

**Text: Gen 7. 1-8.22**

The flood itself is our story today. It is a story with many repetitions in the text, for emphasis. I'm going to read and tell the story as we go.

**I. Entering the ark (7.1-16)**

- A. Noah is called to “come” to the ark – because he is righteous (7.1)
- B. More explicit commands for the animals (2-3)
  - 1. Seven pairs of every clean animal
  - 2. One pair of every unclean
  - 3. Seven pairs of every bird
- C. We see the number seven repeated several times
  - 1. Verse 2
  - 2. Verse 3
  - 3. Verse 4
- D. We see the opening repeated (6-12)
  - 1. Noah 600 yrs old (6)
  - 2. Noah and family enter the ark (7)
  - 3. The animals entered the ark (8-9)
  - 4. After the 7 days (10) in Noah's 600<sup>th</sup> year (11) [Note: specific day mentioned]
  - 5. The rain fell 40 days and nights (12)
- E. Again we see a repetition (13-16)
  - 1. Noah and his sons (named this time) enter the ark (13)
  - 2. The animals entered by twos into the ark (14-15)
  - 3. All entered by God's command, and God closed the door (16)

The parade of animals is reminiscent of God bringing the animals to Adam in Gen 2.

“Unlike the Mesopotamian flood stories, the biblical account sets the event in a historical framework. For the author of Genesis the flood event is as real as the birth of Abraham.”<sup>1</sup>

The loosing of the waters reverses the separation of the waters in Gen 1.6-10.

## II. Experiencing the flood (7.17-24)

A. Forty days of rain (17)

B. Water “prevailed” to cover the mountains (18-20)

“Was this a local flood, as some allege? Consider the following:

**All the high hills under the whole heaven were covered** (v. 19).

God need not have told Noah to build an **ark** equivalent to 1½ football fields in length and 800 railroad cars in volume to escape a local flood. He could easily have moved eight people and the animals to a different location. Traditions of a universal flood have come from all parts of the world. The mountains of Ararat range up to 17,000 feet. The flood was **fifteen cubits** higher (vv. 19, 20). By what sort of miracle was this water kept in a localized area? In Genesis 9:15 God promised that the water would never again become a flood to destroy **all** flesh. There have been many local floods since then, but never a universal flood.”<sup>2</sup>

C. All life except in the ark was destroyed (21-23)

## III. Waiting in the ark (8.1-14)

God remembered Noah (1)

A. 7 days—from the time Noah entered the ark until the Flood began (7:10).

B. 40 days and nights—duration of the rain (7:12).

<sup>1</sup> K. A. Mathews, *Genesis 1-11:26*, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 376.

<sup>2</sup> William MacDonald, *Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments*, ed. Arthur Farstad (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 43.

- C. 150 days—from the time the rain began until **the waters decreased** (8:3) and **the ark rested** on Mount **Ararat** (compare 7:11 and 8:4).
- D. 224 days—from the beginning of the Flood until the mountaintops reappeared (compare 7:11 and 8:5).
- E. 40 days—from the time the mountaintops were seen until Noah **sent out a raven** (8:7).
- F. 7 days—from the sending of the raven to the first sending forth of a **dove** (8:6–10; v. 10, “**yet another seven days**”).
- G. 7 more days—until **the dove** was sent forth a second time (8:10).
- H. 7 more days—until the final sending forth of the dove (8:12).
- I. 314 days—from the beginning of the Flood until **Noah removed the covering** from **the ark** (compare 7:11 and 8:13).
- J. 371 days—from the beginning of the Flood until **the earth was dried** (compare 7:11 and 8:14). At this time, Noah was commanded to **go out of the ark** (v. 16)<sup>3</sup>

#### IV. Exiting the ark (8.15-19)

- A. Command (15-17)
- B. Action (18-19)

#### V. Worship (8.20-22)

- A. The offerings (20)
  - 1. Burnt offerings: complete dedication
  - 2. Apparently voluntary, not commanded (shows Noah’s righteousness)
- B. God’s approval (21-22)
  - 1. He accepts Noah’s offering
  - 2. He swears never to curse the ground as he had done (see 6.5)
  - 3. God knows man hasn’t changed (21b)
  - 4. Nevertheless, God sets the seasons in order (22)

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<sup>3</sup> These points (A-J) from MacDonald, 43–44.