

## The Book of Genesis

### Lesson Number 12



A MINISTRY INITIATED IN MAY 1993, AND DEDICATED TO STRENGTHENING THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST, BY BUILDING THEIR FAITH, ENHANCING THEIR JOY, AND STABILIZING THEIR HOPE, ENABLING THEM TO WORK OUT THEIR SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING.

**TRANSLATION LEGEND:** ALT=Analytical-Literal Translation (2005), AMPLIFIED=Amplified Bible (1965), ABP=Apostolic Bible Polygot with Greek Interlinear (2003); ASV=American Standard Version (1901), BBE=Bible in Basic English (1949), DRA=Douay-Rheims (1899), ERV=English Revised Version (1885), ESV=English Standard Version (2001), GNB=Good News (1966), GWN=God's Word (1995), IE=International English (1973), ISV=International Standard Version (1967), JPS=Jewish Publication Society (1917), KJV=King James Version (1611), LITV=Literary Translation of the Bible (1976), LIVING=Living Bible (1971), MESSAGE=The Message (1993), MKJV=Modern KJV (1962), MONTGOMERY=Montgomery's New Testament (2001), MRD=Peshitta-James Murdock Translation (1852), NAB=New American Bible (2002), NASB=New American Standard Bible (1977), NAU=New American Standard Bible (1995), NIB=New International Bible, NIV=New International Version (1984), NJB=New Jerusalem Bible (1985), NKJV=New King James Version (1979), NLT=New Living Translation (1996), NRSV=New Revised Standard Version (1989), PHILLIPS=J B Phillips New Testament (1962), PNT=Bishop's New Testament (1595), RSV=Revised Standard Version (1952), TNK=JPS Tanakh (1985), WEB=Webster Bible (1833), WEYMOUTH=Weymouth's New Testament (1903), WILLIAMS=William's New Testament (1937), TYNDALE=Tyndale's Bible (1526), WYCLIFFE=Wycliffe New Testament (1382), YLT=Young's Literal Translation (1862).

#### ----- GREEK LEXICON LEGEND -----

LEXICON LEGEND: FRIEBERG = Friberg Lexicon, UBS = UBS Lexicon, LOUW-NIDA = Louw-Nida Lexicon, LIDDELL SCOTT = Liddell Scott Lexicon, THAYER = Thayer's Greek Lexicon, LEH = LEH Lexicon, GINGRICH = Gingrich Lexicon

THE INSPIRED RECORD OF THE BEGINNING OF ALL THINGS: THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH, MANKIND, SIN, THE FIRST CHOSEN AND BLESSED NATION, THE FIRST CURSE, THE FIRST PROMISE, AND THE FIRST FAITH.

**DISCLAIMER:** The quoting of other translations is not to be taken as a condoning of them. My purpose is rather to show the remarkable diversity, and sometimes outright contradictions that exist among these various versions of Scripture. Our understanding of the Word of God ultimately depends upon our comprehension of the Lord

# THE FLOOD

<sup>7:1</sup> "And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before Me in this generation. <sup>2</sup>Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female. <sup>3</sup>Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth. <sup>4</sup>For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him. <sup>6</sup>And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. <sup>7</sup>And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. <sup>8</sup>Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth, <sup>9</sup>There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah. <sup>10</sup>And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth. <sup>11</sup>In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. <sup>12</sup>And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. <sup>13</sup>In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark; <sup>14</sup>They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort. <sup>15</sup>And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. <sup>16</sup>And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in. <sup>17</sup>And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth. <sup>18</sup>And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters. <sup>19</sup>And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. <sup>20</sup>Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered. <sup>21</sup>And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: <sup>22</sup>All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. <sup>23</sup>And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. <sup>24</sup>And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days." ..... Gen 7:1-24)

## INTRODUCTION

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#### A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

The flood is the greatest catastrophe that has ever occurred on the earth, and will be exceeded only by the fiery holocaust that will be the means of the appointed passing of the heavens and the earth (2 Pet 3:10-12). This is according to Scripture. It is of interest that the subject is still hotly debated in religious circles – whether this was a global flood or merely a regional one. This is in spite of the precise language that is found in the account.

- ➔ *“And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.”* (Gen 6:17)
- ➔ *“For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.”* (Gen 7:4)
- ➔ *“And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.”* (Gen 7:10)
- ➔ *“And the waters prevailed, and*

*were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.”* (Gen 7:18-20)

- ➔ *“And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.”* (Gen 7:21-22)
- ➔ *“And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark”* (Gen 7:23)
- ➔ *“And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.”* (Gen 7:24)

It is difficult to imagine any fact being made more clear than the global nature of the flood. It did not cover a land or a region, but *“the earth.”* It did not cover some mountains, but all the high hills that were under heaven. Every living thing outside of the ark, whether man, beast, fowl, or creeping thing, died in the flood. Those who insist on

saying it was a regional flood have only given a voice to their unbelief – and it is inexcusable.

The flood is a line of demarcation between the former world and the one in which we find ourselves. Thus we read about *“after the flood”* (Gen 10:1,32; 11:10). The world prior to the flood is referred to as *“the world that then was,”* and is said to have *“perished”* (2 Pet 3:6). The Spirit also called it *“the old world”* (2 Pet 2:5). Jesus referred to *“the days before the flood”* (Matt 21:38), accenting the evils of that time, and likening those days to the ones that will precede His return (Matt 24:38; Lk 17:27). Recalling that event Peter said, *“And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly”* (2 Pet 2:5).

It ought to be noted that our world, unlike the world of Noah’s day, is being *“spared”* by the Lord. In Noah’s time, only Noah was delivered. However, in this time God is saving a multitude that no man can number, gathering them into the ark of safety – the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as in Noah’s day, the world continues because of the saints – those who are preparing for the grand conclusion to the present heavens and earth.

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the highest mountains, prevailing at that level for one hundred and fifty days. Only eight people survived the flood, together with every living thing that was with them. All of this was a judgment from God because of sin that

had pervaded the world.

In the flood both the wrath and the mercy of God were made known. The precision of His power, started and ended at appointed times, was made

known. The fulfillment of what the Lord determines was also confirmed, as well as His ability to both preserve and destroy. **The intensity, duration, and effectiveness of the flood are to be duly noted and pondered.**

## GOD CALLS NOAH INTO THE ARK

<sup>21</sup> ***"And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before Me in this generation."***

The details of the building of the

- ➔ The preparation of a special window (Gen 6:16).
- ➔ The preparation of a special door (Gen 6:16).

accomplished will be the issue, just as it was with Noah. The received ones will hear, **"Well DONE"** (Matt 25:21,23). Candidly Jesus said, *"Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven"* (Matt 7:21).

Now, having completed the work required to *"prepare"* an ark, Noah hears from the Lord. The message regards what is to be done next.

### A SELECTIVE AUDIENCE

*"And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark . . ."* Other versions read, *"you and all your household,"* <sup>NKJV</sup> *"you and your whole family."* <sup>NIV</sup>

This is the household identified when God first called Noah: *"But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee"* (Gen 6:18). The sons of reference were born after Noah was 500 years old, and were named *"Shem, Ham, and Japheth"* (Gen 5:32).

Four men and four women – *"eight souls"* in all (1 Pet 3:20). Sufficient time had passed since Noah was first warned for the three sons to advance to maturity, taking wives unto themselves. Shem, we are told, was one hundred years old when he beget Arphaxad *"two years after the flood"* (Gen 11:10), which makes him 97 at the time the flood commenced, for they were in the ark for about a year.

Noah is referred to as *"the eighth person"* (1 Pet 2:5), even though he was born first. By referring to him as *"the eighth person,"* the text means **the rest of the people were saved because of their relationship to Noah.** This is one

**There is such a thing as talking constantly about what the Lord has commanded, yet not getting around to the doing of it. However, when men stand before the Lord, what they have actually accomplished or not accomplished will be the issue, just as it was with Noah.**

ark are totally omitted in Scripture. The only reference to those 120 years is, *"while the ark was a preparing,"* or *"while the ark was being built"* <sup>NIV</sup> (1 Pet 3:20). *"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). The revealed requirements are as follows:

- ➔ Choose the type of wood to be used (Gen 6:14).
- ➔ Build the Ark (Gen 6:14).
- ➔ Pitch it within and without (Gen 6:14).
- ➔ The dimensions of the ark were to be accomplished (Gen 6:15).
- ➔ The number of levels in the ark (3) (Gen 6:16)).

- ➔ The storage of food for Noah, his family, and all of the creatures with him (Gen 6:21).

**How** Noah went about accomplishing all of these things is not revealed. However, what was of critical importance was made known: *"Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he . . . And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him."* (Gen 6:22; 7:5). Keep in mind that this covered a period of 120 years – significantly longer than the average life-span of our time. Who could imagine such a thing being said of the adult portion of anyone's life today?

**There is such a thing as talking constantly about what the Lord has commanded, yet not getting around to the doing of it.** However, when men stand before the Lord, what they have actually accomplished or not

of the Divine manners that often surfaces in Scripture – that people receive grace because of another.

- ➔ God told Isaac, *"I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed **for my servant Abraham's sake**"* (Gen 26:24).
- ➔ Laban told Jacob, *"I have learned by experience that the LORD hath blessed me **for thy sake**"* (Gen 30:27).
- ➔ It is said of Potiphar, *"And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that **the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake**; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field"* (Gen 39:5).
- ➔ When the Lord determined to take the kingdom from Solomon, he tarried, not doing it while Solomon was yet alive. The revealed reason – *"Notwithstanding in thy days **I will not do it for David thy father's sake**: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son"* (1 Kgs 11:12).
- ➔ When the kingdom was taken from Saul, giving it to another, God left one tribe that was maintained separately. *"But **he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake**, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel)"* (1 Kgs 11:32). And again, *"Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand: but I will make him prince all the days of his life **for David my servant's sake**, whom I chose, because **he kept my commandments and my statutes**"* (1 Kgs 11:34).
- ➔ After king Jeroboam died, who was noted for his sin, God said, *"Nevertheless **for David's sake** did the LORD his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem"* (1 Kgs 15:4).
- ➔ God spared Judah, even though they were unworthy, revealing the reason for doing so: *"Yet the LORD*

*would not destroy Judah **for David His servant's sake**, as he promised him to give him alway a light, and to his children"* (2 Kgs 8:19).

- ➔ Jesus said of the days of fierce tribulation, *"And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: **but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened**"* (Matt 24:22; Lk 13:20).
- ➔ When speaking of our salvation, it is written, *"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as **God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you**"* (Eph 4:32).

God does not speak of the righteousness of Noah's wife, sons, or their wives. While I do not question that their lives were characterized by uprightness, as compared with profligacy, it was apparently not sufficient to justify them being saved independently of Noah.

#### THEE I HAVE SEEN RIGHTEOUS BEFORE ME

*" . . . for thee have I seen righteous before Me . . . "* Other versions read, *"for you alone I have seen to be*

*This was God's own assessment, and Noah is said to be righteous "before Me," or in the eyes of the Lord – as He sees things.*

This is the same God who said, *"there is none righteous"* (Rom 3:10). There is no contradiction in these two perspectives. **None being righteous is from the viewpoint of having no need to be justified.** That is, no one can stand accepted before God upon the basis of what they have done. That is not the issue in this text. Being justified from all things and being forever with the Lord is not the point in this text. It is rather the overwhelming dominance of sin in the world – **sin from which Noah had kept himself, maintaining as godly a demeanor as was possible in those days of limited revelation.** Therefore, in a nation that was wallowing in unbelief it was said of Zacharias and Elizabeth, *"they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless"* (Luke 1:6). Also, after the exaltation of Jesus, in the Gentile world *"There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway"* (Acts

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*righteous,"* <sup>NASB</sup> *"I have found you righteous,"* <sup>NIV</sup> *"I have seen that you alone are righteous,"* <sup>NRSV</sup> *"thee I have seen just before me in this generation,"* <sup>DOUAY</sup> *"you alone . . . have I found to be truly just,"* <sup>NAB</sup> *"I consider you godly,"* <sup>NET</sup> *"you alone of your contemporaries do I see before me as an upright man,"* <sup>NJB</sup> *"I consider you alone to be righteous,"* <sup>LIVING</sup> *"you are the only one on this earth who pleases Me,"* <sup>CEV</sup> *and "I have seen you to be righteous (upright and in right standing)." <sup>AMPLIFIED</sup>*

10:1-2). His condition did not mean he did not need a Savior, which is why he was commanded to go to someone who could declare the Lord Jesus to him. Yet, Cornelius is precisely what the text says he was.

#### THIS GENERATION

*" . . . in this generation."* Other versions read, *"in this time,"* <sup>NASB</sup> *"in this age,"* <sup>GENEVA</sup> *"the people of today,"* <sup>GWN</sup> *"of your contemporaries,"* <sup>NJB</sup> *"all the people of the earth,"* <sup>NLT</sup> *"the evil people*

of this time.” <sup>ERV</sup>

The statement made of Noah was a comparative one. Of the people living at that time – “this generation” – Noah was the only person who was righteous – i.e. he was the only man whose basic desire was to please God. That means that at this time all of the godly seed coming from Seth (Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, and Lamech (Noah’s father) had died. Methuselah is calculated to have died the year of the flood.

### GOD DOES NOT SEE EVERYONE ALIKE

It is not unusual to hear spiritual novices say that God loves everyone alike, never preferring one above another. **Apart from a desire to make sinners feel comfortable in their condition, I see no reason for such a statement being made.** The word of God certainly does not suppose such a view. God preferred Abel to Cain (Gen 4:4-5), Enoch to others of his generation (Gen 5:22-24), and Noah to the entire generation in which he lived

(Gen 6:9; 7:1). There was a preference of Abram over Terah’s other sons, Nahor and Haran (Gen 12:1). Isaac was preferred above Ishmael (Gen 21:12-13), and Jacob was chosen over Esau (Rom 9:13). The nation of Israel was chosen and preferred above all other nations (Deut 14:2). The pattern is consistent throughout Scripture!

**Thus Noah will receive Divine attention and protection that no one outside of his household received. They alone received the Divine blessing.**

## LIVING CREATURES TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE ARK

*“<sup>2</sup> Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.  
<sup>3</sup> Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.”*

There is some discretion in living creatures that are brought into the ark. In every case, **only pairs** (male and female) were to be gathered. However, there was a difference in how many pairs of each were brought aboard.

### SEVEN EACH OF CLEAN BEASTS

*“Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female . . .”*

Considering that an official

- ➡ Men were taught to sacrifice creatures as typical; as the sacrifice of Christ.
- ➡ That it was founded upon the nature of the animals, which, it is alleged, was known to all.
- ➡ The awareness was found on a conscious feeling of the human spirit, not yet clouded by any ungodly or unnatural culture. <sup>KEIL</sup>
- ➡ A Divine institution founded upon the necessity of sacrifice. <sup>Ainsworth</sup>

**The truth of the matter is that no revelation is given as to the source of the knowledge of clean and unclean beasts.** I prefer to think that the distinctions were somehow reflected in

food for mankind. There were to be seven pairs of each of these kind of living creatures, which indicates a current or planned usage of them.

### TWO OF EACH UNCLEAN

*“ . . . and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.”*

This was no small task. It required time, knowledge, observance, decision, and separation. This could not be done haphazardly. It also had to be accomplished without delay.

Here we have a confirmation that what God demands of men cannot be accomplished casually, or without due attention. **In my understanding, Jesus simply does not give men something to do that requires little of their persons, time, or effort.** Further, it does not appear as though this is generally known among professing believers.

**An involvement of the people** in a Divinely designated work is seen in the feeding of a multitude of people, as when Jesus fed the five thousand, besides woman and children (Matt 14:15-20). Ponder what the disciples were required to do on that occasion.

- ➡ Assess the situation (Matt 14:15-16-17; Mk 6:4; Lk 9:13-14; John 6:9).
- ➡ Bring the five loaves and fishes they had located to Jesus (Matt 14:18; Mk 8:4-5; Lk 9:13-14).
- ➡ Make the people sit down by

designation of clean and unclean, as defined by the Law, was not given until about a thousand years later. How were clean animals distinguished from unclean ones? A variety of explanations have been put forward.

the names Adam gave the animals (Gen 2:19-20).

I assume more clean animals were taken because they were used in sacrifices made to God, and were also

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companies, or ranks of hundreds and fifties (Matt 14:19; Mk 6:39-40; Lk 9:14; John 6:10).

➔ The disciples dispensed the food to the multitude (Matt 14:19; Mk 6:41; Lk 9:16; John 6:11).

➔ They gathered up the fragments that remained (Matt 14:12-13; Mk 6:43; Lk 9:17; John 6:12-13).

We should not expect God to ask us to do something that does not require heart, soul, mind, and strength. These are capacities He has given to us, and that are sanctified **only when employed** in His service.

#### THE FOWLS OF THE AIR BY SEVEN

*"Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female . . ."* Other versions read, *"the birds of the air,"* NKJV *"the birds of the sky,"* NASB *"the birds also of the heavens."* ASV Several modern versions omit the reference to flying in the heaven. Included in their number are, NIV, DARBY, GWN, NIB, NLT, LIVING, CEV, ERV, GNB, and THE MESSAGE.

These are the winged fowl that are specified in the creation: *"And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth"* (Gen 1:20-22). Later they are referred to as *"the fowl of the air"* (Gen 1:26,28,30; 2:19; Psa 8:8).

These are a depiction of lofty-thinking persons who are occupied with high things, and thoughts that tend heavenward, as opposed to being toward the earth. Thus they are treated as clean, with seven pairs of each being brought into the ark.

#### A Principle to be Seen

There is another principle to be seen in the ratio of the clean to the unclean – seven to one: **more of the clean than of the unclean.**

If we apply this kind of thinking to thoughts, words, and deeds, we will see the sense of thinking and speaking more of holy things than unholy things. Works should also be characterized by this measure – more for God than for men; more to honor God than to honor men or any of our peers.

It is very obvious that in the average body of people claiming to be a church, this kind of ratio is exceedingly

- ➔ Choose the type of wood to be used (Gen 6:14).
- ➔ Build the Ark (Gen 6:14).
- ➔ Pitch it within and without (Gen 6:14).
- ➔ The dimensions of the ark were to be accomplished (Gen 6:15).
- ➔ The number of levels in the ark

**If we apply this kind of thinking to thoughts, words, and deeds, we will see the sense of thinking and speaking more of holy things than unholy things. Works should also be characterized by this measure – more for God than for men; more to honor God than to honor men or any of our peers.**

rare. Such a condition should not exist.

#### TO KEEP SEED ALIVE

*" . . . to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth."* Other versions read, *"to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth,"* NKJV *"to keep offspring alive,"* NASB and *"to keep their various kinds alive."* NIV

In the process of saving himself and his family, Noah had to ensure that all of the flying fowls were kept alive. These forms of life, with a few exceptions, generally have a more tender nature and constitution. In my thinking, they probably required some special care, particularly in the area of feeding. Yet, Noah was responsible for them – to keep them alive.

Once again, behold the absence of self-centeredness. Even though Noah and his family were in an ark, and were the only representatives of the human race, yet they were responsible for the care of other forms of life. This is the manner of God's dealings with those He chooses.

#### Some Things Noah Had To Do

Ponder once again all of the things Noah was required to do.

produced (Gen 6:16)).

- ➔ The preparation of a special window (Gen 6:16).
- ➔ The preparation of a special door (Gen 6:16).
- ➔ The storage of food for Noah, his family, and all of the creatures with him (Gen 6:21).
- ➔ Distinguish between clean and unclean animals (Gen 7:2).
- ➔ Be careful to ensure that seven pairs of clean animals, and one pair of all other animals were brought into the ark (Gen 7:2).
- ➔ Take care to bring into the ark seven pairs of all fowl that flew in the air (Gen 7:3)
- ➔ Keep the fowls alive while on the ark, in order to preserve their seed (Gen 7:3).

Let no one think of salvation as something that is minor, requiring little or no time and involvement of the ones being saved! **This is the first Scriptural example of someone being saved, or**

delivered, and it sets the tone for all other references to salvation.

Let all men refuse views of salvation that allow for disinterest and idleness! **No person who lacks a fundamental interest in truth should be received by the church.** This is altogether too common in our day, and is a blight yielding death toward God. A certain militant posture against such views is required.

### The Necessity of Keeping Certain Thinking Alive

There are some kingdom thoughts and revealed perspectives that must be kept alive, like the living creatures placed in Noah's care. Scripturally identified, this would be *"the foundations."* As it is written, *"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"* (Psa 11:3). The presence of new religious trends, theological novelties, and the likes is

not good. It is actually nothing more than a fleshly effort to solicit interest among the disinterested in a professed religious cause. These are the devil's ploy and are to be rejected.

Godly and foundational thinking must be kept alive – revealed views that put God and His purpose in the proper place, make Jesus indispensable, and properly represent men, the world, sin, and righteousness.

## YET SEVEN DAYS

*"<sup>4</sup> For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth."*

"rain" is found in Genesis 2:5: *"And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth,*

*the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."* (Gen 1:2)

**Let it be clear that if he had delayed to do what he was commanded, there was not sufficient time to complete the work now**

The Lord now gives Noah adequate warning to finalize everything he was given to do. **Let it be clear that if he had delayed to do what he was commanded, there was not sufficient time to complete the work now.** This was too late to commence building the ark, or begin to gather the animals and make the appropriate selections from them.

### IN SEVEN DAYS GOD WILL CAUSE RAIN

*"For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights. . ."* Other versions read, *"I will send rain,"* <sup>NIV</sup> *"make it rain,"* <sup>CSB</sup> *"I will make it rain upon the earth,"* <sup>NLT</sup> *"I will begin forty days and nights of rain,"* <sup>LIVING</sup> *"I will bring rain,"* <sup>ABP</sup> and *"I will dump rain on the earth."* <sup>MESSAGE</sup>

In all of Scripture, this is the first reference to rain actually coming upon the earth. The only other mention of

*and there was not a man to till the ground"* (Gen 2:5). The watering of vegetation was caused by a "mist" which *"went up . . . from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground"* (Gen 2:6).

One hundred and twenty years earlier, God had said to Noah, *"And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die"* (Gen 6:17).

**He then assigned Noah enough work to do to keep him busy until that time came.** That again is the Divine manner – give plenty of warning, and assigning work to do in preparation for what He has said He will do.

### A Divine Manner

The Divine manner is to prepare for what God has determined will take place.

➔ **PREPARATION FOR THE CREATION.** *"And*

➔ **ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE FROM EGYPT.** *"But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt."* (Acts 7:17)

➔ **ISRAEL'S RELEASE FROM BABYLON.** *"In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem."* (Dan 9:2)

➔ **THE ENTRANCE OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD.** *"And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not"* (Luke 3:15)

➔ **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.** *"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."* (Luke 21:28)

**If there is one thing in which our current generation is especially weak, it is preparing for the end of all things and the coming of the Lord!**

### EVERY LIVING THING WILL BE DESTROYED

*" . . . and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth."* Other versions

read, *"all living things that I have made,"* <sup>NKJV</sup> *"I will blot out from the face of the land every living thing that I have made,"* <sup>NASB</sup> *"I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made,"* <sup>NIV</sup> *"so I will wipe out from the surface of the earth every moving creature that I have made,"* <sup>SEPTUAGINT</sup> *"and all the animals and birds and reptiles I have made will die,"* <sup>LIVING</sup> *"I'll make a clean sweep of everything that I've made,"* <sup>MESSAGE</sup> *"every living substance and thing that I have made I will destroy, blot out, and wipe away from the face of the earth."* <sup>AMPLIFIED</sup>

All forms of life were to be destroyed on the earth – vegetation, and living creatures, in whom was *"the breath of life."* When God was finished the only things alive would be those who were in the ark of safety.

I have already pointed out that there were probably a staggering and unimaginable number of people who would perish in the flood. Unparalleled forms of vegetation would also be destroyed, and a vast array and number of various living creatures. The earth would be baptized with water, and

would be thoroughly cleansed of the defilement caused by mankind. **The mind of man is not capable of processing the magnitude of the destruction caused by the flood.**

This is acquainting us with the reality of God getting rid of something. In this case, it was a world. Other times it was a person, a group of persons, a city, or an empire. **For those in Christ it is refreshing to ponder the destruction of the devil, principalities and powers, all forms of sin, and the wicked themselves.**

## NOAH DID ALL THAT THE LORD COMMANDED

*"<sup>5</sup> And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him."* Other versions read, *"And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him,"* <sup>NIV</sup> *"And Noah did everything which the Lord said he was to do,"* <sup>BBE</sup> *"ordered him to do,"* <sup>CJB</sup> *"As much as gave charge to him, the Lord,"* <sup>ABP</sup> and *"told him to do."* <sup>ERV</sup>

This is not the first time Noah's obedience has been noted. *"Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he"* (Gen 6:22). His obedience is mentioned three times in this chapter.

➡ *"And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him"* (Gen 7:5).

➡ *"There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah"* (Gen 7:9).

➡ *"And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in"* (Gen 7:16).

**Deliverance is always set within the context of obedience, and never within the context of disobedience.**

We have already been exposed to the enormity of what Noah was commanded to do. God did not suggest he do those things, or select from them what he considered to be the most necessary. **He did everything God**

**ordered him to do.** He selected the appropriate wood. He constructed the ark as he was told. He made an appropriate window, and set a door in the side – all according to what the Lord commanded him to do. He pitched the ark within and without. He built it with three stores, and all according to the precise measurements that were given to him. He filled the ark with appropriate food for himself, his family, and all of the animals. He made the appropriate selection of the animals, and made sure the correct number and gender of every kind of animal was

extensive than the flood of Noah's day. This time the destruction will be by fire, and even the elements will melt with fervent heat (2 Pet 3:10-12).

**We too have been commanded what we are to do.** Here are some of the assignments.

➡ *"Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may*

**Those in Christ are presently preparing for a destruction of which they have been duly apprised. God has said this one will be more total and extensive than the flood of Noah's day.**

represented in the ark. Now, he is one week away from what he has been preparing for during the past one hundred and twenty years. He is ready, having done everything he was commanded to do!

### THE APPLICATION

Those in Christ are presently preparing for a destruction of which they have been duly apprised. God has said this one will be more total and

*open unto him immediately"* (Luke 12:35-36).

➡ *"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God"* (2 Cor 7:1).

➡ *"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand*



**The failure to do these things is equivalent to Noah not building the ark, or failing to build it according to the specifications. In such a case, he would not have been ready for the flood, and would have perished with the rest of the people.**

against the wiles of the devil" (Eph 6:11).

➔ "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Phil 2:12-13).

➔ "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col 3:1-2).

➔ "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (1 Tim 6:12).

➔ "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb 12:1-2).

The failure to do these things is equivalent to Noah not building the ark, or failing to build it according to the specifications. In such a case, he would not have been ready for the flood, and would have perished with the rest of the people.

Although the church should be characterized by even greater sobriety and devotion than Noah, most people know it is nowhere near the faith and determination possessed by Noah. To assume that men can be saved in such a condition is a betrayal of an astounding level of spiritual ignorance. It is a most grievous and dangerous condition. When there has been an abundance of revelation a corresponding abundance of faith is expected. Where this does not exist, we have no alternative but to conclude the testimony of God has not been believed. If this is, in fact, a proper assessment, then we must recall the words of our Lord: "He that believeth not, shall be damned" (Mk 16:16).

The flood of Noah's day is confirmation of the truth of our Lord's statement. There is no possible way for an unbeliever to survive the coming of the Lord!

## NOAH WAS SIX HUNDRED YEARS OLD

"<sup>6</sup> And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. <sup>7</sup> And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. <sup>8</sup> Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth, <sup>9</sup> There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah."

What appears to be redundancy throughout this account is really an emphasis. It is underscoring that salvation is carried out in an environment of obedience and extended effort. No person can afford to be confused about this circumstance.

Unfortunately, there is a general

spirit of slumber that has enveloped the modern church. It is living and planning as though this world was the primary one, and time was endless. As a rule, professing Christians are not ready for the coming of the Lord, when the dead will be raised to stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Noah was ready for the word that is now delivered to him. His faith has moved him to work diligently, and his work has sensitized his spirit and prepared him for the coming event.

### NOAH WAS SIX HUNDRED YEARS OLD

"And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. . ."

Not only was Noah six hundred

years old when the flood came, Methuselah died during the year of the flood. This can be easily calculated as is seen in the following table. We do not know the time during that year when Methuselah actually died.

METHUSELAH DIED THE YEAR OF THE FLOOD		
EVENT	YEARS	TOTAL AGE
Begets Lamech	187	187
Lamech begets Noah	182	369
Noah begets Shem, Ham, and Japheth	500	869
Noah 600 at Flood	100	969

This is one hundred and twenty

years after Noah was commissioned to build the ark (at the age of 480), and one hundred years after Noah begat "Shem, Ham, and Japheth" (Gen 5:32).

### NOAH AND THOSE WITH HIM WENT INTO THE ARK

"And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. . . ." Other versions read, "to escape the waters of the flood," <sup>NIV</sup> "because of the flowing of the waters," <sup>BBE</sup> and "to be saved from the flood." <sup>ERV</sup>

One hundred and twenty years earlier God said to Noah, "But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee" (Gen 6:18). Now the appointed time has arrived. The world had been given one hundred and twenty more years. This was not a time allotted for their possible repentance. It was rather the time given to Noah to finish the ark (1 Pet 3:20).

Noah did not engage in any effort to get others into the ark. God had already made the determination that Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives would be **the only ones** to enter the ark. The covenant was made with them, **and them alone**. It was not possible that the number could be enlarged. God had allotted sufficient time for the correction of the morality of humanity. That period only confirmed their condition could not be improved.

When it says that Noah and those with him went into the ark "because of the waters of the flood," it does not mean that the waters were already beginning to rise, and they went in because of that. Actually, they entered the ark seven days before the deluge commenced, as the first, fourth, and tenth verse confirm.

### The Application

There does come a time when nothing can be done about the human condition. This time is known only to God – but it is known to Him.

- ➡ There are those, for example, who receive not the love of the truth in order that they might be saved. God's response to such is to send

them "strong delusion" in order that they might "believe a lie," and "be damned" (2 Thess 2:10-11).

- ➡ Jesus also said there was a sin "hath never forgiveness" (Mk 3:29) – "neither in this world, neither in the world to come" (Matt 12<sup>32</sup>).
- ➡ It is also written that there is a condition in which it is "impossible . . . to renew them again unto repentance" (Heb 6:4-6).

Our theology must not be loosely

pasture" (John 10:9).

- ➡ "Therefore whosoever **heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them**, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock" (Mat 7:24).
- ➡ "And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31).
- ➡ "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and

**Our theology must not be loosely stated. It is not true that anyone can be saved, or that everyone can be delivered – and Scripture never states such a thing. The possibility of being saved is always carefully stated, and is to be pondered with sobriety.**

stated. It is not true that anyone can be saved, or that everyone can be delivered – and Scripture never states such a thing. The possibility of being saved is always carefully stated, and is to be pondered with sobriety.

- ➡ "And it shall come to pass, that **whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved**" (Acts 2:21; Rom 10:13).
- ➡ "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not **the love of the truth**, that they might be saved" (2 Thess 2:10).
- ➡ "He that **believeth and is baptized** shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).
- ➡ "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that **endureth to the end shall be saved**" (Mat 10:22).
- ➡ "I am the door: **by Me if any man enter in**, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find

**shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved**" (Rom 10:9).

- ➡ "And the Spirit and the bride say, **Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely**" (Rev 22:17).
- ➡ "And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, **If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest**. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:36-37).
- ➡ "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, **If any man thirst**, let him come unto me, and drink" (John 7:37).
- ➡ "He that **believeth on me**, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38).
- ➡ "I am Alpha and Omega, the

**Just as the living creatures were drawn to Noah for salvation and sustenance, even so there are those who are drawn by God to Jesus Christ to be saved, nourished, and prepared for eternity with the Lord. Candidly, that is a very pleasing arrangement.**

beginning and the end. I will give unto **him that is athirst** of the fountain of the water of life freely" (Rev 21:6).

Admittedly, this is a technical point. Yet, it must be made – especially to our generation. Statements like the following are questionable, to say the least.

- ➡ "God can save anyone."
- ➡ "It doesn't make any difference what you have done, God will save you."
- ➡ "God loves you, no matter what you have done."
- ➡ "You cannot do anything that will make God love you less."
- ➡ "God loves you just as much as He loves anyone else. He loved Judas just as much as He loved Paul."

Such sayings may sound as though they will create a kind of hope, and an incentive to come to the Lord. But this is not the approach reflected in the record of Scriptural appeals to men. Such statements are more psychological than spiritual, and really have no place in the Divine vocabulary.

#### **SPECIFIED ANIMALS WENT INTO THE ARK**

*"Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth, There went in two and two **unto Noah** into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah."*

It appears that Noah and his family entered the ark first, and the animals entered in afterward, coming in orderly, in pairs – male and female – going in *"unto Noah."* Other versions read, *"to Noah,"* <sup>NKJV</sup> *"with Noah,"* <sup>RSV</sup> *"came to Noah to go into the ship."* The idea is

not that they accompanied Noah, but that they went into the ark on the same day. I prefer the text that says that went *"unto Noah."* That seems to me to fit better with the overall passage which has Noah being responsible for the animals getting into the ark. This could have been done by driving them into the ark, or by drawing them to Noah. I prefer the latter.

#### **A Picture Of Salvational Drawing**

In this we have another marvelous picture of the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory (2 Tim 2:10). Jesus taught, *"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day"* (John 6:44). And again, *"Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto Me, except it were given unto him of My Father"* (John 6:65).

Viewed from another perspective, the saved are *"given"* to Jesus by the Father (John 6:39; 17:7,9,11,24; Heb 2:13). Again Jesus confidently affirmed, *"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out"* (John 6:37).

**Just as the living creatures were drawn to Noah for salvation and sustenance, even so there are those who are drawn by God to Jesus Christ to be saved, nourished, and prepared for eternity with the Lord. Candidly, that is a very pleasing arrangement.**

## **THE FOUNTAINS AND WINDOWS WERE OPENED**

<sup>10</sup> *And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.* <sup>11</sup> *In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.* <sup>12</sup> *And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.* <sup>13</sup> *In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark;* <sup>14</sup> *They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind,*

*and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort.* <sup>15</sup> *And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life.* <sup>16</sup> *And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in."*

#### **THE FLOOD WATERS WERE UPON THE EARTH**

*"And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth . . ."* Other versions

read, *"the flood came upon the earth,"* <sup>NASB</sup> *"came over all the earth,"* <sup>BBE</sup> *"engulfed the earth,"* <sup>NET</sup> and *"the flood appeared on earth."* <sup>NJB</sup>

This expression denotes the commencing of the flood. It does not mean the earth was covered, but that the covering began.

Note that the flood commenced precisely when God said it would: *"after seven days"* (Gen 7:4).

#### **IN THE SIX HUNDREDTH YEAR OF NOAH'S LIFE**

*"In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month . . ."*

It is interesting to note that time was not reckoned on the basis of the age of the earth 1550-1650 years). It is rather reckoned according to Noah's age, and it is very precise: six hundred years, two months, and seventeen days. I can see how the age of the earth at that point was of no real consequence. There was to be a new beginning, and the time of it would be reckoned according to the age of the chief survivor of "the old world."

### FOUNTAINS OF THE GREAT DEEP AND WINDOWS OF HEAVEN

*" . . . the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened . . ."* Other versions read, *"the great deep burst forth and the floodgates of heaven were opened,"* NIV *"all the sources of the watery depths burst open, the floodgates of the sky were opened,"* CSB *"all the deep springs burst open. The sky opened,"* GWN *"all the fountains of the abyss were broken up, and the flood-gates of heaven were opened,"* SEPTUAGINT *"the springs of the great deep burst through, and the sluices of heaven opened,"* NJB *"in this day have been broken up all fountains of the great deep, and the net-work of the heavens hath been opened,"* YLT *"the water under the earth started gushing out everywhere. The sky opened like windows,"* CEV *"the springs under the earth broke through the ground, and water flowed out everywhere. The sky also opened like windows and rain poured down,"* ERV *"all the underground springs erupted and all the windows of Heaven were thrown open."* MESSAGE



The Fountains off the Great Deep

Considerable is known of subterranean, or underground waters. Bodies of water such as rivers, lakes, and even an ocean have been discovered. During the time of the flood, there may have been even more of these bodies of waters, supplying the "mist" that watered the earth (Gen 2:6). Many authorities are persuaded that the waters of the vast oceans of the earth are fed largely by these underground rivers.

These bodies of water were loosed upon the earth during the flood, gushing out above ground, and contributing significantly to the flood. It is considered that the "fountains" also included volcanoes that spued their hot lava throughout the world. It is this water/lava combination that enabled the fossil record to be formed.

#### EXAMPLES OF SUBTERRANEAN WATERS

- ➔ The Disu Subterranean river in Du'an, Guangxi Province, China is the longest known subterranean river till now. It goes down no less than 50 kilometres.
- ➔ The Križna cave system in Loška dolina, Slovenia includes 22 subterranean lakes
- ➔ The Lost River in the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia disappears underground and reappears as the Cacapon River
- ➔ The Mojave River in southern California flows underground in most places
- ➔ The Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park in Vietnam has an underground river flowing through its cave system
- ➔ The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River on the island of Palawan, Philippines flows underground before emerging into the South China Sea
- ➔ The Santa Fe River in northern Florida drops into a large sinkhole in O'Leno State Park and reappears in the adjacent River Rise Preserve State Park, 3 miles (4.8 km) downstream
- ➔ The Sistema Sac Actun is an underwater cave system near the Caribbean coast of the Yucatan Peninsula. Some fish (such as the Amblyopsidae) and other troglobite organisms are adapted to life in subterranean rivers and lakes.
- ➔ Huge Underground "Ocean" Found Beneath Asia. Richard A. Lovett for National Geographic News, February 27, 2007: "A giant blob of water the size of the Arctic Ocean has been discovered hundreds of miles beneath eastern Asia, scientists report."

➔ Divers exploring a maze of underwater caves on Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula have identified what may be the longest underground river in the world. The waterway twists and turns for 95 miles (153 kilometers) through the region's limestone caverns, said British diver Stephen Bogaerts, who made the discovery with German colleague Robbie Schmittner. In a straight line, the system would span about six miles (ten kilometers) of land.

#### The Windows of Heaven

It appears that the firmament that separated the waters above from the waters beneath (Gen 1:6) was not functional during the flood. Thus the mass of water above the earth poured profusely upon the earth in the form of unimaginable and torrential rain.

#### FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS

*"And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights . . ."* Other versions read, *"the flood came upon the earth for forty days,"* NASB *"For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth,"* NIV *"the flood continued forty days on the earth,"* NRSV *"and rain came pouring down on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights,"* GWN *and "heavy rain fell on earth for forty days and forty nights."* NJB

This staggering outpouring of water continued for forty consecutive days. It did not stop, and it did not diminish. I gather that the fountains beneath the surface of the earth, together with volcanic eruptions all over the world kept profusely spewing their contents upon the earth as well.

This is precisely what God, seven days prior, told Noah He was going to do: *"For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth"* (Gen 7:4). So far as the record is concerned, He did not make known that the fountains of the deep would be opened as well. If this is true, the actual flood was worse than the first revelation indicated.

#### a Divine Manner

This seems to be a manner of God. Not that He is deliberately understating the case. It is rather owing to the inability of mankind to fathom the works of God (Job 9:10; Rom 11:33).

For example, when *“the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men”* (Rom 1:18), **it will be far greater than the introductory revelations that have been given to us.** Also, when the magnitude of the glory of the exalted Christ, the adequacy of our glorified bodies, and the magnitude of the reward given to the saints of the Most High are seen in their fulness, **we will realize that we were only introduced to this magnitude while on earth.**

#### THE SELFSAME DAY

*“In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah’s wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark; <sup>14</sup> They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort . . .”*

Having given us a summation of the activity, the Spirit now returns to the details of the commencement of the flood.

At first, this statement may seem to conflict with the 7:1-4, which has Noah entering the ark seven days before the commencement of the rain. However, there is no conflict here. **Noah commenced populating the ark seven day prior the flood, and completed that work on the day the flood commenced.**

Additionally, the Spirit accents Divine precision: *“In the selfsame day.”* Noah had completed every requirement associated with entering the ark, doing so precisely in accord with the appointed commencement of the flood: *“In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month”* (Gen 7:11).

#### Parallel to Spiritual Life

Here we are also introduced to the manner of spiritual life. **It has a commencement and a culmination.** Initially, we are *“translated into the kingdom of God’s dear Son”* (Col 1:13) – even as Noah commenced his entrance seven days prior to the flood. In the interim between our translation into Christ’s kingdom and the *“entrance”* that will be ministered to us

*“abundantly”* (2 Pet 1:11), we are engaged in the required work. This includes fighting the good fight of faith and laying hold on eternal life (1 Tim 6:12). There are the requirements of mortifying our members that are upon the earth (Col 3:5), perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord (2 Cor 7:1), and putting on the new man (Eph 4:24; Col 3:10). **This compares with Noah building the ark and getting all of the animals and supplies into the ark.**

Just as there could be no salvation for Noah without fulfilling the

are apprised, was done *“as the Lord commanded.”*

#### THE LORD SHUT HIM IN

*“ . . . and the LORD shut him in.”* Other versions read, *“and the Lord closed it behind him,”* <sup>NASB</sup> *“the ark was shut by the Lord,”* <sup>BBE</sup> *“Jehovah doth close it,”* <sup>YLT</sup> *“the Lord God closed the door and shut them in,”* <sup>LIVING</sup> *“and locked the ark from outside it,”* <sup>ABP</sup> *“Then the LORD shut the door behind Noah,”* <sup>GNB</sup> and *“and the Lord shut him in and closed [the door] round about him.”* <sup>AMPLIFIED</sup>

**Unfortunately, there are people who have not done what the Lord has commanded, and yet they think they are safe in the ark.**

requirements of God, so it is with the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. When *“the end”* comes (1 Cor 15:24; 1 Pet 4:7), if we are not ready, we will no more be *“saved”* that Noah would have been if he had not been ready.

Unfortunately, there are people who have not done what the Lord has commanded, and yet they think they are safe in the ark. While there is an element of truth to the safety of those in Christ Jesus, ultimately, safety, and deliverance from the wrath of God, is not promised to anyone who has failed to make themselves ready (Rev 19:7). **It is pure presumption to assume God approves of anyone who balks at what He commands them.**

#### THEY WENT IN UNTO NOAH

*“And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him . . .”*

Again, the going of the animals to Noah in the ark is stated as it was previously: *“There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah”* (Gen 7:9). What is even more, they went to Noah in an orderly manner – in pairs of male and female. This, we

Note, the text says the Lord shut *“HIM”* [Noah] in. Actually, Noah’s wife, his three sons, and their wives, together with all of the living creatures, were *“shut in”* the ark of safety. **Yet, all of that was done under the headship of Noah.**

- ➡ **Noah** is the one who found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Gen 6:8).
- ➡ It was **Noah** who was said to have been *“a just man, and perfect in his generation”* (Gen 6:8b).
- ➡ God revealed to **Noah** that he was going to destroy every living thing with a flood (Gen 6:13).
- ➡ **Noah** is the one whom the Lord addressed concerning the preparation of the ark (Gen 6:14-16).
- ➡ God established His covenant with **Noah** (Gen 6:18).
- ➡ It was **Noah** that was commanded to select the animals to be saved (Gen 6:19-20).
- ➡ God caused the animals to come to **Noah** for selection (Gen 6:20).
- ➡ He is the one who was commissioned to load the ark with food (Gen 6:21).

- ➔ God told **Noah** the flood would be in seven days, and to commence the loading of the ark (Gen 7:4).
- ➔ The animals were drawn to **Noah** (Gen 7:9).

When it comes to individuality and the salvation of God, that salvation is certainly personal. **However, men can make too much of this.** In the case of Noah, he became the means whereby seven other people were saved. In **“eternal salvation”** Jesus Christ is the appointed means through which anyone is saved – from Adam to the end of the world. His atoning death was retroactive, and future (Heb 9:15).

### SALVATION AND BEING “SHUT IN”

**In believing on Christ, we are not actually we have entered a phase of life that is more properly likened to Noah building the ark. Being shut in the ark, according to Jesus’ own teaching, is a parallel to the coming of the Lord, and the end of the world.**

There are a number of professing Christians that liken Noah being shut in the ark to the day a person believes on Christ. Using this parallel, they conclude that once a person is saved they cannot be lost. Some go so far as to say that once you are *“born again”* you cannot be unborn. To a novice, or surface student of Scripture, these may appear to be unanswerable arguments – but they are not.

#### The Proper Comparison

First, they are making an improper parallel. In believing on Christ, we have entered a phase of life that is more properly likened to Noah building the ark. Being shut in the ark, according to Jesus’ own teaching, is a parallel to the coming of the Lord, and the end of the world. *“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in*

*marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark”* (Matt 24:37-38). In the reference to Noah in the hall of faith, his salvation was associated with him, by faith building the ark. *“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).

No one is locked into salvation prior to fighting the good fight of faith (1 Tim 6:12), keeping the faith (2 Tim 4:7), or running the race set before them (Heb 12:1-2). There is also the matter of bearing fruit (Rom 7:4), resisting the devil (James 4:4), and being *“steadfast and unmoveable”* (1 Cor 15:58). These all occur in the life of faith, which is

paralleled with Noah preparing the ark.

**They also are points at which the validity of faith is confirmed.** People are not saved by saying they believe, but by actually believing! Faith, according to the Word of God, is tested, or tried. *“Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience”* (James 1:3). It is **“after”** testing that God establishes the soul – not before it. As it is written, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you”* (1 Pet 5:8-10).

In addition to this, those who

profess faith in Christ are required to examine themselves to see if they are really in the faith. *“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith”* [to see if you are in the faith’ <sup>NASB</sup>]; *prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”* (2 Cor 13:5).

**One of the besetting sins of the modern church is the promotion of mere assumption – assuming one is in Christ, with no confirming evidence to substantiate that claim.**

It is too early to boast while we are preparing the ark, so to speak. While we are in the earth, we are not in heaven yet; the race has not been finished yet; and we have not been fully changed yet. We are not out of gunshot of the devil yet!

**Our salvation is only as secure as our faith** – for, from beginning to end, salvation is *“by grace through faith”* (Eph 2:8). We are even *“kept by the power of God through faith”* (1 Pet 1:5). Childish and foolish reasoning really has no place in our walk with God.

#### Other Comparisons

Other comparisons to the probationary nature of working out our own salvation with fear and trembling are as follows.

- ➔ **THE DEVIL.** Satan was really in heaven (Job 1:6; 2:1). He was the anointed cherub (Ezek 28:14). Yet, after seeking to exalt himself, he was expelled from heaven (Lk 10:18; Rev 12:9).
- ➔ **THE FALLEN ANGELS.** There were a large number of angels that once were in heaven. Yet they *“kept not their first estate,”* having *“left their own habitation.”* Now they are *“reserved in everlasting chains of darkness unto the judgment of the great day”* (Jude 1:6).
- ➔ **ADAM AND EVE.** Adam and Eve were created in total innocence by God (Gen 1:26-27). They were placed in the Garden by God (Gen 2:8). They were also expelled from the Garden by God (Gen 3:23-24).
- ➔ **ISRAEL.** The Israelites really did walk out of Egypt (Ex 13:16). They

really did cross the Red Sea (Ex 14:21-22; 1 Cor 10:1-2). They actually ate miraculous bread (Deut 8:16; 1 Cor 10:3), and drank miraculous water (Ex 17:6; Num 20:11; Psa 78:15-16; 114:8; 1 Cor 10:4). Yet many of them (over 600,000) did not get into Canaan because of their unbelief (Psa

78:32-33; Num 14:28-32; 1 Cor 10:5). These are the same people who crossed the Red Sea by faith (Heb 11:29).

➔ **JUDAS.** Judas was really an apostle (Matt 10:4). He was involved in Christ's ministry, partaking of it (Acts 1:17). Yet he fell "by

*transgression,*" going to "his own place" (Acts 1:26). Jesus said it would have been better if he had never born (Mk 14:21).

No person in Christ should be satisfied with, or tolerant of, erroneous positions and explanations. It is a most unbecoming trait.

## FORTY DAYS

" <sup>17</sup> **And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.** <sup>18</sup> **And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters."**

### FORTY DAYS

"And the flood was forty days upon the earth . . ." Other versions read, "the flood came upon the earth for forty days," <sup>NASB</sup> "For forty days, the flood kept coming," <sup>NIV</sup> and "The flood [that is, the downpour of rain] was forty days upon the earth." <sup>AMPLIFIED</sup>

The word "flood" can be used to describe a process, or the result of the process. In this text is used as a process – the means through which the earth was covered with water.

When God revealed this judgment to Noah He said, "And, behold, I, even I, do **bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die**" (Gen 6:17).

This is precisely what happened, as the earth was pummeled with water from above, and augmented by water from the fountains beneath the earth, for forty consecutive days. There was no letup, no relief, no indication that the deluge was ever going to cease. Only Noah was told this flood would be active for forty days. All hope of the wicked was destroyed during that time.

Earlier this year (2011), a profound rain fell in a neighboring State – Oklahoma. Ten inches of rain fell in a little over one hour, and it created havoc for the people. Imagine rain

falling at a rate that was infinitely larger, and doing so uninterrupted for forty days over the entire earth. Whatever you picture in your mind is not to compare with the actual circumstance of the flood.

### A Picture of Divine Wrath

The flood was a small picture of the wrath of God being poured out. **Once it is unleashed against the ungodly – those who know not God, and obey not the Gospel** (2 Thess 1:8) – **it will come in increasing waves of intensity that will only step-up, and never decrease.** The difference will be that no one toward whom this wrath is focused will ever be able to find relief from it. This circumstances is reflected in the arresting words, "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:43-44).

**We live in a generation that has not heard much about the wrath of God or "hell fire"** (Matt 18:9). They have been deprived of some of the counsel of God. When they hear of "hell," "damnation," etc., they philosophize on the subjects rather than believing them. Those who have purposefully avoided ministering on these subjects have put the sleeping multitudes at a great disadvantage. They will not be able to escape the response of God to their unfaithfulness.

### THE WATERS INCREASED AND BARE UP THE ARK

" . . . and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth . . ."

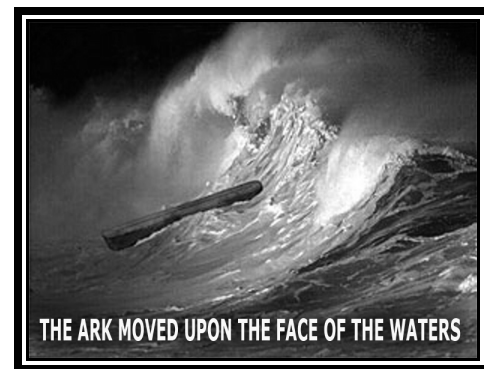
### THE WATERS PREVAILED

"And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth . . ." Other versions read, "swelled and increased greatly," <sup>RSV</sup> "the water grew higher," <sup>CJB</sup> "the water abounded greatly," <sup>SEPTUAGINT</sup> "the waters grew deeper," <sup>NLT</sup> "the waters multiply," <sup>YLT</sup> "the roaring floods prevailed," <sup>LIVING</sup> and "the water became deeper and deeper." <sup>CEV</sup>

The flood was an event that contradicted all of the laws of nature. The emptying of the skies and the fountains of the great deep being opened were not random acts. It is absolutely impossible for such an event to occur again – and we have the word of the Lord on that (Gen 9:13-15).

**This being true, the earth worshipers are wrong.** The term "mother earth" is wrong. The environmentalists are wrong. God is in control of the environment, not nature. Nature does not and will not break down at the behest of men. It is controlled by God alone.

### THE ARK WENT ON THE FACE OF THE WATERS



" . . . and the ark went upon the





face of the waters." Other versions read, "moved about on the face of the waters," <sup>NKJV</sup> "floated on the surface of the waters," <sup>NASB</sup> "the ark was carried upon the waters," <sup>DOUAY</sup> "the and the ark was borne upon the water," <sup>SEPTUAGINT</sup> "drifted away over the waters," <sup>NJB</sup> and "the boat floated safely upon it." <sup>LIVING</sup>

The ark did not have a rudder, and was not controlled by sails. It was not moving along on a humanly charted course, and was in no way controlled by Noah. The waters moved the ark under the control of God Almighty,

without any human intervention at all. Yet, the ark was not dashed to pieces by the ferocity of the flood, and the opening of the fountains of the deep. Commenting on this circumstance Peter says of the ark, "wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water" (1 Pet 3:20). **The very same waters that destroyed everything else "saved" Noah and those with him, safely carrying the ark about on its surface.** The ark did not sink, and was not overwhelmed by the dashing waves. **All of this was controlled by the mighty God of heaven.** No man, however gifted in building, could have planned and built an ark capable of withstanding the flood.

#### A Lesson to be Learned

There is a remarkable lesson to be learned here. **Life in Christ is like a voyage through the world and time.** If we removed God and Christ from our consideration, the voyage is destined to end in destruction. **However, in Christ the trials that cause others to fall, become the appointed means by which**

**we are saved.**

Like Noah, we cannot become absorbed with what is going on outside of the ark. The focus of our attention is within the ark. Just as Noah would not have opened the door of the ark during the deluge, so we are not to open our lives to worldly influences. When we are exposed to the world, we must remain in the place of safety, else we will be destroyed. All avenues at which the world can enter must be closed off.

**As simplistic as all of this might appear, I am convinced that a proportionately small number of professing Christians see the truth of it.** I behold people who are too involved with what is going on outside of the ark of safety, and too little concerned about what is going on inside that ark. I realize there is a rationale set forth in an attempt to justify such undue attention. However, all it will take is a great judgment of God to dissipate their meager thinking, and confirm how wrong they were in maintaining a misplaced emphasis.

## THE WATERS PREVAILED

" <sup>19</sup> **And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered.** <sup>20</sup> **Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.**"

The process of the flood is something the natural mind cannot take in. It transcends anything and everything men know about nature – after 6,000 years of study and research. Whatever men may think about evolution, it ought to be evident that he has not advanced to a point where he can understand the flood. In fact, it is for this very reason that many professed scholars do not believe the Scriptural account we are now covering. They present all manner of arguments to prove that it simply could not have happened. But they are wrong, for **it is not possible that any man could have invented an account like the Scriptural record of the flood.** The human mind is not capable of conceiving such a thing.

#### THE WATERS PREVAILED EXCEEDINGLY

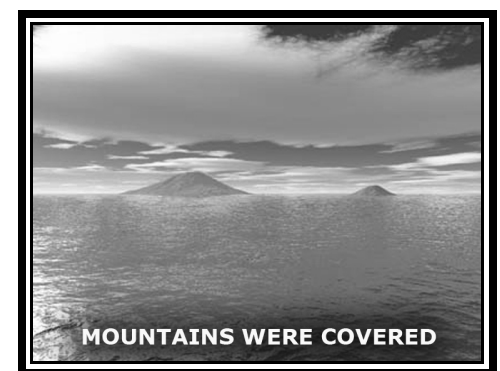
And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth . . ." Other versions read, "prevailed more and more," <sup>NASB</sup> "rose greatly," <sup>NIV</sup> "swelled so mightily," <sup>NRSV</sup> "the waters overcame everything," <sup>BBE</sup> "overpowered the earth mightily," <sup>CJB</sup> and "prevailed beyond measure upon the earth." <sup>DOUAY</sup>

**Here again we see that the earth is not superior.** It had to yield to the judgment of God, and could in no way fortify itself against that judgment. The waters of Divine judgment "prevailed," dominating the entire world.

#### ALL THE HIGH HILLS WERE COVERED

" . . . and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. <sup>20</sup> **Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.**" Other versions read, "more than twenty-two feet." <sup>NIV</sup>

The waters covered the highest parts of the earth – "all the high hills .



. . . the mountains." **That removed the last avenue of escape.** I assume that the waters continued to rise at a rapid and destructive rate, with nothing able to impede their progress. They rose to at least twenty-two and one-half feet above the highest mountain (with a cubit equal to 18 inches). Considering a cubit to be twenty-two inches, which many do, the height above the highest mountain would have been twenty seven and one-half feet – equivalent to nearly a three-story building.



The flood did not cover some of the high hills, but ***“all the high hills.”*** Across the entire landscape of the earth, nothing could be seen above the waters. There was no mountain peak jutting out of the water – no mountain range that was exempted from the curse of the flood.

### THE NATURE OF DIVINE WRATH

In the flood we are exposed to the nature of Divine wrath. We should expect such wrath to be far beyond

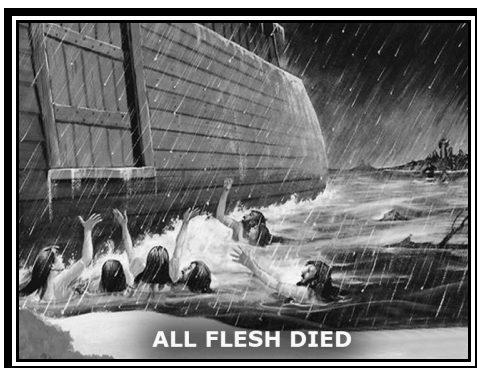
anything man can imagine. Not only is it devastating in its initial impact, but it continues to increase until its work is done. If that wrath is focused upon Sodom and Gomorrah, it will continue to surge until total destruction results. **When that wrath is poured out, there is no hiding from it within the circumference of its focus, which is most precise.** The wrath of God can focus on an individual (John 3:36), a pair of men (Lev 10:1-2), a group of 250 men (Num 16:35), a city (Jude

1:7), or a world, as in our text. Whatever the focus, nothing nor anyone within the perimeter of that wrath shall escape from it. To escape such an outpouring the person must be located outside of the pathway of the wrath.

It is no wonder that those in Christ Jesus rejoice at the word that Jesus has ***“delivered us from the wrath to come”*** (1 Thess 1:10). **That is a word that must not be casually considered.** What a great deliverance it is!

## ALL FLESH DIED

***“<sup>21</sup> And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: <sup>22</sup> All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. <sup>23</sup> And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. <sup>24</sup> And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.”***



The details of dying are not given, as they would have been more than the mind of man could process. Also they would have produced a fear with which men could not cope. One can only imagine the consternation that must have gripped those who had been within the vicinity of Noah when he was building the ark. Perhaps they had mocked and chided him, questioning his rationality. Now they knew that his

efforts were the result of a sound mind, and the door had been shut to any possibility of them being saved.

I envision them scrambling, trying to find a place of safety as the waters rise higher and higher. Finally it registers upon their minds that no higher place exists – and yet the waters continue to rise higher and higher.

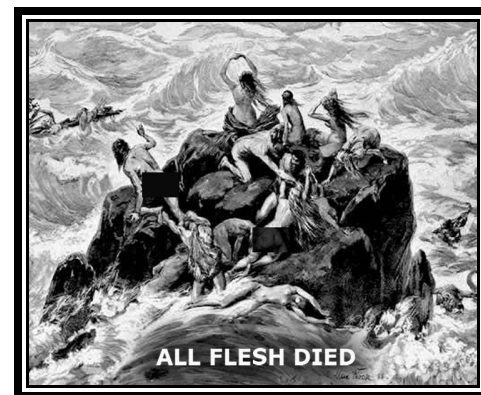
### ALL FLESH DIED

***“And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: <sup>22</sup> All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. <sup>23</sup> And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth. . .”***

The text suggests that death did not come to them instantly. All living creatures, including birds extended all of their strength to preserve their lives, but they could not. The Almighty God had decreed their death, and none could stay His hand. ***“All flesh died!”***

Remembering that very advanced civilizations existed at the time, men with all of their intelligence could not escape the judgment of God. I do not doubt that when the flood waters rose sufficiently some may have attempted to construct some kind of vessel to save themselves – although stark fear may have driven such a notion from

their minds.



God had told Noah, ***“And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die”*** (Gen 6:17). Just the words of that judgment cause the souls of men to shake. That is precisely what happened! The following classifications of life are provided.

- ➡ Man
- ➡ Fowl
- ➡ Cattle
- ➡ Beast
- ➡ Every creeping thing
- ➡ Every living substance

### EVERY LIVING SUBSTANCE DIED

***“And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground...”*** Other versions read, ***“all living things,”*** <sup>NKJV</sup> ***“every living creature,”*** <sup>GWN</sup> ***“every offspring,”*** <sup>SEPTUAGINT</sup> ***“all existence on the earth.”*** <sup>LIVING</sup>

It might appear on the surface that

there is an inclusion of plant life in the word. However, this is not the case. "Substance" here refers to living things with breath, not to plant life. **While all plant life apparently died, it was not destroyed.** As indicated later, the seed of each plant sprouted again, while nothing with the breath of life was brought back from the dead at that time. There will, of course, be a resurrection of the dead, and it will include the massive number of people who perished in the flood. Later, when Noah sent out a dove, it returned with live olive branch (Gen 8:11), confirming that vegetation began to grow again.

The thoroughness of this judgment continues to impress me.

### AND NOAH ONLY REMAINED ALIVE AND THOSE WITH HIM

" . . . and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark . . ." Other versions read, "Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive," <sup>NKJV</sup> "only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark." <sup>NASB</sup>

Notice how the emphasis is on Noah. He was not with the others, they were with him. They were not the reason he was saved, he was the reason they were saved. That is the consistent Scriptural representation (Gen 6:18; 7:1,7,13,15, 23; 7:1,15,18; 9:1,8,17; Matt 24:37, 18; Lk 17:26,17; Heb 11:7; 1 Pet 3:20).

### A PICTURE OF REDEMPTION

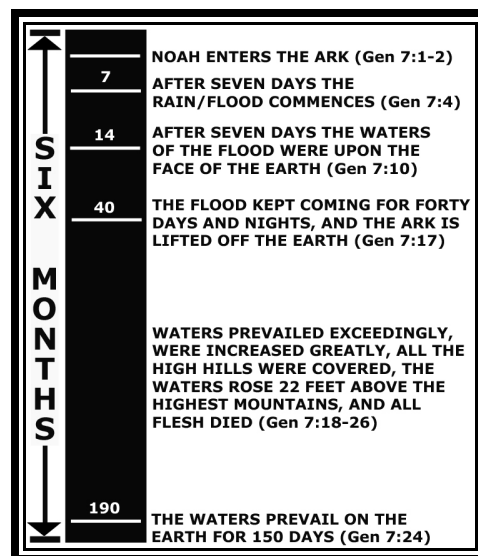
Here we have another marvelous picture of salvation. **Just as everything in the ark was saved because of Noah, everyone obtaining "eternal salvation" do so because of Jesus.** Technically, the other seven souls (Noah's wife, his three sons, and their wives) were not saved because they were in the ark, **but because Noah was there.**

So it is with the redeemed. It is the **presence** of Jesus that makes salvation effectual! In Scriptural words, we are "saved by His life" – meaning His post-resurrection life (Rom 5:10). It is remarkable that so very little is being said about this in our time. Proportionately, too much is being said about what men do to appropriate salvation, and not enough about Jesus.

### AND THE WATERS PREVAILED

#### FOR 150 DAYS

" . . . And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days." Other versions read, "the waters swelled on the earth for one hundred and fifty days," <sup>NRSV</sup> "held power over



the earth," <sup>CJB</sup> "surged over," the "surface of the earth," <sup>CSB</sup> "maintained their crest," <sup>NAB</sup> and "maintained their level." <sup>NJB</sup>

The idea is that the waters stayed at their highest level – 22<sup>1/2</sup> feet above the highest mountain – for one hundred and fifty days – five months! With the addition of the forty days of rain, that is one half of a year!

From the very first moment it began to rain, two glaring realities things increased in their evidence.

- ➔ The helplessness of man, and the utter poverty of his wisdom and strength.
- ➔ The surety of his condemnation. There was no way to avert this judgment, or cause a delay in its execution.

The maintenance of the waters at their highest level ensured that the objective of the flood was thoroughly fulfilled. That determination was stated no less than four times.

- ➔ "And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and

**the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them"** (Gen 6:7).

- ➔ "And God said unto Noah, The end of **all flesh** is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, **I will destroy them with the earth**" (Gen 6:13).
- ➔ "And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, **to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die**" (Gen 6:17).
- ➔ "For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and **every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth**" (Gen 7:4).

The thoroughness of the destruction is staggering to consider.

- ➔ "Man" (Gen 6:7).
- ➔ "Beast" (Gen 6:7).
- ➔ "Creeping thing" (Gen 6:7).
- ➔ "Fowls of the air" (Gen 6:7).
- ➔ "All flesh" (Gen 6:13,17).
- ➔ "The earth" (Gen 6:13).
- ➔ "All flesh wherein is the breath of life" (Gen 6:17)
- ➔ "Everything that is in the earth" (Gen 6:17).
- ➔ "Every living substance" (Gen 7:4).

### What About the Fish?

The only form of life that is not mentioned in the destruction is fish, or forms of sea-life. That multitudes of fish did, in fact, die, is confirmed in the fossil records, and in the staggering amount of oil that has been discovered, which is considered to be the result of massive amounts of dead fish.

At this point, we can only speculate. However, there is a plausible answer that has satisfied me, although I have never heard or read of anyone making this point. Fish could have been repopulated the same way plants were – by seed. In their case, by eggs, which fish are known to produce in very large quantities. Just as fish often migrate at certain seasons to lay their eggs, so they might have done shortly before the flood, moved along by their God-given instinct.

## CONCLUSION

We have in the flood a prototype of the second coming of Christ. At that time there will be an utter destruction of the wicked (2 Thess 1:8-9). The earth itself will be destroyed as it now exists, similar to when the wicked were destroyed in the flood (2 Pet 3:6). Just as the earth was never the same after the flood, so things will never be the same after the coming of the Lord and the passing of the present earth.

The parallel, however, breaks down, and is not exact in every detail. Jesus was careful to say *"As it was in the days of Noe . . ."* (Lk 17:26). The precise parallel will be the circumstances during which the coming of the Lord and the end of the world will occur: *"They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed"* (Luke 17:27-30). There have been periods of history particularly noted for the conduct of the world and of Sodom when the destruction came. **The godly, however,**

**were alert during such times, knowing the circumstances that would be in place when the Lord comes again.**

*promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation"* (2 Pet 3:4).

**If men do not learn from the flood to be alert and devoted, walking with God like Noah, and vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked like Lot, I do not know that there is any hope for them. Unless they are brought to a state of sobriety and consistent faith in Christ, His coming will catch them unawares, and they will surely perish.**

The irony of our day is that professing Christians have become accustomed to such decadent times. They have been lulled to sleep, content to merely identify the deplorable nature of these days. However, they do not have enough discernment to make appropriate preparations for the end of the world, even though the days are quite similar to those of the times of Noah and Lot.

Unfortunately, they are planning their lives as though things were going to continue as they are. While they may not say so with their mouth, their lives seem to shout out, *"Where is the*

**If men do not learn from the flood to be alert and devoted, walking with God like Noah, and vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked like Lot, I do not know that there is any hope for them. Unless they are brought to a state of sobriety and consistent faith in Christ, His coming will catch them unawares, and they will surely perish.**

I know of no way to avoid this conclusion, and yet there does not seem to be even a faint awareness of this within a professing church that is *"loving to slumber"* (Isa 56:10).

**Our next Hungry Saints Meeting will be held on Friday, 7/15/11. We will continue our series of lessons on the book of GENESIS. The thirteenth lesson will cover verses 1-22 of chapter Eight: THE FLOOD ENDS." The ending of the flood is directly related to God remembering Noah. It takes fifty days for the waters to abate under the influence of a special drying wind the Lord sent upon the earth. In the seventh month the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat. In the tenth month the tops of the mountains were seen. After another forty days, Noah opened the window of the ark, and sent forth a raven and a dove. After another seven days he sent forth the dove again which had returned from the first trip with an olive branch. One year after the commencement of the flood, the waters were dried, and the face of the ground was dry. God told Noah at that time to leave the ark. Our meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. You are invited to bring your family and friends for fellowship around the Word of God. Refreshments are served afterward, with a time of extended fellowship for everyone.**

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## THE WORD OF TRUTH FELLOWSHIP

WORD OF TRUTH FELLOWSHIP Website: <http://wotruth.com/wotf/wotindex.htm>

A place where believers can meet, fellowship, be edified, and express themselves.

Additional Website for Word of Truth Fellowship: <http://www.forministry.com/USMOINDPTWOTFW>

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**WORD OF TRUTH Website: <http://wotruth.com>**

### **BROTHER BLAKEY'S ON-LINE COMMENTARIES**

COMMENTARY on Nehemiah: <http://wotruth.com/nehindex.htm>

COMMENTARY on Daniel: <http://wotruth.com/Daniel.htm>

COMMENTARY on Hosea: <http://wotruth.com/hoseaindex.htm>

COMMENTARY on Romans: <http://wotruth.com/Romans.htm>

COMMENTARY on Second Corinthians: <http://wotruth.com/2Corinthians.htm>

COMMENTARY on Philippians: <http://wotruth.com/philippiansdindex.htm>

COMMENTARY on Colossians: <http://wotruth.com/Colossians.htm>

COMMENTARY on First Thessalonians: <http://wotruth.com/1stthessindex.htm>

COMMENTARY on Second Thessalonians: <http://wotruth.com/2ndthessindex.htm>

COMMENTARY on Hebrews: <http://wotruth.com/hebindex.htm>

COMMENTARY on First Peter: <http://wotruth.com/1stpetindex.htm>

COMMENTARY on First John: <http://wotruth.com/1stjohnindex.htm>

COMMENTARY on Revelation: <http://wotruth.com/revelationindex.htm>

COMMENTARY on Mark: <http://wotruth.com/Mark.htm>

COMMENTARY on Titus: <http://wotruth.com/Titus.htm>

COMMENTARY on Acts: <http://wotruth.com/Acts.htm>

COMMENTARY on Malachi: <http://wotruth.com/Malachi.htm>

COMMENTARY on Galatians: <http://wotruth.com/Galatiansindex-new.htm>

COMMENTARY on Genesis: <http://wotruth.com/Genesis.htm>

COMMENTARY on Ephesians: <http://wotruth.com/Ephesians.htm>

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## PARTICIPATING BROTHERS AND SISTERS

### A DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES DURING OUR GATHERINGS

**"Openings and Introductions"** = 7-10 minute exposition of truth to promote spiritual focus; **"Lead Singing"** – AM Songs selected by Leader, PM Songs Lead in favorites by the brethren; **"Calling"** = 7-10 minute exposition of truth designed to provoke disciplined thought; **"Sermon"** = 45 minute exposition of the things of God as revealed in Scripture; **"Exhortation"** = 5-8 minute challenge to act upon the truth we have heard; **"Table Meditation"** = 8-12 minute exposition of matters relating to Christ's role in salvation; **"Lead Scripture shower"** = Leading of the quoting/reading of Scripture without comment; **"Lead prayer session"** = Presentation of three matters for prayer that are taken from the Word of God; **"Lead Intercessory Prayer"** = A time of focused prayers for personal needs; **"Closing Scripture/Benediction"** – Closing of the AM Gathering

## SPEAKING/LEADING/MINISTERING IN THE ASSEMBLY

The Word of Truth Fellowship, Joplin, MO  
DURING JUNE, 2010

1. *Blakely, Given O.* (PM Sermon, PM Sermon).
2. *Blakely, Jonathan* (AM Exhortation, AM Calling, PM Sermon, PM Exhortation).
3. *Blakely, June* (Lead PM Prayer Session, AM Opening Word, Teach AM Class).
4. *Blakely, Mattie* (PM Introduction, Lead PM Singing).
5. *Blakely, Michael* (AM Table Meditation, AM Table Meditation, AM Table Meditation, PM Exhortation, PM Table Meditation).
6. *Blakely, Michele* (Play Piano, PM Introduction, PM Introduction).
7. *Cobb, Matthew* (PM Sermon).
8. *Cobb, Robert* (AM Table Meditation, Teach AM Class, AM Table Meditation, AM Exhortation, PM Sermon, PM Table Meditation).
9. *Dill, Sarah* (Closing Scripture/Benediction, Read AM Sermon Text).
10. *Hutchcraft, Aaron* (Teach AM Class, Teach AM Class, AM Sermon, PM Exhortation).
11. *Hutchcraft, Barbara* (AM Calling, AM Calling, Lead PM Singing, Lead PM Singing).
12. *Hutchcraft, Debbie* (Lead Scripture Shower).
13. *Hutchcraft, Gene* (Lead PM Intercessory Prayer, AM Sermon, PM Exhortation, PM Table Meditation).
14. *Hutchcraft, Judah* (Lead AM Scripture Shower, Closing Prayer/Benediction, Read PM Sermon Text).
15. *Hutchcraft, Silas* (Read AM Sermon Text).
16. *Lizcano, Antonio* (Closing Scripture/Benediction).
17. *Miller, Julie* (AM Opening).
18. *Murphy, Mariah* (Lead AM Singing).
19. *Parker, Melissa* (AM Calling).
20. *Parker, Tony* (AM Exhortation, AM Sermon).
21. *Sims, Annie* (Lead AM Singing, Lead PM Singing).
22. *Sims, Baylie* (Read AM Sermon Text, Lead PM Singing, Read PM Sermon Text).
23. *Sims Girls - Annie, Hannah, Rachel*).
24. *Sims, Ricky* (Lead AM Singing, AM Exhortation, Lead AM Singing, PM Table Meditation).
25. *Sims, Tasha* (AM Opening Word, Lead AM Scripture Shower, PM Introduction).
26. *Williams, Jeremy* (AM Sermon, AM Opening Word).
27. *Williams, Logan* (Play AM/PM Lord's Table Interlude, Lead Scripture Shower, Introduction to PM Sermon. Read PM Sermon Text).
28. *Williams, Sydney* (Read AM Sermon Text, Closing Scripture/Benediction).
29. *Preparing Lord's Supper* (Various sisters).

"THE WHOLE BODY FITLY JOINED TOGETHER AND COMPACTED BY THAT WHICH EVERY JOINT SUPPLIETH" – EPHESIANS 4:16

### THE BODY OF CHRIST

It is a fact: *"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him"* (1 Cor 12:18). He did not set them in the home, but *"in the body."* He did not place them in society, but *"in the body."* They are functioning members of the body who fill necessary functions – edifying roles in the solemn assembly (1 Cor 12:19-27). The functioning value and ministry of *"the body"* is realized when it is *"together,"* not when the people are separated. The ministry of each member is determined by their faith – *"a measure of faith"* that has been given to them in order to the *"profit"* of the entire body (Rom 12:6-8; 1 Cor 12:7). This is how the Lord has put together *"the church, which is His body"* (Eph 1:22-23). We make no apologies for the ministry of the entire body – publicly, in the assembly, and in order to the edification of the saints. This is all done in an orderly manner, with due thoughtfulness and regard for those who are in Christ Jesus, and who, in faithfulness to God who gave these various abilities. Our assemblies are designed to allow for the various expressions and insightful responses of all who are of honest and good heart, have faith, and are in, and living for, the Lord Jesus.