

An Outline of Genesis Chapter Six to Chapter Nine

No part of the book of Genesis is so filled with erroneous ideas as the account of the Flood. Before looking at these four chapters in detail, it will be well to do an overview. Part of the problem is that, according to some, it is a collection of stories and, as such, there is much repetition. There is no repetition that God did not intend. The reader is advised that this is not a complete study - you will have to do that yourself. What is written here are some study guides to aid you in your studies.

Let us begin by setting up a calendar of events, if this is possible.

THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE FLOOD

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

II Timothy 3:16

Any attempt at describing the chronology of the flood must be in accord with the above scripture. It must not be done to satisfy our curiosities. It must be done to fulfill the purposes set forth above. In order to achieve this, we must use the following principals.

- It must be entirely consistent with the Bible account. If any part of the chronology is not consistent with the Biblical account, it must be discarded.
- Where the bible is silent on certain details, any assumptions made must be logical and consistent with other known facts.
- Any other assumptions must lead to a conclusion that is profitable, otherwise these assumptions are unwarranted.

One may ask, why do a chronology at all! This is a legitimate question. The why is shown below.

And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. 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.

Genesis 7:10-11 (NKJV)

Then the ark rested in the **seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month**, on the mountains of Ararat.

Genesis 8:4 (NKJV)

And the waters decreased continually until **the tenth month. In the tenth month**, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

Genesis 8:5 (NKJV)

And it came to pass in the **six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month**, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry.

Genesis 8:13 (NKJV)

And in the **second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month**, the earth was dried.

There are (above) five **specific dates** given so we should conclude that we need to make use of them. We are given the month and the date. We are not given the year except that it began in the 600th year of Noah's life. That is as good as any. Surely it could not have been listed as xxxx B.C.! We shall list the years as 600 A.N. (According to Noah).

To make this chronology we shall make as few assumptions as possible - two. One assumption used here is a very reasonable one and this is in respect to the calender used. By far, the most likely calender would be the lunar calender, based on the cycles of the moon. This calender is still in use by the Hebrews (and some others) and contains twelve months which alternate between 29 days and 30 days.¹ If you are good at math, you might figure that this would give you a year of 354 days! This is, in fact, what happens. What do they do about this? What do you do on February every fourth year? You add a day. When the Lunar Calender gets too far "out of whack" they add an additional month. Anyway, this is the calender that is the most likely choice.

The only other assumption we shall make for reasons of profitability is that the flood began on the Sabbath (Saturday). We shall explain this later. For now, let us determine what we can learn from the Scriptures: It is not an essential assumption but seems likely.

Before we put this together, what information does the account give us?

Five Absolute Dates:

1. 02/17/600 Genesis 7:11 The beginning of the deluge.
2. 07/17/600 Genesis 8:4 The ark rests on Ararat.
3. 10/01/600 Genesis 8:5 The mountains visible.
4. 01/01/601 Genesis 8:13 Waters dried up.
5. 02/27/601 Genesis 8:14 The earth dried up.

These are the only specific dates given us.

There are a number of relative dates:

¹ The calendar used by the Israelites was the same as that used throughout the near east - a lunar calendar, in which the new month was set by the appearance of the new moon (about 29.5 days on the average). Since twelve such months make up only 354 day (average), the calendar "loses" about 11 days, compared to the 365-day solar calendar. Originally, the extra month was added "ad-hoc", when the authorities (usually the temple) decided that the month were falling out of sync with the seasons. Much later, this intercalary month was pre-calculated, falling in 7 out of every 19 years. The names Nisan, Iyyar, Sivan, Tammuz, Ab, Elul, Tishri, Maeshvan (often shortened to Heshvan), Kislev, Tebeth, Shebat, Adar are, indeed, Babylonian, and were adopted by the Jews during the Babylonian Exile. The pre-exilic books of the Bible use numbers (first month, second month etc.). The names Ziv, Ethanim and Bul are used ONLY in the context of Solomon's building of the Temple with the help of Sidonian workmen, so they might be Canaanite/Phoenician, or they might be the pre-exilic Hebrew names. We just don't know.

Today, July 8, 2007 corresponds to 21 Tamuz, 5767

YEAR	MONTH	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT	
600 A.N.	1			1	2	3	4	5	
		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
		27	28	29	30	1	2	3	
		2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18		19	20	21	22	23	24	
	3	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	5	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	6	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
		28	29	30	1	2	3	4	
		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
	7	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
		26	27	28	29	1	2	3	
	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
	9	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	10	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
	11	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
		29	30	1	2	3	4	5	
		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
		27	28	29	1	2	3	4	
		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	1	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
		26	27	28	29	30	1	2	
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
	24	25	26	27	28	29	1		
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
3	30	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
	28	29							

7:4 "For after seven more days"

7:1 the second month, the seventeenth day

40 days

Remaining ~150 days

8:4 seventh month, the seventeenth day

40 days

8:5 tenth month, on the first day of the month

8:6 at the end of forty days

waited yet another seven days

8:13 the first month, the first day

8:14 And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month,

THE OUTLINE OF THE FLOOD

I - THE CONDEMNATION OF THE FLOOD : Genesis 6:1-12

The Three Generations

A: The First Generation:		
The Spirit's	Striving with Man.	6:01-04
B: The Second Generation:		
The Lord's	Sorrowing over Man.	6:05-08
C: The Third Generation:		
The Father's	Sighting of Man.	6:09-12

II - THE COVENANT OF THE FLOOD : Genesis 6:13 to 7:16

The Entering of the Ark

A: The COVENANT	to ENTER the Ark	6:13-6:22
B: The COMMAND	to ENTER the Ark	7:01-7:05
C: The COMPLIANCE	in ENTERing the Ark	7:06-7:10
D: The COMPLETION	of ENTERing the Ark	7:11-7:16

III - THE CONSUMMATION OF THE FLOOD : Genesis 7:11-8:14

The Waters upon the Earth

A: The INCREASE	of the WATERS;	7:11-7:24
Introduction: The	BURSTING FORTH of the FLOOD	7:11-7:16
Section #1: The	BEARING UP of the ARK	7:17-7:18
Section #2: The	BROADENING OUT of the WATERS	7:19
Section #3: The	BLOTTING OUT of LIFE	7:20-7:24
B: The DECREASE	of the WATERS;	8:01-8:14
Section #1: The	RESTING of the ARK	8:01-8:04
Section #2: The	RECEDING of the WATERS	8:05
Section #3: The	RESUSCITATION of LIFE	8:06-8:12
Conclusion : The	REMOVAL of the FLOOD	8:13-8:14

IV - THE CESSATION OF THE FLOOD : Genesis 8:15-9:17

The leaving of the Ark

A: GOD	EVACUATES the ARK	through NOAH	8:15-8:19
B: GOD	EXALTED by an	OFFERING from NOAH	8:20-8:22
C: GOD	ENCOURAGES	MULTIPLICATION by NOAH	9:01-9:07
D: GOD	ESTABLISHES a	COVENANT with NOAH	9:08-9:17

Note the symmetry of this outline. This is not by my design but according to the Hebrew text. Part I is the introduction. Parts II and IV each have for parts with Part II dealing with ENTERING the ark and part IV with LEAVING the ark. Part III has and internal symmetry with the first section having four details dealing with the waters increasing and the second section has four details dealing with the decreasing of the waters.

A note regarding part I is in order here. Noah was given 120 years to build the ark during which time to world was given a chance to repent. 120 years is three periods of forty years each. What is the significance of forty years?

[Judges 2:10](#) (NKJV)

10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.

[Judges 3:11](#) (NKJV)

11 So the land had rest for forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

[Judges 5:31](#) (NKJV)

31 "Thus let all Your enemies perish, O LORD! But let those who love Him be like the sun When it comes out in full strength." So the land had rest for forty years.

[Judges 5:31](#) (NKJV)

31 "Thus let all Your enemies perish, O LORD! But let those who love Him be like the sun When it comes out in full strength." So the land had rest for forty years.

As can be seen, forty years is taken as the time for one generation. Thus three generations had time to repent. In verses 6;1-4 the text deals with, ""My Spirit shall not strive with man forever." Verses 5-8 deal with "So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth." and verses 9-12 have, "So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth." Hence the three generations we judged by the three persons of the Trinity.

THE ARK

Any study of the Great Flood must deal with the means of Noah's salvation. The word translated "ark" is not the one used of the "Ark of the Covenant." It is very different although another such ark is mentioned in the Old Testament. The word is תבה (tebâ) and apparently originated with Egyptian word for coffin! Noah was commanded to build for himself and his family. Be saved in a coffin?

"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

Mark 8:35 (NKJV)

Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

Luke 9:23-24 (NKJV)

Why not tell Noah to build a boat? The Hebrew does have a word for "boat."

Then a **ferryboat** went across to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. Now Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king when he had crossed the Jordan.

2 Samuel 19:18 (NKJV)

It is not likely that Noah even knew what a boat looked like and, in addition, he was not going to be going anywhere. He just needed a “barge.” Now there is one other ark in the Bible and it is significant here.

And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months. But when she could no longer hide him, she took an **ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch**, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

Exodus 2:1-4 (NKJV)

Both Noah and Moses were saved in an ark covered with pitch. We shall consider the materials below. God gave Noah specific instructions.

"Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.
Genesis 6:14 (NKJV)

Do you know why it was called “Gopher” wood? Because when Noah asked the Lord where he would get all the wood for the ark, God said, “You’re gonna have to go fer it!” Seriously, no one knows what it was so the Hebrew term remains un translated.

THE MATERIALS USED IN THE ARK

Gopher Wood	Pitch	Mercy Seat
גפר (gopher)	כפר (copher)	כפר (copher)
Probably wood with a lot of “pitch” in it.	“Pitch,” something that covers tree stumps.	“A Cover” that covered sin in the Old Testament

The materials, strangely are related to what they provided - life!

"You shall make a **mercy seat** of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width.
Exodus 25:17 (NKJV)

THE DIMENSIONS OF THE ARK

And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.

Genesis 6:15-16 (KJV)

Length	Height	floors (depth)	width
300 cubits	30 cubits	3 floors	50 cubits

Translators who translated dimensions like this do us a disservice. What difference does it make how long the ark was? But, just for the curious -

450/550 feet	45/55 feet	15 feet/floor	75/128 feet
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The reason for two dimension is that we do not know if the short cubit (18 inches) or long cubit (22 inches) was used. But, who cares other than to note it was large enough to do the job.

The thing to see is that the TRINITY is stamped all over the ark! You say, but wait, what about the 50 cubits? And, you are probably thinking I snuck in an extra dimension.

that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the **width and length and depth and height**-- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:16-19 (NKJV)

I count four dimensions in the description of Christ's love!

And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years. Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land. And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you

Leviticus 25:8-10a (NKJV)

Unger describes the features of the Jubilee, a summary of which is below.

It would seem that there must have been a perfect remission of all debts in the year of Jubilee from the fact that all persons in bondage for debt were released, and all landed property of debtors was freely returned. Thus the Jubilee year became one of freedom and grace for all suffering, bringing not only redemption to the captive and deliverance from want to the poor, but also release to the whole congregation of the Lord from the sore labor of the earth, representing the time of refreshing (Acts 3:19) that the Lord provides for His people. For in this year every kind of oppression was to cease and every member of the covenant people to find his redeemer in the Lord, who brought him back to his possession and family.

UNGER, Jubilee

So all four dimensions represent the love of Christ for us.

THE OPENINGS IN THE ARK

There were to be two (types) of openings in the ark.

"You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.

Genesis 6:16 (NKJV)

The first opening was a set of windows. These windows were 1½ cubits (27 inches) high and were to go all around the ark beneath its roof. The purpose of these windows, I would think, would be obvious - or perhaps you have never been around on a farm!

If the three floors were all the same height (10 cubits or 15 feet, the windows would be about 13 feet above the top floor (oops, "deck"). What good is a window you can not see out of? But, you can see out of it - if you look up towards God and not down to see the destruction.

"Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

Luke 21:28 (NKJV)

The other opening was the door. Technically, it was a "doorway." Look at the text - "and set the door of the ark in its side. So there is no explicit instructions for making what is to go in the doorway. None were needed.

So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

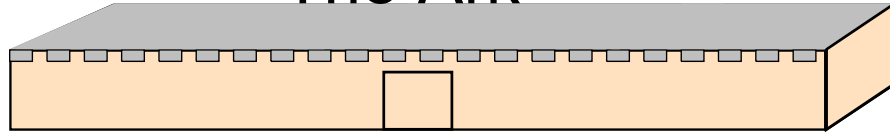
Genesis 7:16 (NKJV)

If you are thinking, you are probably thinking the wrong thing. I would guess that most people thought the door was to keep people outside. While that was, no doubt, one reason, it was more important that the LORD (YHWH) shut Noah (and his family) IN the ark. The ark was Noah's salvation - literally. Noah could not have changed his mind and said, "I think I will go back out and take my chances." He and his family's salvation was fixed. It could not be changed and neither can yours!

By the way, I don't know what God put in the doorway to shut them in (a door?)!

This concludes the information concerning many of the details of the flood. It is now up to you to read the account in your Bibles, carefully, and let the Spirit guide you in what you are to learn.

The Ark

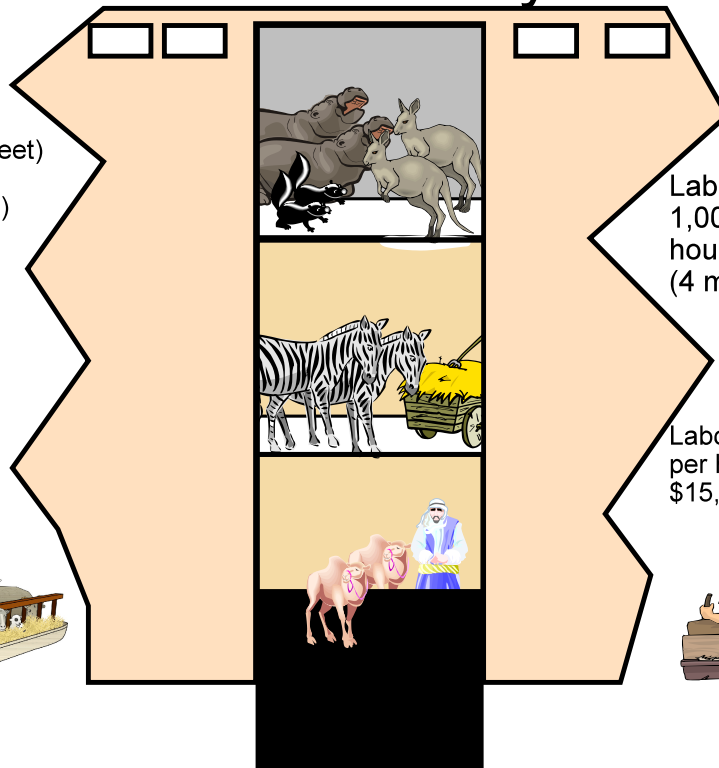


The doorway

Naval Architect: God
Shipwrights: Noah & Sons

Length: 300 cubits (450 feet)
Width: 50 cubits (75 feet)
Height: 30 cubits (45 feet)
Gross Displacement:
35,000 Long Tons

Bill of Materials:
Gopher Wood: 800,000
board cubits - 4"x12"
150,000 board cubits -
8"x8"
Asphalt: 1,000 b



Labor:
1,000,000 man-
hours
(4 men, 120 years)

Labor Cost @ \$15.00
per hour,
\$15,000,000.00

