

## TALKS FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS TRANSCRIPT

### Talk Genesis 7:17-24: The Worldwide Flood

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#### Lesson 17

In these verses we see the extent and the results of the worldwide Flood of Noah's day. Genesis 7:17-24, *"Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18 The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. 20 The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. 21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit<sup>[a]</sup> of life, all that was on the dry land, died. 23 So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. 24 And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days."*

#### Background Notes

Was the Flood of Noah's day a local flood or a worldwide flood? What would you conclude after reading Genesis 7? A worldwide flood of course! Verse 19, *"And the waters prevailed **exceedingly** on the earth, and **all** the high hills under the **whole** heaven were covered."* [emphasis added] And verse 21, *"And **all** flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and **every** creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and **every** man"* [emphasis added]. And verse 23, *"So He destroyed **all** living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth"* [emphasis added]. Clearly a worldwide flood is indicated, and yet in spite of this clear teaching of Scripture, some Christians (including some evangelical Christians) believe the Flood was only a local flood confined to the Mesopotamian Valley. Can you believe it?

These people say the universal terms used in Genesis 7 are only "from Noah's perspective" - that is, all the high hills and mountains in the Mesopotamian Valley or in Noah's area were covered, but not all the high hills and mountains in the world. Well, wait a minute! What high hills and mountains in the Mesopotamian Valley, anyway? And if they were covered by more than **20 feet** of water (verse 20) for **five months** (verse 24), then this was **more** than a local flood! Remember, water seeks its own level, right?

Those who believe that the Genesis Flood was only a local flood say, yes, all life perished -- that is, they say, all life in the Mesopotamian Valley perished, but not all life worldwide or every man worldwide. Well again, wait a minute! What about verse 21? And if that was the case, why go to the trouble of building the ark? Certainly in 120 years Noah and the animals could have migrated beyond the Mesopotamian Valley for safety! And there are a

number of other arguments that show that the local flood theory doesn't hold water. (Sorry for the pun there!)

Well, let me list a few of the arguments. In Genesis 9:15, God promised that He would never again flood this earth with water. Now if the Flood of Noah's day was only a local flood, then God has broken his promise, because there have been many local floods since the days of Noah -- some with significant loss of life. The simple answer here is that the Genesis Flood was worldwide, and God promised that there would never again be a **worldwide** flood.

Another biblical argument: All the inspired writers of scripture who mention the Flood speak of it in **universal** terms. For example, in 2 Peter 3 the apostle Peter wrote that the world of Noah's day **perished**, being flooded with water. Then he said that there is a present heavens and earth which exists now, which will be destroyed by fire. Then he went on to speak of a new heavens and a new earth. So Peter, the inspired writer, spoke of a "heavens and earth system" which existed **before** the Flood, and another "heavens and earth system" **after the** Flood and continuing to the present time, and a new "heavens and an earth system" to come in the **future**. Peter certainly believed in a worldwide Flood, in which the original "heavens and earth system" perished. Let me ask you: Did Peter, who was **inspired by the Holy Spirit**, know what he was talking about, or did he not know what he was talking about? I think you see the answer! The Bible clearly indicates a worldwide Flood. So, if you don't believe in a worldwide Flood at the time of Noah, you have a low view of the inspiration of the Word of God.

Another argument from Scripture: Scripture traces all people and nations on earth back to Noah and his three sons Shem, Ham, Japheth.

Besides the biblical arguments for the worldwide Flood, there are a number of other arguments as well. There are the universal Flood traditions in cultures all over the world. In these traditions, the Flood is worldwide in scope, and only a few people escape.

Then, of course, there is the geologic evidence for the worldwide Flood. Do you know that most of the earth's surface is covered with sedimentary rock? Sedimentary rock is defined as "sediments that have been **precipitated out of water** and hardened into rock." You can easily recognize layers of sedimentary rock when you drive along a road cut through a mountainside. The layers of rock you see (if they are not lava) are sedimentary rock layers, like sandstone, or shale, or limestone. Sedimentary rock all over the world gives **overwhelming** evidence of a catastrophic worldwide flood -- a Flood that was tidal in nature. That is one reason for the sharp lines between the layers.

In addition, at least 90% of the fossils found on this earth today are found in **sedimentary rock** -- rock that was formed by sediments precipitating out of **water**! So fossils are not evidence of millions and millions of years of slow evolution. No! They are evidence of millions of life forms that died and were rapidly buried in sediments during the Flood! Don't be brainwashed by the supposed fossil evidence for the theory of evolution -- those fossils are actually clear and convincing evidence of the worldwide Genesis Flood! There is a lot more we could say here, but we need to move on.

## **Doctrinal Points**

### **1. God destroys the wicked with judgment.**

Verses 21-23, "And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit<sup>[a]</sup> of life, all that was on the dry land, died. 23 So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive." Why did God do such a thing? The answer is found back in Genesis 6:5-7, "Then the LORD<sup>[a]</sup> saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." Notice, it was not the wickedness of the animals, but the wickedness of man that caused God to destroy the pre-Flood world. The animals suffered the consequence of man's sin.

When people sin, there is always bad fall-out. As God destroyed the wicked people of Noah's day with the judgment of the great Flood, so God will ultimately destroy all the wicked with judgment. Psalm 145:20 says, "The LORD preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy." The word "destroy" does not mean annihilation or extinction, but ruin and loss. Hell is not a pleasant subject, but the Bible plainly speaks of the judgment of hell for the unbeliever. God gives plenty of opportunities for people to repent as he did in Noah's day, but if people don't repent, there follows sure judgment. Remember Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." God destroys the wicked with judgment.

## **2. God delivers the righteous from judgment.**

Verse 23, "Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive." 2 Peter 2:5 says that God "did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly." God destroys the wicked with judgment, but he delivers the righteous from judgment. Jesus said, "Most assuredly I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life"(John 5:24). What a tremendous promise! Noah was not sinless, but he was declared righteous by God, as we see in Genesis 7:1, where God said, "I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation." Why did God declare Noah righteous? It is because Noah believed God. Hebrews 11:7 says that Noah "became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."

That's the explanation! Noah was declared righteous by God, just as Abraham was later, because he believed God and because of his faith. Let me ask you this morning: Are you an heir of righteousness? If you're trusting the Lord by faith, you are an heir of righteousness. Because of your faith in Jesus Christ, you will not experience the judgment of God. You might be thinking, "Wait a minute -- what about the judgment seat of Christ?" Yes, our lives of service will be reviewed before the judgment seat of Christ, but God delivers the righteous from judgment.

## **Practical Application: Let's trust God in the storms of life.**

Noah not only trusted God **before** the storm, while he was preaching and building the ark, but Noah trusted God **during** the storm, while he was in the ark. Do you know how long Noah and his family were in the ark? 377 days! That's over a year! There must

have been some pretty rough days. The great Flood was not a tranquil affair -- it was catastrophic. Although the ark was built for stability, there may have been a number of seasick days. And as far as the record goes, God did not speak with Noah throughout the storm -- but Noah never doubted or wavered in faith.

What about us? Do we trust God in the storms of life? Do we trust God when it appears that things are out of control? Do we trust God when it seems like the Lord doesn't remember our situation? Maybe you're going through a storm in life right now. Rough waters. It seems to you that things are out of control and God is silent. Listen, God knows, and He cares, and He is in control. Listen to the promise of Isaiah 43:2: "When you pass through the waters, I **will** be with you." What a great promise! Let's have a faith like Noah. Let's trust God in the storms of life.