

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 7: October 25 – November 1

Genesis 7

The historical event of the global flood is recorded in Genesis chapters 6-9. Genesis 7 records the week before the flood and the first 150 days of the flood. In this chapter, we read about the different kinds of animals that came to Noah and entered the ark. We also read about the forces of nature that God used to bring the flood upon the earth. During this catastrophic event, God was exercising His justice against sin while providing a way for people to be forgiven and saved from sin.

Read Genesis 7:1-24

1. What command did God give Noah in verse 1?
2. What did God say about Noah in verse 1?

God said that Noah was righteous “in this generation.” There are two different ways to interpret that phrase. Dennis Prager observes,

According to rabbinic opinion, this phrase is intended to suggest that Noah was good only in comparison to his depraved contemporaries; had he lived in an essentially decent society, he would have been regarded as nothing special. But others hold the opposite opinion—that “in his age” reflects well upon Noah, given that he managed to be a good person even though he was raised and lived among evil people... It is extremely difficult to be decent when living among indecent people. Few people have the moral courage to reject their environment.¹

3. What special instructions did God give to Noah concerning the “clean” animals and the birds? (7:2-3)

We don't know what the definitions of “clean” and “unclean” were during the time of Noah. However, it is reasonable to assume that they were the same or very similar to the definitions given in Leviticus 11.

4. Why do you think God told Noah to enter the ark seven days before the rain started to fall? (7:4)
5. How did Noah respond to all of God's commands? (7:5)
6. How old was Noah when the flood took place? (7:6)
7. How does verse 11 describe the two sources of the floodwaters?

John Morris writes,

The fountains of the deep cannot be positively identified today. Having ruptured, they are now likely unrecognizable. Perhaps the most similar features today are the “springs of the sea” or “black smokers,” underwater vents that continually belch out chemically saturated and very hot brines. Exotic communities of organisms somehow live and even thrive in this hostile environment, far below the reach of sunlight. At present, the vents are somewhat rare and localized, but are found in numerous places throughout the ocean floor. The springs possess a seemingly inexhaustible source of water, gas, and chemicals.²

8. Why do you think verse 11 is so specific about the exact date this catastrophe started? (see also Gen. 8:13-14)
9. How long did it rain? (7:12)
10. Who were all the people on the ark? (7:13)
11. How does the Bible categorize the different kinds of animals on the ark? (7:14-15, 22)
12. Who shut the door after everyone was safely on the ark? (7:16)
13. How high did the flood rise above the high mountains? (7:20)
14. How does the Bible describe the kinds of animals that died in the flood? (7:21-23)

¹ Dennis Prager, *The Rational Bible: Genesis* (Washington, DC: Regnery Faith, 2019), 91-92.

² John D. Morris, *The Global Flood: Unlocking Earth's Geologic History* (Dallas, TX: Institute for Creation Research, 2016), 53.

James Smith notes,

Skeptics have questioned the credibility of the account with respect to the housing of the animals. There are about a million species on earth, ninety-five per cent of which could have survived outside the ark. That leaves about 50,000 animals averaging the size of a sheep. These animals could have been contained on only one deck of the ark.³

We should also remember that the word “kind” in the Bible is not equivalent to the modern classification of “species.” Animals before the flood had much more genetic variability in their DNA, so their offspring had more possibilities of diverse characteristics. We know that all the different kinds of dogs in the world today came from a common dog ancestor. Bodie Hodge writes,

Kinds are not necessarily species, genus, family, or order by our modern classification system. In a general sense, it is probably closer to the family level in most instances, but a few can still be at a species, genus, or even order level depending on what we are looking at. Kinds are like the dog sort (including dingoes, wolves, coyotes, domestic dogs, etc.), cat sort (including lions, tigers, cougars, bobcats, domestic cats, etc.), horse sort (ponies, Clydesdales, donkeys, zebras, etc.), and so on.⁴

15. What happened to all the people who were not on the ark? (7:21-23)
16. What words and phrases in this chapter indicate that this was a global flood?
17. What are some character traits of God that you see in this chapter?
18. What makes it difficult for us to be righteous in our generation?
19. How is Noah’s ark a picture of the salvation we can have in Christ? (see 1 Peter 3:18-21)
20. What can you do to be a light of hope and righteousness in your world this week?

³ James Smith, *The Pentateuch* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996), 91.

Sermon Notes 10/25/20

Noah’s Ark (part 2)

How should we respond to Genesis chapter 7?

1. Be a _____ in this generation.

Genesis 7:1

Philippians 2:14-16a

2. Be _____ of the Word.

Genesis 7:5

James 1:22-25

3. Be on _____ with Jesus.

Genesis 7:23

Matthew 24:37-39

John 10:9-10



⁴ Ken Ham and Bodie Hodge, *A Flood of Evidence: 40 Reasons Noah and the Ark Still Matter* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2016), 209.