

# NOAH AND THE FLOOD: GOD'S GREAT JUDGMENT OF THE EARTH GENESIS 07:10–24

## *Introduction*

This is the record of the great flood that swept over and covered the earth in Noah's day. God sent the flood upon the earth as a judgment upon man's immorality, lawlessness, and violence. Man had become so sinful and evil — so immoral, so lawless, so violent — there was not a godly person left upon earth. No one truly followed God except Noah and his dear family.

The Bible is not the only book that reports the flood. It is a surprise to most people when they hear that most cultures have traditions about a worldwide flood that swept the earth. In fact, there are hundreds of flood traditions around the world. They differ, of course. This is expected because of the passage of time and local customs and languages. Nevertheless, this very fact — that hundreds of cultures and peoples have these stories — is evidence that the stories have all come from one original source. They have come from a source that existed not just centuries but millenniums ago, come from the very survivors of the flood. (Tim LaHaye and John Morris have done excellent research on the flood and the traditions of the flood in their book, *The Ark on Ararat*. Also see James Montgomery Boice. *Genesis*, Vol. 1, pp. 285-287.)

The point of this tragic passage is not only to record the great flood and judgment of the past, but to lead us to ponder the final judgment and salvation yet to come. This is the study of *Noah and the Flood: God's Great Judgment of the Earth*. Genesis 7:10-24.

- I. The great power of God in judgment (vv. 10-12).
- II. The great salvation of God in judgment (vv. 13-16).
- III. The great fulfilment of God's Word in judgment (vv. 17-23).
- IV. The great time that the water flooded the earth in judgment (v. 24).

## **I. *Genesis 07:10–12 The Great Power of God in Judgment***

There was the great power of God in judgment. Note three significant points about the power of God to judge the earth.

1. God's power had the traumatic day fixed in history. The day of judgment had been predestined. One week before the flood, God had told Noah that he had seven days to prepare, that seven days from then He would send a terrifying flood of water to wipe man from the face of the earth (Gen 7:4).

Now, on the seventh day, the terrifying flood waters began to pour forth. The event was so significant — so important, so momentous — that it must never be forgotten. The time has been recorded forever. The judgment of God fell; the devastating flood waters began to pour forth...

---

- in the 600th year of Noah's life
- on the 17th day of the second month

**Thought 1.** The day of our judgment, the day when we are to stand before God in judgment, is also fixed in history. The day for our judgment is already predetermined. No person knows when the day will be: one hundred years from now? Five years? One year? Tomorrow? Later today? Only God knows. Christ clearly said this:

**Mark 13:32-33** *"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come [for the Lord's return]."*

**Mat 25:13** *"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."*

**Mat 24:42** *"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come."*

**Mat 24:50-51** *"The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

**Luke 12:40** *"You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."*

**Luke 12:46** *"The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers."*

2. God's power violently broke up the earth's crust and burst loose all the earth's subterranean waters. Earthquakes must have taken place all over the earth. Note exactly what Scripture says...

- "All the fountains of the great deep [were] broken up" (v. 11)

The idea is that all the waters underneath the earth's crust — all the caverns, springs, rivers, lakes and perhaps seas of water — were *violently broken up*. The crust of the earth cracked under the violence of quake after quake and the waters burst loose and shot forth from under the crust of the earth. The picture is this: the subterranean water from beneath the earth and the water from the great oceans were violently discharged by quake after quake and hurled from their beds, churning and surging forth in huge, gigantic tidal waves. It would have been the raging and surging of the water that destroyed all those who tried to escape in other boats and ships of the day.

=> Leupold says: "The 'great deep' must be subterranean water of which there is still much and of which there may have been more in early days. It seems to be an established fact that 'outbursts of subterranean water are a frequent accompaniment of seismic disturbances [earthquakes] in the alluvial districts of great rivers.... There must have been vast *upheavals* on every hand, for these fountains of the great deep 'were broken open.'" (H. C. Leupold. *Genesis*, Vol. 1, pp. 295-296.)

=> Leupold says again: "Note should be taken of the tremendous geological possibilities that lie behind the breaking open of the fountains of the great deep. The vastness of these eruptions must be in proportion to the actual depth of the Flood....The Flood was of astounding power and magnitude....Such eruptions from subterranean sources must have caused a rush of waters upon the earth comparable to the highest tidal wave. Such waves in turn must have been capable of producing effects of almost incalculable magnitude. So, then, the effects caused by the waters of the great deep (1:2), as they surged about on the earth in process of formation, together with the effects brought about by this great Flood, seem to us an entirely adequate explanation for geological formations of every kind, as they are now to be observed." (H. C. Leupold. *Genesis*, Vol. 1, p. 296.)

=> The great Pulpit Commentary says: "The earth and other obstructions were broken up, and so a passage opened for the fountains [or subterranean waters]...this denotes violent changes in the depths of the sea or in the action of the earth."(*The Pulpit Commentary*, Vol. 1, p. 117).

=> Derek Kidner says: "A vast upheaval of the sea-bed" took place. (Derek Kidner. *Genesis*, p. 91).

3. God's power opened up the floodgates of heaven: a violent torrential downpour fell from the sky. Heavy rains — torrential downpours never witnessed before nor since — fell upon the earth. The torrential downpours continued, without any break whatsoever, for forty days and forty nights.

Note this: the torrential rain apparently stopped after forty days, but the waters flooded the earth for 150 days (Gen 8:2-3). This is significant, in particular when considering the core and surface of the earth. The breaking up of the earth's crust and the violent quaking of the earth's surface, and the churning and surging of the waters continued for 150 days, even over the highest mountain peaks. It would continue for almost a year over the rest of the earth. This kind of violent, quaking movement, and erosion of the earth's core and land masses would drastically affect the shape and geological formations of the earth. The surface and inner core of the earth was apparently so changed that it was like a new earth. Absolutely nothing — no mountain, no valley, no body of water, no island, no continent, no land mass — could possibly be the same after so violent a quaking and flooding of the earth.

=> Just imagine the force required to break up all the subterranean waters around the world, the enormous quaking of the earth's core required to burst loose and shoot forth all the underground water under the earth's crust.

=> Just imagine the change throughout the earth's crust as the torrential rain fell for forty days and nights without stopping: all the erosion and washing away of mountains, all the valleys that filled up with the sediment from higher ground.

Just imagine the change within the earth's core and over the earth's surface as the force of the subterranean waters burst forth and as the force of the torrential rains flooded the earth. Imagine how drastic a change must have taken place...

- as mountains and hills eroded and literally washed away from the onslaught of the rushing water
- as valleys and crevices were filled up with the soil and debris from the higher elevations
- as quakes shifted and shot up mounds of dirt and hills and, most likely, even mountains

Again, nothing could ever be the same, not after such a violent quaking and forceful burst of water shot forth both from beneath the earth and from above the earth. Most if not all of the earth — both the core and the surface, both the rock formations and mineral deposits — was changed forever. As stated, two sources of water had changed it:

- => All the subterranean water had been broken up and shot forth by quake after quake — broken up by the power of God Himself.
- => Torrential downpours had fallen upon the earth — the very floodgates of the sky had been opened by God Himself.

**Job 12:15** *If he holds back the waters, there is drought; if he lets them loose, they devastate the land.*

**Thought 1.** Think of the shifting and changing of the earth's core and surface that must have taken place under the violence of the surging and raging of the flood. The appearance — the geological change — of the earth must have been so drastically changed that the earth was totally different from what it had been, just like a brand new earth, both within its core and without on its surface.

But that was not all: verse twenty-four tells us that the waters flooded the earth for 150 days. The waters — the worldwide oceans — actually rose and surged and raged to their highest peak for 150 days. (Note: the aftershocks of such massive earthquakes that were necessary to burst loose the subterranean waters would continue on for days and months. This probably means that the core of the earth was also undergoing eruptions for 150 days. The impact of this violence upon the earth — upon the geological and fossil formations — would be tremendous.)

Any person who has ever worked around the pressure and force of water knows that it drastically changes its environment. The pressure and force of the great flood, the worldwide torrential rain and bursting loose of the earth's crust and shooting forth of all the subterranean waters — the awesome judgment of God — was bound to drastically change the earth forever thereafter, both its core and surface. This was the awesome judgment of God upon the earth in Noah's day. (See note, Gen 7:24. Also see *Creation*, point B, Introduction to the Seven Days of Creation, Gen 1:1-2:3.)

## II. *Genesis 07:13–16 The Great Salvation of God in Judgment*

There was the great salvation of God even in the midst of judgment: the ark of safety. These verses tell us who went into the ark. Note that this information is given three times: in verses 1-4, 7-9, and now on the very day when the flood broke loose (vv. 13-16). Why is this information — who entered the ark — stressed so much by Scripture?

There is one primary reason: it stresses the salvation of God, the eternal mercy and grace of God. Even in the midst of judgment — even as judgment fell — God was merciful. God was saving some, and here is a list of who they were:

- => Noah
- => Shem, Ham and Japheth, Noah's three sons.
- => Noah's wife and the wives of his three sons.
- => The animals: at least two, a male and a female, of every kind of animal.

It was these that God had mercy upon and saved in the ark. Noah believed and followed God and taught his family to seek after God, and it was these — Noah and his dear family — who were the only people upon earth following God. Noah had lived in the midst of a lawless and immoral society, but he had stood firm for God and bore strong testimony to the righteousness and judgment of God. Therefore, God had mercy upon Noah and his dear family. God saved them and two of every kind of animal, saved them through the terrifying judgment, saved them through the ark of safety and security.

Note this: the Lord Himself shut the door to the ark. The idea is that God sealed the door to protect Noah from a leaking boat. There is a possibility that God was also protecting him from the violence of the people who might attack the ark and try to gain entrance. However, it is doubtful that any person had time to do anything with the torrential downpour that began to fall and with the violent wall of water that shot up from the subterranean caverns, rivers, lakes and ocean beds. When God broke up the heavens and earth's crust with quake after quake, the people were bound to panic and have little if any time to do anything before the crushing waters swept them away to their death.

The point is this: Noah was now in the ark. Noah was in the ark of safety and security from the storm of coming judgment. The ark was Noah's vessel of refuge, the place appointed by God to save Noah and his family from the terrifying judgment that was about to fall upon the earth.

**Thought 1.** The ark was a type or picture of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the believer’s refuge from judgment, the terrifying judgment of hell and eternal separation from God. Note how clearly the ark symbolizes what Christ does for us.

<b>THE ARK</b>	<b>JESUS CHRIST</b>
<p>God Himself purposed and planned the ark, even to the most minute details (<i>Gen 6:14-16</i>).</p>	<p>God Himself purposed and planned the coming of Christ to save man, even before the foundation of the earth (<i>Eph 1:3-4; 2 Tim 1:9-10; Titus 1:2; 1 Pet 1:2</i>).</p>
<p>There was only one door to the ark (<i>Gen 6:16</i>).</p>	<p>Jesus Christ is the only door — the only way — to enter the presence of God (<i>John 10:7, 9; 14:6; 1 Tim 2:5-6; 1 John 2:1</i>).</p>
<p>God gave the provision for light within the ark. One window — an opening, a skylight — ran all the way around the ark. It ran within eighteen inches of the top (<i>Gen 6:16</i>).</p>	<p>God has given the provision of light to the world: Jesus Christ is the light of the world (<i>Isa 9:2; John 1:4; 8:12; 12:35; Eph 5:14; Rev 21:23</i>).</p>
<p>Some kind of pitch, probably some form of tar or asphalt, covered and sealed the ark. The Hebrew word for pitch (<u>kopher</u>) is the same word for atonement, which means to cover (<i>Gen 6:14</i>).</p>	<p>The blood of Jesus Christ covers the sins of the believer, cleanses and seals the believer before God (<i>Rom 5:9; 5:11; Eph 1:7; Heb 9:14; 1 Pet 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7b; Rev 1:5b</i>).</p>
<p>God Himself gave the great invitation to come and enter the ark (<i>Gen 7:1</i>).</p>	<p>God Himself invites man to come and enter the ark — the safety and security — of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (<i>Isa 1:18; John 3:16-17; Mat 11:28; 22:2-4; Rev 22:17</i>).</p>
<p>The ark was a vessel of refuge, the place of safety and security from the torrential judgment about to fall upon the earth (<i>Gen 6:17-18; 7:10-24</i>).</p>	<p>Jesus Christ is the believer’s refuge, the believer’s safety and security from the coming judgment of hell and eternal separation from God (<i>John 3:16; 5:24; Rom 5:9-10; Rom 6:23; Heb 7:25; 2 Pet 2:9</i>).</p>
<p>The ark saved Noah and his family through the waters of judgment (<i>Gen 7:10-24</i>).</p>	<p>Jesus Christ saves the believer through the waters of judgment. The waters of baptism symbolize the saving work of Christ for the true believer. Peter used the ark and the waters of the flood to illustrate this point (<i>1 Pet 3:20-21</i>).</p>



<p>God called Noah to separate from the world — from its wickedness, evil and doom — by entering the ark (<i>Gen 7:1</i>).</p> <p>The ark was the salvation of both Noah and his family (<i>Gen 6:18; 7:1, 7, 13, 23</i>).</p> <p>The ark was secured — the door was closed — by God Himself (<i>Gen 7:16b</i>).</p> <p>God kept the door of mercy — the door of the ark — opened right up until the end. But when it was time for judgment the door was shut. There had been a time for grace, but there was also a time for judgment (<i>Gen 7:16b, see 2 Pet 2:5</i>).</p>	<p>God now calls people to live a life of separation from evil through Christ (<i>John 15:19; 2 Cor 5:17; 6:14-15, 17-18; 2 Th 3:6</i>).</p> <p>Jesus Christ is the hope of salvation for all families (<i>Acts 16:30-31; see Acts 16:15</i>).</p> <p>God Himself secures the believer through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The believer has perfect security — God sees to it — through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ (<i>John 10:28-29; Phil 1:6; 2 Tim 1:12b; 1 Pet 1:3-5; Jude 24-25</i>).</p> <p>God has his ministers and followers all over the world preaching the gospel of salvation. God has the door of mercy opened today, but the end is soon coming when the door will be shut and judgment will fall (<i>Luke 13:24- 27; Mat 25:1-13</i>).</p>
---	---

### III. *Genesis 07:17–23 The Great Fulfilment of God’s Word in Judgment*

There was the great fulfilment of God’s Word in judgment. This is the point of these verses, to show that God means exactly what He says, and He will do exactly what He says. When He warns us against sin and judgment, He means it. He will judge us if we reject, curse and deny Him — if we do not live for Him. God fulfilled His Word; He did exactly what He said in the days of Noah.

1. God flooded water upon the earth for forty days, both the raging, surging water from underneath the crust of the earth and the torrential rains from the sky (vv. 17-20). This is exactly what God had said He would do:

**Gen 6:17** “*I am going to bring flood-waters on the earth.*”

**Gen 7:4** “*Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights.*”

God fulfilled His Word, did exactly what He had said: He flooded the earth for forty days and forty nights (v. 17). The greatness of this act of God — of the flood — is beyond comprehension. It is an act of unparalleled magnitude, an enormous act, an act of immense power, strength and might, an act that God alone could do, the Sovereign LORD and Creator of the universe. Note how the magnitude and might of the waters are described:

- ⇒ The water increased. The Hebrew says, grew greatly and mounted up. The waters prevailed, that is, rose more and more, increased greatly, grew mightily, and mounted up upon the earth (v. 18).
- ⇒ The waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; that is, rose and mounted up more and more and grew mightily over the earth, grew so mightily that “all the high mountains” were covered, all the mountains that were under the whole sky (v. 19).
- ⇒ The waters rose and mounted up to a height of twenty feet (fifteen cubits) above the mountains. The ark was 45 feet high, so the water had to rise twenty feet in order to keep the ark from running aground upon some mountain peak. Again, the stress is the surety of God's Word and warning: God always means what He says, and He will fulfil His Word and do exactly what He says. He warned man against judgment if man continued in sin and rejection. Man continued; consequently, God had no choice. He had to judge man and flood the earth for forty days (v. 20).

Note that the ark floated upon the water. It was not destroyed.

**Thought 1.** God judges man because of man's selfishness and corruption, his self-sufficiency and rejection of God, his immorality and evil thoughts, his lawlessness and violence.

**Gen 6:1-3** *When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.”*

**Gen 6:5-7** *The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, “I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth — men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air — for I am grieved that I have made them.”*

**Gen 6:11-13** *Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.”*

**Gen 6:17** *“I am going to bring flood-waters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish.”*

2. God destroyed all life (vv. 21-23a). This is a tragic scene, yet it is a righteous or just act by God. God had no choice: He had warned man, warned him time and again, but man refused to heed God's warnings.



Despite God's warnings, man continued to curse, reject, deny and rebel against God. Man continued to live immoral and lawless lives, filling the earth with violence. The tragedy of man's terrible evil and the justice of God are so significant that the judgment is repeated three times.

- => All flesh perished, every living thing that moved upon the earth, both animal and man (v. 21).
- => Every living thing upon dry land, every living thing that had the breath of life in its nostrils, perished (v. 22).
- => Every living thing upon the face of the ground was *wiped out*, both man and animal (v. 23).

Remember what the Lord Jesus Christ said about the people of Noah's day and of Lot's day: that the last generation upon earth would be just like their day. The people of Noah's day were living selfish, indulgent and materialistic lives right up until the end. They were eating, partying, drinking, marrying and divorcing time and again, buying and selling, planting and building. This they were doing, not heeding the warning of judgment against sin.

**Luke 17:26-30** *"Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulphur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed."*

The people of Noah's day were drowning long before the flood came upon the earth, drowning in...

- immorality and pleasure
- partying and sensuality
- divorce and remarriage
- possessions and money
- violence and lawlessness
- buying and selling
- drunkenness and drugs
- property and building

They rejected God, even denied and rebelled against Him, even cursed and swore against His name. They wanted nothing to do with God, and they had nothing to do with God. They rejected God even up until the very day that the flood waters burst loose. No wonder they had to face the judgment of God; no wonder God broke loose and burst forth seas and the subterranean caverns, rivers and beds of water under the crust of the earth; no wonder God sent torrential rains never seen before nor since upon the earth; no wonder God swept them all away in the raging, surging bursts of water upon the earth. They were an immoral, self-centred, indulgent, lawless, violent, evil and sinful people. God had warned the people, and now He was fulfilling His Word. He was doing exactly what He had to do: judging the people.

**1 Cor 6:9-10** *Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (see Gen 6:1-2, 5, 11-13).*

**Gal 5:19-21** *The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

**Rev 21:8** *But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death.*

3. God saved Noah and all those in the ark with him (v. 23b). This, too, was the fulfilment of God's Word. God had promised to save Noah.

**Gen 6:18-19a** *But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark — you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures.*

**Gen 7:1-2** *The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate."*

Picture the scene: Noah is sitting there in the ark while thousands outside are being swept away by onrushing floods and bursts of water, screaming out in fright and terror, but their voices could not be heard because of the roar from the onrushing waters. There was no one to save them, not now. They had waited too late. But there sat Noah and his family in the ark, safe and secure, saved from the terrifying, but just, judgment of God.

Noah is a living example of the mercy of God. He and he alone had believed and followed God. He and he alone had obeyed and based his life upon the Word of God and the warning of God. Therefore, God saved Noah and his dear family, saved them through the terrifying judgment.

**Thought 1.** God will save any person who believes and follows Him, any person who fully obeys and bases his life upon His Word and His warnings.

**John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

**John 5:24** *"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."*

**Acts 2:21** *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

**Rom 10:13** For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

**Titus 2:11-14** For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**2 Pet 3:3-13** First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

**Isa 12:2** Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

#### **IV. Genesis 07: 24 The Great Time the Waters Flooded the Earth in Judgment**

There was the great time that the waters flooded the earth in judgment, 150 days. This means that the waters stayed at their full height or peak (elevation) for 150 days. (See note, pt. 4, Gen 8:1-5.) Just imagine these facts:

=> *All* the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. This is a Hebrew superlative, that is, Scripture is declaring that the whole earth was flooded, not just a part of the earth. The flood was a universal flood. Again, the word *all* is a Hebrew superlative. (H. C. Leupold. *Genesis*, Vol. 1, pp. 301-302.)

=> The water rose twenty feet above the mountains.

=> The water flooded the earth at its full peak for 150 days.

The point is this: only God could do such a thing. No matter how much scientific proof is ever gathered for the flood — and the scientific proof is great — the flood

was caused by God. All the explainable and unexplainable features of the flood were caused and worked out by God. For example:

- => One theory says that before the flood a canopy of clouds and fog always hung above the earth. The clouds and fog filtered the rays of the sun and delayed aging and decay as we know them today. Those who hold this position say this is the reason people lived so long and why grape juice or wine did not ferment until after the flood (see Gen 9:20).
- => Another theory says that God tilted the earth on its axis to its present 23 1/2 degrees. This caused violent quakes and eruptions of the earth's crust and oceans. It is also said to account for the change in seasons and climate after the flood.

Again, whatever happened, God was behind it all. He was the Person who caused and worked out both what we can explain and cannot explain. The flood was the judgment of God upon an immoral, lawless, and violent world. (See notes, Gen 6:1-8; pt. 2, 3, 7:10-12.)

**Thought 1.** The flood took place too long ago for us — both scientists and theologians — to be able to work out all the details. Where we cannot work out the details, God expects us to believe His Word. We should continue to investigate the details and discover the facts, yes; but first and foremost, we should believe God and believe His Word while we seek the answers to our questions. As we all know, despite our great intelligence and resourcefulness, we are far more ignorant of past history and of the universe than we are knowledgeable. ■

**Thought 1.** The ark was a type or picture of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the believer's refuge from judgment, the terrifying judgment of hell and eternal separation from God. Note how clearly the ark symbolizes what Christ does for us.

#### ***THE ARK and JESUS CHRIST***

*God Himself purposed and planned the ark, even to the most minute details (Gen 6:14-16).*

**\*\*** God Himself purposed and planned the coming of Christ to save man, even before the foundation of the earth (*Eph 1:3-4; 2 Tim 1:9-10; Titus 1:2; 1 Pet 1:2*).

*There was only one door to the ark (Gen 6:16).*

**\*\*** Jesus Christ is the only door — the only way — to enter the presence of God (*John 10:7, 9; 14:6; 1 Tim 2:5-6; 1 John 2:1*).

*God gave the provision for light within the ark. One window — an opening, a skylight — ran all the way around the ark. It ran within eighteen inches of the top (Gen 6:16).*

**\*\*** God has given the provision of light to the world: Jesus Christ is the light of the world (*Isa 9:2; John 1:4; 8:12; 12:35; Eph 5:14; Rev 21:23*).

*Some kind of pitch, probably some form of tar or asphalt, covered and sealed the ark. The*

*Hebrew word for pitch (kopher) is the same word for atonement, which means to cover (Gen 6:14).*

**\*\*** The blood of Jesus Christ covers the sins of the believer, cleanses and seals the believer before God (*Rom 5:9; 5:11; Eph 1:7; Heb 9:14; 1 Pet 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7b; Rev 1:5b*).

*God Himself gave the great invitation to come and enter the ark (Gen 7:1).*

**\*\*** God Himself invites man to come and enter the ark — the safety and security — of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (*Isa 1:18; John 3:16-17; Mat 11:28; 22:2-4; Rev 22:17*).

*The ark was a vessel of refuge, the place of safety and security from the torrential judgment about to fall upon the earth (Gen 6:17-18; 7:10-24).*

**\*\*** Jesus Christ is the believer's refuge, the believer's safety and security from the coming judgment of hell and eternal separation from God (*John 3:16; 5:24; Rom 5:9-10; Rom 6:23; Heb 7:25; 2 Pet 2:9*).

*The ark saved Noah and his family through the waters of judgment (Gen 7:10-24).*

**\*\*** Jesus Christ saves the believer through the waters of judgment. The waters of baptism symbolize the saving work of Christ for the true believer. Peter used the ark and the waters of the flood to illustrate this point (*1 Pet 3:20-21*).

*God called Noah to separate from the world — from its wickedness, evil and doom — by entering the ark (Gen 7:1).*

**\*\*** God now calls people to live a life of separation from evil through Christ (*John 15:19; 2 Cor 5:17; 6:14-15, 17-18; 2 Th 3:6*).

*The ark was the salvation of both Noah and his family (Gen 6:18; 7:1, 7, 13, 23).*

**\*\*** Jesus Christ is the hope of salvation for all families (*Acts 16:30-31; see Acts 16:15*).

*The ark was secured — the door was closed — by God Himself (Gen 7:16b).*

**\*\*** God Himself secures the believer through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The believer has perfect security — God sees to it — through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ (*John 10:28-29; Phil 1:6; 2 Tim 1:12b; 1 Pet 1:3-5; Jude 24-25*).

*God kept the door of mercy — the door of the ark — opened right up until the end. But when it was time for judgment the door was shut. There had been a time for grace, but there was also a time for judgment (Gen 7:16b, see 2 Pet 2:5).*

**\*\*** God has his ministers and followers all over the world preaching the gospel of salvation. God has the door of mercy opened today, but the end is soon coming when the door will be shut and judgment will fall (*Luke 13:24- 27; Mat 25:1-13*).