

GENESIS

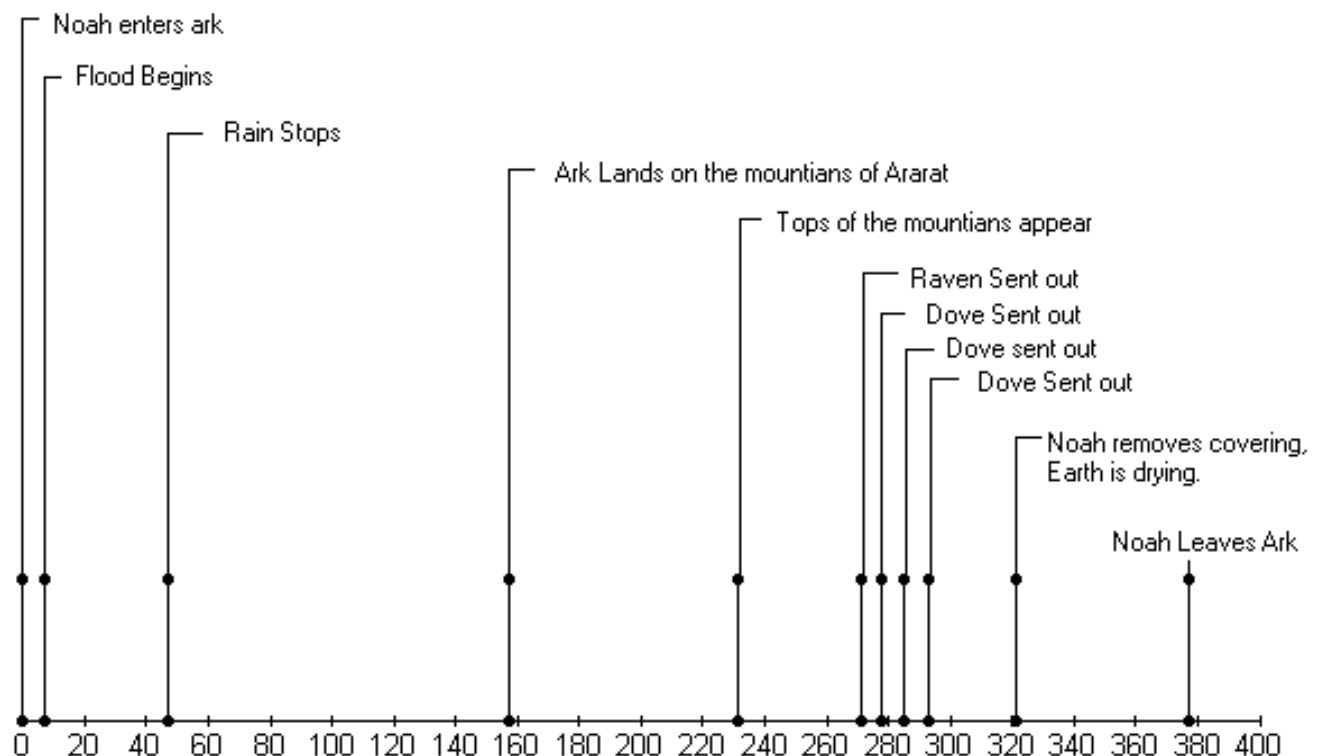
Lesson 7

God remembered Noah . . .

THE FLOOD SUBSIDES

Genesis 8:1-19

The flood came exactly as God had promised and all flesh on the earth died. The flood was universal (covering the entire earth) rising higher than the highest mountains in those days (Genesis 7:20). The flood lasted a total of 371 days. The chart below from Northwest Creation Research illustrates a timeline for the flood.¹



In Genesis 8:1, God “remembered” Noah as well as the animals on the ark. This is not to say that he was in danger of forgetting them, but rather that he took care of them exactly as he had promised.

¹ <http://www.nwcreation.net/noahsark.html>

1. Describe the drying of the earth (Genesis 8:1-3).

2. What significant event is found in Genesis 8:5?

Prior to Genesis 8:1, the earth is getting progressively worse as the flood rages. Now life on earth begins to get progressively better as the water recedes. We can only imagine the anticipation that Noah and his family felt as the flood began to subside and as they thought about leaving the ark. The window was opened on the 264th day on the ark. The raven was sent out, probably because it is a bird with excellent eyesight that can eat almost anything and had a reasonable range.



3. Describe what happened with the releasing of the dove in Genesis 8:8-12.

When the dove found the olive leaf, we learn that some of the vegetation that was on the earth prior to the flood survived. The earth was dry by the first day of the first month of Noah's 601st year. By Genesis 8:14 the earth is described as it was in Genesis 1:9 as the ground is now dry. After 371 days on the ark, Noah and his family depart.

The world following the flood was far different than before the flood. Prior to the flood the earth's temperature was comfortable, was watered by a mist, and was lush. Following the flood, some creation scientists believe there was an extended period of very unstable weather; far more violent than any storms the world experiences today. It may have taken centuries to obtain the relative stability that is present in today's world. A detailed description of what might have happened can be found at the Answers in Genesis website.²

THE COVENANT WITH NOAH

Genesis 8:20-9:17



The first act that Noah took after the flood was to construct an altar and to make a sacrifice to God. We also see why Noah took more clean animals on the ark than just one pair as with the unclean animals. Noah and his family needed animals to sacrifice to God. The promise of Genesis 8:21 is that God will not further curse the ground. It did not remove the

² <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v3/n4/dark-stormy-world>

curse of Genesis 3:17, however God will add no greater curse and furthermore, he will never destroy the earth again by flood nor will he destroy the earth in any way again until the final judgment (2 Peter 3:5-7). Genesis 3:22 does say that “while the earth remains” normal seasons will endure. These normal seasons will continue until the day of the Lord (2 Peter 3:10-13).

4. **What command is given to Noah and his sons in Genesis 9:1? (Where have you seen this command previously?)**
5. **What is the meaning of Genesis 9:2?**
6. **What new permission is given to man in Genesis 9:3 (see also Genesis 1:29) and what prohibition is given in 9:4?**
7. **What is the teaching of Genesis 9:5-6 and how does this confirm the value of man?**
8. **From where does the value of man originate (Genesis 9:6)?**
9. **What does the rainbow (the sign of the covenant) signify (Genesis 9:11-17)?**

The story of the Flood is interpreted typologically by Peter in 1 Peter 3:20-21. Noah and his family were saved by their obedience to God as they passed through the flood waters into a renewed world. Peter likens baptism to the Flood. In baptism, believers pass through the water of baptism to a new life.³ In both instances, it is not the water that saves, but obedience to God; yet in both cases the water marks a dividing line between those who are saved and those who are lost.

Furthermore, the Flood tells us five great truths about God’s judgments. 1) They are not arbitrary; 2) They are announced in advance; 3) Those in danger are given opportunity to repent; 4) God’s judgments result in death; 5) God’s divine judgments are evidence of his justice.⁴

³ Smith, James E. *Biblical Protology: Commentary on Genesis 1-11*. 2007. p. 450.

⁴ Ibid.

NOAH'S DESCENDANTS

Genesis 9:18-10:32

In Genesis 9:18, we find mentioned not only Noah and his sons, but also Canaan the son of Ham. Canaan is mentioned because he is going to be an important, but sinful character.

Sin once again enters the world, this time through Noah as he builds a vineyard and becomes intoxicated. While drunk, Noah uncovers himself indicating that he took off all his clothes and lay naked in his tent. When Ham saw his father naked, he rushed to tell his brothers. James Smith indicates that Ham showed disrespect for Noah in three ways: 1) He invaded the privacy of his father; 2) He saw his father's nakedness. The Hebrew word for saw means he "looked at" or "gazed with satisfaction." This was not an inadvertent glance; 3) He dishonored his father by failing to cover his nakedness; 4) He shared the news of his father's nakedness with his brothers, with apparent delight.⁵

Shem and Japheth honorably covered their father by walking in backward with their face turned away so that they could not see their father. When Noah awakens he curses Canaan as he looked into the future seeing that Ham's sinfulness would be also seen in Canaan from whom sprung those who lived in Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, centres of homosexual activity.

10. What blessings are given to Shem and Japheth?

11. What are some ways in which Noah is like Adam?

Genesis 10 describes in detail how the earth was repopulated after the flood. By the time of Abraham Japheth's descendants had reached to Asia Minor and Europe. The Hamitic people traveled to Africa, Canaan, and Arabia. The descendants of Shem settled in Mesopotamia and Arabia.

The detail of the list of nations is informative and demonstrates the accuracy of the Scripture. No other ancient writing outside Scripture attempts to make such a detailed listing of the nations.

Chronologically, the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11 predates this list of nations. The table is probably descriptive of the state of the nations in the time of Abraham.⁶

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.