



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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The Journey 2018

Dinosaurs



In the Beginning

Ancient civilizations have many accounts of a worldwide catastrophic flood.

There seems to be a theme from history that is unmistakable - there appears to be a consensus that a worldwide flood occurred sometime in the past.



In the Beginning

- Did you know that there are more than 250 different cultural accounts of a world wide flood in the past?
- Did you know that in most of those ancient stories there is a single family that was favored in some way and survived the flood?
- Did you know that in many of the stories the favored family of 8 survived in a boat?



In the Beginning

- Did you know that most of the ancient flood stories attribute the cause of the flood to the wickedness of man?
- Did you know that most of the ancient accounts of a world wide flood mention animals being in the boat?
- Did you know that many of the flood stories have the boat landing on a mountain after the flood?



In the Beginning

Common Source

There is a great case to be made that all of those ancient “stories” come from one common source, the Genesis account of the flood.



In the Beginning

- Genesis 7:4 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.
- Genesis 7:11 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.



In the Beginning

- *“all the fountains of the great deep burst open”*
- So what we have here is a reference to subterranean reservoirs of water deep in the earth.
- God would use the water below and the water above to bring so much water that every person and non-aquatic entity would be destroyed.



In the Beginning

- It is also quite likely that this is the time when the continents of the earth were formed.
- We know the earth that Adam had was one large land mass and we know what we have today.
- So if the continents were not formed in Genesis 7, then when could they have been formed?



In the Beginning

- *“the floodgates of the sky were opened.”*
- Floodgates? What floodgates? Remember what we read months ago when we started this study?
- Genesis 1:6 Then God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” 7 God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. 8 God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.



In the Beginning

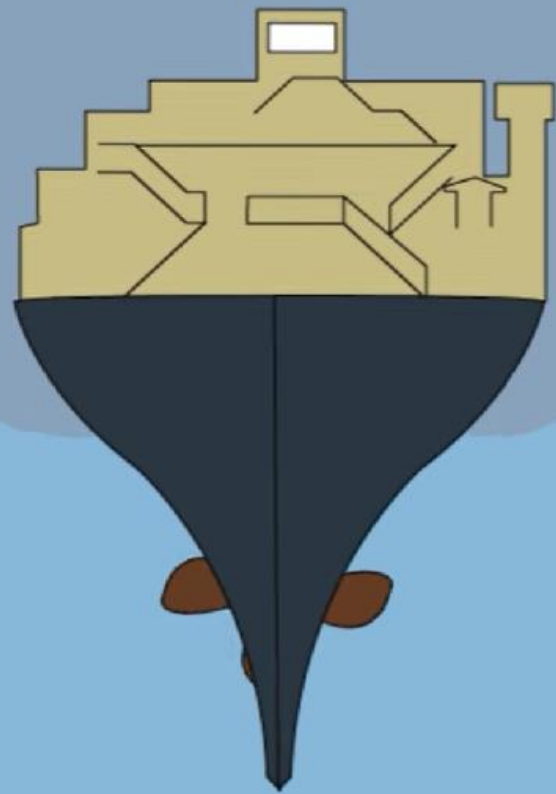
Remember this slide?



In the Beginning

- The flood covered the entire earth – in fact the water covered all the earth by a minimum of 22.5’.
- Genesis 7:20 The water prevailed fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered.
- It cannot happen today because there is simply not enough water above us – it all came down and joined the hydrological cycle in Noah’s day.






Archimedes' Principle

Buoyant Force = Weight of Displaced Liquid

 137m - Noah's Ark - 2500

 40m - Viking Longboat - 1000

 30m - Santa Maria - 1492

 128m - Greek Trireme - 210 BC

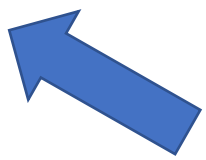
 243m - Titanic - 1912

 270m - USS Missouri - 1944

 333m - Aircraft Carrier Nimitz Class - 1975

 345m - Queen Mary 2 - 2003

 485m - Jahre Viking Crude Oil tanker - 1981



Noah's Ark Length Comparison

In the Beginning

- Genesis 7:6 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.



In the Beginning

- Genesis 7:6 Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of water came upon the earth.
- Some numbers to deal with – 500, 120, and 600 years.
- We are told in chapter 5 that Noah was 500 when he fathered Shem, we are told about a 120 year period in chapter 6, and we told in chapter 7 that Noah was 600 when the flood came.



In the Beginning

- It is relatively easy to deal with the 100 years between Noah's 500th birthday and his 600th birthday.
- We believe the 120 year period began when Noah was 480 years old.
- We do not know how many of those 120 years were spent on building the ark, but we can be pretty certain it took much less than 120 years to build it.



In the Beginning

- How do we know it took less than 120 years to build the ark?
- Because Noah did not father his first child until he was 500, and when God gives Noah the command to build the ark he speaks of Noah and his “sons”.
- While not impossible for God, it seems unlikely God would speak of Noah’s “sons” if they had not yet been born.



Noah's Ark Flood Chronology¹

Septuagint Vs. Masoretic

Josephus, Ant. 1.81
reads 27th

20/10 Day
2 Month

27/17 Day
2 Month

27/17 Day
7 Month

1 Day
11/10 Month

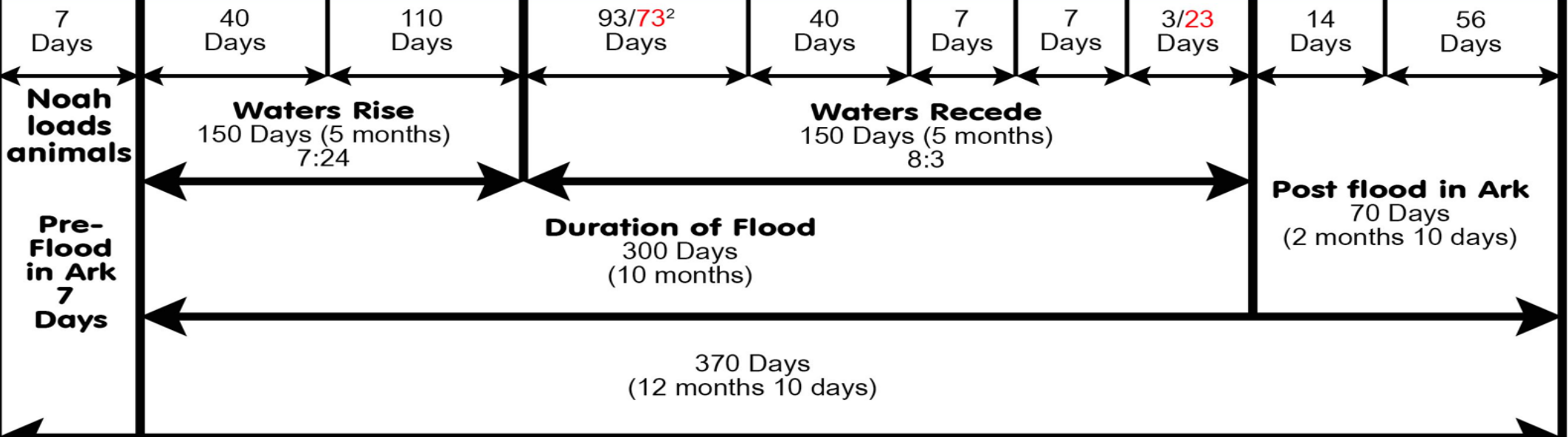
16 Day
12 Month

1 Day
1 Month

27 Day
2 Month



Noah Builds Ark
less than 74 years



3298 BC LXX
2458 BC Mas

Duration of Noah Inside Ark
377 Days
(12 months 17 days)

3297 BC LXX
2457 BC Mas

In the Beginning

- The time has come – it is now that God will send judgment.
- “All the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.”
- The bursting open of the “great deep” may have two purposes – to send underground streams to the surface and to provide space for all of the waters that would come crashing down from the sky.



In the Beginning

- Genesis 7:13 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.



In the Beginning

- Verses #13 - #16 restate for us what we know from previous verses – that Noah and his family and all of the animals enter the ark.
- However, an important fact is added – “and the Lord closed it behind him”.
- Rev 3:7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, *and who shuts and no one opens*, says this:”



In the Beginning

- Math 25:6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the prudent answered, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 **And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.** 11 Later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.' 12 But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.'



In the Beginning

- Of all of the things we find in the account of Noah's ark, this one is among the easiest to understand.
- God had to shut Noah and his family in because if that task were left up to Noah, he would have surely wilted under the stress of the cries of the drowning people clawing at the door.
- Although Noah was righteous he was not trusted to deal with sin as effectively as God can.



In the Beginning

- We, because of our sin natures, just do not see sin the same way God does – perhaps we can't.
- God in His mercy knows when the time has come for sin to be judged.
- This is the same principle as “the sin of Amorites being full” – we do not know when sin has run its course, but God does.



In the Beginning

- This is what Genesis 6-8 is mostly about – a history lesson on how God deals with sin.
- He is patient, He warns, He waits, but the day comes when His patience, His warnings, and His waitings are over.
- When that time comes, He moves in mercy and justice to deal with sin – it happened before and it will happen again.



In the Beginning

“God’s anger is real, but it is not central. Love and wrath are not perfectly balanced on some divine fulcrum: God leans heavily and unmistakably on one more than the other. It is his love that comes from the heart, and therein lies wonderful news and great comfort for his people.”

Sam Allberry



Questions

