

**Introduction to the Study of GENESIS Chapters 7:
The FLOOD Commences; Those in the Ark Are Saved**

The early chapters of Genesis are NOT just about creation and the early history of mankind. Perhaps most importantly in these early chapters, GOD reveals Himself to man whom He has created in His image. He alone is the Creator of everything but so much more! For God's glory is made known to man by His greatness, His goodness, and His holiness. These are all revealed, not only, by what God says but most vividly and memorably by what He does. Because of that, the early chapters of Genesis are an introduction to the God of Glory!

In chapter 7, God provides more specific instructions to Noah concerning the animals. One pair of all the animals will provide for their survival and continuation after the flood. However, for sacrificial purposes a greater number of "clean" animals will be needed. So God gave Noah further instruction to take 7 pairs of these.

When all was ready, God warned Noah that in 7 days the flood would come (v.4). And it did. Just as God said. Noah in complete obedience to the LORD was safe inside the ark and "the LORD shut him in." (v.16). The flood waters appear to come from 3 sources (vv.7:11,12; 8:2). In chapter 7 the waters "increased" and "prevailed" (7:17-20) until all the earth was covered (v.20). Beginning in chapter 8 the waters crest and now begin to recede from off the earth.

Underlying the flood account are 2 vital spiritual lessons: 1) God, although patient and long-suffering, is *always* faithful to His word, and 2) God honors those who faithfully believe and obey His word. Concerning the flood, in chapters 6 - 8 God repeatedly reveals what He will do, and then, He *faithful* and completely keeps His word (see examples below). Concerning Noah, one characteristic in his life is emphasized and for which he receives repeated commendation: "Noah did *all* that God commanded him." (vv.6:22; 7:5; 8:16,18). The blessed life in God's world, and now in the *new* world, is built on this foundation: the *faithfulness* of God to His word, and the responsibility of man to *completely* obey it.

NOTE: God is always and completely *faithful* to His word:

- 6:7, "I will blot out man ... from the face of the earth" → And He does (7:23)
- 6:18, "But ... you shall come into the ark, [with family]" → And He does (7:1)
- 7:4, "In 7 days I will send rain on the earth" → And He does (7:11)

- 7:4, "I will send rain on the earth 40 days ..." → And God does!! (7:12)

The Universal FLOOD Begins; Those in the Ark Are Saved (7:1-24)

A. God Instructs Noah to Embark into the Ark (7:1-4)

1. The animals to take (vv.2-3)
2. The 7 days for *final* preparation (v.4)

B. Noah Faithfully Follows ALL God's Instruction (7:5-10)

1. Noah's obedience to the Word of the LORD (v.5)
2. Noah's family enters the ark (vv.6,7)
3. The animals enter the ark (as God instructed Noah) (vv.8,9)
4. The flood commences just as spoken by the Word of the LORD (v.10)

C. The Flood: The Day of God's Great Judgment Falls (vv.11-24)

1. The start and sources of the flood waters (vv.11-16)
2. The cresting of the waters, before receding (vv.17-24)