000 feet into the air, the canopy melted it and it came pouring down.
    - *Isa 24:18-20, For the windows <sup>[l]</sup>above are opened, and the foundations of the earth shake.* <sup>19</sup>*The earth is broken asunder, The earth is split through, The earth is shaken*

violently. <sup>20</sup> The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard And it totters like a [m]shack, For its transgression is heavy upon it, And it will fall, never to rise again.

- QUESTION? Violent volcanic activity combined with underground water and what do you have? Steam vents.

- *Jer 4:23-27, I looked on the earth, and behold, it was [l] formless and void; And to the heavens, and they had no light. <sup>24</sup> I looked on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, And all the hills [k] moved to and fro. <sup>25</sup> I looked, and behold, there was no man, And all the birds of the heavens had fled. <sup>26</sup> I looked, and behold, [l] the fruitful land was a wilderness, And all its cities were pulled down Before the LORD, before His fierce anger. <sup>27</sup> For thus says the LORD, “The whole land shall be a desolation, Yet I will not execute a complete destruction.*

- In the midst of devastation, there was preservation!

- *Psalm 36:5-7, Your lovingkindness, O LORD, [d] extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. <sup>6</sup> Your righteousness is like the [e] mountains of God; Your judgments are like a great deep. O LORD, You preserve man and beast. <sup>7</sup> How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.*

- **Gen 7:13-16, On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. <sup>14</sup> They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. <sup>15</sup> Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. <sup>16</sup> The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.**

- This was a cataclysmic event. God basically wiped away the old earth and all it's inhabitants, civilization, infrastructure, tools, everything
- Imagine the violence of the earth basically breaking open and spewing out fountains of water
- The climate changed (talk about climate change!), geography changed, the entire nature of the planet was forever altered
- What was left after the flood was a very different earth!
- Antarctica used to be covered in a lush, green, tropical forest

- QUESTION? Why would God do such a thing?

- Job 22:15-18, [Eliphaz Speaks] “Will you keep to the ancient path Which wicked men have trod,<sup>16</sup> Who were snatched away before their time, Whose foundations were [a] washed away by a flood?<sup>17</sup> “They said to God, ‘Depart from us!’ And ‘What can [b] the Almighty do to them?’<sup>18</sup> “Yet He filled their houses with good *things*; But the counsel of the wicked is far from me.

- QUESTION? So what was the attitude of pre-flood people?

- QUESTION? are there any people like that alive in our world today?

- **Gen 7:17-24, <sup>17</sup> For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. <sup>18</sup> The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. <sup>19</sup> They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. <sup>20</sup> The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits.[a][b] <sup>21</sup> Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. <sup>22</sup> Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. <sup>23</sup> Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from**

***the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.<sup>24</sup> The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.***

- QUESTION? What type of creatures were on the ark? Were there insects on the ark? Fish?
- ***Gen 8:1-5, But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. <sup>2</sup> Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. <sup>3</sup> The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, <sup>4</sup> and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. <sup>5</sup> The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.***
  - God sent a wind, and the water receded
  - The Ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat (an entire mountain range)
    - Many have searched and searched and found nothing
    - The tallest mountain in the range is called Ararat, and it's 17,000 ft covered in snow year round
- ***Gen 8:6-12, <sup>6</sup> After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark <sup>7</sup> and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. <sup>9</sup> But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. <sup>10</sup> He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. <sup>11</sup> When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. <sup>12</sup> He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.***
  - He sent a scavenger that would basically eat anything. It doesn't say if the bird ever came back
    - He was probably landing on all the floating carcasses and having himself feast!
  - Then he sent a dove. Doves eat vegetation, it came back empty.
  - He sent the dove again, and it came back with a "freshly plucked" Olive leaf
    - QUESTION? What does that mean?
  - Once more he sent the dove and it didn't return
- ***Gen 8:13-17, By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. <sup>14</sup> By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. <sup>15</sup> Then God said to Noah, <sup>16</sup> "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. <sup>17</sup> Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."***
  - QUESTION? When did Noah raise the cover of the ark? The earth was dry, but not completely
  - QUESTION? Why did Noah not leave the ark when he saw it was dry?
  - QUESTION? When does it say that the earth was "completely dry"?
- ***Gen 8:18-22, So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. <sup>19</sup> All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another. <sup>20</sup> Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. <sup>21</sup> The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though<sup>[a]</sup> every inclination of the human heart is evil from***

***childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.<sup>22</sup> “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”***

- QUESTION? Did the flood actually happen?
  - Not enough evidence?
  - 270 cultures around the world have flood stories
    - 88% say that a favored family was spared
    - 70% say their survival was because they built a boat
    - 66% of the stories say the flood came because of man’s wickedness
    - 67% say that animals were also saved from the flood
    - 57% say the boat came to rest on a mountain