

Title: The Flood and Deliverance

Theme: The judgment of God brought death, but His grace sustained life.

Introduction: It is of great importance that full preparation be made for an important event, like a wedding, for example. (Mention important details and decisions to be made.) Proper preparation helps to ensure that the event will proceed properly.

I. Preparation for a Worldwide Flood

A. God's warning and instructions to Noah (6:13,17) (6:14-16,18-20)

- Notice that God promises to bring the animals to the ark in verse 20!

B. Noah constructed the ark (6:22; 7:5) (Heb 11:7)

- Noah was obedient to do all that God commanded him to do. This little project took about 100 years to complete. Can you imagine potential roadblocks and discouragement along the way? (scoffers, insults, cost, doubts) How was Noah able to overcome these challenges? Well, his approach landed him in the Hall of Fame. Look at Hebrews chapter 11. Verse 7. **READ.** Noah chose to trust God while he did what God had told him to do. (*Trust and obey*)

C. Noah warned people – God's judgment was coming (2 Peter 2:5; Gen 6:13,17)

- Noah, a preacher and herald of righteousness (NAS and ESV)
- All life to be eliminated on earth except sea creatures and ark passengers
- As the ark gradually took shape, his messages had a physical illustration. There may have been more visitors to the construction site than will come to the replica in Kentucky!

II. Final Details Completed the Preparation

A. Food for humans and animals was on board (6:21)

- Given the short shelf life of fresh fruits and vegetables, and with no permission from God to eat meat until after the flood (see Gen 9), the menu selections for the eight people and thousands of animals may have been pretty limited.

B. All the animals had come and were on board (6:20; 7:8-9)

- The miracles of the animals and birds coming, male and female of each kind, must have brought sudden and absolute confidence that this terrifying promise of God really and truly was about to happen. A hundred years was a long time to be getting ready!

C. Noah and his family members were on board (7:7)

- No one resisted, unlike Lot and his wife and two daughters escaping the destruction of Sodom. They had to be physically pulled away from their home and city by the angels. But Noah and his seven family members made a choice that resulted in permanent separation from friends, extended family, and material possessions.

- So the family entered into the ark, and the door closed behind them. Do you think, once the rain started, that there might have been some people pounding on that door?
- Notice verse 16 in chapter 6. **READ.** The door is in the side of the ark. Now look at verse 16 in chapter 7. **READ.** God shut that door once everyone was inside. I like Derek Kidner's comment on God closing the door behind Noah. He wrote, "This beautifully shows God's fatherly touch, at the very brink of judgment. The [same care from God] that saw this matter through carries our salvation to its conclusion." Kidner appreciated the positional security we have in Christ.

III. The Flood Water Came

A. There were three sources (7:10-12)

1. Ocean and rivers (1:10; 2:10-14)

- There were already seas and rivers from the third day of creation, adding their portion to the massive volume of water.

2. Subterranean fountains (7:11)

- There were also vast areas of stored water beneath the land and ocean.
- Severe volcanic and earthquake activity released these "fountains" under pressure. New mountain ranges were created. Original land surface areas were fractured. Geologists now study these "tectonic plates" which are under surface soil and rock.

3. Water vapor canopy above the earth (1:6-8; 7:11)

- The protective water vapor canopy came down in the form of rain, for 40 days and 40 nights. The loss of this canopy proved to be detrimental for life on earth. Creation scientists posit that it provided a greenhouse effect of worldwide uniform temperatures, no violent weather, and lush vegetation everywhere. The canopy also would have filtered out ultraviolet radiation and cosmic rays which cause genetic degradation. This may also be linked to the biblical record of significant decreases in life span following the flood.

B. The ark floated and kept floating (7:17-18)

- Noah may have been worried about this. There are some sad videos of massive just-completed ships being pushed down a ramp into the water, then promptly turning over onto one side. But Noah's workmanship proved to be excellent, and God's plan was perfect. The waters of the flood destroyed the moral corruption as well as much on the surface of the earth, but paradoxically, those same waters lifted the ark and its passengers to deliverance from death.
- "Ark" is an interesting word. The Hebrew word is spelled "t-e-b-a", which is pronounced tay-baw. Its definition is – a vessel that floats on water. There are other Hebrew words that are translated as "ark" in English, but those words describe a dry container, as in ... (Indiana Jones) ... "the ark of the covenant." But there are only two tay-baw arks, water craft arks, in the OT. One is in view today, Noah's ark. Who rode in the other ark? Hint: He had a sister named Miriam. Moses. See Exodus 2:3.

- The construction detail of both of those arks says that they were “covered” with pitch. That would seal them against water, enabling them to float. They were protected against sinking. That word “covered” in Hebrew is translated “atonement” in English when it relates to sacrifice for sin. Jews who were obedient to the Mosaic laws of sacrifice had their sins “covered” by God until the Messiah would come to provide the true and required sacrifice for sin. Those Jews were covered, protected against judgment, just like Noah and Moses. Those Jews would have salvation through their faith, obediently offering sacrifice while trusting God to provide forgiveness for their sins.

C. All the mountains were under water, and all living beings died (7:19-23)

- Safety procedures for tsunamis, to seek the highest ground, were useless because all higher ground had disappeared. These verses counter the false claims of skeptics that the flood was a regional phenomenon.

D. The flood waters kept increasing for 5 months (7:24)

- The rain had stopped after 40 days and nights, but the water from beneath the earth was not exhausted for several more months.

IV. The water receded while Noah waited and watched

A. Massive changes to the earth’s surface continued as the water level lowered

- Charles Ryrie described this. “Massive movements occurred of dirt, rocks, and surface plates. Sedimentary deposits were distributed all over the world as the moving power of water had its way for months, both in the flooding and in the subsequent subsiding.
- Henry Morris provides even more insight. “Creation scientists believe the surface, or crust, of the earth was radically altered during the flood, with new mountain ranges higher than Mount Ararat and deep chasms, or valleys, under the ocean. There are trenches in the Pacific Ocean that are 7 miles deep. (You can read the Lord’s description of this process in Psalm 104:6-9.) The collapse of the emptied subterranean reservoirs thus became the final location of much of the water that flooded the earth.” Some portion of the outer canopy became the atmospheric clouds through evaporation in the new weather environment.

B. God “remembered” about Noah and the creatures on the ark (8:1)

- The idea that God might have forgotten something, then suddenly have it return to His consciousness describes a human condition, not one that would exist in God’s perfect omniscience. Scripture mentions God’s remembering something when he demonstrates faithful love with timely action or intervention. The passage of time is an issue for the weakness of human memory, but God is transcendent, not limited in His power or ability by the passage of time. One commentator said that “God’s remembering always implies His loving movement toward the object of His memory.” (Genesis 19:29) (God remembering Abraham’s concern for Lot and family in Sodom.)

C. As the water level lowered, the ark came to rest on a mountain (8:2-5)

- Probably Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey, elevation just under 17,000 feet. It would have been the first peak in the area to emerge as the water went down.

D. Noah began to look for the right conditions to exit the ark (8:6-7; 8:8-14)

- The raven (8:6-7) Ravens are omnivorous. Do you know what that word means? One who is omnivorous will eat anything that is edible. No, I'm not referring to your teenage son, although you might pull out your HEB receipts to try and convince us. Wikipedia says that the raven will feed on insects, grain, berries, fruit, small animals, nesting birds, and carrion. The world's plants had been mostly devastated. Small animals and birds were gone. But not carrion – dead and putrefying flesh. One would suspect that the raven didn't return to the ark because he thought he'd died and gone to road-kill heaven. No help for Noah there.
- The dove (8:8-14) This little bird seemed to be particular, perhaps looking for a branch of some kind to land on. The evidence brought by the dove of growing vegetation like the olive plant must have surely been an encouragement to those family members inside the ark. After all, they had been waiting for over a year to see what their future outside that confounded boat might be.
- The ordeal for the ark passengers was almost over. What they couldn't realize was that they had been part of a type, a foreshadowing, a picture of salvation from sin and death. For Noah's family, the ark represented the hope that God could provide a way to avoid death and have life. There was only one way to escape the coming judgment of God. They had to trust in God's provision for staying alive, which was the ark. Surely that must have been part of the message that Noah preached to the people who were watching him build that amazingly huge boat.

V. The ark passengers and animals disembark (8:15-19)

- The voyage lasted just over a year, 378 days by John MacArthur's calculation.
- Notice the echo of Gen 1 in the last phrase of verse 17. (be fruitful & multiply)
- So Noah and his family emerged into a new world. But we're not talking Garden of Eden conditions here. There was massive destruction and desolation. Some vegetation had appeared, as the dove had revealed, but most plant life would have to be reestablished from seeds and roots that were near the surface of the ground. The loss of the vapor canopy removed the worldwide greenhouse effect. Coming out of the ark, the air temperature near the top of the mountain may have felt uncomfortably cold. Areas near the equator would have felt uncomfortably hot. The earth's crust had become unstable, so earthquakes and volcanoes would cause problems on a continuing basis. With no vapor canopy, harmful radiation from space would degrade human health and longevity. New mountain ranges, deserts, and the developing polar ice caps created less habitable land areas. Sounds pretty bad, doesn't it? But the good news was that humanity was getting a fresh start. This small band of survivors was a group of people who knew about God's judgment of sin, knew of His awesome power, and knew of His life-saving grace. The lineage of Seth, Noah's ancestor, contained the seed, the promise, and the reality of a future Savior. That lineage would thus continue.

Personal Implications:

- “Noah did according to all that the LORD had commanded him.” Genesis 7:5 Spend some time with the Lord in thought and prayer. Can you identify any specific situation or heart attitude where you know that you are not functioning in the way the Lord expects you to? If the answer is yes, you need to confess and correct.
- The menu on the ark may not have had much variety during that one-year cruise. There’s no record of the passengers complaining. But if they had been like the nation of Israel becoming disgusted by manna, manna, manna every day, there was the possibility of discontent. The Lord wants us to learn to be content with all kinds of situations in our life. (See Philippians 4:11-13.)
Is discontent showing up in your mind and heart these days? Ask the Lord to help you adjust your perspective and learn to be content.
- Have you been born again? You were born the first time and were alive physically. Being “born again”, a second birth, means coming alive spiritually, which puts you into right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. If you want to have this new, eternal life, then acknowledge to God that you are a sinner. Since Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins, you only need to ask God to give you the forgiveness He is offering. Turn from the sins in your life and trust Jesus today, and you will be born again!!