

**CALVARY PANDAN BIBLE-  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
[Adapted from Bethel Bible-  
Presbyterian Church, 10 Downing St.  
Oakleigh, Vic., 3166]

## **DHW BIBLE CLASS**

### **LESSON 6**

## **THE BOOK OF GENESIS**

### **Chapter 7**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Genesis chapters 7 & 8 give the account of the Flood, which covered the whole earth. The Genesis account of the universal Flood is of vital importance to Biblical Christianity. It is an issue between Christians who believe the Bible to be infallible and inerrant and people who rather believe in the theory of evolution and uniformity. The scientific and historical arguments for the Genesis account of creation and the flood are adequately dealt with and discussed by a few eminent Christians.<sup>1</sup> Suffice to reiterate that there is no solid and sound reason against the fact that the Bible is completely reliable and trustworthy and that the flood literally took place as described in Genesis.

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<sup>1</sup> There are a few books written by Christians on this issue: Henry Morris, The Genesis Record, pages 195-203; John C. Whitcomb & Henry Morris, The Genesis Flood, (Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1961); John C. Whitcomb, The World That Perished, (Baker Book House, revised edition 1988); Ken Ham & Paul Taylor, The Genesis Solution, (Master Books, Santee, California, 1988).

The text of chapter 7 began at the end of 120 years, the grace period which God gave man to repent. The chapter records God's final commandment to Noah. Some more details were given to Noah. Noah obeyed the LORD and he took his family into the ark after all the animals had gone in. The LORD then "shut him in," and the flood came. It was a universal flood, which enveloped the whole earth, and every living thing died except those who were safe and secure in the ark.

### ***The LORD'S Invitation***

After the LORD has told Noah to make an ark and after he has told him of His decision to destroy "all flesh," it is significant that the LORD said to Noah, "Come thou and all thy house into the ark" (7:1). And if Noah did not respond to God's call to "come" into the ark, he too would perish with the rest. But Noah "did according unto all that the LORD commanded him" (7:5). That is the beauty of it. This is an illustration of the call of God through the preaching of the Gospel to anyone who would respond to the call to come to Jesus Christ. And if one does not come, one deprives oneself of the eternal security God graciously offers. Like Noah who obeyed God and entered into the ark by faith, so also if a sinner acts by faith to the call of the Lord Jesus Christ to come to Him, he is assured of salvation from the penalty of sin in the lake of fire. The calling is only effective if the one who is called come!

The fact that Noah had completed building the ark is not the reason why the LORD has seen him righteous in his generation (7:1b). The author of the book of Hebrews remarks that "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved

with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house” (11:7a). The divine commentary puts to rest the fact that Noah’s righteousness is imputed on him not by his works but through grace by faith.<sup>2</sup>

Further instructions were given to Noah. He was told to take seven pairs (not three pairs plus one) of clean animals and a pair of not clean animals into the ark.<sup>3</sup> God did not give the reason why more clean animals are taken than the not clean animals. But chapter 8:20 clearly shows us the reason why. The clean animals were killed as a “sweet savour” offering unto the LORD.

The intervening years of one hundred from God’s decision and announcement to Noah and now were silent. Very little is recorded. We can safely assume that Noah and his family were building the ark. Peter the Apostle in his second epistle wrote that Noah preached to the people in his time.<sup>4</sup> The events in chapter 7 were at the end of the one hundred and twenty years. There were seven more days before God would send the flood. That seven days gave Noah and his family time to make final preparations. God said to him that there would be rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights and that “every living substance” that God had

created would be wiped out from the face of the earth (7:4).

### ***The Obedience of Noah***

God commanded Noah all things that he must do. Noah obeyed all that the LORD commanded him. This tells us how Noah walked with God (6:9). Noah went into the ark with his three sons and their wives. God not only saved Noah, but also his wife, their sons and their wives too. God’s wonderful grace is once again demonstrated. In all probability, Noah’s three sons must have observed their father’s life and walked with God. They would naturally imitate and follow. Hence they were saved from the judgement of the flood. After seven days had passed and all the animals had entered the ark, the floods began to be upon the earth. The rain came and it was in fulfilment of what God exactly said to Noah: that He would send a flood upon the whole earth (6:17; 7:4). Once again God is true to His word.

The exact day when the flood came was given as the 600<sup>th</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> month, and the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the month. The Bible describes how God floods the whole earth. The source of water came from two places: the fountains of the great deep burst out and torrents of rain fell from heaven (v.11). The waters from these two sources were sufficient to flood the whole earth.<sup>5</sup> It rained for forty days and forty nights, that is, no less than 960 hours continuously!

Noah and his family went into the ark. There were eight people altogether. The animals followed suit. Some criticised that all the animals could not have entered the ark in one day. One cannot fully know what can happen in

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<sup>2</sup> KJV Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

<sup>3</sup> Some understand the phrase “by sevens” of the clean animals as three pairs plus one. But this is in contrast to chapter 6:19-20 in which every animal was to be taken in pairs, male and female.

<sup>4</sup> KJV 2 Peter 2:5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

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<sup>5</sup> Morris, The Genesis Record, 196.

an emergency of this kind. However, it must be considered that the animals could have entered the ark in the seven-day period before the Flood came (7:4) and here the statement can mean that this was the day on which the entrance into the ark was completed.<sup>6</sup>

### ***The LORD Shut Him In***

The statement in verse 16 is very significant: *And they went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut them in.* Two features stand out. First, all the living things obeyed God's commandment. Then the LORD shut them in safely from the coming flood judgement. The use of the two names of God is interesting. God, the supreme awesome and powerful Judge and Ruler of Creation gave the commandments. The LORD, Jehovah, who keeps His Word and who is always gracious and faithful shut the door and kept them safe inside. But those who were outside would all be destroyed.

The spiritual lesson here is so clear. If anyone obeys God's commandment, he can be sure that God keeps His promise of saving him. The jailer asked Paul: "What must I do to be saved?" *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house* (Acts 16:31). Noah was saved by divine grace, not by any of his heroic efforts or wisdom.<sup>7</sup>

### ***The Great Deluge***

Was the Flood local or universal? There are some pseudo-intellectuals and pseudo-theologians who hold the view that the Flood is local; it covered only the region around the rivers Tigris and Euphrates. To hold this view is to

ignore the clear and plain language of the text which describes the Flood. There is no shadow of a doubt! Single out all the words, which project the meaning, that the Flood was global (vv.17-24).<sup>8</sup> Of interest was the fact that the flood covered "all the high hills" and the mountains with a depth of 15 cubits (about 22 ½ feet, v.19-20).

### ***The Theological Thrust***

God's sovereignty and power over His creation is shown in this account of the Flood. It demonstrates that God hates sin and it must be judged. There is nothing in man that deserves goodness from God. If there is any goodness that comes from God it is only through His grace. The world had become corrupt and violent. Man and woman therefore perform wickedly and enjoy the immoral pleasures of life without any consideration for another. The sinful world must be put away. It cannot remain. God must punish and destroy the evil. Then can He be said to be both just and gracious. This account of the flood is used by the Lord Jesus Christ as an analogy for a future final judgement upon the world today when the wicked will be removed forever and the righteous in Christ Jesus will enter into a new age in which Jesus Christ rules as the Lord of lords, and the King of kings. Hallelujah!<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Aadlers, *Genesis*, vol1, 172.

<sup>7</sup> Gordon J. Wenham, *Genesis 1-15*, 182.

<sup>8</sup> One rule of interpretation: The meanings of the words used are determined by the general and immediate context.

<sup>9</sup> Allen P. Ross, *Creation & Blessing*, 196.

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**LESSON 6**

**THE BOOK OF GENESIS**

**Chapter 7**

**DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION**

**QUESTIONS**

**Daily Readings**

**MONDAY:** Read Genesis 7:1-4; Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 4:1-11.

**TUESDAY:** Read Genesis 7:5-10; Luke 17:26-30; Psalm 1:1-6.

**WEDNESDAY:** Read Genesis 7:11-16; Psalm 4:1-8.

**THURSDAY:** Read Genesis 7:17-22; Romans 1:18-32.

**FRIDAY:** Read Genesis 7:23-24; Revelation 20:1-15.

**Discussion Questions**

1. In what way did God see righteousness in Noah?

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2. Why did the LORD have Noah take more clean animals and birds than unclean animals?

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3. God invited Noah "Come thou and all thy house into the ark." What other instance in which Jesus calls us to come to Him?

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4. What principle is God teaching about separating the clean from the unclean animals?

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5. How do you think Noah and his family feel during the long months of building the ark on dry land?

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6. In what situations have you felt embarrassed because of your obedience to God? How can you be challenged and encouraged by the obedience of Noah?

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7. How does the life of Noah illustrate what it means to be faithful?

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8. How did Noah take care of all the animals in the ark?

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9. What words indicate that Noah and his family were safe and secure in the ark? What similar promise does God give to faithful Christians?

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10. How was the depth of the water above the mountains? Give your answer in feet and inches.

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11. The people ridiculed Noah and his family. Did Noah curse them in return? Did Noah seek vengeance?

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12. What have you learned from this chapter?

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