

In The Beginning: Session 13: Into The Ark

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Noah Enters The Ark (Genesis 7:7-9)

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.

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. (Hebrews 11:7)

1. Noah did what he did by faith.
2. Noah was divinely warned by God.
3. God will warn You of things not yet seen.
4. Noah was moved with godly fear.
5. He prepared an ark for the saving of his house.
6. Noah condemned the world by building an ark.
7. Noah became an heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

God Sends The Flood (Genesis 7:10-12)

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.

- A 7 days' period: a last opportunity for salvation?
- Two mechanisms here which produced a worldwide cataclysm. All the **fountains of the deep** were broken up. This involved the release of subterranean waters. And **windows of heaven** were opened.
- One other detail: the Flood begins on the 17th day of the 2nd month. This becomes important later as Moses gives us a timeline for the Flood.

The Literalness of the Flood

Peter describes the scoffers of the last days who would deny the Flood:

3 ...knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. (2 Peter 3:3-6)

Peter accurately describes the two viewpoints about the Earth's geological history.

- *Uniformitarianism*. Things have taken eons to be formed and have been uniform.
- *Catastrophism*. Earth's past was shaped by sudden catastrophes.

Why should Christians believe in the Flood?

1. First, because Jesus believed in it. Jesus speaks about Noah as a real person and speaks about the flood as a real event.
 2. Second, the other Bible writers believed in it.
 3. Third, God says in Genesis that the Flood was a real event.
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4. Scientific and other reasons include: sedimentary rocks and marine fossils all over the world, including on mountains; the facts of fossil creation; the continuity of sedimentary layers all over the Earth without gaps; and the worldwide traditions of a Flood in probably hundreds of cultures all around the world.

(See, e.g., Dr. Henry Morris, Ph.D., *The Genesis Record*, and www.icr.org, etc.)

How Did The Flood Happen?

1. First Things First.

- The old world seems to have had a more uniform surface.
- It had never rained before the Flood. Our hydrological cycle hadn't begun.
- The Earth was later divided, in the years before Abraham.

2. Subterranean Waters.

- Quakes or other stresses could have released water to flood the surface.
- Scientists have long wondered where the oceans came from. New research has defeated the idea that comets caused water to accumulate.
- The most recent idea is that the water on Earth has been here all along.
- There is still a tremendous quantity of water under the Earth, locked in rocks deep within the Earth's crust, 700 kilometers down. The volume of water there is three times the amount of water within the present oceans.
- This water may even keep the oceans in check.

1 The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. 2 For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters. (Ps. 24:1-2)

9 You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, that they may not return to cover the earth. (Ps. 104:9)

8 "...who shut in the sea with doors, when it burst forth and issued from the womb; 9 When I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band; 10 When I fixed My limit for it, and set bars and doors; 11 When I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther, and here your proud waves must stop!'" (Job 38:8-11)

- God actually built the land upon the seas.
- God released those waters from under the Earth.
- Finally, God set boundaries for the oceans in a post-Flood world.

3. Waters Above.

Recall that when God did His six days' work of Creation, there was originally a water canopy above the Earth: *6 Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." 7 Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. (Genesis 1:6-7)*
