


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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Chronology of the Flood			
	Event	Date	Reference
Waiting for the ark 7 days (7:1, 10)	1. Noah entered the ark	Month 2, day 10	7:1–2
	2. 7 days later: Rain began falling	Month 2, day 17*	7:10–11
Water continued for 150 days (7:24)	3. 40 days later: heavy rains stopped	Month 3, day 27	7:12
	4. 110 days later: 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. 74 days later: Tops of mountains visible	Month 10, day 1*	8:5
	6. 40 days later: Raven sent out, and a dove sent out and returned	Month 11, day 11*	8:6–9
	7. 7 days later: Dove sent out again and returned with a leaf	Month 11, day 18*	8:10
	8. 7 days later: Dove sent out a third time and did not return	Month 11, day 25	8:12
	9. 22 days later: Water receded	Month 12, day 17	8:3
	10. Noah saw dry land	Month 1, day 1*	8:13
Earth dried in 70 days	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 7

Verse 6- *Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of water came upon the earth.*

Literally, Noah was a “son of six hundred years.” This is the first time in Genesis that a person’s age is given in relation to a particular event. This was a hundred years after the birth of his first son, Shem.

Chapter 7

Verse 7- *Then Noah and his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives with him entered the ark because of the waters of the flood.*

Noah's three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth were around 100 years old at the time they entered the ark. Although polygamy was probably rampant at the time, each son married only one wife, an indication of obedience to God’s plan.

Again, the ark is a type of Christ where these eight people will be safe from the rising flood waters around them and the judgment on mankind.

Chapter 7

Verse 8- *Of clean animals and animals that are not clean and birds and everything that crawls on the ground,*

This is a restatement of the animals that were to be on the ark. There are three cycles of the same facts in these sixteen verses. There is an emphasis on clean and unclean animals and that God was the cause of the Flood and would be the Author of a future judgment at the end of the age.

2 Peter 3:10- *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements **will be destroyed with intense heat**, and the earth and its works will be discovered.*

Chapter 7

Verse 9- *they all went into the ark to Noah by twos, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.*

Noah was passive in the act of receiving the animals as God brought them to him in the ark.

If the people of the earth were paying attention, what must they have thought as thousands of animals migrated to the ark in a week's time?

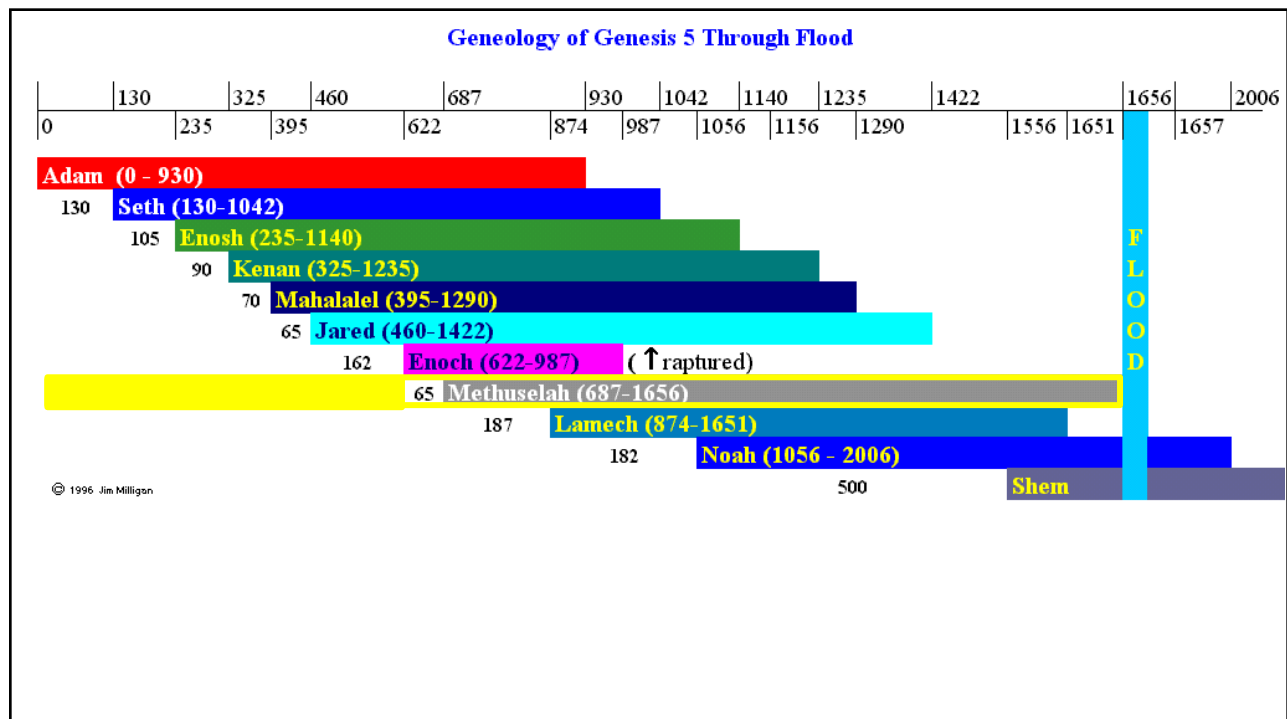
It wouldn't have been difficult if there was just one continent (Pangea?) surrounded by one ocean (Panthalassa?).

Chapter 7

Verse 10- *Now it came about after the seven days, that the waters of the flood came upon the earth.*

According to Jewish midrash (commentary on the Torah), the seven-day interval is a period of mourning for the death of Methuselah, who dies in the year of the Flood, for a period to allow God to grieve over the loss of the world, or for a final period for mankind to repent (Matthews).

The text doesn't tell us why God waited a week, but it is plausible to believe that it took that long for all the animals to board (36,000 species?) the three levels of the ark.



Chapter 7

Verse 11- *In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened.*

We do not know what calendar Moses used to record the exact month and day the Flood began. Adamic calendar? Noahic calendar? Jewish calendar?

on that day- This phrase is used to note special events in Old Testament history:

Genesis 7:11- the start of the flood

Genesis 7:13- Noah and his family entered the ark

Genesis 17:23, 26- Abraham's circumcision

Exodus 12:41, 51- The Exodus

Exodus 19:1- Israel enters Sinai

Deut. 32:48- Moses' death

Chapter 7

Verse 11- *In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened.*

The speculation is that vast reservoirs of underground water were superheated by volcanoes, bursting forth (*bāqa*- the same word used for the Red Sea as it parted for Moses and the Israelites). This, in addition to the moisture in the sky, caused once-in-a-lifetime rainfall.

This is an actual event that happened on a day in history. If Moses followed the Jewish calendar, it would be the month of Iyyar (April-May). He could have followed a calendar based on the life of Adam or Noah, but it is unclear which calendar was used.

The breakup of the earth's plates at the start of the Flood would have heated the crust under the oceans, causing the seafloor to rise and pushing the water over the continents. The ocean (which is more than 6.5 miles, or 10.5 km, deep in some places) had plenty of water to cover the earth (AIG).

Chapter 7

Verse 12- *The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.*

It could be that it had not yet rained on the earth.

Hebrews 11:7- *By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*

Rain fell for 40 days, and then water covered the earth's highest places (at that time) by over 20 feet (15 cubits) and began the stage of flooding until the next milestone (AIG).

Chapter 7

Verse 13- *On this very same day Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark,*

This is the second entrance narrative that expands on vv. 6-10. Since this will be the entirety of humanity left of possible billions of people on the earth, Moses is careful to mention all eight of them.

This is not to suggest that they are now entering the ark for the first time now that it is raining. They had been receiving and organizing animals for at least a week. This is a momentous occasion in that as they enter, the earth will never be the same again.

Chapter 7

Verse 14- *they and every animal according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kind, and every crawling thing that crawls on the earth according to its kind, and every bird according to its kind, all sorts of birds.*

As the entrance narrative continues, all the kinds of animals God brought to the ark have been loaded and are ready for the journey.

The language used here reminds us of the early language when God created the animals- livestock, crawling things, and birds.

Chapter 7

Verse 15- *So they went into the ark to Noah, by twos of all flesh in which there was the breath of life.*

Again, the retelling of the entrance narrative reminds us of God's original plan- one male and one female for each other.

Noah didn't go get the animals- they "*went into the ark to Noah.*" This was God at work directing His creation.

Whatever God says will happen does happen.

Chapter 7

Verse 16- *Those that entered, male and female of all flesh, entered as God had commanded him; and the LORD closed the door behind him.*

Again, Noah just obeys God. Now we know that the animals also obeyed God as he directed them into the ark. Once they are safely inside, God Himself closes the door he instructed Noah to build.

God is the one who will protect those inside. Noah obeyed God and built the ark, but God supernaturally shut the door and sealed humanity in.

God's covenant name (LORD- Elohim) is used here to denote the promise He made to Noah.

God closed the door behind him to protect those inside from the water and from desperate people trying to enter after the rain began.

Chapter 7

Verse 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.*

Moses describes the rising water in three degrees:

- *The flood came upon the earth for forty days*
- *The water increased and lifted up the ark (24,000 tons?)*
- *It rose above the earth*

Chapter 7

Verse 18- *The water prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water.*

prevailed- Hebrew root word *gabar*. A military term used for winning victory in battle. It can also mean “overwhelmed, overtook, or conquered.”

In a sense, this is a reversal of creation. In Genesis 1:9-10, we read:

*Then God said, “Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and **let the dry land appear**”; and it was so. And God called the dry land “earth,” and the gathering of the waters He called “seas”; and God saw that it was good.”*

First, the dry land appeared from the water, and now it is disappearing into the water once again. The topography of the earth after the flood will be entirely different.

Chapter 7

Verse 19- *And the water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered.*

The mountains before and after the Flood looked very different. However high they were before, the water covered them completely.

This is a clear statement of the universality of the Flood. ALL the high mountains EVERYWHERE were covered with water, not just in a valley.

Chapter 7

Verse 20- *The water prevailed fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered.*

Much detail and repetition are given in this narrative to denote the actual events that occurred.

First, we read that the flood came upon the earth for forty days. Then, the water increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose above the earth. Now, the final detail is that the water rose fifteen cubits (over 22 feet) higher than the highest mountain of Noah's time.

The height of the water would allow the ark to float over the highest mountain (it was 45 feet tall) and would also assure that if any person(s) climbed to the highest peak, they would still drown.

Chapter 7

Verse 21- *So all creatures that moved on the earth perished: birds, livestock, animals, and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind;*

Up to this point, the focus has been on the inside of the ark. Now, the focus is on what is happening in the world.

In short, every living thing died. While the earth was filling with water, scholars have speculated if people might have tried to board the ark. The screaming, crying, cursing, and conniving that must have gone on. How much of it did Noah's family hear? Since God closed the door, would it stay shut if people tried to tear it down? Would the ark float on its maiden and final voyage?

God designed the ark (Genesis 6:14-16) and sealed it (Genesis 7:16), and it worked as He intended.

Chapter 7

Verse 22- *of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died.*

Again, Moses employs the device of repetition to make a point- everything outside the ark that breathed air was dead, and everything inside the ark was alive.

The ark is a type of Christ. EVERYONE in Christ (the ark) is alive spiritually, safe from the coming judgment at the end of the age. EVERYONE outside of Christ is spiritually dead, storing up wrath for themselves against a holy God.

Chapter 7

Verse 23- *So He wiped out every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from mankind to animals, to crawling things, and the birds of the sky, and they were wiped out from the earth; and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark.*

This was not just a natural catastrophe. It was God using part of His creation to destroy another part of it.

God's nature is longsuffering, not endlessly suffering. His patience with man came to an end, and as a righteous Creator, He destroyed all but eight people so that mankind could start over.

His first judgment on the earth came with water. His patience with mankind will end again as He finally destroys and remakes the universe with fire.

Chapter 7

Verse 24- *The water prevailed upon the earth for 150 days.*

The torrential rain stopped after 40 days; then the water began to subside for 110 days until the ark rested on a mountaintop in the mountains of Ararat.

From the shutting of the door to the resting of the ark on a mountain top, the journey so far has been approximately five months. It will take another five months before the waters finish receding. After a final 70 days, Noah and his family would be able to leave the ark.

Next week...

Chapter 8-

“The Flood Subsides”

