



Genesis – Chapter 6:13-7:16
Make Yourself an Ark!
(Lesson #13)

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, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. 16 Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. 17 For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die.

Before we **unpack these verses**, I want you to **catch something**. Notice what Moses writes here “**God said to Noah...**”

Here we have every reason to believe that **God spoke directly to Noah** and told him exactly **what He planned to do** and **why**. Let’s read the entire quote.

18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. 19 And 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.”

Think about this, put yourself in Noah’s shoes. As far as we know, God has not spoken directly to Noah prior to this. In fact, this is the **first of seven** recorded times when God speaks to Noah (Gen 6:13-21, 7:1-4, 8:15-17, 9:1-7, 9:8-11, 9:12-16, 9:17)

God broke down the barrier between natural and supernatural and spoke directly to Noah and **said quite a bit**.

QUESTION: How would you describe what God said with just one word?

But the message **required faith** to believe so that one might obey

By the way: obedience was going to make Noah appear to be a fool to the unbelievers around him.

APPLICATION: God has spoken to us. **Will we be obedient?**

It is likely that this is the very point that the writer of Hebrews is making when he writes of Noah:

“By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.” (Heb 11:7 ESV)

As best we can tell, this is the first time God speaks directly to Noah. But, **Noah would have known** what **Methuselah’s name meant**. Equally, Noah would have been familiar with the **preaching of Enoch**.

Although Enoch had already been carried away to heaven prior to Noah being born, we can **strongly suspect that Lamech**, shared some of the content of what Enoch preached with Noah.

I would remind us of what **Jude said of Enoch**:

“14 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of his holy ones, 15 ¶ to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”” (Jude 1:14-15 ESV)

By the way, I plan to write up a short paper on my thoughts (my opinion) on the book of Enoch, but that is still a few weeks away. The flood will be my big push over the next couple of weeks.

Vs 13 - First, we are told what God intends to do, (twice):

“I have determined to make an end of all flesh...”

“Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.”

There is some degree of **irony here**, man was **created from the dust of the earth** (Gen 2:7) and **given dominion over the earth** (Gen 1:28). Now God intends to use that very **same earth** to **destroy man**.

Second, we are told why: *for the earth is filled with violence through them* (through man).

Like I said **last week**, man had been given the mandate to **fill the earth with worshippers, fill the earth with image bearers of God, reflecting His image**. Instead, man had **filled the earth with violence**.

Vs 14 – Third, therefore you are to: Here we see what **God commands** Noah to do.

Noah is to make an **ark**. The Hebrew word is **תבה (tebah)**. It is used a total of **28 times in the Hebrew Bible**.

It is used of the massive ship that Noah is about to build that will save those on it from the global deluge and it is used of the floating basket that Moses’s mom (Jochebed) would place him in (Ex 2:1-3).

It is **not used** to describe **any other ark or box**. It is not the word for ship (like Jonah boarded), or the word for ark as in the Ark of the Covenant.

This ark is to be constructed of **“gopher”** wood. The exact type of wood has been lost to time.

Further, Noah is directed to cover the ark **inside** and **outside** in pitch. This seems to be some type of tree resin that Noah was directed to **waterproof** the ark with.

Vs 15 – Again, divine revelation and God provides Noah with the exact dimensions for the ark.

The length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits.

Last week, we said that the cubit is a measurement from the end of the elbow to the tips of the fingers. We talked about some of the **various cubits** that were available. The range is from a low of 17 to a high of 25.

Most scholars agree it was likely:

The **Hebrew common cubit** about **17.5 inches**.

Or

The **Hebrew long cubit** at **20.4 inches** (Eze 40:50)

So the ark was a **minimum** (using the Hebrew short cubit):

437.5 feet long, 72.92 feet wide, and 43.75 feet tall

With the shorter cubit (17.5”) the ark would have **1,400,000 volumetric cubic feet**. The capacity is equal to **484** standard livestock cars.

A **standard livestock** is 10 x 8.5 x 34. For sheep they put in **four decks**. Livestock cars can carry **240 sheep**, now that is tight and not designed for a year at sea, but it gives us a good starting number. With this volume the ark would be able to carry **120,000 sheep sized animals**.

If you use the Hebrew long cubit as described by Ezekiel:
510 feet long, 85 feet wide, 51 feet tall.

With the **longer cubit** (17.5”) the ark would have **2,200,000 volumetric cubic feet**. The capacity is equal to **760** standard livestock cars.

This would provide the volume to carry **183,000** sheep sized animals.

The ark at the **Ark Encounter** was built using the long cubit. At the Ark Encounter, they estimated that there have been a total of approximately **1,400 animal kinds**. The actual number produced by AIG is **1,398 kinds**.

Factoring in for clean and unclean AIG has **estimated a total of 6,744 animals** would have been on the ark.

Vs 16 - Here we are provided additional details including that it will have a “roof.”

The word translated roof is the Hebrew word **צֹהַר (tsohar)**. The exact meaning of this word in this context is somewhat unclear:

This word has been translated:

Roof (ESV, HCSB, NIV, NRSV)

Light (ASV)

Window (Geneva, KJV, NASB, NKJV)

The word generally means, **noon, midday, or day**. It seems to have a reference to **light**, thus **window** or **roof**, both seem to be reasonable translations. The **word is in the plural**, and I would **lean towards windows** that allowed light into multiple compartments or multiple windows.

It is to be finished a cubit above, literally a **cubit upward** or a **cubit high**.

*** Now this whole matter of window and roof, please tuck away for a week two, this will come back around in 8:6 and 8:13 in slightly different ways. ***

Thus it seems this roof, window, or windows will finish above 1 cubit or 20.4 inches or a little over 1 ½ feet.

Vs 16b - You shall set a **single door** in the side of the ark.

Only one way in. The ark was the vehicle and method that God would preserve life, and there was only one way into that ark.

APPLCIATION: This of course reminds us of the Lord Jesus Christ and the gospel.

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (Joh 14:6 ESV)

"7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." (Joh 10:7-9 ESV)

Now, it is **obvious** you and I are being told the **bare minimum** about this ark, we can **imagine** that more could have been communicated to Noah, but we can also **imagine** that in some cases, he would **have** deployed **modern technologies** in the construction.

Vs 16c - So the ark had **three decks**, much like the **mock-up in Kentucky**.

If we simply make **three decks**, give **3 feet for bilge**, and make each deck 12 inches thick, it makes the height of each floor of the ark **15 feet tall!**

This is a big ship with **massive spaces** for storage or stacking.

Vs 17 - **Fourthly**, God states it again to ensure it is **understood**:

- 1) God says **"I"** will bring a **flood of waters upon the earth**.
- 2) This flood of waters is going to **destroy "all" flesh** in which is the breath of life **under heaven**.
- 3) Everything that is **"upon" the earth shall die**.
 - a. This does not include bugs and insects.
 - b. This does not include animals that live in the oceans, although many will die!

I want to **draw your attention** the last word in verse 7 **"flood."** The Hebrew word translated "flood" here is the word **מבול (mabbuwl)**. It is used a total of **13 times** in the Hebrew Bible, in every case (with possibly one exception, which I would argue is not an exception) it is referring to the **catastrophe** that was the global deluge! (Gen 7:6, 7:7, 7:10, 7:17, 9:11, 9:15, 9:28, 10:1, 10:32, 11:10, Ps 29:10)

In fact, there are a few **other Hebrew** words that can be used like when a **river floods a town**. But this word is only used of the global deluge, it was a different kind of flood. It was **global** and it was **cataclysmic!**

If you remember in the **creation story**, God **created the planet**, it was **water covered** and on the **third day**, God **gathered the waters together** in one place so that **dryland could appear**. There, if we could have seen it the **land rose out of the water** as the place where animals, birds, and ultimately man would live.

Now, God is going to **plunge the entire creation, back into the waters**, and **use the planet itself to judge mankind**.

18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. 19 And 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." 22 Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

Vs 18 - God makes a **covenant with Noah** and **all who come into the ark**. Theologians refer to this as the **Noahic covenant**, and it is an **unconditional covenant** made by God to those who will come unto the ark.

This **covenant** and further **expounded** and **explained** in **Genesis 9**.

Vs 19-20 - All of the birds, animals and things that creep on the ground that have the breath of life. For all these forms of living flesh, Noah is to bring two of every kind.

This will be **expanded upon later**, for the moment just imagine **two of every kind coming onto the ark**.

Two of every kind and this would include dinosaurs. Now at this point maybe you are thinking hey there is **no way** to carry some of the **massive dinosaurs**, that is simply not going to happen.

All dinosaurs start out in an egg that is no bigger than a **rugby football**.

God would have brought the young animals to Noah to load on the ark:

- 1) **Smaller**
- 2) Longer **viability** leaving the ark

The goal is bringing them onboard the ark is to **“keep them alive.”** We are told that twice in two verses. The point, unless they are in the ark they will **perish from the face of the earth!**

Henry Morris says in his commentary that **no more than 60% of the ark** would have been taken up by animals.

This leaves a great deal of room for water, food, and humans! Equally, it leaves room for humans, who and respond to **Noah’s preaching** (II Pet 2:5).

Vs 21 - Noah is also **commanded** to take **every sort of food**. Now at this point, if we understand this correctly, the food would be various **grasses, seeds, fruits, vegetables, grains, and oats**.

He is to **“store them up.”** What he brings onboard is to serve as food for the animals and food for the humans.

Vs 22 - Just a **few Hebrew words** but loaded with important truth for you and I to consider.

First, this is very easy to understand. **Noah did what God commanded him.**

APPLICATION: Do we do what our sovereign Lord and King (Jesus) tells us to do?

In 6:13-22 we read the content of what God told Moses to do and why. **Then do you know God did?**

He got **very quiet** for years, possibly **even decades**. God had told Noah what to do and why, now Noah had to walk by faith. Noah had to trust God, even when it did not make sense. All the while God was quiet.

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.

Vs 1 - I hope that caught your attention... *Then the Lord said to Noah!*

This is the **second time** of the **seven times** we have recorded that God spoke to Noah. **The first time**, God told Noah that he was going to destroy the earth and Noah needed to build the ark.

Here years, likely **decades later**, God speaks again. Now of course God could have spoken at other times, but this is the **next recorded time** that God speaks.

This time, he says **in short, it is time**, but there is more here so **let's unpack it!**

- 1) **Go into the ark!** Move onto the ark.
- 2) **You and your household**
 - a. Can you imagine how Noah's neighbors would have viewed this?
 - b. The crazy guy that has been talking about God sending a flood is now living on the ark.

APPLICATION: Obeying God, may at times make us look foolish to the surrounding world. I just want to remind you. We do not live for the approval or praise of man... But of God!

- 3) For I have seen that you are **righteous before me**, we understand what God means, not that you were perfect, but you **exercised faith**.
 - a. **The Hebrew word is צדיק (tsaddiyq).** This word is used over 200 times in the Hebrew Bible. Examples include Det 25:1, Isam 24:17, I Ki 22:3, etc).

Vs 2 - Here, for the **first time** that we are aware of, Noah is given an **additional command** as it relates to the **animals**, and it is the command to take with him **“seven pairs”** of all **“clean animals.”**

The language here is not certain, and translations disagree if Noah was told to take “seven” (of each clean animal) or “seven pairs.”

The Hebrew literally reads **“seven seven.”** Likely pointing to seven males and seven females.

QUESTION: How did Noah know what was clean and what was unclean?

Vs 3 - Not only seven or seven pairs of the clean animals, but seven pairs of the birds, male and female. We can imagine for **sacrificing** and for **keeping their offspring alive on the face of the earth**.

Vs 4 - I hope you notice that **God's revelation** has been getting **clearer and clearer**.

APPLICATION: This is how God's revelation has worked throughout time. It started very vague and somewhat uncertain and with each passing year, each passing decade, it got clearer, and clearer, and clearer, until BANG. The one to whom it all pointed arrived on earth, the Messiah!

As Noah walks with God and is obedient to God, God reveals more and more to him.

APPLICATION: Do you think that is true for us as well? As we walk with God, He reveals Himself to us more and more?

First let's look at the date, in **seven days**.

We can imagine that **Methuselah** has either **recently passed away** or on his **deathbed**, for as I have said multiple times and according to multiple sources **his name means when he dies it comes**.

Then we are told **what God plans to do**. He plans to send **rain** upon the earth for **40 days and 40 nights!** It is not just an amazing long rain period at some locality on the globe.

Notice He intends to “**blot out**” **every living thing**, that He has made, that lives on the face of the ground.

The word translated “blot out” is the Hebrew word **מָחָה (machah)**, it means to **blot out**, to **wipe out**, to **destroy** or to **exterminate**.

Vs 5 - So Noah did what God said, he moved onto the ark and coordinated loading the animals that God sent to the ark. He went into the ark, with his family as God told him. He did what God said to do.

APPLICATION: This is a good question of application for you and me.

7:6 Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth. 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. 8 Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, 9 two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth.

Today, I only want to introduce the flood and actually spend all **next week** looking at the actual event.

First, by way of introduction, as I briefly discussed prior to our lesson, I have created what I believe is an **accurate Chronology of the flood events**. Pull up and discuss.

To our verses: Vs 6 - Here we are told the **age of Noah** when the global **deluge began**.

This makes **little sense**, if the flood story is a **legend, myth, or parable** that is not factually true, but simply intended to convey important spiritual truth.

Equally, **Jesus, Peter**, and the **writer of Hebrews (Paul)** spoke and wrote about the flood as a real event, with real people:

“37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.” (Mt 24:37-39 ESV)

“By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.” (Heb 11:7 ESV)

“4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;” (2Pe 2:4-5 ESV)

A narrative here in the **Old Testament** is repeated in the **New Testament**, where it is presented as a real event rooted in **History (By Jesus and two of His apostles)**.

Vs 7 - So, the eight. Noah his wife, Noah's sons (Shem, Ham, and Japheth) and his sons wives.

All eight, went into the ark, for that was the **only place to escape the waters that God was sending as a flood upon the earth.**

Again, we observe the word in verse 7 **"flood."** The Hebrew word translated "flood" here is the word מַבּוּל (**mabbuwl**). It is used a total of **13 times** in the Hebrew Bible. I discussed this word back in **Gen 6:17.**

In fact, there are a few other Hebrew words that can be used like when a **river floods a town.** But this word is only used of the **global deluge.** It was a **different kind of flood;** it was **global** and it was **cataclysmic!**

We see the same thing in the New Testament:

"if he (God) did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;" (2Pe 2:5 ESV)

Here the Greek word is: κατακλυσμός (**kataklysmos**), it is used only **four times** in the **New Testament** and always refers to the **global deluge.** Let me show you. Here are the **other three places:**

"For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark," (Mt 24:38 ESV)

"38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man." (Mt 24:38-39 ESV)

"26 Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all." (Lu 17:26-27 ESV)

The Greek like the Hebrew has a few other words for a flood of water that may sweep over a river bank and destroy
y a town. This flood, is uniquely a cataclysm!

Vs 8-9 - All of the animals went into the ark with Noah and his family.

Vs 10 - Thus, as God had promised, in seven days, He intended to send them flood. Now the waters of the flood, מַבּוּל (**mabbuwl**), are about to be upon the earth.

7:11 *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. 13 ¶ On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, 14 they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. 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.*