



Bible Study

Genesis Chapter 7

This chapter describes Noah entering the ark. We are told who goes with him and the animals that are to go in as well.

We have the age of Noah and then we have the description of the flood itself.

It rains for 40 days but Noah and all those with him remain on the ark for 150 days. God's plan is carefully described...

Who is to go in the ark? What animals are to go on the ark?

What is the purpose of the flood? What is the extent of the flood?

The command for Noah to enter the ark.

Noah has been building the ark for 120 years. He has seen it grow and develop but now the time has come to enter. He is declared righteous because he has been building, trusting God, and preaching righteousness, warning the people about God's wrath against sin. We are invited to enter into God's blessings and to escape God's wrath. When we die or when Jesus comes again, we will enter eternal life and peace, but those who have rejected Jesus will face eternal death.

As well as Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives enter the ark. We delight to see families saved, like in Philippi with Lydia and also the jailer (Acts 16:13-15,25-34). We must keep persisting in prayer for unsaved family members.

The animals vs 2-3, 14-16

The **clean** beasts and birds entered the ark "by sevens" (KJV), while the unclean animals went into the ark by twos. There is no contradiction here. Genesis 6:19-20 indicates that Noah was to take "two of every sort into the ark." Then, a few verses later, God **supplemented** this original instruction, informing Noah in a more detailed manner to take more of the clean animals.

It was necessary for Noah to take additional clean animals because, upon his departure from the ark after the flood, he “built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar” (Genesis 8:20). If Noah had taken only two clean animals from which to choose when sacrificing to God after departing the ark, then he would have driven the various kinds of clean beasts and birds into extinction by sacrificing one of each pair. The sacrificial system was set in place but one day would lead to the once and for all sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb of God. We also can see that by instructing that both male and female be taken into the ark, God would one day allow them to mate and have offspring.

The flood v11-12 and 17-20

Noah is 600 years old when a bursting forth of water is unleashed from the depths of the earth and floodgates open from the skies. Words cannot adequately express the colossal amount of water that is involved in the flooding of the earth. The waters rise and cover the mountains.

Every living thing is destroyed. It is truly catastrophic.

The wrath of a holy God is released.

Only Noah and his family are left v23

The mercy of God means some are saved.

When most have perished only a small number remain. God will have His remnant.

Jesus said that broad is the way that leads to destruction and many are on this path. Narrow is the way that leads to life and only a few go on that path. (Matthew 7: 13-14). He also said that when the Son of man comes (speaking of himself), will he find faith on the earth? (Luke 18:8)

Yet we also know that in heaven are a number so great that they cannot be counted (Revelation 7 :9).

We conclude that it is the sheer mercy and love of God that will result in some being saved. Let us cast ourselves on His mercy, for whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13))

Points to consider:

How well are we observing God`s patience in preparing final judgment for this world? Noah preached while waiting for the flood.

What parallels do you see between building the ark and building the church of our Lord Jesus?

What does this story teach us about the thoroughness of God's judgement through the flood?

How zealous are we to see people who are lost and facing judgment come to Christ?