

Genesis 7

- I. Chapter 7 will be the flood
 - a. Verses 1-5 Noah is instructed to enter the Ark
 - b. Verses 6-12: Noah's age
 - c. Verses 13-16: the occupants of the ark: They include Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives, plus a pair of all animals and seven pairs of clean animals.¹
 - d. Verses 17-24: The ordeal outside the ark: The underground waters burst forth, and torrential rain falls from heaven for forty days, covering the highest mountains and drowning all human and animal life.²
 - i. The water stayed on the earth 150 days. The Hebrew word translated as "prevail" in the NASB is גָּבַר
 - ii. **Gābhar be strong, mighty.**
 - iii. The Hebrew verb translated "prevailed over" suggests that the waters were stronger than the earth. The earth and everything in it were no match for the return of the chaotic deep.³
- II. Chapter 8 the flood will recede, and they will disembark from the Ark
- III. Chapter 9: God's covenant with Noah and humanity; Noah's descendants

Scriptures are from the NASB

Chapter 7 will be the flood

- I. Verses 1-5 Noah is instructed to enter the Ark

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.

 - a. Chapter 6 ended with God giving Noah instructions on building the ark and taking two of every animal enter the ark. In Genesis 6:18 God talked about establishing a covenant with Noah. In Genesis 6:21 God told Noah to take food into the ark. Chapter 6 ends with verse 22 stating that Noah did all that the Lord commanded him to do.
 - b. So we come to chapter 7:1. The Lord tells Noah to enter the ark. Noah had built the ark and now it is time to enter the ark.

¹ H. L. Willmington, [The Outline Bible](#) (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1999), Ge 7:1–9.

² H. L. Willmington, [The Outline Bible](#) (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1999), Ge 7:10–12.

³ Biblical Studies Press, [The NET Bible First Edition Notes](#) (Biblical Studies Press, 2006), Ge 7:24.

- c. As a note the passage is using the Lord's personal, covenant name YHWH. This was the proper name of God.
- d. The Lord tells Noah to enter the ark, this instruction is for him and all his household.
- e. The Moody Bible Commentary points out that this begins a major emphasis on 7. He enters the ark but it is another week before the rain comes. That is major faith for Noah. He is in there a week with nothing happening. We will see the number 7 come up many more times in Scripture. The seven year tribulation period. The 490 years of 70 weeks in Daniel (7x70); the 70 year exile.
- f. However, Keil and Delitch write: *"In the self-same day had Noah ... entered into the ark:"* נָבֵא, pluperfect "had come," not came, which would require אָבֵא. *The idea is not that Noah, with his family and all the animals, entered the ark on the very day on which the rain began, but that on that day he had entered, had completed the entering, which occupied the seven days between the giving of the command (v. 4) and the commencement of the flood (v. 10).*⁴
- g. Verse 1 has another important note. The Lord declares that Noah alone has been righteous before God during this time.
- h. This does not mean that Noah was sinless, no one has been sinless except for Jesus. This means that Noah's patterns of behavior, his daily walk was following the Lord.
- i. Notice this also says, Noah alone has been righteous before the Lord during that time, or it could say more literally "generation." It is specifying that day and age. Remember Enoch walked with God (Genesis 5:24). "Righteous" is the Hebrew word: צַדִּיק
- j. Transliterated as: *ṣāḏāq* and it means "just," "blameless," "innocent," "right," in rare incidences it is also translated as "tyrant" and this is where context is important in a word study.
- k. In verse 2 God tells Noah to take every clean animal by sevens, a male and a female. For the unclean animals he is to take 2 of each, a male and a female.
- l. This verse causes issues for some people. Some see a contradictions with Genesis 6:19-20: Evidence that Demands a Verdict quotes a scholar Kaiser saying on page 596: Kaiser explains, *The truth is that there is no inherent incompatibility between the two texts as they presently stand. Genesis 7:2-3 is just more precise than 6:19-20 on the question of the types and numbers of animals and birds that would board the ark. Noah's first instruction was to admit pairs of all kinds of creatures on the ark to preserve their lives (Gen 6:19-20). That was the basic formula. Then he was given more specific instructions about admitting seven pairs of each of the clean animals and seven pairs of each kind of bird. The purpose of this measure was to become clear only after the flood. Birds would be needed to reconnoiter [survey] the earth (Gen 8:7-12), and the clean animals and birds would be offered in sacrifice to the Lord (Gen 8:20). If Noah had taken only one pair of each and then offered each of these pairs in sacrifice, these species would have become completely extinct. The simplest and most adequate explanation is that chapter 6 of Genesis contains general summary directions—take two of each. After Noah had understood these general*

⁴ Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch, [*Commentary on the Old Testament*](#), vol. 1 (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996), 92.

instructions, God spoke more specifically about the role the clean beasts and birds were to play. (Kaiser et al., HSB, 112)

- m. Moody shares: *Another reason for God's repeated reference to the animals in this section is to **indicate their specific "place" in the order of events about to ensue, now that the flood was at hand.** This order (in vv. 1–4) is as follows: (1) Noah and his family were to enter the ark; (2) the clean and unclean animals would then enter; (3) **after seven more days** God would begin to **send rain on the earth**; and (4) the rain would endure continuously for **forty days and forty nights** until **every living thing on the face of the land** was dead. The events unfolded in this order as related in vv. 6–12.⁵*
- n. That is an important explanation.
- o. Also, notice that Noah knows what unclean and clean animals are. This is before the Law of Moses, but God probably gave this information either to Noah, or to Adam and it had been verbally passed down.
- p. Clean and unclean animal instruction is given in Lev 11:1–31; Deut 14:3–20.
- q. Verse 3 adds to this that of the birds he is to take seven male and seven female. Again, this is extra detail. Verse 3 even says that this is to allow them to multiply.
- r. Verse 4: after seven more days God will send the rain. Genesis 7:10 says after seven days this happens.
- s. The rain will be 40 days and 40 nights. This is repeated Gen 7:12, 17.
- t. Every living thing that God has made will die. This was stated in Gen 6:7, 13.
- u. God specifies that He is the creator.
- v. This gives Him the right to do this.
- w. 40 days and 40 nights is how long God usually sends judgment.
- x. Verse 5 repeats that Noah did all that God had commanded as Genesis 6:22 said.

II. Verses 6-12: Noah's age

Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of water came upon the earth.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.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.

- a. Verse 6 is simple. Noah was 600 years old when the flood came.

vv. verses

vv. verses

⁵ Michael A. Rydelnik and Michael Vanlaningham, eds., "[Genesis](#)," in *The Moody Bible Commentary* (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2014), 58.

- b. Verse 7: the people of the ark, the people saved: Noah, his wife, his sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth, his sons wives. That would be eight people.

Matthew 24:38-39 is good: *For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.*

- c. Also Luke 17:27
- d. They entered the ark because of the flood.
- e. Verse 8 respecifies in summary the animals in the ark.
- f. In Genesis 6:19-20 God says that the animals would come to him (Noah).
- g. Verse 10 after 7 days the waters came.
- h. Moody: *The significance of Noah and his household, as symbolic of the remnant, is explicitly made in 1Pt 3:20–21. There Peter wrote that the people in the ark who were “saved (diesothesan) through water” (HCSB) found their “antitype” (antitypos)—their superior NT counterpart and “fulfillment”—in those who were saved through spiritual “baptism” into (i.e., union with) Christ. See comments on 1Pt 3:18–21 for the nature of the parallel between Noah, the flood, and Christian baptism.*⁶
- i. Verse 11 is a time marker and gives extra detail: *“In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month..*
- j. Look how the flood happened: *day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened.*
- k. Water came from underground and the sky.
- l. I believe it never rained until this time. See Genesis 2:5.
- m. The Hebrew term תְּהוֹם (téhom, “deep”) refers to the watery deep, the salty ocean—especially the primeval ocean that surrounds and underlies the earth (see [Gen 1:2](#)).⁷
- n. *The watery deep.* The same Hebrew term used to describe the watery deep in Gen 1:2 (תְּהוֹם, tihom) appears here. The text seems to picture here subterranean waters coming from under the earth and contributing to the rapid rise of water. The significance seems to be, among other things, that in this judgment God was returning the world to its earlier condition of being enveloped with water—a judgment involving the reversal of creation. On Gen 7:11 see G. F. Hasel, “The

HCSB Holman Christian Standard Bible

NT New Testament

i.e. that is

⁶ Michael A. Rydelnik and Michael Vanlaningham, eds., [“Genesis,”](#) in *The Moody Bible Commentary* (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2014), 59.

⁷ Biblical Studies Press, [The NET Bible First Edition Notes](#) (Biblical Studies Press, 2006), Ge 7:11.

Fountains of the Great Deep,” *Origins* 1 (1974): 67–72; idem, “The Biblical View of the Extent of the Flood,” *Origins* 2 (1975): 77–95.⁸

- o. *Water came from two different sources—one below and one above. Exactly what is meant by **all the sources of the vast watery depths** is unknown; the phrase appears to refer to a massive outflow of pressurized water from underground sources that **burst** out of the ground with devastating effect. No known phenomenon in nature today corresponds to this description.*⁹
- p. *A peculiar feature of the flood narrative is the number of detailed chronological notices (cf. 8:4–5, 13–14). By pinpointing the exact date of the flood within Noah’s life, the text underlines that it was a real event. **all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened** (7:11). Powerful imagery is used here to capture the intensity of the flood. From below and above, water poured out to cover the land. **Rain fell** continuously for **forty days and forty nights** (v. 12).¹⁰*
- q. Verse 12: the rain fell 40 days and 40 nights is stating what God had planned. See verse 4 and verse 17.

III. Verses 13-16: the occupants of the ark: They include Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives, plus a pair of all animals and seven pairs of clean animals.¹¹

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.*

- a. Notice this is the very same day.
- b. Was this the same day as the flood began, or did they enter the ark a week before the flood?
- c. One source shares: The **same day Noah** completed the task of loading **the ark**; that is, the seventh day (v. 10) after God’s command was given, Noah and his family **entered** the ark.¹²

⁸ Biblical Studies Press, [The NET Bible First Edition Notes](#) (Biblical Studies Press, 2006), Ge 7:11.

⁹ Robert D. Bergen, [“Genesis,”](#) in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 18.

¹⁰ Crossway Bibles, [The ESV Study Bible](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 63.

¹¹ H. L. Willmington, [The Outline Bible](#) (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1999), Ge 7:1–9. v. verse

¹² Robert D. Bergen, [“Genesis,”](#) in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 18.

- d. Again we see who is in the ark. This was in verse 7 too. The people of the ark, the people saved: Noah, his wife, his sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth, his sons wives. That would be eight people.
- e. Verse 14 references the animal life in the ark as well.
- f. Verse 15: they enter the ark by 2's. Notice it says all flesh which has the breath of life in them.
- g. Verse 16: they entered as God commanded and the Lord closed the door.
- h. Notice that: the Lord closed the door. The LORD closed the door: The use of the personal name "Yahweh" ("LORD"; see note on 2:4) underscores God's special relationship with Noah.¹³
- i. The author gave no details to explain how God performed the supernatural act of shutting Noah in. This divine act highlights the truth found elsewhere in the Bible: "Salvation belongs to the LORD" (Jnh 2:9).¹⁴

IV. Verses 17-24: The ordeal outside the ark: The underground waters burst forth, and torrential rain falls from heaven for forty days, covering the highest mountains and drowning all human and animal life.¹⁵

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

- a. Verse 17 is very descriptive.
- b. The water came upon the earth, again, 40 days and 40 nights. Constant rain and water from under the earth.
- c. The water lifts the ark up.
- d. The ark rose above the earth... That is picturesque language.

¹³ Crossway Bibles, [The ESV Study Bible](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 63.

¹⁴ Robert D. Bergen, "[Genesis](#)," in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 19.

¹⁵ H. L. Willmington, [The Outline Bible](#) (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1999), Ge 7:10–12.

- e. Verse 18 builds on this.
- f. The water prevailed which usually has a meaning of being prevalent but also force. More about that below w verse 24.
- g. “prevail” is used 4 times in the next several verses.
- h. The water stayed on the earth 150 days. The Hebrew word translated as “prevail” in the NASB is גָּבַר
- i. *Gābhar* **be strong, mighty.**
- j. The Hebrew verb translated “prevailed over” suggests that the waters were stronger than the earth. The earth and everything in it were no match for the return of the chaotic deep.¹⁶
- k. Verse 19: all the high mountains were covered everywhere.
- l. 15 cubits above the mountains. A cubit was 18 inches: **More than twenty feet** is literally fifteen cubits, which is about 22½ feet. For more on the scope of Noah’s flood, see note at 6:17.¹⁷
- m. Verse 21 gives great detail about all flesh dying: birds, cattle, beasts, every swarming thing... AND ALL MANKIND...
- n. Through the use of expanded restatement the author brings the detailed account of the flood’s destruction to a climax.¹⁸
- o. Verses 21-23 go to great detail to show the results.
- p. Verse 22: all whose nostrils had the spirit of life died. This seems to suggest that all that breathed oxygen died.
- q. For dramatic effect a second expanded expression of the flood’s destructive effects immediately follows the one in the previous verse.¹⁹
- r. Verse 23: again great detail to show the result: all died, only Noah and those on the ark died.
- s. *Heb* “from man to animal to creeping thing and to the bird of the sky.”
- t. ³⁸ **tn** The Hebrew verb שָׁאָר (*sha’ar*) means “to be left over; to survive” in the Niphal verb stem. It is the word used in later biblical texts for the remnant that escapes judgment. See G. F. Hasel, “Semantic Values of Derivatives of the Hebrew Root š’r,” *AUSS* 11 (1973): 152–69.²⁰
- u. Verse 24: the water “prevailed” upon the earth 150 days.

¹⁶ Biblical Studies Press, [The NET Bible First Edition Notes](#) (Biblical Studies Press, 2006), Ge 7:24.

¹⁷ Robert D. Bergen, [“Genesis,”](#) in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 19.

¹⁸ Robert D. Bergen, [“Genesis,”](#) in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 19.

¹⁹ Robert D. Bergen, [“Genesis,”](#) in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 19.

AUSS Andrews University Seminary Studies (a journal)

²⁰ Biblical Studies Press, [The NET Bible First Edition Notes](#) (Biblical Studies Press, 2006), Ge 7:23.

- v. Though the text does not explicitly say so, the total of 150 days seems to include the forty days of rain (see note at v. 12). The Hebrew word translated as **surged [prevailed in the NASB and ESV]** emphasizes the power of the waters.²¹
- w. The figure of 150 days, which includes the 40 days of rain mentioned in v. 12, is repeated in 8:3. In both places it denotes the five-month period that falls between the detailed chronological notices given in 7:11 (marking the very start of the flood on the 17th day of the second month) and 8:4 (when the ark comes to a place of rest on the 17th day of the seventh month). It will be a further seven months before the land is sufficiently dry for those in the ark to disembark safely (see 8:13–14). On the depth of the flood (**above the mountains**), see note on 6:17.²²

v. verse

²¹ Robert D. Bergen, "[Genesis](#)," in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 19.

²² Crossway Bibles, [The ESV Study Bible](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 63.

ESV Study Bible

Chronology of Noah's Time in the Ark

Dates are in the form of month, day, and Noah's year, as given in the text. Hence, 2/10/600 means the tenth day of the second month in Noah's 600th year. Months are calculated at 30 days each. Dates in parentheses are extrapolations from dates explicitly given in the text.

Reference	Event	Date	Day
7:4, 10	Announcement of the flood 7 days in advance	(2/10/600)	Sunday
Waters prevail:7:11, 13 150-day period	Flood begins; Noah and family enter the ark	2/17/600	Sunday
7:12	Flood lasts 40 days and ends	3/27/600	Friday
8:4	Ark rests on mountains of Ararat after waters prevail and abate for 150 days total	7/17/600	Friday
Waters abate:8:5 150-day period	Mountaintops eventually become visible	10/1/600	Wednesday
8:7	Raven sent out (after 40 days of mountaintop visibility)	(11/10/600)	Sunday
8:8	Dove sent out	(11/17/600)	Sunday
8:10	Dove's second flight (7 days later); returns with olive leaf	(11/24/600)	Sunday

8:12	Dove's third flight(12/1/600) (7 days later); does not return	Sunday
8:3	Waters fully(12/17/600) abated; end of second 150-day period	Wednesday
Earth dries: 70-8:13 day period	Noah eventually1/1/601 removes the covering of the ark	Wednesday
8:14–19	Earth dried out;2/27/601 Noah leaves ark	Wednesday

Total time in ark:
370 days²³

*The flood brought a whole world to an end (2 Pet. 2:5; 3:6). It prefigures the final judgment, which ends the present heavens and earth and brings a new world (Rev. 21:1). God preserves those who belong to Christ, the final Noah.*²⁴

*The total elapse of time in the flood narrative can be viewed in different ways depending on how the given information is merged. From the information given in [7:11](#) and [8:14](#) it can be determined that Noah and his family were in the ark for twelve months and eleven days. The exact number of days would depend on how many days were counted in a month and whether any adjustments were being made between lunar and solar reckonings. The eleven days has been found interesting by some, since the lunar year of 354 days is eleven days shorter than the solar year.*²⁵

²³ Crossway Bibles, [The ESV Study Bible](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 63.

²⁴ Crossway Bibles, [The ESV Study Bible](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 63.

²⁵ Victor Harold Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, and John H. Walton, [The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament](#), electronic ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), Ge 7:11–8:5.