



GENESIS

	Creation	Fall	Flood	Nations		Abraham	Isaac	Jacob	Joseph	
	CHAPTERS 1–2	CHAPTERS 3–5	CHAPTERS 6–9	CHAPTERS 10–11		CHAPTERS 12–25	CHAPTERS 26–27	CHAPTERS 28–36	CHAPTERS 37–50	
Beginnings	Beginning of the human race					Beginning of the chosen race				
Result	Confusion and scattering					Bondage in Egypt				
History	Primeval history					Patriarchal history				
Chronology	Over 2,000 years						Approximately 300 years			
Emphasis	Four major events						Four important people			
Key Words and Phrases	“In the beginning” (1:1) “Generations” (5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1; 37:2)									
Theme	God promises to redeem and bless His people.									
Key Verses	3:15; 12:3									
Christ in Genesis	Pictured in the seed of the woman (3:15); Melchizedek, the high priest (14:18); the humiliation and exaltation of Joseph (chapters 37–50)									

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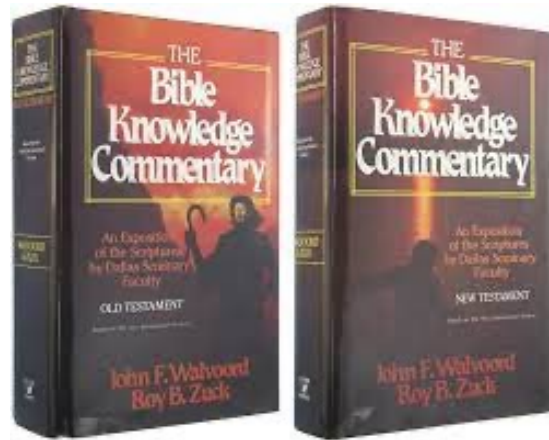
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Chronology of the Flood

	Event	Date	Reference
Waiting in the ark 7 days (7:7, 10)	1. Noah entered the ark	Month 2, day 10	7:7–9
	2. <i>7 days later:</i> Rain began falling	Month 2, day 17*	7:10–11
Water continued for 150 days (7:24)	3. <i>40 days later:</i> heavy rains stopped	Month 3, day 27	7:12
	4. <i>110 days later:</i> Prevailing waters receded and the ark rested on an Ararat mountain	Month 7, day 17*	7:24, 8:4
Water receded in 150 days (8:3)	5. <i>74 days later:</i> Tops of mountains visible	Month 10, day 1*	8:5
	6. <i>40 days later:</i> Raven sent out, and a dove sent out and returned	Month 11, day 11*	8:6–9
	7. <i>7 days later:</i> Dove sent out again and returned with a leaf	Month 11, day 18*	8:10
	8. <i>7 days later:</i> Dove sent out a third time and did not return	Month 11, day 25	8:12
	9. <i>22 days later:</i> Water receded	Month 12, day 17	8:3
Earth dried in 70 days	10. Noah saw dry land	Month 1, day 1*	8:13
	11. Land completely dry, and Noah exited the ark	Month 2, day 27*	8:14–19
377 days		1 year and 17 days in the ark	

* Dates specified in the Scriptures; other dates are implied.

Bible Knowledge Commentary



Chapter 6

Verse 14- *Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with compartments, and cover it inside and out with pitch.*

God warns before He judges. He also makes a way of escape. Noah is to make an ark (*tê·baṭ*) used here and in Exodus 2:3 (KJV):

“And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him **an ark** of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink.”

A similar word (*’ă·rō·wn*) is used for the ark of the covenant in Exodus 25:10-

“Now they shall construct **an ark** of acacia wood two and a half cubits long, one and a half cubits wide, and one and a half cubits high.”

An ark is not a boat. It is a “chest,” “basket,” or “coffin.”

Chapter 6

Verse 14- *Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with compartments, and cover it inside and out with pitch.*

gopher wood- “gopher” (גִּפְרִי) is a transliteration of the Hebrew word used only here in Scripture. No one knows exactly what kind of wood this was, maybe cypress, pine, or teak wood.

compartments- Literally, “nests.” Probably long rows of stalls, cells, and rooms.

pitch- (kofer) – natural tar, pitch, or asphalt. It could be a play on gopher- The ark was made from *gopher* and *kofer*. The basket Moses was put in was also covered with “pitch.” In essence, the ark was waterproofed inside and outside.

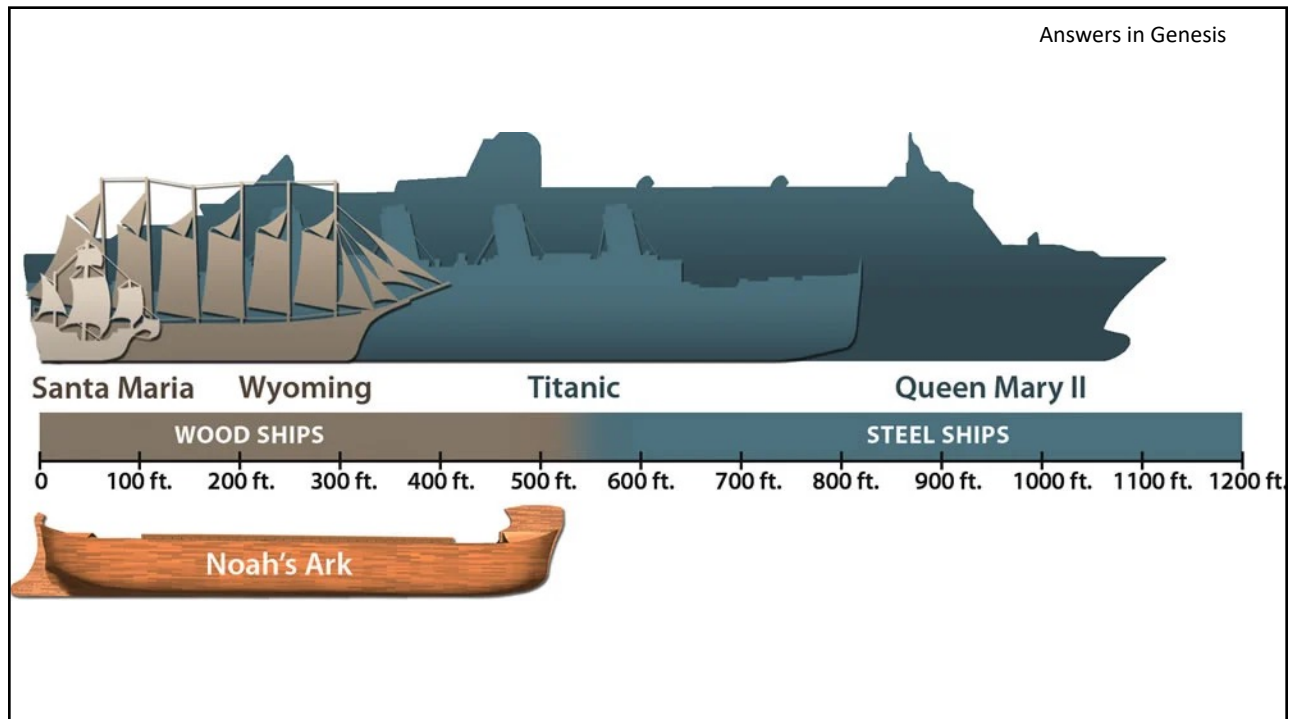
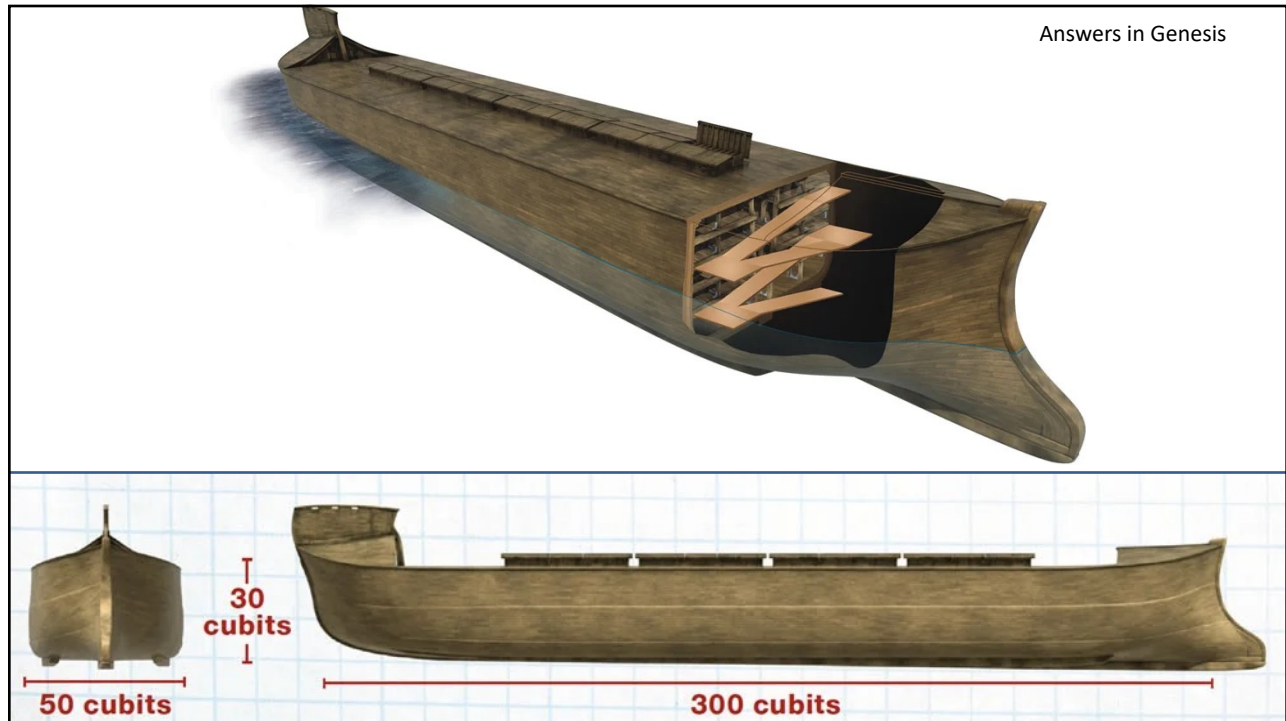
Chapter 6

Verse 15- *This is how you shall make it: the length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.*

cubit- If a “cubit” (*ammah*) is eighteen inches (the distance from the elbow to the fingertips), the ark was approximately 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high (v. 15).

The ark was a football field and a half long, almost as tall as a five-story building.

There is also a “royal cubit” that would equate to 20 inches used to build the pyramids.

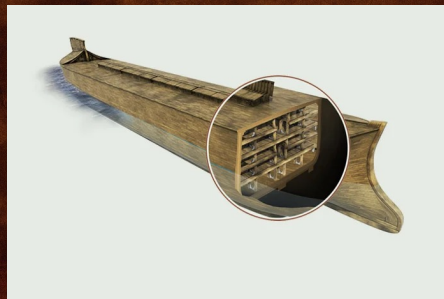


Chapter 6

Verse 16- *You shall make a window for the ark, and finish it to a cubit from the top; and put the door of the ark on the side; you shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.*

God told Noah to construct a roof with an opening of about one cubit all the way around the top.

The ark was to be built with three decks and a single door on one side of it. This door would need to be large enough for all animals on the earth to enter and exit.



Chapter 6

Verse 17- *Now behold, I Myself am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which there is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish.*

This is the first time God specifically tells Noah how He will end all life on earth. In verse 13, He tells Noah that He is “about to destroy them with the earth.” Now He tells him that He will do it with a flood. Since there are people all over the earth, the flood will need to be worldwide.

God is both the creator and judge of everything. Since He created all there is, He can judge its state- good/bad, right/wrong, worthy of death/life.

Chapter 6

Verse 18- *But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.*

In contrast to the worldwide death of everything on the earth, God makes a covenant (promise, oath, agreement) with Noah. This “covenant” occurs eight times in the Flood narrative and 16 times in the life of Abraham. God’s promise is a reflection of His character.

Understandably, Noah would be afraid at the thought of all life on earth being destroyed, but God quickly promises him salvation from certain death.

This promise would include only eight people- Noah’s wife, his three sons, and their wives.

Chapter 6

Verse 19- *And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.*

Not only will mankind be saved, but all the animals of the earth will be under one roof in the ark to preserve all life after the Flood. This, again, is a statement of God’s will for males and females to be together to fill the earth.

There are currently less than eighteen thousand species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. This number could be doubled during Noah’s day because up to half might be extinct today. If we double eighteen thousand ($18,000 \times 2 = 36,000$) accounting for those extinct, plus two of each animal ($36,000 \times 2 = 72,000$), plus 5 extra animals for every “clean” kind (7:2), there could be approximately 75,000 animals on the ark. This would account for approximately sixty percent of the ark’s capacity. (Morris)

Chapter 6

Verse 20- *Of the birds according to their kind, and of the animals according to their kind, of every crawling thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive.*

This reminds us of Genesis 2:19 when God brought the animals to Adam for the first time to be named:

“And out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.”

Now, for a second and final time, God brings the animals to Noah to be kept safe in the ark. This is the first occurrence of animal migration, something animals today have inherited naturally from these first ancestors.

God is demonstrating incredible mercy in his judgment on a completely wicked world.

Chapter 6

Verse 21- *As for you, take for yourself some of every food that is edible, and gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and them.”*

“Food” had been the downfall of Adam and Eve, but now it would sustain life for Noah, his family, and all life on the ark.

Noah had to store enough food for his family and all the animals for a year. If the animals took sixty percent of storage space, the food to feed them would take much of the rest.

Chapter 6

Verse 22- *So Noah did these things; according to everything that God had commanded him, so he did.*

The defining characteristic of Noah's righteousness is that he simply obeyed, regardless of how difficult the task was. Noah didn't deviate at all from what he was commanded to do. He constructed a massive ark, stockpiled food for his family and all the animals that would be on the ark and prepared for the animals to come to him and board when God brought them. God speaks to Noah seven times, and Noah obeys:

- 6:13 Build the ark
- 7:1 Enter the ark
- 8:15 Go out of the ark
- 9:1 Be fruitful and multiply
- 9:8 I am making a covenant with you
- 9:12 I will make a rainbow as a sign of promise
- 9:17 The rainbow is a sign of my covenant with you

Chapter 7

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 generation."*

This is the second of seven times that God speaks directly to Noah in the text. God tells him why he and his family are allowed into the ark (a type of Christ). It is because Noah is righteous. Unlike every other person on the earth ("*for you alone*"- second masculine singular- i.e., Noah alone), he is righteous. As others refuse to obey God, Noah obeys everything God tells him to do. His character sets him apart from every other human on earth in a dramatic way.

Chapter 7

Verse 2- *You shall take with you seven pairs of every clean animal, a male and his female; and two of the animals that are not clean, a male and his female;*

Taking animals into the ark would not be necessary if the Flood were local (not worldwide). If a valley flooded, there would be plenty of animals outside the valley to keep animal life alive. The same would be true of human life.

Chapter 7

Verse 2- *You shall take with you seven pairs of every clean animal, a male and his female; and two of the animals that are not clean, a male and his female;*

Leviticus 11 – Animals that are tame, domesticated, and herbivorous vs. wild animals

1. Clean animals: land animals that **chew the cud and have a divided hoof**, such as cattle, deer, goats, and sheep;

Seafood with both fins and scales (not scavengers- bottom feeders with parasites), such as bluegill, grouper, and cod; certain birds, including chickens, doves, and ducks; and even some insects, such as grasshoppers and locusts.

2. Unclean animals: land animals that **either do not chew the cud or do not have a split hoof**, such as pigs, dogs, cats, horses, donkeys, and rats; seafood lacking either fins or scales, such as shellfish, lobster, oysters, and catfish; some birds, such as owls, hawks, and vultures; and other animals, such as reptiles and amphibians.

Chapter 7

Verse 3- *also of the birds of the sky, seven pairs, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth.*

Why seven pairs and not two?

1. Birds would be used to test for land as the waters receded after the flood. If they did not return, that would be evidence that habitat was reemerging (Genesis 8:7-12).
2. Second, birds would be offered along with other clean animals as a sacrifice to God after the flood. Additional birds would be needed (Genesis 8:20).

Chapter 7

Verse 4- *For after seven more days, I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and I will wipe out from the face of the land every living thing that I have made."*

It took a week to load all the animals. This would also give them time to acclimate to their surroundings (Skinner). They would be on the ark for a year!

Today, it would be impossible for a worldwide rain to last forty days with current atmospheric conditions. But if the "waters above the firmament" condensed in Noah's day, there would be plenty of water for worldwide rain for forty days and nights (Morris).

It wasn't just life that breathed air that was destroyed. "Every living thing" (*kōl hayqûm*) was uprooted, rearranged, torn down, and obliterated.

Chapter 7

Verse 5- *So Noah acted in accordance with everything that the Lord had commanded him.*

The foundation of Noah's righteousness was immediate obedience. Again, Noah simply obeyed God in building the ark and preparing the animals for the journey.

Next week...
Chapter 7 continued-
"The Flood"

