

## Foreword

This is going to be a short lesson since a lot of the content here is reiterated from the last chapter or is somewhat repetitious from verse to verse. However, you may want to consult Answers in Genesis' articles on The Flood (<https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/>) to fill up the time.

At this point, let me remind you that AIG isn't the Bible. It's just reasonable explanations of what may have happened in there, based upon our understanding of science. I'm not endorsing it as infallible, but rather as a relatively reliable source of further information for those who want more details than we can fit in these lessons.

## Read Genesis 7:1-6

**v2** Taking more clean animals is a new detail in this chapter. This would make some sense regarding both food and sacrifice after The Flood. The stranger bit is that this is the first time we've heard of clean and unclean animals...they're not commanded or detailed until *Leviticus 11*. Maybe God had given those instructions off the record? Maybe Moses knew in retrospect that they were clean and added that clarification when writing?

**v4** Remember that vault of water above that we talked about in 1:6-7? It's possible that heavy cloud cover was emptying itself out now. This reduction of solar protection after The Flood could partially explain why lifespans started to decrease afterwards.

**v6** God warns of 40 days and nights of rain, but The Flood itself will last much longer, as we'll see.

**Q (v6, Rhetorical):** When did The Flood take place, anyway?

We can pretty safely trace it to ~1,650 years after creation, based upon the genealogy in chapter 5.

With regards to how far from today: if a literal interpretation of the days of creation in chapter 1 is taken, then based upon other major historical events that we know the dates of, The Flood was around 4,350 years ago...making the earth around 6,000 years old.

Again, this is just for reference and is based upon our current understanding of history.

## Read Genesis 7:7-16

**v11** Not only did the vaults of heaven open for rain, it looks like the subterranean springs also broke forth. These might have been what watered the earth in 1:6. Water bursting forth from below would account for some of the large changes in the Earth's landscape after The Flood.

**v14-16** As God said in 6:21, the animals came to Noah and loaded themselves on the ark. Further, God Himself shut (and we'd assume sealed) the door once everyone/thing was inside. We are ultimately incapable of saving ourselves. God is our deliverance.

**v18** The term "the waters prevailed" is used repeatedly through the end of the chapter. The author appears to be running out of words to explain the absolute devastation of this liquid cataclysm.

**v19-20** Some have claimed mention of mountains being covered is hyperbole (something I can't currently think of any clear examples of in the Bible). However, 8:5 and *Ps 104:8* confirm the event. It also continues to show that this couldn't have been some sort of local flood.

Skeptics (including my college religion professor...who was also the head of the religion department...at a private Christian college!) have pointed out that this would be an impossible amount of water, considering the height of some mountains today (~5.5mi tall). However, going back to chapter 1's lesson, the land on Earth may have been a single continent with no tectonic plate activity to push up our modern mountains yet. That is, the tallest mountains contemporary to The Flood may have only been, say, 1mi tall.

**v24** The Flood did not peak until around five months had passed. We'll read about its decrease in the beginning of the next chapter.