
The Flood: Judgment Delivered

Genesis 8:1-22

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The pervasive wickedness of humanity...

The gracious identity of a righteous man...

The hard work of building an ark...

The mighty flood executes God's righteous judgment...

Now, God delivers the righteous man into a new creation.

The Flood Recedes

(v. 1-5)

But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. ²The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, ³and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, ⁴and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

God moves with three distinct actions to reverse the Flood. These actions were taken by God. While they may be in the natural realm, the Bible is portraying a direct intervention by God. God halts the up flow from the fountains of the deep and closes the windows of heaven. These two actions halt the source of waters of the Flood.

Also, God causes a wind to blow across the earth so that the waters subsided. This word is same as used in Genesis 1 where the Spirit of God hovered over the waters of the deep. Moses is intentionally creating a verbal and visual parallel. The old creation made out of water was hovered over by the Spirit of God. Now, this new creation, this post-flood world emerges as the wind from God, the breath of God, moves across the surface of the waters. Certainly, this would have manifested itself as simply a strong, prevailing wind. So, God has now intervened to bring the process of drying the earth so that it can be inhabited again.

At the end of the initial 150 days, as the waters begin to recede, the ark comes to rest on the mountains in the area of Ararat. This happened on the 7th month and the 17th day of year the Flood began. After numerous expeditions, the true location and region of the ark remains a mystery. Many claim to have seen the ark, and some even say they have found and entered it, but none of the alleged witnesses have been able to

produce proof of the ark's existence or even find their way back to the ark a second time.

Most anyone's reading and research on the continued search for Noah's ark makes one skeptical. Much of the published findings claiming to have located the ark are anything from outright frauds to at least suspect use of the data.

Psalm 104 is a poetic celebration of the wonders of God's creation and provides us with some important information concerning the Flood. Verses 1-5 are a description of the original creation. Verses 6-9 are an obvious description of the Flood. Here, it is at the rebuke of God that the waters run away and take flight. It personifies what Genesis 8 describes in detail. Verses 8-9 are very important in that they describe the massive changes in the surface of the earth. The mountains are pressed up and the valleys sink down. The waters run off the mountains and valleys into the ocean basins. God sets the boundary through the continental shelves and shorelines to keep the waters in their place.

A very important question needs to be asked. If the earth was covered with a global flood, do we find evidence of this event? We are not here trying to prove the Bible true. Rather, we know that the great Flood would have permanent and observable consequences. So, we come to the data with an inspired, inerrant history through which we interpret our findings. Here is what we can observe today,

WE FIND A LAYER OF SEDIMENT ALL OVER THE GLOBE JUST ABOUT EVERYWHERE YOU DIG. Sediment is layers of earth, deposited by moving water in rapid succession. Henry Morris points out that the depth, layering and composition of the sediment is exactly what you would expect from a flood and what you find in local floods.

WE FIND FOSSILS ALL OVER THE WORLD. Fossils can only be created by rapid engulfing and compacting so that the living creatures can be fossilized before they decay or are scavenged. In other words, fossils are formed only in cataclysmic climate change like the Flood.

WE FIND TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES ACROSS THE WHOLE GLOBE THAT WERE OBVIOUSLY CARVED BY DEEP RUNNING WATERS. On a trip out west, standing over the Columbia River Gorge in Oregon I couldn't help but wonder how the great flood waters likely carved the steep cliffs of that massive river gorge, imagining the waters running off from the Flood carving out this massive, still impressive river gorge. The Grand Canyon is an obvious example of this, not of millions of years of slow and deep erosion, but rather of the powerful carving of mighty river originally flowing along its length.

WE FIND THE RESULTS OF MASSIVE KILL-OFF OF ANIMALS AND VEGETATION. We find a lot of it in fossils. We also run much of modern technology on it. It is called oil. There is good science that says that the current vast deposits of oil were formed during the Flood. These oil fields and caverns were where the pre-Flood waters were stored. When God broke up the deeps and caused them to erupt all over

the earth, in many places those caverns were filled with intruding bodies, plants and animals, crushed under the great pressures of the Flood, forming oil.

There are many other geological features across the globe that indicate a global Flood has taken place. Some scientists try to attribute all of this to an ice age. While creation scientists agree that there was a time after the Flood when glaciers were much more extensive than they are now, they cannot account for many of the features.

This leaves a question: where did all that water go? While creation scientists have proposed many theories, the most reasonable one is based on the science of plate-tectonics and continental drift. Here are some of the key facts.

The surface/crust of the earth is a series of interlocking plates. The continents even today are measurably moving apart as the plates shift. This is called plate-tectonics. If you look at a globe carefully, particularly when you look at the continental shelves, not just the present shorelines, you can see that the east coastline of the Americas is roughly the same as the west coast of Europe and Africa. It seems that during the Flood, the continents rose and shifted apart to create the present geography.

Further, at one time the ocean basins were much shallower than they are now. As the continents were divided, pushed up and separated by catastrophic plate movement, the oceans floor sank down and great trenches and stress faults were created. As the waters of the Flood ran off from the mountains and the continents, our present oceans were created.

Lastly, the Antarctic is a vast continent covered with miles and miles of ice. In the initial wind and evaporation of the waters, the poles cooled much faster than the central regions and the ice packs were partially formed by the receding Flood waters.

Now, I realize that it is possible that God, through the wind that he caused to blow across the globe, may have supernaturally dried up the waters off the surface of the earth. In view of the text of the Bible and the corresponding evidence in world as we see it, we assert the following as absolutely true.

God decreed the Flood from eternity past, planning for it by storing the waters of the deep at creation for its day.

God directly caused the Flood to happen at the exact year and day it did as He had planned.

God caused the waters of the deep to burst forth and the rain to fall for forty days so that the great Flood covered all the globe and all the hills and mountains that existed then.

The Flood destroyed all breathing life, all humans, beasts, birds, and creeping things so that none, absolutely none remained alive except those in the ark.

Noah built a massive wooden boat, through which God preserved him, his family and all the animals by twos and the clean animals by sevens through the Flood.

The world after the Flood is very different in its geography and climate due to the Flood and God's design.

The Earth Dries

(v. 6-14)

⁶At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. ⁹But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. ¹⁰He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. ¹¹And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. ¹²Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore. ¹³In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. ¹⁴In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out.

Genesis 8:3 recorded that it took 150 total days for the waters to completely run off. Moses recorded quite a lot of detail of what Noah did during this period. In this section, we find Noah sending out the raven and the dove. Seventy-four days after the ark came to rest, the tops of the other mountains became visible. God had directed and planted the ark right where He wanted it for their safety and for the initial global migration. There on the mountain in Ararat, Noah waits for the earth to dry up before he leaves the ark.

Forty days after the tops of the mountains become visible, Noah opens the window of the ark and sends out a raven. The raven is a carrion bird and able to survive in very adverse conditions. The implication here is that the raven came back and forth to the ark but was able to spend long periods away. He also sent out a dove, possibly at the same time. The dove could find neither food nor a place to nest and returned to the ark.

Seven days later, Noah sent out the dove again. This time, when it returned, it brought an olive leaf with it. Noah now knew that the earth had dried enough for the vegetation to grow and thrive. After another seven days, he sent the dove out again. It did not return meaning that it had been able to find food and a nesting place. This took place twenty-two days from the end of the 150-day period which ended (by calculation) on the 17th day of the 12th month.

Two weeks later, on the first day of the New Year, Moses records that the earth was dried off enough to be inhabitable. Noah was able to see the dry land. He opened the roof of the ark so that it was open to the air. They stayed on the ark, apparently with it open like this, until the 27th day of the 2nd month. They had now been in the ark 377 days, or 1 year and 17 days (based on the 360-day year common to Moses' day).

The Remnant Leaves the Ark

(v. 15-19)

¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ "Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷ Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." ¹⁸ So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. ¹⁹ Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark.

Once again, we observe the union of wisdom and obedience. Noah has gone through this elaborate ritual with the raven and the dove to determine if the earth is habitable. He observes the mountains, then waters receding and finally that the ground is dry. He opens the windows, then the top. But he does not leave the ark until God tells him to.

In verses 15-17, God gives permission to leave the ark and instructions on how it is to be done in an orderly manner. They are to bring out all the occupants of the ark by families. They are to release them into the wild so that they might migrate all over the face of the earth, reproduce and replenish the earth.

Out into the new creation comes the delivered remnant. Can you imagine the wonder and joy? So much of what we take as common and ordinary would have been new and changed. It was a marvelous and grand day.

There is a chronology of the Flood in the manuscript if you are interested, you can go to Sermon Audio and download the extra material Pastor Russ has in the manuscript.

Noah Builds an Altar

(8:20)

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

One author says that now Noah lifts up both sacrifice and praise. He builds an altar. He built an ark to the saving of his household and the preserving of the animal kingdom. He now builds an altar in thanksgiving to God.

This is the first altar mentioned in the Scripture. While Moses has earlier implied sacrifice with covering of Adam and Eve with animal skins and the offerings of Cain and Abel, here is the first recorded altar. This is very important to note this. While it is possible that others built altars before him, God records through Moses this one as the first.

Noah offers several of the clean animals as a sacrifice. This is a great act of faith in God and understanding of God's ways. Frankly, wouldn't you have been reluctant to kill and sacrifice what you just spent a whole year ensuring made it through the Flood? Yet Noah takes them, kills them and lays on the altar. He then lights the altar so that the smoke of a burnt offering rises up to God.

God Purposes to Preserve the World (8:21-22)

²¹ And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. ²² While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

The sacrificial aroma from a heart of worship pleases the Lord God. Moses records that God smelled the aroma and purposes in His heart. He speaks to Himself. He deliberates in Himself and determines what He will do. Once again, we know that God has decreed all that comes to pass and that He is actively engaged with and interacts with what He has decreed.

Three important determinations are made here in relation to the earth which forms the grounds for the Noahic Covenant to follow in Chapter 9.

God will not again enact a judgment against or treat with contempt the ground because man's heart is depraved and wicked from birth. The word "curse" here is not the same as in Genesis 3. God is not lifting the curse He enacted in Genesis 3. He is determining not to connect the earth with man's depravity. While the earth is subject to the curse until the renovation in the final day, God will deal with man's sin in history without the kind of destructive disruption the Flood was.

God also determines not to strike down every living creature as He did in the Flood. Again, this is evidence that the Flood and destruction were both universal since He determines not to do it again.

God determines to maintain the ecological cycles and equilibrium. He establishes what they will be in the post-flood world. He also determines that they will be an unending cycle as long as the earth remains.

These three determinations then provide a predictable and stable world for man to live in.

Reflect and Respond

The future judgment of the wicked is as sure as the past judgment in the Flood. God may wait with amazing patience until that Day of Judgment. But His wrath is being stored up. It will come. It will sweep the wicked away into eternal punishment in hell. Be warned. Flee from the wrath to come. Humble yourself before God. Call upon him for mercy.

The righteous on the earth who are graced by God will obediently walk with God and work for God. Faith does not lead us to a life of ease. Faith brought Noah an enormous task, a grave responsibility. And so, it does for us. Whether believing God in the details of daily living or believing God for the work of the ministry, the promises we believe are delivered through the obeying work we do.

We have such hope and confidence in God who has provided for us a continuing stability of times and seasons. But even more, to see the care of God over Noah and his family in the midst of terrible evil and then massive judgment should encourage us to even more rest in Him. In the midst of a wicked generation and great upheaval, our God is our refuge and our rest.

The ark of deliverance and salvation during the outpouring of the wrath of God points us to the Lord Jesus Christ and the cross.

He is the place of shelter from the wrath of God. There is no other one who has taken on Himself our wrath in our place. He is our ark of safety, our propitiation, our righteousness.

He is the *kophar*, "the covering over", or "pitch" that seals us for the day of redemption. The pitch was a covering that sealed. The *kophar* was also the covering or lid on the Ark of the Covenant in the holy of holies. It is his blood shed and sprinkled that covered the sins under the Old Covenant and washes away all our sins now.

He is the door, the one and only door of entry to salvation. He is the only way to God and the only entry into the place of salvation. There is no other way. All other ways are false ways, ones that will lead to destruction. But He is the true door, the true gate, the one and only true way.

God has chosen whom to deliver and does save them. Noah and his family are chosen to be delivered through the Flood. God's purpose, promise, providence and provision do not fail nor are frustrated. What God told Noah; God accomplished. I am so glad to know that what God has promised He is able to perform and will until the Final Day. So, entrust yourself to Him.

Christ is the bridge between the Old and New Creation. Noah and his family entered the ark from the old creation and emerged in the new. The ark was the way between. Jesus brought to naught the old creation where sin abounded and has brought into being the new creation where grace abounds. We are awaiting the day when the new creation begun in our hearts is brought to complete fulfillment. What a day of praise and thanksgiving that will be.

This is what Christ's work has done. There is condemnation and cleansing. His work on the cross has punished our sins and it has purified us from our sins. O, believe and bow to Him today.

Appendix

Thanks to Dr. J Osgood writing for *Answers in Genesis* for the following dating of the flood calculating back from Christ's birth. Note that there is some discussion of a possible 50-year difference between Exodus 12:40 and Galatians 3:17.

[Paul wrote in Galatians] that the Israelites left Egypt to return to the promised land 430 years after God gave the promise to Abraham... According to Acts 7:4 and Genesis 12:1-4, Abraham was 75 years old when God gave him the promise and in the same year his father Terah was 205 years old and Abraham was born when Terah was 130 years of age (Gen.11:26-33). The statements of genealogy in Genesis 11:10-26, are father-son statements and link Abraham to Noah's son, Shem. The statements list the persons by name. Their year of birth against their father's age is listed and their father is named. These chronologies do not have missing generations; there are no gaps. If we add up the figures mentioned between Shem's 100th year (Gen. 11:10) and Abraham (Gen. 11:26) we get 350 years. Since 9 names are mentioned it is 350 years +/- 9 (9 margins of error of up to 1 year each). Genesis 11:10 tells us that Shem was 100 years old, 2 years after the Flood had finished. When was Noah's Flood? 1,981 years to AD 0 plus 967 years to the founding of Solomon's Temple plus 480 years to the end of the Exodus plus 430 years to the promise to Abraham plus 75 years to Abraham's birth plus 350 years to Shem's 100th birthday plus 2 years to the Flood. The Biblical data places the Flood at 2304 BC +/- 11 years.