

Genesis, Part 13 – God Means What He Says – January 21/22, 2012

[Noah was] “. . . a preacher of righteousness . . .” 2 Peter 2:5

“Then the LORD said to Noah, ‘Go into the Ark, you and your whole family.’” Genesis 7:1

“Take with you **7 of every clean animal**, a male and its mate, and **2 of every kind of unclean animal**, a male and its mate, to keep their various species alive throughout the earth.” Genesis 7:2

“Clean Animal” = Animal the Israelites were allowed to eat **and** to sacrifice to God in worship.

“Unclean Animal” = Animal the Israelites were **not** allowed to eat **or** to sacrifice to God in worship.

“Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and taking some of the clean animals and birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings to the LORD.” Genesis 8:20

If Noah had only taken two of every clean animal on the Ark – after using them to sacrifice to the Lord – they would have been extinct!

“Seven days from now, I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.” Genesis 7:4

“Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came upon the earth.” Genesis 7:6

“And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives entered the Ark to escape the waters of the Flood.” Genesis 7:7

“In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, all the springs of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights.” Genesis 7:11

Source #1: “the floodgates of the heavens” (Rain)

Source #2: “The springs of the great deep” (Subterranean Water)

No amount of rain could have ever produced the amount of water involved in Noah’s Flood.

“On that very day, Noah and his sons – Shem, Ham, and Japheth – together with their wives – entered the Ark.” Genesis 7:13

“Then the LORD shut them in.” Genesis 7:16

God **closed** and **sealed** the door to the Ark because this prevented Noah from responding to people’s cries for help and opening the door of the Ark for them.

Our God is a God of patience and mercy . . . But when His mercy runs out, our God is a God who **means what He says** about judgment.

“So for forty days and nights, the Flood kept coming on the earth, and, as the waters increased, they lifted the Ark high above the earth.” Genesis 7:17

“The waters rose greatly on the earth and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered . . . to a depth of more than 20 feet.” Genesis 7:19, 20

“Every living thing that moved on the earth perished . . . everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died . . . every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out.” Genesis 7:21, 22, 23a

“Only Noah was left, and those with him in the Ark and the waters flooded the earth for one hundred fifty days.” Genesis 7:23b, 24

“Was the Flood **really** a **universal, worldwide** event as the Bible says?”

Reason #1: The Bible’s vocabulary regarding the Flood

The **Hebrew** word used for Noah’s Flood = “horrendous disaster/cataclysm”

The **Greek** word used for Noah’s Flood is the word from which we get our English word “cataclysm.”

Reason #2: A local flood needed no Ark

Reason #3: The depth of the Flood

“ . . . all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered . . . to a depth of more than 20 feet.”
Genesis 7:19b, 20a

Mount Ararat (where the Ark landed – Genesis 8:4) is over 17,000 feet high! To cover it with 20+ feet of water means that Noah’s Flood was over 3 miles deep!

Reason #4: The Duration of the Flood

“The waters flooded the earth for one hundred fifty days.” Genesis 7:24

Reason #5: The Bible’s universal terminology regarding the Flood

“ . . . **all** the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered.” Genesis 7:19

“ . . . **every** living thing that moved on the earth perished . . .” Genesis 7:21

“ . . . **only** Noah was left . . .” Genesis 7:23

Reason #6: The Confirmation of the New Testament

“ . . . the Flood came and took them **all** away . . .” Matthew 24:39

“By water the **world** of that time was deluged and destroyed.” 2 Peter 3:6

Noah’s Flood probably qualifies as the **single most awesome physical event** to ever happen to planet earth up to this present time.

So What?

“If you start this, I promise you – I **will** finish it!”

When you’re dealing with people, it’s important to figure out early on – who **means business** when they speak and who doesn’t.

“God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a human being, that He should change His mind. Does God speak and then not act? Does He promise and then not fulfill?” Numbers 23:19

“When I have spoken, I will not relent. When I have decided, I will not turn back.” Jeremiah 4:28

“ . . . God cannot lie . . .” Titus 1:2

First: This has some massive implications for people who have never believed in Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.

“Whoever believes in the Son of God [Jesus Christ] **has** eternal life. But whoever rejects the Son **will not see** eternal life, but God’s wrath **hovers** on him.” John 3:36

“Go and tell the Good News to every person. Whoever believes will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be damned.” Mark 16:15, 16

“And this is the record: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son **has** eternal life; and he who does not have the Son of God **does not have** eternal life.” 1 John 5:11, 12

“God will punish those who do not know God and who do not obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and excluded from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power.” 2 Thessalonians 1:8, 9

“God is not slack when it comes to keeping His promise as some people think . . .” 2 Peter 3:9

Lots of people hear God’s warnings from the Bible – but because they are still alive and healthy, they figure God’s not really serious about what He says.

“ . . . rather, God is being **patient**, not wanting anyone to perish but wanting everyone to come to salvation.” 2 Peter 3:9

“But the day of the Lord **will** come . . .” 2 Peter 3:10

Second: Knowing God means what He says about judging non-believers also has some massive implications for those of us who **do** know Christ.

It means that everyone who doesn’t know Christ is facing a catastrophe in eternity that makes Noah’s Flood look like “a walk in the park.”

It also means that Jesus meant what he said to us (Mark 16:15), “Go and tell the Good News to **every person.**”

The Early Church saturated Jerusalem with the Gospel because it was full of people who were excited about “being missionaries every day.”

Question #1: “As a follower of Jesus Christ, who is God wanting you to share Jesus with?”

Question #2: “With the Lord’s help, are you willing to do it?”