

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

“Lessons From The Flood”

Genesis 7:1-24

2002

Introduction

Did the Flood really occur? Was it universal or only regional? Was there really an ark, and was it large enough to hold all the animals? Where did all the water come from? These questions, and many others, are answered for us in Genesis 7.

There are more than 200 cultures which have their own account of the flood including New Guinea, North America, Brazil, Peru, Africa, Greenland, India, China, Egypt, Greece, Persia, Australia, Wales, Eastern Europe, Siberia, and Lithuania.

95% - speak of a universal flood

88% - speak of a favored family

66% - say it was because of the wickedness of man

73% - speak of animals being saved

70% - speak of a boat that saved the family

57% - say that survivors landed on a high mountain

<https://www.icr.org/article/why-does-nearly-every-culture-have-tradition-globa/>

Many of the accounts also specifically mention birds being sent out, a rainbow, and eight persons being saved.

You may be surprised to discover that there is an ancient Hawaiian flood story:

“Long after the death of Kuniuhonna, the first man, the world became a wicked, terrible place to live. There was only one good man left; his name was Nu’u. He made a great canoe with a house on it and filled it with animals. The waters came up over all the earth and killed all the people. Only Nu’u and his family were saved.”

<http://www.creationevidence.org/blog/creation-devotional-august-11-biblical-accuracy/>

I The Preparation For The Flood

A. Go into the ark with your family [Verse 1]

1. I have found you righteous in this generation

Righteous = Tsaddiyq (tsad-deek') = “Just or lawful”

Gen 6:9 “Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.”

Noah’s righteousness was not the result of his performance – good or bad. Noah was made righteous by believing the Word of God. He believed what God said about a flood and he began to order his life in terms of that coming event, even though there was little evidence around him to support it.

Hebrews 11:7 “By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.”

Rom 1:17 “For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Application:

But Noah not only believed, he also *obeyed* God by constructing the Ark. You never can say you really believe God unless you obey him, because obedience to God is always the evidence of faith in God.

God is looking for men and women in our generation who are willing to believe His Word and act on it in obedience.

1 John 5:2-3 “This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome ...”

B. Take 7 of every clean animal [Verse 2-3]

These additional animals were to be set aside for:

1. Sacrifice to God at the end of the flood.

Gen 8:20-21 “Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.”

2. Food for Noah and his family

Genesis 9:3 “Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.”

C. Take 2 of every unclean animal

D. In 7 days I will send the rain [Verse 4]

1. It will rain for 40 days and 40 nights

Forty is a number associated with a time of testing and purification:

a. Moses on Mount Sinai - Ex 24:18, Deut 9:25

b. The 12 spies’ trip to Canaan - Num 13:25

c. Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness - Mk 1:13

2. It will **destroy** every living creature God made

Illustration: Time Magazine article regarding the End Times

2 Peter 3:4-7 “They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of

that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”

II The Lessons Of The Flood

A. Noah did all that the Lord **commanded** him! [Verse 5, 7]

Despite the staggering job God entrusted to Noah, we have no record of him ever complaining or rebelling against God. He simply obeyed!

Phil 2:14-16 “Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.”

1. He and his family entered the ark

Prov 18:10 “The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”

Ps 32:6-7 “Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.”

a. To **escape** the floodwaters

Throughout the scriptures, we find that God makes a distinction between believers and unbelievers by protecting them from his wrath (Ex 8:23; 9:4)

Mal 3:17-18 “[Those who fear the Lord] will be mine,” says the LORD Almighty, “in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.”

1 Thess 5:9 “For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Application: A foreshadowing of the Rapture of the church

Rapture = The English translation of the Latin vulgate rapturos = “Caught up”

1. It will be secret
2. It will be sudden and unannounced - Matt 24:43; 1 Cor 15:52
3. It will precede the Great Tribulation

1 Thess 4:16-18 “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”

B. Pairs of every kind of animal and creature:

1. **Came** to Noah and entered the ark [Verse 8-9]

The Ark has 1,396,000 cubic feet of space or the equivalent of 533 railroad cars. This was more than enough room for all the animals, Noah and his family and the necessary provisions for their yearlong voyage.

How did they come?

- a. Divinely inspired migration
- b. Obedience to God's command

Either way, these pairs of animals came to the ark of their own accord in obedience to the command of God Himself. All Noah had to do was to receive them and guide them into their stalls in the Ark.

I find it interesting that God never seems to have a problem getting animals to do what He wants. Balaam's donkey, the great fish that swallowed Jonah, the fish with the gold coin in its mouth – they all obeyed the Lord's command. It appears that only man is persistently resistant to God's will.

Jer 8:7 “Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But my people do not know the requirements of the LORD.”

Principle: Man-initiated ministry versus God-initiated ministry!

Whatever is birthed in the flesh will have to be maintained by the flesh.

Zech 4:6 “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the LORD Almighty.”

C. God **fulfilled** his promise: [Verse 10]

1. After 7 days the floodwaters came

Num 23:19 “God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?”

a. From the **springs** of the deep that burst forth

You will recall from Genesis 1:6-7 that on the second day of creation, “God said, “Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.”

So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so.”

These waters came from under the earth's crust and from beneath the ocean's floor resulting in cataclysmic changes to the earth's topography.

b. From the floodgates of **heaven** that were opened

Prior to the flood, a global vapor barrier enveloped the upper part of the earth's atmosphere providing the earth with a uniform temperature and protection from the sun's ultraviolet rays.

When the floodgates of heaven were opened, that water canopy was released.

2. The rain fell for 40 days and 40 nights

Now a worldwide rain lasting 40 days and 40 nights would be impossible under our present global atmospheric conditions. Today, there is only enough water vapor in the atmosphere for about one inch of simultaneous, global rainfall (and the rain would only last about an hour).

D. The Lord **shut** Noah in [Verse 13-16]

Two things we can learn from this:

1. The insecurity of the unbeliever

The ark was the means of salvation for Noah and his family. But it also spelled death for the unbelieving world. There were no second chances for those left out.

Rev 3:7 "What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open."

2 Thessalonians 1:8-10 "He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed."

Heb 4:7 "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

2. The security of the believer

The Lord shutting Noah in the Ark is a beautiful picture of the security of the believer. Paul tells us in Ephesians 1:13-14 that "you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession."

Application:

Rom 8:35-39 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? ... Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

John 10:27-28 "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand."

III The Timeline Of The Flood

- A. God **predicted** the flood in Noah's 480th year [Verse 11-12, 24]
- B. The flood came on 7th day of 2nd month of Noah's 600th year
 - 1. The year of Methuselah's **death** - Gen 5:25-27
 - a. 120 years after the prophecy - Gen 6:3
 - 2. When Noah was 600 years old [Verse 6]
- C. The flood waters flooded the earth **150** days [Verse 24]
- D. The flood lasted 370 days altogether - Gen 7:11, 8:13
 - Based on 30 day months
(600th yr, 2nd month, 17th day → until 601st yr, 2nd month, 27th day).

IV The Extent Of The Flood

The description of the flood in this passage is so complete and specific that it is impossible to reconcile a local flood with the Biblical record. In fact, in Genesis 6-9 alone, there are more than 30 references to the universal nature of the flood.

- A. The flood kept **coming** on the earth [Verse 17]
- B. The flood lifted the Ark high above the earth [Verse 18-20]
 - 1. All the mountains under the entire heavens were covered
 - a. To a depth of 20 feet over the highest mountains

Is it possible that the highest mountains on earth were actually covered in the flood?
The mountains of Ararat are 17,000 feet at their highest point.
And Mount Everest in the Himalayas is over 29,000 feet high.

Many scientists believe that prior to the flood and the cataclysmic changes it brought, the earth was much smoother and spherical than it is today. If the earth were a perfect sphere, the ocean would cover the land to a depth of two-and-a-half to three miles.

- C. Every living creature on earth **perished** [Verse 21-22]
 - Again, we have textual evidence of the scope of this flood. It wasn't merely a regional flood. It wiped out everyone and everything. The only exception seems to be some marine life. The fish evidently did not die since they did not have the breath of life in them.

How could all the animals survive and co-exist on the Ark?

- 1. Divinely induced hibernation
 - It would be a simple matter for God to put the animals in a period of hibernation thus reducing the need for food, space, as well as the potential for danger.
- 2. Millennial peace
 - Isa 11:6-9 "The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead

them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”

D. **Only** Noah and his family were left [Verse 23]

Prov 22:3 “A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.”

Job 22:15-18 “Will you keep to the old path that evil men have trod? They were carried off before their time, their foundations washed away by a flood. They said to God, 'Leave us alone! What can the Almighty do to us?’”

Conclusion

Two final thoughts:

1. Are you prepared for God’s coming judgment?

Matt 24:36-41 “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.”

Ezek 18:30-32 “Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!”

2. Are you completing the work God has given you to do?

John 17:4 “I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.”

Acts 20:24 “I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me -- the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.”

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