

GENESIS 7 & 8

Powellhust Men's Study

16 February 2023

New International Version

Learning objectives

- Locate the flood in time and space.
- Identify a source for such devastating rain.
- Know four views on the extent of the flood.
- Propose a rationale for such devastation.

Righteous in this generation

7 1 The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation.

- Go into: *boh*, often means 'come'. Where was Yahweh?
- Family: *bayit*, 'house(hold)'.
- Found: seen.
- Righteous: *ṣādīq*, just, devout.
- Generation: Descent; time from one's birth till the birth of his first son. HALOT

Clean and unclean, male & mate, every kind

2 Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, 3 and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth.

- Clean/unclean: Ceremonial, fit for offerings. Not yet a marker of edible food.
- Male/mate: *ʔiš, ʔiššâh*. Does this include Genesis 1 humans, per the 'Noah' movie?
- Male/female: *zâkâr, nikébâh*
- Kinds: *zeraʿ*, seed, offspring

Noah did all that the LORD commanded

4 Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made. " 5 And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

- Send rain: 'Yahweh had not caused it to rain on the land', Gen 2:5
- Creatures I have made: Did this include the giants?
- Forty: Would 40 days of rain drown the earth?
- Noah: *noh < nwh*, settle, rest.

They enter the ark.

6 Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. 7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. 8 Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, 9 male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

- Flood waters: From whence?
- 600 years: Personal age? Or his clan?
- Seven: Frequently of completion.
- Human beings: 'the adam'

Figures are multiples of five, some with seven added.

	Age when first son was born	Remaining years of life	Total
Adam	130	800	930
Seth	105	807	912
Enosh	90	815	905
Kenan	70	840	910
Mahalalel	65	830	895
Jared	162	800	962
Enoch	65	300	365
Methuselah	187	782	969
Lamech	182	595	777
Noah	500	[450]	[950]

U. Cassuto, Genesis, Magnes Press 1944, page 260

The springs of the great deep

11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month — on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. 12 And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

- 600th year: ANE societies assigned 1000s of years to their kings.
- Springs of the deep: Genesis 1:2.
- Flood gates of the sky: Poetry.
- *Ba'al*: had a window in to sky.



Only those in the ark were spared

22 Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. 23 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. 24 The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

- Earth: ^ʿ*ereṣ*, land, ground, soil
- People: ^ʿ*adam*, human kind
- 150 days: Including 40 days and nights
- Along the ground: ^ʿ*ereṣ*

Extent of the flood

Four major views

- It never happened: It's a myth derived from Gilgamesh.
- It was worldwide: Wiping out all life, except in the ark.
- It was local: The Mediterranean sea flowed into the ANE lowlands, before spilling into the Black sea.
- There were many local floods: Leaving the appearance of one worldwide catastrophe.

At last!

8 1 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. 2 Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky.

- Remember: *zkr*, to name, summon
- Wild animals: *hayyâh*, 'living'
- Wind: *rûḥ*, wind, spirit, life
- Heavens: or sky

Ancient navigational technology

6 After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark 7 and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. 8 Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground.

- Forty: A frequently used number.
- Raven: Flies straight seeking carrion.
- Dove: Less endurance, seeks landing.
- Birds: Ancient mariners kept birds to release to find landings.

Calendar of events

13 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. 14 By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

- One year: 360 days = lunar year, + eleven days = 365 days solar year.

Multiply and be fruitful

17 "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."

- Multiply and increase: As in Genesis 1:17, 28
- Greek Septuagint: Same verbs as in Acts of the Apostles 6:7, 12:24 16:5, 19:2

Never again

20 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. 21 The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

- Sacrificed: Neither a sin offering nor a thank offering.
- Pagan altars: To feed hungry gods.
- Evil: The human condition to this day.

Is God an ogre?

- The LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. Deuteronomy 4:24
- He kills off entire populations, clans and cities.
- Ancient human populations grew very wicked, contaminating their DNA with genetic modifications.
- He started over with purebreds.
- The Creator has a right to hold his creatures to account.
- Past judgements serve a warning to everyone.
- His ultimate aim remains to restore Eden.
- His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 2 Peter 1:3