

Introduction

What is the true significance of the book of Genesis?

Is it history? Allegory? Myth? Spiritual truth not meant to be taken literally?

The answers to these and similar questions depend primarily on the presuppositions one holds prior to evaluating the evidence given us in Genesis.

IF one assumes that the concept of “God” is nothing more than an ancient mythological explanation for the forces in the universe, THEN the conclusions drawn from current observations will be naturalistic—i.e., without any supernatural involvement.

IF, however, one assumes that the God of the Bible exists _____ as He has revealed Himself, THEN it would follow that the world around us is to be understood and interpreted in light of what He has said about it.

IF no God exists, THEN we can only hunt and peck around for a few scattered answers, with little assurance about the conclusions that we draw.

IF however, the God of Scripture is indeed real, THEN we have been granted unique _____ into the universe; we have the information that He has provided for us in the creation itself, and we have the very precise data that the God of creation has revealed to us through His written Word.

These assumptions are foundational to how we view reality.

Such presuppositions shape the way we approach all evidence.

Simply put,

~what we believe directs how we think,

~what we think dictates what we do, and

~what we do determines our life.

Our study this summer approaches the words of Genesis as actual _____.

Some Biblical history was recorded by eyewitnesses; other historical books of the Bible were written well after the fact by men who were supernaturally guided by the Holy Spirit so that their records would be accurate.

Since the God of the Bible is a “God of _____” (Deut. 32:4) and a God Who “cannot lie” (Tit. 1:2), it must follow that His Word is also truthful and accurate.



Psalm 119:160

160 The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.



John 17:17

17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

So as we continue to look at this Flood account, we can do so with full confidence that every _____ God gives us is absolutely accurate.

The Ark Pictures Salvation



Genesis 7:1

1 Then the Lord said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time."

There are _____ many reasons why a universal, planet-destroying Flood is often explained away by naturalistic scientists, philosophers, and even some theologians.

Perhaps the most common reason (but often silently ignored) is the fact that the Genesis account of the Flood gives us one of the few pictures in the Bible of the _____ of God visited upon the whole earth.

Yes, there was Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18 & 19), but that was a local disaster.

And the book of Revelation is terrifying, but that is still future.

But the record of Genesis tells us about a worldwide judgment that has already happened.

God's anger against sin and _____ cannot be overlooked in the Flood account.

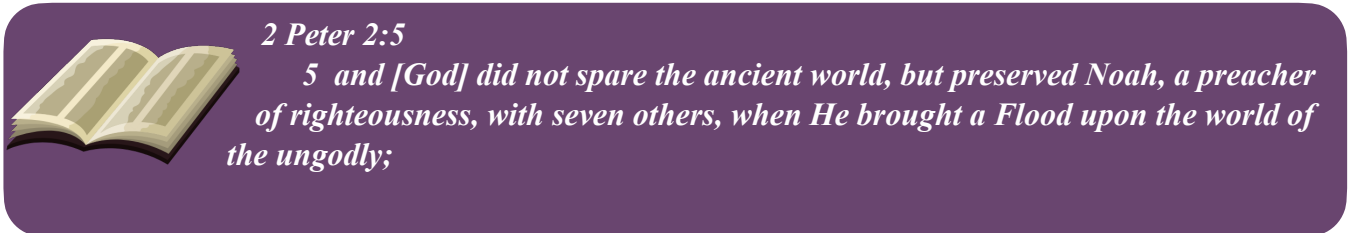
One of the most obvious reasons for accepting the Flood account as actual history and not allegory, or figurative language, or theatrical melodrama is that the Flood was predicted by God, launched exactly as planned, and documented in real time for all history.

This was truly an "act of God"—something that we mortals can neither predict nor control—but God can!

As chapter seven opens, God had spoken to Noah over _____ years earlier, giving instructions concerning the construction of the Ark and the rescuing of the animals, and assuring him that the Flood would indeed come right on schedule.

As far as we know, there had been no further word from Heaven, but Noah had proceeded steadily and faithfully onward with his unique mission and ministry, obeying God's commandments without question.

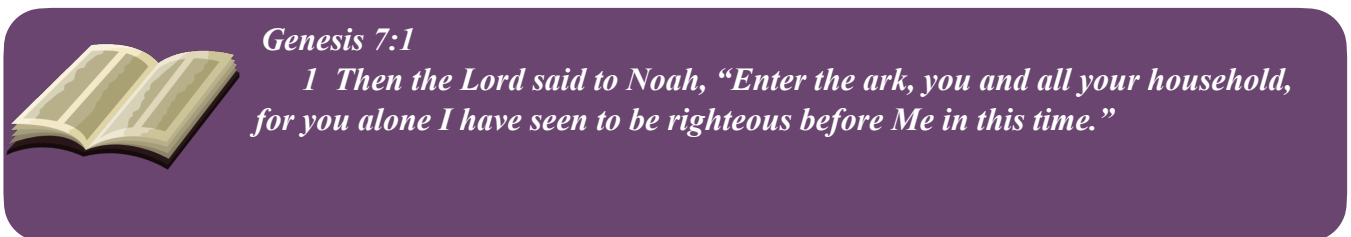
With all the urgency possible, he _____ of the coming judgment, year after year, but to no avail, so far as converts were concerned.



Finally, the Ark was completed and all the _____ were assembling.

The 120 years set by God would be up in a few days.

Then, after more than a century of silence, God once again spoke to Noah.



The Hebrew word translated "enter" means to "enter in" or "come in."

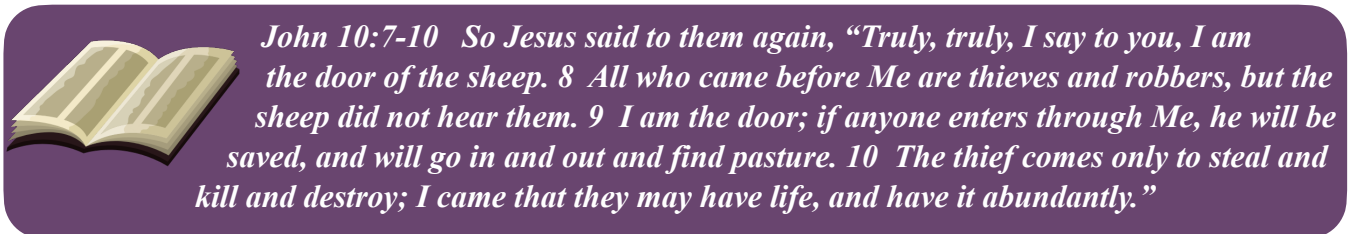
Thus, God _____ Noah and his family into the Ark.

What a beautiful picture of salvation this is!

There was one door on the side of the ark, which is a picture of _____, Who is the one Door through Whom we must go through in order to be saved.

Thus, Noah's Ark is a picture of salvation for those who enter through the Door.

There are many passages of Scripture that apply here.





Matthew 7:13-14

13 “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”



John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”



Acts 4:12

12 “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”



1 Timothy 2:5

5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

Noah had _____.

He trusted God.

He absolutely believed everything God said, and it showed in Noah's obedience to Him.

In Genesis 7:5 we read that Noah did all that God told him to do.

Thus, Noah and his family were invited into the Ark to be saved from the coming judgment.

In a similar way, Jesus invites us to be _____.



Matthew 11:28

28 “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”



1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Dear friend, we are to be like Noah and do what God has told us to do!

He tells us that we must _____ of our sin, confess it to Him, and trust Him and Him alone for our salvation.

When we obey Him in this, we will enter through the Door (Jesus), and we too will be saved—saved from God’s judgment to come on all those who refuse His gift of forgiveness by NOT going through the Door that God has so graciously provided.

Clean and Unclean Animals



Genesis 7:2-3

2 You shall take with you of every clean animal by sevens, a male and his female; and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and his female; 3 also of the birds of the sky, by sevens, male and female, to keep offspring alive on the face of all the earth.

We previously saw how God moved from the general to the specific.

He had told Noah that at least one pair of each kind of land vertebrates was to embark.

Now God tells Noah that there must be _____ “clean” animals.

And now the adjective “clean” is also applied to the “birds of the heavens.”

The vast majority of animals were not “clean,” and were represented by only two specimens (one male and one female).

The term “clean animal” was not defined until the Mosaic Law.

But since _____ was also the author of Genesis, if we follow the principle that “Scripture interprets Scripture,” the Mosaic Law definitions can be applied to these animals as well.

There are actually very few “clean” land animals listed in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14.

However, in Noah’s time, the distinction had nothing to do with _____, for it wasn’t until after the Flood that God gave man permission to eat animals (Gen. 9:3), and at that time without distinction.

In Moses’ day, while many of the cleanliness laws had great health benefits, health alone doesn’t appear to be the main reason for the laws.

Rather, ritual _____ seems to be a far more likely reason.

These laws symbolize the separation of the Messianic people from the surrounding pagan nations, until the time when the Messiah would come to break down that wall (Eph. 2:14).

Now before we move on, Bible scholars have debated considerably about the number of the clean animals on board.

A common view is that there were seven animals, thus providing three _____ pairs and one animal for sacrifice.

But another equally common view is that there were seven _____, making an even fourteen animals.

There is much debate, but the evidence from the text seems to favor seven pairs, for the word “sevens” is repeated in Genesis 7:2, which reads, word for word, “sevens sevens male and his female” (shiv‘āh shiv‘āh ’îsh wə’ishtë; ואִישׁתוֹ אִישׁ שְׁבַע שְׁבַע; רַב־שֵׁשִׁים).

In either case, it’s clear that God made provisions for enough clean animals to go on the Ark that their “kinds” were preserved for future generations.

God’s Final Flood Warning



Genesis 7:4

4 “For after seven more days, I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights; and I will blot out from the face of the land every living thing that I have made.”

Now think about this—in Genesis 6:3, God gave a warning that in 120 years the judgment would come.

The Ark was now ready, and the animals had been sent to the Ark.

Put yourself in Noah and his family’s shoes. Would you be wondering when the Flood was going to come?

What if they weren’t on the Ark when it started? How would they know when to go on board?

Obviously, they must have known that the time was getting close because the _____ had started arriving.

But God now gives Noah a warning that the Flood would begin in exactly seven days’ time.

This was no doubt primarily for all of Noah’s last-minute preparations—the settling in of all the animals in their stalls, feeding them, and so on—and perhaps for one last warning to the world of the ungodly.

God assured Noah, however, that after the seven days were finished, a tremendous _____ would pummel the earth for forty days and forty nights, until every living creature was destroyed “from off the face of the earth.”

A worldwide rain lasting forty days would be quite impossible under present atmospheric conditions; so this phenomenon required an utterly different source of atmospheric waters than now exists.

We've already seen this source to be the "waters above the firmament," that vast thermal _____ of invisible water vapor that maintained the greenhouse effect in the antediluvian (pre-Flood) world.

Those waters were somehow to condense and fall on the earth.

God also revealed that everything on the dry land that had life would be, literally, "wiped out" or "blotted out" from the face of the ground.

The earth would be completely cleansed of its _____ in this global deluge from Heaven.

The words translated "every living substance" are kol yeyum, and mean literally "all existence," or "all that grows up."

This concept does not limit itself merely to everything with "the breath of life," but seems to include _____ as well as animals.

The ground was to be so inundated and devastated as to be made utterly barren of vegetation.

The lush forests and meadows of the antediluvian world were all to be uprooted, washed away, and finally either buried in the sediment (where they would become the _____, oil, and gas deposits of the post-Flood world) or else just decay completely.

At this point, many skeptics raise yet another objection to the account—that there would not be enough time to load the "millions of species."

But as already shown, there would only be about 16,000 animals at the most.

Thus, as one scholar showed—all the animals could have boarded and been stabled in as little as _____ hours (*Woodmorappe, The Gathering of Animals Suitable for Year-Long Captivity, NAFS, Ch. 7*).

Remember that the animals came to Noah of their own volition, and we can assume that they continued to _____ with Noah and his sons during the loading and stabling process, for this whole event was of God.

And now God reminds Noah of the solemnity of the occasion, repeating that the Flood would wipe out "every living thing."

God also asserts His right to do so, saying He would wipe out what "I have _____." This is also an indication of His regret that such a judgment was necessary.

At this point, God specifies only the _____ days of rainfall. As one scholar explains:

“The number ‘forty’ cannot be merely accidental. According to the Scriptural use of numbers, forty regularly describes a period of trial terminating in the victory of good and the overthrow of evil” (see Num. 14:33; Ex. 24:18; 1 Kings 19:8; Jon. 3:4; Mat. 4:2; Acts 1:3) (Leupold).

Later in this chapter (7:11), the account reveals that the beginning of the Flood was in the “great deep,” or ocean.

But this first paragraph (7:1-4) is stressing Noah’s final preparations for the Flood, rather than the details of the Flood itself.

Noah’s Obedience



Genesis 7:5 (NASB)

5 Noah did according to all that the Lord had commanded him.



Genesis 7:5 (LSB)

5 And Noah did according to all that Yahweh had commanded him.

When God had finished His instructions, Noah proceeded to do “all that Yahweh had commanded him,” just as he had done for over a hundred years.

Here was the final test, the final _____ with the world he had known, thrusting himself completely on God’s mercy and grace.

And once again, Noah obeyed without a shadow of hesitation.

Folks, I cannot tell you how important this issue of obedience is to God.

Listen to just a quick summary of what the Bible teaches about obedience.

First, our obedience is the proof of our _____ for God.

In the New Testament, Jesus directly equates obedience with genuine love for Him.



John 14:15

15 If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.



1 John 5:3

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

Second, our obedience is proof of our true _____.

Disobedience—which is essentially placing one’s own judgment above God’s—is consistently framed as the root of human struggle (e.g., the Fall in Genesis).

In stark contrast stands Biblical obedience, which is not about earning salvation; rather, it is the natural, outward evidence that a person truly knows and trusts God.



James 2:14, 17

14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.



1 John 2:3-4

3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

Third, our obedience brings about God’s protection and _____.

Throughout Scripture, obedience is closely tied to spiritual wisdom, protection from harmful paths, and receiving God’s promises.



Joshua 1:8

8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.



And James 1:25

25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

The obedience of _____ to their parents is specifically linked to blessing as well.



Ephesians 6:1-3

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

Fourth, the Bible teaches that our obedience to God forms a firm spiritual _____, providing evidence of genuine salvation.



Matthew 7:24-25.

24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

In a nutshell, wholehearted obedience to whatever God says is evidence of true salvation which will stand the “storm” of Judgment Day.

The Timing of the Flood



Genesis 7:6-9

6 Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of water came upon the earth. 7 Then Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him entered the ark because of the water of the flood. 8 Of clean animals and animals that are not clean and birds and everything that creeps on the ground, 9 there went into the ark to Noah by twos, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.

Moses grounds the momentous event of the Flood firmly in _____.

This was the end of the old human race, and the beginning of a new era.

Noah would become the new progenitor.

The Flood began when Noah was _____ years old. After Noah, no one would ever live anywhere near as long as he did.

Shem died at the age of 600 (11:10–11)—the same age that Noah began his _____-year journey into the new post-diluvian world (Gen. 9:28-29); and no one since then has lived nearly as long as that.

Noah’s total obedience was stressed in Genesis 7:5.

But now we see how _____ Noah obeyed God, for Genesis 7:7–9 tells us that Noah obeyed the very specific instructions God had given him over one hundred years earlier—to take the animals and his family into the Ark.

Very solemnly, in order to emphasize that every one of God’s promises and commandments were being carried out to the letter, the narrative enumerates all who entered the Ark—Noah, his sons, his wife, his sons’ wives, the clean animals, the unclean beasts, the birds, and the creeping things.

Each kind of animal was represented by a male and female, so that the created kinds could be preserved through the Flood.

Everything had been done exactly as God had commanded.

The Flood Begins



Genesis 7:10-12

10 It came about after the seven days, that the water of the Flood came upon the earth. 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. 12 The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.

The last grace period of seven days (verse 4) was ended, and the time of judgment had arrived (verse 10).

The exact date, in fact, was recorded—“In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month...” While Genesis 7:6 informed us that the Flood came when Noah was 600 years old, we are now given a precise chronology down to the day.

In fact, the Bible is specific in the chronology of the entire time from _____ on the Ark to disembarking from the Ark.

This is summarized in the table below.

Chronology of the Flood Year

Year (Noah)	Month	Day	Event	Duration (Days)	Reference
600	2	10	Noah entered the Ark		7:7, 10, 11
600	2	17	Heavens and earth opened	7?	7:11
600	3	27	Rain stopped, and presumably also the fountains of the deep. So water began receding.	40	7:12
600	7	17	Ark rested on Ararat mountains (since Flood prevailed for 150 days, this number must be 150-40)	110	8:3-4
600	10	1	Tops of mountains seen	74	8:5
600	11	10	Raven—did not return	40	8:6-7
600	11	18	Dove—returned	7	8:8
600	11	25	Dove—returned with leaf	7	8:10-11
600	12	2	Dove—did not return	7	8:12
601	1	1	Covering removed—ground dry	29	8:13
601	2	27	Everyone disembarked	56	8:14-16
			Total Duration of the Flood	370 Days	

And when we look at Genesis 5, we can calculate the amount of time which passed between _____ and the Flood.

From Creation to the Flood

Event/Person	Passage	Total Time from Creation (years)
God created everything	Genesis 1-2	0
Adam became the father of Seth at 130.	Genesis 5:3	$0 + 130 = 130$
Seth became the father of Enosh at 105.	Genesis 5:6	$130 + 105 = 235$
Enosh became the father of Kenan at 90.	Genesis 5:9	$235 + 90 = 325$
Cainan became the father of Mahalalel at 70.	Genesis 5:12	$325 + 70 = 395$
Mahalalel became the father of Jared at 65.	Genesis 5:15	$395 + 65 = 460$
Jared became the father of Enoch at 162.	Genesis 5:18	$460 + 162 = 622$
Enoch became the father of Methuselah at 65.	Genesis 5:21	$622 + 65 = 687$
Methuselah became the father of Lamech at 187.	Genesis 5:25	$687 + 187 = 874$
Lamech became the father of Noah at 182.	Genesis 5:28	$874 + 182 = 1056$
The Flood started when Noah was 600.	Genesis 7:6	$1056 + 600 = \mathbf{1656}$

We have already discussed the fact that the antediluvian _____ cycle was drastically different from that of the present day.

It seems to have been controlled by the two great reservoirs of water resulting from the primeval separation of the waters on the second day of Creation into “waters above the firmament” and “waters below the firmament,” the firmament in this case consisting of the atmospheric heavens.

The “waters above the firmament” constituted the vast vaporous _____ which maintained the earth as a beautiful greenhouse, preventing cold temperatures and therefore preventing wind and rain storms.

Being in the vapor state, it was invisible and fully transparent, but nevertheless contained vast quantities of _____ extending far out into space.

The “waters below the firmament” became what is referred to as “the great deep” or “the great depths” of water.

This was water in _____ state, visible to the first man in the form of the antediluvian seas (Gen. 1:10) and rivers (Gen. 2:10-14).

These rivers were not produced by run-off from rainfall (Gen. 2:5), but emerged through controlled fountains or springs, evidently from deep-seated sources in or below the earth’s crust.

Deliverance from an Evil Age



Genesis 7:13-16

13 On the very same day Noah and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark, 14 they and every beast after its kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, all sorts of birds. 15 So they went into the ark to Noah, by twos of all flesh in which was the breath of life. 16 Those that entered, male and female of all flesh, entered as God had commanded him; and the Lord closed it behind him.

Once again the writer stresses the great number of animals that were in the Ark—“every beast after its kind”—wild beasts, cattle, creeping things, birds, insects (the Hebrew phrase means literally “every kind of little bird of every kind of wings”)—in fact, everything with the breath of life, male and female.

Furthermore, on the very _____ day, after the seven days were finished, the day on which the Flood came, Noah and his family themselves entered the Ark.

This evidenced their faith in the absolute _____ of God’s Word, neither fearfully rushing into the Ark ahead of time, nor presumptuously delaying past the announced time.

Once all were inside, a remarkable thing took place—“the Lord closed [the door] behind him.”

HOW God did this is not recorded, but the door to the Ark was shut and sealed without the help of any human hands.

This provided a final assurance to the occupants that they were in the _____ of God and under His protection. The old world—and everyone they had known there— was forever dead to them from that moment on.

Their life was henceforth a new life, and they were to live in a new world.

The Ark of safety endured the battering of the Flood for them, as the Flood destroyed the world of the ungodly which would otherwise soon have destroyed them.

So Christ, in dying for our sins, triumphed over _____



Galatians 1:4b

4 ...so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father....

So what is the significance of God shutting the door of the Ark?

In His instructions for building the Ark, God told Noah to “set the door of the ark in the side of it” (Gen. 6:16).

The Ark had only one door to pass through to escape God’s terrible judgment.

By faith, Noah and his family entered the Ark, and once they were all inside, the Lord shut them in (Gen. 7:16).

Now the humans and land animals outside the Ark were doomed, and those inside were a divinely protected _____.

The act of God in shutting the door of the Ark provides a wonderful demonstration of the twin truths of man’s _____ and God’s sovereignty, which we see all throughout Scripture.

Think about it.

Noah and his family had to obey God’s command to build and then _____ the Ark for salvation—but it was God Who had commanded the Ark to be built as the means of salvation from the Flood.

After God shut the door, the time of God’s judgment would arrive.

And only those who had gone through the doorway would be saved; no one else could enter once the door was shut.

Thus, the Ark pictures _____ in Jesus Christ, Who is the “Door” in our “Ark” of salvation.



John 10:9

9 “I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved....”

The Bible makes it abundantly clear from cover to cover that we are “dead in [our] trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1).

As spiritually _____ people, we can do nothing to save ourselves from either our sin or its consequence of eternal separation from God.



Ephesians 2:8

8 ...by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God....

In other words, salvation is ALL of God.

But the Bible also tells us,



Romans 10:9

9 ...if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved....

Our responsibility is to go through the “_____” (Jesus) by confessing Him as Lord and believing the Gospel truths about Him.

And just as Noah’s family and the animals on the Ark were rescued to reproduce in the new world after the Flood, God’s people who have gone through the one Door (the Lord Jesus) will be saved from this evil world to dwell forever in a new world.

Only _____ people survived the Flood of Noah’s day.

The Bible makes it clear that no other people on earth survived, even though God was patient with the people of Noah’s day and gave them 120 years of warning, while Noah was building the Ark.



1 Peter 3:20

20 ...when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

God has been very patient with us too.

For the past 2,000 years, ever since Jesus died on the Cross and rose again, that “Door” has continued to remain _____.

It might seem like a long time to us, but it’s not to God.



2 Peter 3:8-9

8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

But one day, God will once again shut the “Door” so that only those in the “Ark” of salvation will be saved, and the rest will be judged.

Friend, for you this “Door” will shut in one of two ways.

First, you could die.



Hebrews 9:27

27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

Or second, you could be alive when Jesus returns to _____ the earth with fire and make a new heavens and earth.



2 Peter 3:7, 10-14

7 But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. 11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless....

Friend, make sure you have gone through the “Door” to be saved!

A Truly Global Flood



Genesis 7:17-20

17 Then the flood came upon the earth for forty days, and the water increased and lifted up the ark, so that it rose above the earth. 18 The water prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. 19 The water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered. 20 The water prevailed fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered.

There has been a constant stream of criticism of the Biblical account from those who insist that the Flood of Noah’s day could not have been _____.

“Science,” they say, has “proven” that the earth is billions of years old, and therefore such an event as this could not have taken place.

Such scholars (both scientists and theologians) would insist that the Biblical record must be interpreted as a _____ flood covering only the Mesopotamian River Valley, or some sort of tranquil event that rose and receded without leaving any geological damage behind.

It’s worth noting that everyone who holds to an ancient earth (to accommodate evolutionary ideas) must espouse some form of a local flood.

If the Flood of Noah’s day took place as described in the Genesis record, then the so-called “ages” represented by the massive layers of sedimentary rock all over the earth would have been deposited during or shortly after that event, and that interpretation of the geological evidence does not fit their evolutionary narrative.

But the serious student of Genesis is left in no doubt that the language used by Moses necessitates a Flood that was _____, cataclysmic, and global in extent.

Sudden Onslaught of the Flood

In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month,



Genesis 7:11b

11 ...all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened.

On the very same day, Noah, and Noah’s sons— _____, Ham, and Japheth—and Noah’s wife, and the three wives of his sons entered the ark (Gen. 7:13).

The friends and neighbors to whom Noah had preached for so long barely had time to laugh over seeing him enter the Ark, bag and baggage, before the ground burst open and the deluge began.

The Flood came suddenly, bursting upon the scene as the unsuspecting populace was going about their _____ lives.

Jesus Himself commented on their attitude of “life as usual”—until it was too late.



Matthew 24:37-39

*37 “For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.
38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.”*

Death of All Air-breathing, Land-dwelling Life

Four times in the Flood account God specifies exactly what living creatures would die—those who breathed _____ and lived on the land.



Genesis 6:7

7 The Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.”



Genesis 6:17

17 “Behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish.”



Genesis 7:4

4 “For after seven more days, I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights; and I will blot out from the face of the land every living thing that I have made.”



Genesis 7:21-22

21 All flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; 22 of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died.

These creatures were precious to God.

The people were His _____.

The animals had been created by Him.

And yet the evil in the world was so great that He had to wipe the slate clean, as it were, and start over with the occupants of the Ark.

Global Extent of the Flood

Now I want you to see that the language Moses uses to describe the Flood completely rules out any possible interpretation of this event as a local flood.

Look at the very specific phraseology used in the following verses.



Genesis 7:17

17 Then the flood came upon the earth for forty days, and the water increased and lifted up the ark, so that it rose above the earth.



Genesis 7:18

18 The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters.



Genesis 7:19

19 The water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered.



Genesis 7:20

20 The water prevailed fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered.



Genesis 7:24

24 The water prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days.

All of these passages emphasize the global character of the Flood in many ways, with their repeated _____ language.

For example, when you read in verse 19 that “the water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered,” one can only conclude that this was a global, worldwide, entire earth-covering Flood.

In a nutshell, the Genesis Flood was a major cataclysmic worldwide event.

Evidence Against a Local Flood

Not only is the language of Genesis emphatically global, but there are many problems that constitute a refutation of a local flood interpretation.

Why did God bother Noah with building an Ark? He could have _____ to the other side of the mountains and avoided the flood, just as Lot merely needed to get out of Sodom and the surrounding cities to escape their destruction (Genesis 19).

Why did God send every kind of animal to the Ark so they would escape extinction? A local flood would have left animals from other areas to reproduce that kind if the local ones had died.

Why was the Ark big enough to hold all the kinds of land vertebrate animals that have ever existed? If only Mesopotamian animals were aboard, the Ark could have been much _____. The Ark was specifically for keeping Noah's family and the animals alive during the Flood (Genesis 6:18–22, 7:23, 8:1). Thus its sheer size indicates a universal cargo of animals.

Why would _____ have been sent on board? They could simply have winged across to a nearby mountain range. After all, the Arctic Tern has an annual migration cycle from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back, a 70,000 km round trip.

How could the waters rise to 15 cubits (8 meters) above the mountains (Genesis 7:20)? Water seeks its own level. Because of the universal laws of physics, the water couldn't have risen to cover the local mountains while leaving the rest of the world untouched.

A local flood in Mesopotamia, the most common suggestion, is absurd, because the geography is all wrong. Mesopotamia's geography is a half bowl, so the postulated gigantic wall of water would flow out toward the _____. This would carry the Ark with it, in the opposite direction of the Ararat mountains.

The Flood prevailed for 150 days. Local floods don't last long. And it took 220 more days for the earth to dry; local floods don't take many months to dry.

People who did not happen to be living in the vicinity would not have been affected by it. They would have _____ God's judgment on sin. If this happened, what did Christ mean when He likened the coming worldwide judgment of mankind to the judgment of "all" men (Mat. 24:37–39, cf. 2 Peter 3:3–7) in the days of Noah?

Thus, a partial judgment in Noah's day would indicate a partial judgment to come.

God would have repeatedly broken His promise never to send such a flood again (Gen. 9:11–16), because there have been _____ local floods since then.

The Total Destruction of Life



Genesis 7:21-23

21 All flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; 22 of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died. 23 Thus He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark.

Such a globe-covering Flood would be lethal to all land-dwelling vertebrates, including man, and even to many sea creatures.

Many of them would be rapidly buried, forming fossils.

In fact, on the summit of Mount Everest we find _____ limestone, with fossils of bottom-dwelling marine invertebrates related to our starfish and sea urchins.

The fossil record is not a record of a succession of great ages, but of a sequence of _____ burial.

At the beginning of the Flood, when the “fountains of the great deep” were bursting (Gen. 7:11), this would have generated underwater _____ known in the geological world as turbidity currents.

Huge amounts of bottom-dwelling marine life would have been buried and fossilized right away.

It is thus not surprising that we see massive amounts of marine invertebrates at the bottom of the fossil record, though some also ended up stranded on the tops of mountains.

(Incidentally, about 95% of all fossils are _____.)

It’s also not surprising that we find many fish near the bottom of the fossil record, caught and buried in those massive turbidity currents.

Also low in the record are those creatures which live at the boundary of water and land—the _____.

And land creatures would have been buried after all these.

So the fossil record reflects a successive burial of _____ as the Flood encroached upon the land from the sea.

Once again, the account is universal in its language, but this time specifically concerning the destruction of life outside the Ark.

All flesh [Hebrew *kāl-bāsār*] that moved on the earth perished... (7:21)

All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died” (7:22). _____ would not be included in this statement, since they don’t breathe through nostrils, but they are included in the next.

Thus He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land... (7:23).

There are also two different enumerations of the land creatures which died.

The first lists them as “birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind” (v. 21).

The second is found just two verses later, where Moses writes, “from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky...they were blotted out from the earth” (v. 23).

These repeated universal statements and extensive enumerations should leave no doubt that the destruction of all the land animals and _____ outside the Ark was complete.

But just to be sure we understand that, the account continues with these solemn words.



Genesis 7:23b

23 ...only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark.

Out of a world of millions, or possibly even billions of people—only _____ were left.

The Floodwaters Conquer the Earth



Genesis 7:24

24 The water prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days.

Now we see the conclusion—nothing but water all over the earth.

The word translated “prevailed” is *gābar* (גבר), which has the idea of “_____.”

There was no land surface exposed anywhere; the water had conquered the land.

The verb also provides information on the chronology of the Flood, as one scholar explains:

“From the idea of gabhar, ‘be mighty,’ ‘conquer,’ we derive the thought at this point that the conquering, dominating force over all the earth was the mighty mass of water. Since the verb gabhar is used (v. 18) of the time before the waters reached their maximum height and not only to mark this maximum, we feel sure that the 150 days must include the forty days of rain mentioned in v. 12.” (Leupold).

So it was only another 110 days before the Ark rested on the Ararat mountains.

Friend, the Flood is a good example of the Biblical theme that judgment is a _____ of creation.

God's judgment of the Flood took the earth back to the time before _____ when God had separated the land and the sea, back to a time of swirling water, making the earth uninhabitable for any land creatures.

Conclusion

Now, if this were the end of the story, then it would be beyond depressing.

But in the next chapter, we see God taking care of those He saved via the Ark, and beginning human history afresh with new instructions and a new _____.

The end of the old age of human history only signaled the beginning of a new age, as Moses traces the lineage of Noah and his family, moving ever closer and closer to the promised _____ (cf. Luke 3:36).