

Genesis: The Flood

Gen 6:1 When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, **2** the sons of God (*the offspring of Enosh*) saw that the daughters of man (*the offspring of Cain*) were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. **3** Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years."

- God was not saying that all of mankind would have lifespans of 120 years. He was allowing a time period for repentance. And even knowing what would be the end result, God "is patient... not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (*2 Pet 3:9*). Even though He knew about it in eternity, it was at that point when God set in motion the day a flood would destroy every living thing.

Gen 6:4 The Nephilim (*Heb 5303- a bully or tyrant*) were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These (*the Nephilim*) were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

- Nephilim- were "fallen earth-born men, with the animal and devilish mind." Whereas, the sons of God were "persons not of the earth, or separated from the earth." Some translators have substituted the word "giants" for Nephilim. To be considered a giant one wouldn't have to be of great stature but "of great knowledge, piety, courage, wickedness, etc., and not men of enormous stature". (*Adam Clark*) Even today when righteous people align themselves with those of great wealth or status, it could affect their level of faith and adherence to lives of godliness. So it was in the days of Noah. And according to **Gen 4:16** "Cain went away from the presence of the Lord", thus the time when the "daughters of man" began to multiply. That was before "people began to call upon the name of the Lord" (*v. 26*) thus the "Nephilim" existed before and after the righteous people were termed the sons of God. And there's no evidence that supports that the Nephilim were fallen angels as some like to propose. Jesus even said when confronting the Sadducees concerning widows who had multiple husbands and who would have her as a wife in the resurrection...

Mar 12:25 For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are **like** angels in heaven.

- To be "like" an angel, for one, means to be in a spiritual state. Also, "*angels are without gender and do not reproduce for that cause. Gender is a trait associated with physical beings*". (Victor A. Knowles) That settled...

Gen 6:5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. **6** And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him to His heart.

- Now we might ask how God could be sorry for making man if He knew He could have prevented Himself from such remorse by not having created him in the first place. From the time man was created in the garden he has always had "free agency", i.e., the right to choose between good and evil (*Gen 2:17*). Without such we

would all have been as though off an assembly line as mind numbered robots. It is our choice as to whether we will love God in return, by obeying Him in honoring His commandments. As Jesus, Who is God, said...

Joh 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

- As the Father, God is grieved when one of His creation dies in such a wicked state.

Eze 33:11 ... As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live;

But the opposite is true when one of His godly children dies.

Psa 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.

But back to the question of God being sorry.

Num 23:19 God is not man, that He should lie, or a son of man, that He should change His mind. Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not fulfill it?

Being sorry carries with it having the desire to change a previous thought or action. Man with his finite mind has a difficult time understanding the eternal nature of our God. Some have suggested that God can will Himself to not know something in the future. Many even go as far as to say He was blindsided by the Jews not accepting Jesus as the promised Messiah. They misinterpret the passages that include the phrase "before the foundation of the world" (Eph 1:4/1 Pet 1:20/Rev 13:8). But not according to Job 36:4 and 37:16 where God is understood as being "perfect in knowledge". Perfect means He is entire and complete in knowledge. The Psalmist wrote (147:5) that "His understanding is beyond measure". But, others will site passages like Jonah as one that, they say, shows God has changed His mind, so He couldn't be so complete in His knowledge or He wouldn't have had to. First we need to understand that the word of God contains no contradictions; man is the one who contradicts. Let's look at that passage.

Jon 3:9 Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish." 10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented (to become less stern or severe) of the disaster that He had said He would do to them, and He did not do it.

- The people of Nineveh were given the choice to repent or not. Their decision was what determined their fate; it was conditional. God only gave them the choice between life and destruction and not that He decided on one thing and changed His mind to do another. He said He would have destroyed them if they didn't repent. Another passage folks go to in order to prove their false teaching that God can will Himself to not know something is in Hebrews.

Heb 8:12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember (Gk.3415- recollect) their sins no more."

A God that is perfect in knowledge won't forget anything. He did, under the New Covenant, make a way of atoning for sin through His Son's shed blood. If those sins are covered by that blood, He will no longer "recall" them at the final judgment, and has promised so. It's not as though He is able to not know something in advance, as it is that He will not recall things. So to understand how God could be sorry in His heart for having made man, we need to understand an aspect of Him that He has given to us as His offspring. He is an emotional God! To have been sorry in Gen 6:6 actually means that "He breathed a heavy sigh" according to the Hebrew word (5161). He was frustrated with the "wickedness of man" (6:5). So it was necessary to give man a 120 year "grace period" in which it was up to man to change his ways. But even after the 120 year reprieve, man became even worse and God knew He had to punish Him, for the sake of the only righteous ones left, because He is a righteous God.

Gen 6:7 So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

- Were it not for righteous Noah, what would God have done? As Abraham debated with the Lord over Sodom and Gomorrah, to not destroy them if there were any righteous remaining there, he got down to asking if only "ten are found there" (Gen 18:32), would He "destroy the whole city" (v. 28).

1Pe 3:20 ... God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. In this instance...

Gen 6:9 ... Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

As God would later say to Moses concerning the Israelites and their being such "a stiff-necked people", He said He would destroy them and "make a great nation of [Moses]" (Ex 32:10-11). It wasn't that God didn't know in advance how Israel would be so insubordinate toward Him, as it was that He was soliciting a response from Moses.

Gen 5:32 After Noah was 500 years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Gen 7:6 Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth.

- Mankind aged differently before the flood of Noah's day which had a lot to do with the earth's environment.

"I suggest that our ancestors simply possessed genes for greater longevity which caused this 'genetic limit' to human ages to be set at a higher level in the past."

"If this suggestion has merit as the major (if not the sole) cause of great pre-Flood ages, then the obvious question is how some of these longevity genes were lost. The human population went through a severe genetic bottleneck at the time of the Flood—only eight individuals. The phenomenon of 'genetic drift' is well known to be able to account for 'random,' selectively neutral changes in gene frequencies which may be quite rapid."

- Twenty years before Noah fathered Shem, Ham and Japheth, God had decreed the 120 year probationary period in which He gave man to repent. How old they were when they began to help Noah build the ark is not important. They had wives by the time the flood waters had arrived.

Gen 6:13 And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. **14** Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. **15** This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits (*approx. 450 ft.*), its breadth 50 (*75 ft.*) cubits, and its height 30 cubits (*45 ft.*). **16** Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit (*18"*) above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.

- Imagine a barge as long as 1½ football fields, ½ of a football field wide and a little less than half a football field in height. It would have to be pretty big to hold...

Gen 6:19 ... of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. **20** Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort **shall come in to you** to keep them alive. **21** Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food **for you and for them.**"

- Not only was the ark to be built to withstand the punishment from the flood waters rising as quickly as they did, it had to be able to store enough food for all its inhabitants. But then the question always seems to come up...

**“How could thousands of animals have been housed in Noah’s Ark?
This seems literally impossible.”**

Wayne Jackson, of the Christian Courier, dealt with this question in his article titled “Questions About the Genesis Flood”. We’ve already established the size of the ark so we need to next ask what that size is equivalent to.

“With its three decks, it had a storage space of some 100,000 square feet, or the capacity equivalent of 8 freight trains consisting of 65 cars each—a total of 520 cars.”

“There are only about 17,600 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians altogether. This means there were, at most, about 35,000 vertebrate animals within Noah’s ship.”

“And note this: Noah brought into the Ark classifications designated as ‘kinds.’ A ‘kind’ is a broader category than a ‘species.’ Moses spoke of ‘the owl ... after his kind’ (Lev. 11:16), and yet there are more than 500 different sorts of owls. So the number of Ark-dwelling creatures can be reduced even further.”

“The average animal-size within the Ark is estimated to have been about that of a sheep. A standard railroad freight car can accommodate approximately 240 sheep. Thus only about 146 cars would be needed to facilitate the number of inmates of the Ark—considerably less than the 520 cited above.”

Gathering the Animals

According to Genesis, Noah’s only task was to build the ark and to preach about the subsequent arrival of the flood (*2 Pet 2:5*). Nothing was said of his having to go out and gather the animals, especially right before the flood began. But there are always those who wish to dismiss the story of the ark by arguing that the different species were from as far away as Antarctica and other climate zones, or even from as far away as Australia.

“An equally serious fault in this type of reasoning is that it begs the question of the extent and effects of the Deluge. It assumes, for example, that climatic zones were exactly the same before the Flood as they are now, that animals inhabited the same areas of the world as they do now, and that the geography and topography of the earth continued unchanged. But on the assumptions of a universal Deluge, all these conditions would have been profoundly altered. Arctic and desert zones may never have existed before the Flood; nor the great intercontinental barriers of high mountain ranges, impenetrable jungles, and open seas (as between Australia and Southeast Asia, and between Siberia and Alaska).”

John C. Whitcomb & Henry M. Morris (1961), *The Genesis Flood*

“Rehwinkel has suggested that during the probationary period provided by God in Genesis 6:3, ‘migration of these animals which God had intended to save might have extended over several generations of animals’ (1951, p. 75). Thus, when the ark was ready for its occupants, the animals already were in the nearby geographical regions. Since Genesis 6:19-20 makes it clear that God caused the creatures to ‘come unto Noah,’ Noah did not have to ‘go after’ all the various animals.”

Alfred M. Rehwinkel (1951), *The Flood* (St. Louis, MO: Concordia)

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An Examination of Noah’s Ark and the Global Flood *by* Bert Thompson, Ph.D.

Brad Harrub, Ph.D.

- If such places as the North and South Poles were tropical regions before the flood, that would explain, in part, where some of the water went.

“Interestingly, scientists have uncovered evidence which proves that this Earth once enjoyed a ‘mantle of spring-like loveliness.’ Nature writer Quirin Schiermeier observed: ‘The Arctic Ocean used to be so warm it was practically Mediterranean, an international drilling team has found’ (2004). Reporting on the discovery, Alex Kirby noted that fossilized algae in the ice cores ‘show the sea temperature was once about 20C [about 68F], instead of the average now, -1.5C.’ This discovery correlates well with an announcement from the University of Colorado, explaining that scientists had discovered pine needles under more than 10,000 feet of ice in Greenland. Both discoveries show evidence of a rapid freeze and mass extinction.”

“With every new discovery, scientists continue to prove the authenticity of the Bible. Now, if they would only admit it.”

In the News: The World as it Used to Be *by* Brad Harrub, Ph.D.

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Gen 7:1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. **2** Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, **3** and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. **4** For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." **5** And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

- There's been a bit of discussion as to whether the seven "clean" animals were seven pairs or just seven in number. Remember, the "clean" animals were used for sacrifice once Noah and his family exited the ark (8:20), so there would have been the need to have one extra than just two for procreation or those animals would have ceased from existence. Having three pairs would have assured it.

"The pattern, as Matthew Henry noted, then follows that of the working week and Sabbath day, in that 'God gives us six for one in earthly things, as in the days of the week,' while the seventh is for devotion to God (n.d., p. 61)."

Henry, Matthew (no date), *Genesis to Deuteronomy*

- That said, seven would have sufficed with one given in sacrifice at the end of the flood and three pairs for the continuance of the species.

Gen 7:7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood.

Gen 7:10 And after seven days the waters 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 that day all the **fountains of the great deep burst forth**, and the **windows of the heavens were opened**. **12** And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

- It wasn't just the rain from above that flooded the earth so quickly. There had to have been more. The earth at one time was of one mass of land (*Gen 1:9-10*), which is **not** how the earth appears today. If we were to be able to pull the western hemisphere to the east and align it with the eastern hemisphere we would be able to see a pattern as though the earth was once a jigsaw puzzle that had separated. Evolutionary theories abound on how that happened over millions of years through a process known as "continental drift". The Bible has a simpler explanation since the earth isn't "millions" of years old as it is in fact a few thousand years young (*6k+ according to Bible genealogies*). And there are other factors involved that explain what the evolutionist can't, such as how a catastrophic event, such as a global flood, did in fact create other geological abnormalities such as fossils of sea creatures "found near the top of Mt. Everest"*, or the rapid rate in which they were fossilized. So, the separation of such large land masses would have caused the sea to abruptly fill those open land areas, causing such a rush of water that nothing living would have had even a moment to look for higher ground to escape it.

*Where Did All the Waters Go *by* Eric Lyons, M.Min., Apologetics Press 2002

Gen 7:15 They went into the ark with **Noah**, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. **16** And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as **God** had commanded him. And the **LORD** shut him in. **17** The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. **18** The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. **19** And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. **20** The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep.

“As workmen construct a ship, designers must take into account its draught (draft), which is the measurement of how far into the water the ship will sink when it is fully loaded. Were you to confer with shipbuilding guides, you would discover that the draught for large barge-type vessels generally is approximately one-half of their height. Since the ark was 30 cubits high, it would sink 15 cubits into the water. It therefore would need 15 cubits of water above the highest mountains in order for its bottom not to scrape against those mountaintops. Interestingly, God not only designed the perfect vessel for the trip, but also sent the correct amount of water to prevent that vessel from smashing into the top of a submerged mountain peak.”

Noah’s Ark- Not a “Rough” Draft *by* Kyle Butt; Apologetics Press 2001

Gen 7:24 And the waters prevailed on the earth **150** days.

Gen 8:1 But **God** remembered **Noah** and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And **God** made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. **2** The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, **3** and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of **150** days the waters had abated, **4** and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of **Ararat**.

- But where did all that water go? The Psalmist may have the answer.

Psa 104:6 **You** covered it (*the earth*) with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. **7** At **Your** rebuke they fled; at the sound of **Your** thunder they took to flight. **8** The **mountains rose**, the **valleys sank** down to the place **that You appointed for them**.

“Where did all of the Flood waters go? The most logical answer in light of the Scriptures appears to be that God made room for the waters by adjusting the Earth’s topography. Much of the water from the Flood likely has retreated into the deeper ocean trenches—valleys that, in places, are over seven miles deep.”

Where Did All the Flood Waters Go? *by* Eric Lyons, M.Min., Apologetics Press 2002

- With a process known as “plate tectonics”, mountains were formed that had previously been non-existent. And, as noted earlier, with the earth not having the same climate areas then as it does now, a lot of that water can account for the ice that it would have formed at the different poles where scientists found “fossilized algae” and “pine needles”.

Gen 8:6 At the end of forty days **Noah** opened the window of the ark that he had made **7** and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. **8** Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the **waters had subsided** from the

face of the ground. **9** But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him.

Gen 8:10 He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark.

11 And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So **Noah** knew that the waters had subsided from the earth.

12 Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore.

Gen 8:13 In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And **Noah** removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. **14** In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out.

Gen 8:15 Then **God** said to **Noah**, **16** "Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. **17** Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh--birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth--that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

Gen 8:20 Then **Noah** built an altar to the **LORD** and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. **21** And when the **LORD** smelled the pleasing aroma, the **LORD** said in **His** heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. **22** While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

Gen 9:1 And **God** blessed **Noah** and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. **2** The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. **3** Every moving thing that lives **shall be food for you**. And **as I gave you** the green plants, I give you everything.

- It was at this point man was permitted to eat the flesh of animals. And notice, **God** made no restrictions concerning clean or unclean at that time. That restriction came later as an identifying mark **His** chosen Israel were to obey for the purpose of bringing **Jesus** into the world through a separated people. But once the **New Covenant** was established there is no "abstinence from foods that **God** created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by **God** is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving". (*1 Tim 4:3-4*)

Gen 9:12 And **God** said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: **13** I have set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. **14** When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, **15** I will remember My covenant that is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. **16** When the

bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

- So what does this Old Testament flood of Noah's day have anything to do with anything today? Things of old have happened for a reason. The flood was the shadow and warning to all who didn't and don't obey the righteousness of God. Those of the wicked antediluvian race were punished by the flood. Noah and his family were saved through it.

1Pe 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the Righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, 20 because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. 21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 Who has gone into Heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

- If anyone wishes to escape the wrath of God that destroyed those of Noah's day, you need to, like Noah and his family, be "brought safely through water" because we cannot "appeal to God for a good conscience" as long as we are "dead in [our] trespasses and sins" (Eph 2:1). How is that possible? We need to understand the basic message of the gospel, that Jesus died, was buried and rose the third day as "the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29); we need to believe the gospel; we need to repent of past sins; we need to confess that Jesus is the Son of God; be immersed in water as "having been buried with Him in baptism" and "raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God" (Col 2:12) to "walk in newness of life" (Rom 6:4). As the water of the flood separated Noah from the sinful world around him, baptism separates us from the sinful world around us and puts us into a covenant relationship with the God Who created us.

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