

# 17. God's judgment and deliverance

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There are some Bible stories we are so familiar with that we no longer get excited, nor do we see any important point in them. Noah's Ark and the Great Flood are the cases in point. Many of us have heard and knew the story of this floating zoo.

But the story of Noah's Ark and the Great Flood is more than a Sunday School story. It is about God's judgment against the wicked mankind and His deliverance of the righteous.

Let's see what the Lord speaks to us about this.

## A. THE LAST DAY PREPARATION FOR THE GREAT FLOOD

*Genesis 7:1-12 Then the Lord said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. 2 You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; 3 also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. 4 For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made." 5 And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him. 6 Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth. 7 So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. 8 Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, 9 two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. 12 And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights. 13 On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark- 14 they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. 15 And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. 16 So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.*

Note that God told Noah to 'come into the ark' instead of 'go into the ark'. In other words, He was telling Noah to come into His presence, because God was already in the ark.

For 7 days the people around Noah could have walked right into the ark and God would have saved them. All they had to do was to believe in Him. Guess how many people came through that door? None. I am sure that there were plenty of people who mocked the obedience of Noah and his family to God.

God never has a problem getting the animals to do what He wants. Only man is dumber and more stubborn than the animals to ignore God's commands.

*Isaiah 1:3 The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider.*

We don't get to have a whole lot of rain in Southern Arizona. Can you imagine having rained for 40 days and nights straight? This is when the great waters which were above the firmament broke up that was mentioned in Genesis 1:7. These waters formed the huge "blanket" of water in the upper part of the earth's atmosphere since creation that allowed the long life for the people.

Waters came up from under the earth also, no doubt accompanied by great geological catastrophes like earthquakes. You may say, "What water from under the earth?" In case, you have not noticed, there are a vast amount of water tables underneath the earth that we pump out for residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural usage.

The number '40' becomes associated with testing, trials, and purification, especially before coming into something new and significant.

Noah did not have to shut the door on anyone's salvation. God did it. Just like that, it is never our job to disqualify people from salvation. It is God's job.

God kept the door open until the last possible minute, but there came a time when the door had to shut. It is my earnest prayer that if you don't know Jesus as the Savior and Lord, you may not be shut out because of your stubbornness.

The ark was salvation for Noah, but condemnation for the world. There were no second chances for those left out.

## **B. THE GREAT FLOOD**

*Genesis 7:17-24 Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18 The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. 20 The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. 21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. 23 So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. 24 And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.*

Literally, hundreds of ancient people groups around the world have their own accounts of the flood. Since all mankind came from Noah's sons, all mankind remembers the flood. From Samo-Kubo tribe of New Guinea, the Athapascan Indians of America, the Papago Indians of Arizona, Brazilian tribes, Peruvian Indians, African Hottentots, natives of Greenland, native Hawaiian islanders, Hindus, Chinese, Egyptians, Greeks, Persians, Australian natives, the Welsh, Celts, Druids, Siberians, and Lithuanians they all have their own account of the flood the following aspects of the story are common:

- 95% say the sole cause of the catastrophe is a flood
- 70% attribute survival to a boat
- 66% say that the disaster is due to man's wickedness

## **C. PURPOSE OF THE FLOOD**

As it was stated in Gen 6:5-13, because people had become corrupt and wicked, and the earth was filled with violence, God sent the flood in order to destroy

mankind. There must always be judgment and death before there can be a new beginning.

#### **D. THE PROOF OF THE WORLDWIDE FLOOD**

What is the scientific, historical evidence for the Flood? I cannot tell you on this subject better than one particular book I highly recommend. It is 'The Genesis Flood' by Henry M. Morris and John C. Whitcomb. Both of these men are thoroughly qualified to write on this subject. John Whitcomb, Th.D., professor of Old Testament at Grace Theological Seminary, and the late Henry M. Morris, Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, professor of hydraulic engineering and chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering in the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, joined together and have written a book on 'The Genesis Flood'. They show that the Flood was universal, it was a great catastrophe, and there is historical evidence for it.

When the Bible refers to a worldwide flood in Genesis 7-8, that's exactly what it means. Not local, not metaphorical, not some crazy dream – the waters covered the whole earth. Don't just take my word for it, though. Let's go through these one at a time:

##### **Evidence 1: Fossils of sea creatures high above sea level due to the ocean waters having flooded over the continents.**

We find fossils of sea creatures in rock layers that cover all the continents. For example, most of the rock layers in the walls of the Grand Canyon – more than a mile above sea level – contain marine fossils. Fossilized shellfish are even found in the Himalayas.

##### **Evidence 2: Rapidly deposited sediment layers spread across vast areas.**

We find rock layers that can be traced all the way across continents – even between continents – and physical features in those strata indicate they were deposited rapidly. For example, the Tapeats Sandstone and Redwall Limestone of Grand Canyon can be traced across the entire United States, up into Canada, and even across the Atlantic Ocean to England. The chalk beds of England (the white cliffs of Dover) can be traced across Europe into the Middle East and are also found in the Midwest of the United States and in Western Australia. Inclined (sloping) layers within the Coconino Sandstone of Grand Canyon are a testimony to 10,000 cubic miles of sand being deposited by huge water currents within days, not millions of years.

##### **Evidence 3: Sediment transported long distances.**

We find that the sediments in those widespread rapidly deposited rock layers had to be eroded from distant sources and carried long distances by fast-moving water. For example, the sand for the Coconino Sandstone of Grand Canyon in AZ had to be eroded and transported from the northern portion of what is now the United States and Canada. Furthermore, water current indicators (such as ripple marks) preserved in rock layers show water currents were consistently flowing from northeast to southwest across all of North and South America, which, of course, is only possible over weeks during a global Flood.

##### **Evidence 4: Many strata laid down in rapid succession.**

Rocks do not normally bend; they break because they are hard and brittle. But in many places we find whole sequences of strata that were bent without fracturing, indicating that all the rock layers were rapidly deposited and folded while still wet and pliable before final hardening. For example, the Tapeats Sandstone in Grand Canyon is folded at a right angle (90°) without evidence of breaking.

Then, you wonder, "Why have you not been taught all of this evidence while you were in school or see from the National Geographic TV channel?" If they taught you and showed you these, they have to be accountable to the Almighty God. And they don't want to do that.

### **E. THE TYPOLOGY OF NOAH'S ARK AND JESUS**

- The ark is an illuminating picture of our salvation in Christ according to 1 Peter 3:18-22. The salvation and the ark were planned by God, not invented by humans.
- There is only one way of salvation and there was only one door in the ark.
- The ark was made of wood, speaking of the humanity of Christ. He had to be born as a man in order to save us.
- The Hebrew word for "pitch" in Genesis 6:14 is the same as the word "atonement" used later in the OT. As the pitch around the boat sealed the water coming into the boat, the atonement of Jesus sealed us from condemnation.
- God invited Noah and his family into the ark as God opens His arms to invite us in.
- The ark saved not only humankind but also the creatures within it, just as Christ's death will one day deliver creation from the bondage of sin according to Romans 8:18-23.
- The ark saved Noah and his family from judgment because they believed God's promise – Hebrews 11:7.
- As the waters buried the old world but raised Noah to a new life, 1 Peter 3:18-22 connects the ark with the resurrection of Christ.
- As Noah went out of the ark as the head of a new creation with his family, Christ came out of the tomb as the Head of the new creation.
- Just as Enoch was raptured before the judgment came, the church will be raptured before the wrath of God is poured out upon the world.

### **F. THE PROPHETIC SIDE OF THE GREAT FLOOD**

*Matthew 24:37-39 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

Christ teaches that the days before the rapture and the Tribulation will be like the days of Noah. We are living in the "days of Noah" now. But keep in mind that "the days of Noah" were also days of witness. In fact, God had told Enoch that judgment was coming, and he warned the people. And for the last many years of that period, Noah was preaching and preparing the ark. Today, God warns that judgment is coming, but few listen, and even fewer believe.

### **G. APPLICATIONS**

- 1) We must remember that God gives plenty of warnings but eventually His patience ends and judgment comes.
- 2) True faith in God leads to obedience to Him.
- 3) The true witness of Jesus Christ demands separation from the sin of the world.