



# 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)								

Copyright © 1978, 1996, 2009 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights reserved worldwide.

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. 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. 4 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*	8:6–7
	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
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*	8:14–15
377 days		1 year and 17 days in the ark	

\* Dates specified in the Scriptures, other dates are implied

Bible Knowledge Commentary



## Chapter 8

**Verse 1-** *But God remembered Noah and all the animals and all the livestock that were with him in the ark; and God caused a wind to pass over the earth, and the water subsided.*

This does not mean that God forgot Noah and the animals. The word for “remember” (*zakar*) is a covenantal word denoting God’s faithfulness.

God took three actions to end the Flood, of which the first is in this verse. He caused a wind to pass over the earth, much like the first day of creation (1:2). This could be the Holy Spirit or a natural wind to help the evaporation of water over the earth.

This could be the beginning of the current atmospheric circulation patterns. Before the Flood, it is speculated that the temperature of the earth was uniform. Now, there would be extreme heat and cold and air patterns not seen before. The water receded underground and into the air with the collapse of the canopy.

## Chapter 8

**Verse 2-** *Also the fountains of the deep and the floodgates of the sky were closed, and the rain from the sky was restrained;*

The second and third actions God took to abate the Flood waters were to stop the waters from coming up from below the earth and from the atmosphere.

The topography of the earth was forever changed as the waters recessed back into the earth.



## Chapter 8

**Verse 3-** *and the water receded steadily from the earth, and at the end of 150 days the water decreased.*

The land of the earth possibly recessed and created the vast oceans of today. Many scholars believe the high mountain ranges were formed as the water was pressurized and thrust upward from the molten core of the earth.

New oceans, lakes, and rivers were formed as the water went down for five months.

## Chapter 8

**Verse 4-** *Then in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat.*

Moses gives us a second date on the diluvial calendar. The first was in 7:11:

“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 ark rested somewhere in the Ararat mountain range located in southeast Turkey, southern Russia, and northwest Iran.

Ararat (Urartu) is mentioned elsewhere in Scripture (2 Kings 19:37; Isaiah 37:38; Jeremiah 51:27).



## Chapter 8

**Verse 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.*

It took another ten weeks after the ark landed before the tops of the highest mountains became visible.

The earth probably looked a lot different than before the Flood- Mountains that were 30,000 feet high and oceans that were 35,000 feet deep.

Psalm 104:5-9

*He established the earth upon its foundations, So that it will not totter forever and ever. You covered it with the deep sea as with a garment; The waters were standing above the mountains. They fled from Your rebuke, At the sound of Your thunder they hurried away. **The mountains rose; the valleys sank down To the place which You established for them.** You set a boundary so that they will not pass over, So that they will not return to cover the earth.*

## Chapter 8

**Verse 6-** *Then it came about at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made;*

Once the ark landed, Noah waited another forty days before opening the window in the ark. He was ready to test whether there was life or death in the world.



## Chapter 8

**Verse 7-** *and he sent out a raven, and it flew here and there until the water was dried up from the earth.*

Ravens are unclean because they eat flesh (blood) which can be prone to disease.

Leviticus 11:13-15:

*'Moreover, these you shall detest among the birds; they are detestable, not to be eaten: the eagle, the vulture, and the buzzard, the red kite, the falcon in its kind, every raven in its kind.'*

Noah sent out a raven to see if death (dead bodies) were on the earth. In comparison to doves, ravens are strong and are able to fly "here and there" as they look for carrion on which to feed. We are not told if the raven came back to the ark, but many Bible scholars assume it did not because it fed on dead bodies. Others believe that it did; otherwise, we wouldn't have ravens today unless they had reproduced while on the ark.

## Chapter 8

**Verse 8-** *Then he sent out a dove, to see if the water was low on the surface of the land;*

Unlike the raven, which would tell Noah if there was death in the world, the dove he released would let him know if there was life. Noah was testing the water level on the earth.



## Chapter 8

**Verse 9-** *but the dove found no resting place for the sole of its foot, so it returned to him in the ark, for the water was on the surface of all the earth.*

The first time Noah sent out a dove, there wasn't a place for it to land. The mountaintops were too far away, so it returned to Noah in the ark.

The dove searched "the surface of all the earth," not just a valley. Again, this is a worldwide (universal) flood.

The food for Noah's family and the animals was probably running low after a year. Noah was probably wondering what they would eat once they left the ark.

After all the cataclysmic turmoil, there is a theme of "rest." The ark rested on the mountain range. Noah (whose name means "rest") sent out a dove who could not yet find "rest."

## Chapter 8

**Verse 10-** *So he waited another seven days longer; and again he sent out the dove from the ark.*

Noah waits one week before sending out another dove to test the water level. It's interesting that Noah is observing a seven-day week and maybe observing a Sabbath during the week.



## Chapter 8

**Verse 11-** *And the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, in its beak was a fresh olive leaf. So Noah knew that the water was low on the earth.*

During the third test (one raven, second dove), Noah knows that there is life on the earth after a year because of a “fresh” (*tā·rāp*) olive leaf. This leaf had grown since they had been in the ark, so life was on in the earth.

## Chapter 8

**Verse 12-** *Then he waited another seven days longer, and sent out the dove; but it did not return to him again.*

Noah waited one week before the fourth and final test of sending out birds from the ark. This was the news for which Noah was waiting. The dove found a dry place to land and did not return, so Noah could do the same.



## Chapter 8

**Verse 13-** *Now it came about in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, on the first of the month, that 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 had dried up.*

Again, dates are given to denote the exact time of events. This is not allegory or fiction but an actual event. In essence, it's not only new year's day (first year, first month, first day) but new world day!

Noah took the covering (*mik·sêh*) from the ark. This word is used for the animal skins that covered the tabernacle (Exodus 26:14).

As Noah looked out, he saw the ground for the first time in over a year! He also could see that the ground "had dried up." This word (*harab*) will be later used to describe the ground under Joshua's feet as he led the Israelites over the Jordan river (Joshua 3:17).

## Chapter 8

**Verse 14-** *And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry.*

Even though the ground seemed dry enough, Noah waited on God to tell him when to disembark. Using a 360-day Old Testament calendar, there have been 150 days of flooding, 150 days of receding waters, and seventy days of waiting for the earth to dry.



## Chapter 8

**Verse 15-** *Then God spoke to Noah, saying,*

Noah had been in the ark for over a year but still waited on God. He had known for almost two months that the earth was dry but still waited on God as he did previously (Genesis 6:8, 22; 7:5).

Noah remained patient (even though he had to be anxious to leave the ark) and allowed God to control the timing of events.

## Chapter 8

**Verse 16-** *“Go out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and your sons’ wives with you.*

This is the third time God spoke to Noah, and it begins the exit narrative. This mirrors the time when He told Noah to enter the ark (7:1).

They were not going to break the door down and burst out. Everything would be orderly because God is orderly. The first occupants to leave would be the only eight people on the newly reformed earth.



## Chapter 8

**Verse 17-** *Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you, birds and animals and every crawling thing that crawls on the earth, that they may breed abundantly on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."*

After Noah and his family disembark, they were to "bring out" the animals after them. Every living thing was to leave the ark. It would never be used again for its purpose- to protect life against death. Mankind and animals were to leave so they could fulfill their original purpose- "be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

## Chapter 8

**Verse 18-** *So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife, and his sons' wives with him.*

Notice the pattern- First, Noah waited on a word from God (verse 15). Then, God spoke (verses 16-17). Finally, Noah obeyed what God said (verse 18). Lesson: Wait on God before acting.

Even though the loading procedure took a week, I think leaving the ark took less time, especially after a year!



## Chapter 8

**Verse 19-** *Every animal, every crawling thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by their families from the ark.*

Notice again that leaving was just as orderly as entering. This is a reversal of the entrance narrative. They exit in reverse order of entering the ark.

When they entered the ark, they did so in pairs. When they exited, it was “by their families.” Maybe the animals reproduced during their year in the ark?

This verse closes the ark narrative. It has served its main purpose, although all of its wood would probably be repurposed later for shelter or other needed items.

God’s miraculous hand can be seen in gathering the animals, them entering and living in the ark for a year and exiting in an orderly fashion. This does not happen naturally.

## Chapter 8

**Verse 20-** *Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took some of every kind of clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.*

Of note is Noah’s first act in the post-diluvian world- He will worship God. This is the first mention of an altar (*miz·bê·aḥ*) in the book of Genesis.

Noah purposefully took seven pairs of all clean animals so he could sacrifice them at this point. Animals were scarce, so these offerings were costly. We’re not sure how many animals he sacrificed on this first day in the new world.

An altar would probably be a large rock or several large rocks together. Noah would start a fire, kill the animal, and burn it completely. The word for offering (*‘ō·lōt*) also means “ascent, stairway, steps” (BDB). It has to do with the smoke going upward and being pleasing to God.



## Chapter 8

**Verse 21-** *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."*

The sacrifice made by Noah is pleasing to God. He doesn't have a nose with which to smell (John 4:24), but anthropomorphically, He smells the burnt offering and is pleased. There are other times in Scripture when He refuses to smell the offering and is not pleased (Leviticus 26:31, Amos 5:21).

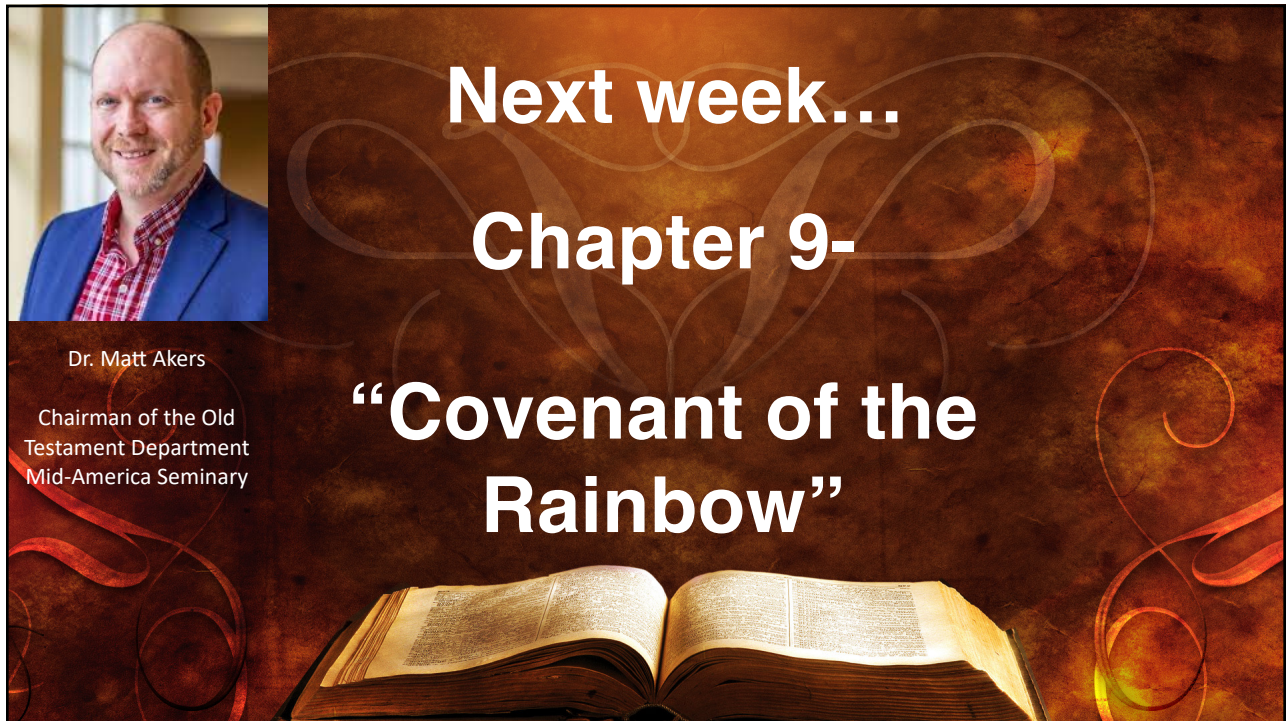
Before God makes a covenant with Noah, He makes it with Himself- The ground is cursed because of Adam, but God will not add to its curse, and He won't destroy all life in a single act.

## Chapter 8

**Verse 22-** *While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Summer and winter, And day and night Shall not cease."*

Instead of being destroyed, the earth will experience predictable patterns as long as it exists. There will be a future time when the earth will not remain, and these patterns will be broken.





**Next week...**

**Chapter 9-**

**“Covenant of the Rainbow”**

Dr. Matt Akers  
Chairman of the Old Testament Department  
Mid-America Seminary