

### **The Ark Prepared**

**Genesis 6:17** And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. 1

**Genesis 6:18** But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

**Genesis 6:19** And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. :20 Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. :21 And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.”

**Genesis 6:22** Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.2

Although God has explained that He will destroy all those on the earth, He has not yet explained to Noah how this will be accomplished. He has told Noah to build an ark, but Noah has never seen an ark. He has described the dimensions of this floating vessel to Noah, but has not yet enlightened him as to how it would be set afloat. Nevertheless, in total faith and trust in his God with whom he walks; **Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.** 12

There is little wonder it is recorded that, “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith” (Heb 11:7). 22

**Genesis 7:1** Then the Lord said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.

**Genesis 7:2** You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; :3 also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. :4 For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made.”

**Genesis 7:5** And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him.

**Genesis 7:6** Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.

**Genesis 7:7** So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. :8 Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, :9 two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. :10 And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. 3

God allowed an entire week to pass while Noah, his family, and the animals silently waited in the ark. 13

Doubtless, this was done to give the world an opportunity to repent and join those who had found safety (salvation) in God's ark, like the pause before the storm. 23

And yet, Noah's contemporaries continued their lives in revelling and drunkenness, ridicule of the righteous, and reckless disregard to the commandments of God. Luke 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: :27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. 33

**Genesis 7:11** In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. :12 And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights. 2

God is very much interested in precision, and even the numbers recorded in Scripture are to be taken seriously. 12

In verse 11 God takes note of the exact day on which the Flood began. Subterranean waters, as well as rain, contributed to the Flood. This must be considered a miracle of nature wrought by the hand of God. Simultaneously, it began to rain. At the same time the waters of the ocean (Job 38:16, 30; 41:31; Ps 106:9) and the subterranean reservoirs (Deut 8:7; Job 28:4, 10; Ps 33:7) gushed forth untold tons of water 22

**Genesis 7:13 On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark—:14 they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. :15 And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. :16 So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in. 2**

Although this judgment upon the earth would bring disaster to an unrighteous populace, nonetheless the animals and Noah were safe in the ark. 12

“The ‘shutting him’ intimated that he had become the special object of divine care and protection, and to those without the season of grace was over. Matthew 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 22

**Genesis 7:17 Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. :18 The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters.**

**Genesis 7:19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. :20 The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. :21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. :22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. :23 So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. :24 And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.4**

Was this a local flood, as some allege? Consider the following: **All the high hills under the whole heaven were covered** (v. 19). God need not have told Noah to build an **ark** equivalent to 1½ football fields in length and 800 railroad cars in volume to escape a local flood. He could easily have moved eight people and the animals to a different location. Traditions of a universal flood have come from all parts of the world. 14

The mountains of Ararat range up to 17,000 feet. The flood was **fifteen cubits** higher (vv. 19, 20). By what sort of miracle was this water kept in a localized area? In Genesis 9:15 God promised that the water would never again become a flood to destroy **all** flesh. There have been many local floods since then, but never a universal flood. If the flood was local, then God's promise has been broken—an impossible conclusion. 24

Peter uses the destruction of the world by water as a symbol of a still future destruction of the earth by fire (2 Pet. 3:6). 34

The ark is a picture of Christ. The waters depict God's judgment. The Lord Jesus went under the waters of divine wrath at Calvary. Those who are in Christ are saved. Those who are outside are doomed (see 1 Pet. 3:21). 44

### **The Water Goes Down**

**Genesis 8:1 Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided.**

**Genesis 8:2 The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. :3 And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. :4 Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. :5 And the waters**