

The Flood (Genesis 6:9–8:22)

Grace Chapel January 30, 2008 Dr. John Niemelä

INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW OF GENESIS

FLOW OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS

(Toledot 1): 1:1–2:3: God formed (days 1–3) so He could fill the earth with light and life (days 4–6) and He rested, because creation was done (day 7)

Toledot 2: 2:4–4:26 (Day 6ff.) God's evaluation of creation (after forming Adam) was, "Not Good that man should be alone," so the earth could be filled with people, but humanity fell into death while the woman was in her first pregnancy and that child murdered his brother before spawning a lineage

Toledot 3: 5:1–6:8 All of Adam's descendants died, except Enoch who walked with God, then demons began procreating with humans (in an attempt to destroy humanity, but Noah found grace in God's eyes

Toledot 4: 6:9–9:29 (Part 1: 6:9–8:22): God used the universal flood to judge humanity which had become corrupt and violent, but delivered Noah and his immediate family to start over in repopulating the earth

STRUCTURE OF THE FLOOD (adapted from Allen Ross, *Creation and Blessing*)

Introduction: Noah's righteousness and Noah's sons (6:9–10)

A God resolves to destroy the corrupt race (6:11–13)

B Noah builds an ark according to God's instructions (6:14–22)

C God commands the remnant to enter the ark (7:1–9)

D The flood begins (7:10–16)

E The flood prevails 150 days, and the mountains are covered (7:17–24)

F God remembers Noah (8:1a)

E' The flood recedes 150 days, and the mountains are visible (8:1b–5)

D' The earth dries (8:6–14)

C' God commands the remnant to leave the ark (8:15–19)

B' Noah builds an altar (8:20)

A' God resolves not to destroy humankind (8:21–22)

ANOTHER WAY OF LOOKING AT THE STRUCTURE

Introduction: Noah's righteousness and Noah's sons

(6:9–10)

A God resolves to destroy the corrupt race

(6:11–13)

A' God resolves not to destroy humankind

(8:21–22)

B Noah builds an ark according to God's instructions

(6:14–22)

B' Noah builds an altar

(8:20)

C God commands the remnant to enter the ark

(7:1–9)

C' God commands the remnant to leave the ark

(8:15–19)

D The flood begins

(7:10–16)

D' The earth dries

(8:6–14)

E The flood prevails 150 days, & the mountains are covered (7:17–24)

E' The flood recedes 150 days, & the mountains are visible (8:1b–5)

F God remembers Noah

(8:1a)



EXPOSITION

6:9–22 Noah was righteous, but the rest of humanity was corrupted and violent, so God told Noah to build an ark to deliver 8 people and selected birds and animals

6:9–10 These are the generations of righteous Noah (father of Shem, Ham, Japheth)

Remember how Noah became righteous: He found grace in God's eyes (6:8)

Not only was Noah one who belonged to God, but he walked with God

Before the fall, it appears that the man & woman walked with God (3:8)

In the time of Enosh, people started calling on the name of the Lord (4:26)

Enoch walked with God (5:22)

Walking with God goes beyond belonging to God

6:11–12 [In contrast with Noah] the rest of humanity was corrupted and violent

Note that the corrupt ones did not walk with God (even if some belonged to Him)

6:13–22 God told Noah that He planned to destroy the rest of humanity, so Noah was to build an ark to deliver 8 people & selected birds & animals; Noah built it

God discloses Himself only to those who both belong to Him & walk with Him

300 cubits length = 450 feet

50 cubits width = 75 feet

30 cubits height = 45 feet

19,940 tons water displacement

6:22 defines walking with God (6:9)

7:1–24 Noah, his family, and selected animals obediently entered the ark and were safely shut inside by God, but the waters prevailed on the earth, so everything outside died

7:1–9 Noah, his family, and selected animals obediently entered the ark

Moses does not record how Noah was to know which animals were clean
(The readers will not fill an ark, so they did not need to know this)

The vocabulary does not mean that every species alive was preserved

After the flood ended, the process of micro-adaptation would begin again

Note that 7:13–16 is a recap of 7:7–9, with some additional details

(By now, it should be clear that this is common in Moses' narrative)

7:10–16 Those who entered the ark were safely shut inside by God

Moses does not go into detail about the source of the water and how things changed after the flood. In general terms, the vaporous (water) canopy above was the source of the floodgates of heaven. That canopy has never been fully replenished to its former status. The polar icefields account for much of the water reserves today. Topographic changes also account for where the water went after the flood. Creation Research Institute has much material on these subjects.

The Lord shut the lid (7:16)

7:17–24 The waters prevailed on the earth, so everything outside died

CHRONOLOGY (adapted from Allen Ross):	days	
Waiting in the ark for 7 days:		
Month 2, day 10: Noah enters ark (7:7–9)	—	
Month 2, day 17*: rain starts (7:10–11)	7	7
Water continued for 150 days		
Month 3, day 27: rain stops (7:12)	40	
Month 7, day 17*: ark rests in Ararat mountains (7:24; 8:4)	110	150
Water receded in 150 days		
Month 10, day 1*: mountaintops visible (8:5)	74	
Month 11, day 11*: raven/dove released & returned (8:6–9)	40	
Month 11, day 18*: dove sent & returns w/ leaf (8:10)	7	
Month 11, day 25: Dove sent, does not return (8:12)	7	
Month 12, day 17: Water receded (8:3)	22	150
Earth dried in 70 days		
Month 1, day 1*: Noah saw dry land (8:13)	13	
Month 2, day 27*: Noah leaves ark (8:14–19)	57	<u>+70</u>
		377

*Asterisks on calendar dates specified in Genesis

8:1–22 God remembered Noah and those in the ark and caused the waters to start receding; after the ark rested in the mountains of Ararat Noah tested earth’s habitability by releasing birds before leaving the ark; God accepted Noah’s thanksgiving sacrifice and resolved never to flood the earth

8:1–5 God remembered Noah and those in the ark and ended the storm and the waters started receding, so the ark rested in the mountains of Ararat

The ark rested (*wattānah*) in the mountains of Ararat

8:6–19 Noah tested the habitability of earth by releasing birds, but did not leave the ark until earth was habitable

Raven and dove sent out, dove returned (No resting place: *mānôah*)

Dove sent out and returned with leaf

Dove did not return

Noah saw dry land

8:20–22 God accepted Noah’s thanksgiving sacrifice and resolved never to again destroy the whole earth (with a flood)

This was a thanksgiving burnt offering

The Lord smelled a sweet savor (*rêah hannîhōah*)

He accepted the offering and vowed not to destroy the earth (with a flood)

CONCLUSION