

Noah, His Family, and the Animals Enter the Ark

Genesis 7:1-16

Genesis 7:1-16 - *"Then the LORD said to Noah, 'Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. ² You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; ³ also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴ For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made.' ⁵ And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him. ⁶ Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.*

⁷ So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. ⁸ Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, ⁹ two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰ And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. ¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. ¹² And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³ On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark— ¹⁴ they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. ¹⁵ And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. ¹⁶ So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in."

Background Notes

In obedience to God's command, Noah built the ark and brought all the animals on board. He took one pair of all the unclean animals and seven of all the clean animals and clean birds (v2-3). He brought more of the "clean" animals like sheep and cows, and extra "clean" birds like doves because these animals would be used for sacrifice and food after they came out of the ark.

Did you know that there is not enough water in our atmosphere today to cause a worldwide flood? If we drained the atmosphere dry all over the earth, we'd get less than a foot of water. And it certainly couldn't - or wouldn't - rain for forty days and forty nights all over the earth at the same time. So where did all the water come from for a *global* Flood?

Verse 11 helps to explain that question: *"In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were*

opened.” Verse 11 indicates that there were two sources for all the floodwaters: 1) the fountains or springs of the great deep, and 2) the windows or floodgates of heaven.

In reference to the springs of the deep: before the Flood there was no rain (Genesis 2:5-6). Instead of rain, a mist went up and watered the earth. The mist was possibly the result of the springs of the deep under great pressure. At the time of the Flood these subterranean reservoirs of water were broken up and a huge volume of water burst forth to flood the continents.

What about the windows (floodgates) of heaven? Genesis 1:6-7 states that God created a firmament, or expanse, to divide “the waters that were under the firmament” from “the waters that were above the firmament.” Notice, this water was not *in* the firmament, like the water in our atmosphere today - it was *above* the firmament. So before the Flood there may have been a kind of water vapor “canopy” that surrounded the earth above the atmosphere, and these waters (“the windows of heaven”) were precipitated at the time of the Flood. This idea of a water vapor canopy may sound like a far-out idea to you, but it’s not really that strange. Most of the planets in our solar system have some type of “canopy.” In addition, a water vapor canopy surrounding this earth explains more than just where a lot of the water came from for the Flood. It explains why people lived much longer lives before the Flood, because the earth would have been shielded from the dangerous cosmic radiation that can cause aging. The water vapor canopy would have given a worldwide “greenhouse effect,” so it explains why there were semitropical conditions around the world in times past. Evidence of tropical vegetation has been found even in polar regions! It explains why there was no need for rain before the Flood, and why there were no rainbows before the Flood.

A water vapor canopy idea explains why the apostle Peter outlined earth’s history in three stages, or three cosmographies - that is, three differently structured “heavens & earth” entities. 2 Peter 3 states that there was a heavens and earth before the Flood; then there is now a different heavens and earth system after the time of the Flood (the system that exists today); and there will be a new heavens and a new earth in the future. There’s much more we could say here, but we have to move on.

Doctrinal Points

1. God’s promised judgment on the unbeliever is certain.

For 120 years Noah preached that a Flood was coming, but no one believed. Can you imagine how the crowds must have laughed and ridiculed Noah for building a huge boat, miles from any body of water, and not a hint of rain? But the day came - and it came suddenly - when God’s promised judgment became a reality.

The scoffers weren’t able to change their minds at the last minute and bang on the door of the ark to get in, because **God had shut the door of the ark**. It was too late (v16). Those unbelievers not only lost their lives - 1 Peter 3:19-20 indicates

that they are now in a lost eternity. The people who thumbed their noses at God's patience while the ark was being built are now "in prison." God's promised judgment on the unbeliever is certain.

Hebrews 9:27 says, *"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment..."* Just as it was in Noah's day, so it is today. People don't believe that a judgment day is coming. In Luke 17:26-27 the Lord Jesus said, *"And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all."*

Notice the suddenness of God's judgment. The judgment of God is coming, and a day will come when it will be too late for salvation. God's promised judgment on the unbeliever is certain.

2. God's promised salvation for the believer is certain.

"On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark..."(v13) "the LORD shut him in" (v16). Were Noah and his family completely safe in the ark? Of course they were! Do you think that the door that was shut by God Himself would somehow pop open by mistake during the Flood? No way!

We've mentioned that the ark is a wonderful picture of salvation. The ark was battered by the storm of God's judgment, but Noah and his family were safe in the ark. In the same way, Christ took the storm of God's judgment against sin on the cross, but we who believe are safe in Christ.

The ark is also a picture of the eternal security of the believer. There was no way that Noah was going to jump out, fall out, or be thrown or snatched out of the ark. God had shut the door, and Noah and his believing family were safe and secure in the ark.

Are you safe in our "Ark," the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you inside or outside the door? The Lord Jesus said, *"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved" (John 10:9).* If you have trusted Christ, you are inside and eternally secure. Jesus said, *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:27-28).*

If you have truly accepted God's invitation to come into the Ark of Christ, you are safe and secure in the Ark of Christ - because **God** Himself has sealed the door! God's promised salvation for the believer is certain.

Practical Application

Fathers - let's lead our families by a strong faith!

How was Noah able to convince his family that God was really going to send a worldwide Flood, and that the ark was the only way of escape? It was the example of his strong faith. Hebrews 11:7 - *"By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."*

From Hebrews 12:7, notice that Noah's primary concern was for **his family** - not the animals, or the survival of the human race, but his **family**! Noah's faith was modeled to his family over the 120 years that it took to build the ark, and they listened and believed as he preached the message. Noah had a strong faith, and his family observed, believed and followed.

Unfortunately, many Christian fathers today don't follow Noah's example. Yes, they have a Christian faith, but it's not a strong faith. They tell their children "only what is done for Christ really counts" - but then they don't practice that statement in their life and lifestyle. They live for what they can get out of this world. No wonder their families don't follow the faith! I think one of the greatest tests of faith for Noah and his family was those last seven days before the Flood began. They were in the ark, but not a sign of rain yet - and that ark, with all those animals, was no hotel suite! But Noah's faith was strong, and his family was with him all the way.

Fathers - let's lead our families by a strong faith!