“Genesis 1 – 11 – Fact Not Fiction”

Chapter 7

Noah was willingly obedient to God’s commands

Building an ark was a tremendous challenge

Think of obtaining the supplies necessary for constructing it

Think of the complexity of the actual construction of such a huge vessel

Think of the opposition from the godless, mocking people around him

Think of the commitment necessary to stick with building it over such a long period of time

It’s commonly believed it took Noah 120 years to finish it

A recent article I read on this indicates, through careful genealogical and chronological research, the number was much closer to 75 years

There’s also no information as to how many people helped him build the vessel

It may just have been Noah and his family

Verse one of chapter seven indicates the construction had been completed

This was truly an incredible accomplishment

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God reestablishes why Noah and his family were worthy to escape His coming worldwide judgment

They were singularly righteous before Him unlike anyone else in their present generation

God also reminds Noah of the very specific instructions regarding how many animals are to go into the ark

Sometimes we think Noah and his family and the animals got on the ark at the very last minute but that’s actually not true

God gave them a seven-day lead time to enter the ark and become settled into it before the rains came

Again, verse five indicates how Noah was totally obedient

What we have looked at thus far raises questions many skeptics love to emphasize with the intention of discrediting the Bible’s truthfulness

Those who want to discredit the Bible believe they have “slam dunk” arguments which easily disprove the Bible

They eagerly scoff at Scripture and proclaim how ridiculous it is, how it is filled with many imaginary stories, Noah and the ark being a prime example

How could all the earth’s animals possibly fit into the ark?

How did the animals come to the ark?

How could a flood possibly be a worldwide event?

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What we must understand is how these arguments come from a humanistic point of view which already assumes there is not a supernatural, all-powerful God who is greater than the universe

Foundational to Christianity itself is the belief the triune God had the innate capability to create everything which exists

Therefore, the argument, in this instance, for those of us who believe the Bible, is from what is far greater to what is much lessor

In other words, if our belief system is correct, then how is it a stretch whatsoever to believe God had the power to supernaturally direct the animals toward the ark, have them fit on the ark or cause a worldwide catastrophic event?

Causing those things to happen is far smaller in scale than creating a vast, seemingly immeasurable universe with billions of galaxies and trillions of stars

Remember, nothing’s impossible with our great God

However, let’s return to the most common objections to what the Bible records to be real history

Here’s a video which simply and effectively answers these questions

Now let’s return to the text, beginning in verse six and make some important observations as we continue to journey through this chapter

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A specific time stamp is given for Noah’s age, v. 6

All the animals God wanted to be on the ark actually got inside it, v. 8-9

Remember, this was easily possible because the ark had a total available volume of around 1.4 million cubic feet, i.e. there was plenty of room to take two animals from every family group

The rains came exactly when God said it would happen, v. 10

A specific date is given for when the flood started, v. 11

Why be so particular about this if it was a made-up story?

40 days and 40 nights is mentioned throughout Scripture in connection to other important biblical historical events, v. 12

These include “Moses’ time on Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:18; Deuteronomy 9:25); the spies’ trip to Canaan (Numbers 13:25); Israel’s time in the wilderness (Numbers 14:33; 32:13); Elijah’s miraculous journey to Sinai (1 Kings 19:8); and Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness (Mark 1:13).” (David Guzik, BLB)

There’s no question any one of these events was actual history

Science does not disprove the Bible

Rather, it will always verify what the Bible says to be true

We must put our trust primarily in the authority of God’s Word, not human reasoning or popular beliefs within this present society

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Verses 13 – 15 might not seem very significant to us but they’re the reason why we are here this morning, along with all other animal life in the world

Notice how the text says God shut the door of the ark

This was an intentional, sovereign act of God

Once God shuts a door, no one can open it

Revelation 3:7: “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens’.”

I mentioned last time how God gave Noah a seven-day lead time before the flood waters came

During these days I believe the animals and provisions were progressively being loaded into the ark

I also wonder what was being communicated by Noah to those around him in the ark’s vicinity over these days

In the New Testament, the apostle Peter makes reference to Noah as a preacher of righteousness

Was Noah warning people of the judgment to come?

The point is, once the floodwaters came, those outside the ark may have been desperately pleading for Noah to open the door to let them into as the waters rose up higher

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However, God had shut the door

There was no opportunity or possibility of anyone else entering the only secure place of safety from God’s judgment

Far too many people today think they can presume upon God’s love and mercy to save them on their terms, according to their own earthly timetable

In other words, I can live my life the way I want to now, I can ignore God, I can neglect Jesus

I’m sure though, when my life comes to an end, God will take me to heaven because He’s a loving and forgiving God

However, the Bible is clear

“Now is the day of salvation,” 2 Corinthians 6:2

Presumption will keep you out of heaven

Repentance will give you entrance into heaven

God’s future judgment is coming

The apostle John speaks of it in Revelation 20:11-15

The only way to avoid this is through believing in Christ as one’s Lord and Savior, c.f. John 3:16

On what or in whom are you placing your eternal security?

Now let’s return to what says regarding the flood itself

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There’s much speculation over whether what this chapter refers to was a world-wide flood

Most of this conjecture centres around the widely taught and believed theory of evolution which proclaims the rock layers on top of the earth’s surface were laid down very slowly over time through millions of years

It is very obvious a catastrophic event like the world-wide flood in Noah’s time could easily accomplish this over a relatively short period of time

The torrential rains from above and the earth’s crust breaking up from underneath would easily have the power to do this

Furthermore, if this is true, the numerous rock layers would be less than 6,000 years old at the very latest

This, of course, does not align with evolutionary beliefs

Why is believing in a worldwide flood so important?

We need to trust the authority and accuracy of Scripture

Here’s a video which addresses this

Notice also how the language Moses utilizes in verses 17 to 24 points toward a world-wide flood

High…prevailed…greatly increased…earth…all…prevailed exceedingly…high…whole…heaven…covered…all…every…all…all…all…prevailed

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The highest mountains were 22.5 ft. under water

That’s not even remotely possible if we try to say this was only a local flood in the area around present-day Iraq and Iran

Furthermore, no local flood has waters which fail to significantly subside before 150 days

There’s no question as to whether the Bible indicates Noah’s flood was a worldwide occurrence

It is also fascinating to note how various people groups throughout history have stories within their cultures referring to a large-scale flood

Many of these accounts don’t have all the right information but there are incredible similarities with the book of Genesis

One Bible scholar points to this fact when in connection to Noah’s flood he “specifically cites the legends of the Samo-Kubo tribe of New Guinea, the Athapascan Indians of America, the Papago Indians of Arizona, Brazilian tribes, Peruvian Indians, African Hottentots, natives of Greenland, native Hawaiian islanders, Hindus, Chinese, Egyptians, Greeks, Persians, Australian natives, the Welsh, Celts, Druids, Siberians, and Lithuanians…of the more than 200 cultures that have their own account of the flood the following aspects of the story are common:

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88% describe a favored family

70% attribute survival to a boat

95% say the sole cause of the catastrophe is a flood

66% say that the disaster is due to man’s wickedness

67% record that animals are also saved

57% describe that the survivors end up on a mountain

Many of the accounts also specifically mention birds being sent out, a rainbow, and eight persons being saved

(David Guzik, BLB)

Why are so many Christians refusing to believe what the Bible clearly states about actual historical events?

It is because they have become convinced evolutionary theories promoted and taught by the vast majority of today’s scientists can’t be wrong

Therefore, where the Scriptures state a fact in opposition to commonly believed scientific truth, the Bible must become subservient to what science says

Yes, the Bible is not a science textbook

It most certainly was not intended to be

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However, because the Bible is the Word of God, whatever it states about science and history must be true

There’s no question the first chapters of Genesis are a historical, narrative account

God was the only eyewitness with regard to creation itself

He had total knowledge of what happened to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden

He interacted with Adam and Eve and Cain

He also directly communicated with Noah

So if God told Moses what to write down as it is recorded in Genesis, how can any of it be mistaken?

What you and I believe about biblical inspiration is vitally important

If we can’t trust God’s Word from the beginning, how can we trust what it states beyond Genesis, especially in the gospel accounts?

Let’s put our trust entirely and confidently in the Word of God right from the beginning chapters of Genesis

Let’s also make sure we’re in a place of eternal safety through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

He is the only One who can rescue us from our sins and grant us a home up in heaven