

The Wickedness of the World That Perished (c. 4070–2518 BC)

Genesis 6:1–8

- 1 Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them,
- 2 that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.
- 3 Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.”
- 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore *children* to them. Those were the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.
- 5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- 6 The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.
- 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.”
- 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

Toledot of Noah (c. 2570 BC)

Genesis 6:9–22

- 9 These are *the records of* the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.
- 10 Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
- 11 Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence.
- 12 God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth.
- 13 Then God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.
- 14 Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with rooms, and shall cover it inside and out with pitch.
- 15 This is how you shall make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its breadth fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.
- 16 You shall make a window for the ark, and finish it to a cubit from the top; and set the door of the ark in the side of it; you shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.
- 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.
- 18 But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.
- 19 And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every *kind* into the ark, to keep *them* alive with you; they shall be male and female.
- 20 Of the birds after their kind, and of the animals after their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every *kind* will come to you to keep *them* alive.
- 21 As for you, take for yourself some of all food which is edible, and gather *it* to yourself; and it shall be for food for you and for them.”
- 22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did. [cf. [Heb 11:7](#)]

The Flood (2518 BC)

Genesis 7

The Command to Enter the Ark (600/2/10)

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.”
- 5 Noah did according to all that the LORD had commanded him.
- 6 Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of water came upon the earth.

Noah, His Family and the Animals Enter the Ark (600/2/10–16)

- 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.
- 10 It came about after the seven days, that the water of the flood came upon the earth.

- 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.

The Worldwide Flood (600/2/17 – 600/3/26, days 1–40)

- 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.
- 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.

The Waters Prevail (600/2/17 – 600/7/16, days 1–150)

- 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.
- 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. [cf. [1 Pet 3:19–20](#); [2 Pet 2:5](#)]

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

The New World (2518/2517 BC)

Genesis 8:1–19

The Ark Comes to Rest on Ararat (600/7/17, day 151)

1 But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the cattle that were with him in the ark; and God caused a wind to pass over the earth, and the water subsided.

2 Also the fountains of the deep and the floodgates of the sky were closed, and the rain from the sky was restrained;

3 and the water receded steadily from the earth, and at the end of one hundred and fifty days the water decreased.

4 In the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat.

The Waters Continue to Recede (600/7/17 – 600/9/30, days 151–224)

5a The water decreased steadily until the tenth month;

The Tops of the Mountains Become Visible (600/10/1, day 225)

5b in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains became visible.

Noah Sends a Raven (600/11/11, day 265)

6 Then it came about at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made;

7 and he sent out a raven, and it flew here and there until the water was dried up from the earth.

Noah Sends a Dove (600/11/19, day 273)

8 Then he sent out a dove from him, to see if the water was abated from the face of the land;

9 but the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, so she returned to him into the ark, for the water was on the surface of all the earth. Then he put out his hand and took her, and brought her into the ark to himself.

Noah Sends the Dove Again (600/11/26, day 280)

10 So he waited yet another seven days; and again he sent out the dove from the ark.

11 The dove came to him toward evening, and behold, in her beak was a freshly picked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the water was abated from the earth.

Noah Sends the Dove a Third Time (600/12/3, day 287)

12 Then he waited yet another seven days, and sent out the dove; but she did not return to him again.

The Surface of the Ground is Dry / Noah Removes the Ark's Cover (601/1/1, day 315)

13 Now it came about in the six hundred and first year, in the first *month*, on the first of the month, the water was dried up from the earth. Then Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and behold, the surface of the ground was dried up.

The Earth is Dry / Noah Leaves the Ark (601/2/27, day 371)

14 In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry.

15 Then God spoke to Noah, saying,

16 “Go out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and your sons’ wives with you.
 17 Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you, birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, that they may breed abundantly on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.”
 18 So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him.
 19 Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by their families from the ark.

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Chronological Notes

- 1) Dates given in the “The Flood” and “The New World” are with respect to Noah’s age and are given in year/month/day notation (e.g., 600/2/10 means the tenth day of the second month of Noah’s 600th year).¹ Months are assumed to be 30 days each² and the Flood year is assumed to exclude an intercalary month.³
- 2) Two kinds of time reckoning are used in the Flood narrative.⁴ The first, based on calendar dates with respect to Noah’s age, informs us that the Flood lasted exactly twelve months and eleven days, assuming the first and last days as full days (see Gen 7:11; 8:4–5, 13–14). The second, based on spans of time, complements the first reckoning and conveys the number of days related to specific periods during the Flood event (see Gen 7:12, 24; 8:6, 10, 12). A comparison of these reckonings shows that they are consistent:
 - A) Five months (150 days) elapsed between the onset of the rains and the grounding of the ark (Gen 7:11; 8:4). Seventy-four days passed from the seventeenth of the seventh month (8:4) to the first day of the tenth month, when the mountain tops first became visible (8:5). Another forty days elapsed before the release of the raven (8:6–7), and 21 more days passed during the three forays of the dove (8:10–12). This makes a total of 285 days, bringing us to the second day of the twelfth month. Some 29 days later, the waters on earth had begun to dry up (8:13), and it took another 57 days for the ground to be completely dried out by the twenty-seventh day of the second month (8:14). The addition of 29 and 57 to the 285 gives a grand total of 371 days (assuming the first and last days as full days). Taking 30 days to a month, this figure yields twelve months and eleven days, identical with the conclusion based solely upon the date system.

¹ The dates in my sectional headings follow Dr. William D. Barrick’s “Noah’s Flood and Its Geological Implications” in *Coming to Grips with Genesis: Biblical Authority and the Age of the Earth*. See especially “Translation with Chronological Notations” for more detail. See also Bodie Hodge, “Biblical Overview of the Flood Timeline,” *Answers in Genesis*, August 23, 2010. Cited: October 8, 2013. Online: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2010/08/23/overview-flood-timeline>.

² This assumption is in harmony with the fact that Genesis 7:11 and 8:4 state that five months elapsed between the onset of the rains and the grounding of the ark, while 7:24 and 8:3 specify that same period to be 150 days.

³ The calendar assumed here corresponds to the ancient Egyptian civil calendar which was divided into twelve months of thirty days each yielding 360 days exactly. The shortage of five days was accounted for by inserting five extra days before the beginning of the new year (see “The Reckoning of Time in the Ancient World” in Jack Finegan, *Handbook of Biblical Chronology*, Rev. Ed. (Hendrickson Publishers, 1998), p. 21, §40).

⁴ See “Excursus 2” in Nahum M. Sarna, *JPS Torah Commentary: Genesis* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1989), p. 377.

Textual Notes

- 1) Mundhenk comments on Genesis 7:13: “There is still one further problem with dating in the flood story. It comes right at the beginning of the flood. In 7:4 Noah is told to get all the animals into the ark. The rain will begin seven days later. Then in 7:6–9 Noah and his family and all of the animals enter the ark. 7:10 tells us (according to NRSV) that ‘after seven days the waters of the flood came.’ This could be understood to mean that they all managed to get into the ark on the same day that God spoke to Noah, and that they then waited in the ark for seven days before the rain started. However 7:13–16 seems to say that they all entered the ark on the same day that the flood started. NRSV is not the only translation that gives this impression. NJB, REB and GNB all translate in a way that might suggest that there is a contradiction here. Here too, there is probably no contradiction intended by the text, and it is better to translate in a way that avoids a contradiction. For example, in 7:10 a translator can say ‘on the seventh day’ (NJV) rather than ‘seven days later.’ If a translator does that, then 7:10 is merely a reference back to what God had said in 7:4. It does not say anything about which day Noah actually entered the ark. NAB says, ‘as soon as the seven days were over.’ MLB and NIV also refer to ‘the seven days.’ All of these translations avoid the contradiction suggested by the first group of translations mentioned.”⁵ I have dealt with this issue by putting Genesis 7:7–10 in parallel with 7:13–16 and harmonizing the text. Thus Noah, his family and the animals entered the ark sometime between God’s command (600/2/10) and the beginning of the Flood (600/2/17).

⁵ Norman A. Mundhenk, “The Dates of the Flood,” *The Bible Translator* 45/2 (Apr 1994): 207–213.