



Noah and the Flood

There is probably no Bible story better known to children than the story of Noah and the flood. Many children have a toy ark and animals to relive in their imaginations the time when the world was destroyed by a great flood. This great Bible story is found in **Genesis 6-9**.

The basic story is that wickedness on earth had reached a point where God could no longer tolerate it. Mankind would be completely destroyed and all traces of his sinful past by the waters of a global flood. God called Noah and his family to warn the world of the coming disaster. Noah was to build an ark (350' long, 45' high & 75' wide with three decks) and over the course of the 120 years of probationary time he offered the people the opportunity to board the ark and be saved. However, in spite of abundant evidence, and Noah's warnings no one responded to God's offer. Only he and his family were saved.



According to the Bible the flood was devastating. Great cataracts of water fell from the sky while the earth's crust was broken up and geysers spewed forth from below (**Genesis 7:11**). It must have been a terrifying sight to people who

had never experienced rain until that time (**Genesis 2:5**). The Bible says the world we have today is an entirely different kind of world from the one that then existed (**2 Peter 3:6**). That is why geologists come up with such long age spans for the age of the earth using various dating methods. All dating methods are based on the presupposition that the rate of decay, or build up, or growth, or radioactivity has been constant. This is the theory of Uniformitarianism, which was predicted to become popular just before the end of time (**2 Peter 3:3-6**). The rate of change in all of nature was catastrophically altered about 4,000 years ago at the time of the flood.

Evidence for the flood can be found everywhere from the fossils of sea creatures on the tallest mountains all over the earth to the vast sedimentary deposits found on every

continent obviously laid down by water¹. The ice age is evidence of the flood because of the drastic change in climate when the water vapor canopy which had previously surrounded the earth collapsed, and large amounts of volcanic ash filtered sunlight² (**Genesis 1:6-7**).

Noah and his family were on the ark 375 days from the time the flood began until they could go out on dry land (**Genesis 7:11 & 8:14**). The Bible says the ark came to rest in the mountains of Ararat (**Genesis 8:4**). The mountain called Mt. Ararat today only came to be known as such in the 13th century. Before that time a mountain in southeastern Turkey named Cudi Dagh was known as place Noah's ark came to rest. For thousands of years pilgrims visited that site to worship God.³ I believe Noah's ark, or the remains of it, will be found someday. A website to visit to stay up to date on the search for Noah's ark is: www.noahsarksearch.com.

So much attention is given to Noah's ark, the science of the flood and the search for Noah's ark that it is easy to forget the main point of the story, which is that God destroyed the world of Noah's day because of the wickedness of mankind. The Bible says He will do so again—not by the waters of a flood, but by fire (**2 Peter 3:7**).

Before God destroys the world a second and final time He has promised to give the world a warning just as He did in Noah's day (**Revelation 14:7-10**). As Noah preached a message for 120 years before the flood, so a message is now being preached regarding the judgment of God before Jesus comes again. The Bible says: "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work." **Revelation 22:12**. In order for Jesus to give out rewards when He comes the judgment must have already occurred. That makes sense because, as we have already seen, the righteous go to heaven with Jesus when He comes, and the wicked are destroyed by the brightness of His coming.

"A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened." **Daniel 7:10**. What the outcome of that judgment will be is the most serious subject one could consider. Fortunately we do not need to face the judgment with fear, for we have a Saviour, Jesus Christ, who is in heaven appearing before God on

our behalf.

The Bible also teaches us that no person will avoid the judgment. Every act of our lives will be brought has been recorded and will be brought up in the judgment. (**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**). This judgment then does not just involve the living. It will also include the dead, for it says God shall bring every work into judgment. In heaven everything has been faithfully recorded. Nothing will be left out of this judgment of God. Everything from Lucifer's rebellion in heaven to his continued rebellion on the earth, with its history of misery and terror, to every sinful act enacted by man—all will be brought into judgment. Those temptations resisted, and those we have given into will all be considered by the great God of heaven as He makes His choice for eternal life, or eternal death. It is the most important question (**Ecclesiastes 11:9 & 2 Corinthians 5:10**).

To discover the beginning date of the judgment we must turn to the book of Daniel. God said that in the time of the end Daniel's book would become better understood, and knowledge would be increased (**Daniel 12:4**), including the time when the judgment would begin.. God loves all of His children on this earth and He wants them to know the judgment is near and the end has come so that they will repent and be saved. Daniel was actually given the number of years it would be before the judgment of the world would take place. "And he said to me, 'For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.'" **Daniel 8:14**.

The cleansing of the sanctuary took place at the end of the Jewish year. Today it called Yom Kippur, but back then it was called the Day of Atonement (**Leviticus 16 & 23:27-28**). It was a day of judgment symbolizing the final judgment. People were to "afflict their souls" (**Leviticus 16:31**), or search their hearts to be sure they were right with God. In symbolic prophecy a day equals one year in actual time (Ezekiel 4:6). Therefore, Daniel was told that the judgment would begin 2300 years into the future. The exact starting point of the 2300 years was also given, which was the decree by Artaxerxes in 457 B.C. to rebuild Jerusalem (**Daniel 9:25**).

There were four parts of this prophecy. From 457 B.C. there was to be 49 years until Jerusalem would be rebuilt (408 B.C.), and then another 434 years until Jesus would begin His ministry (27 A.D.), then seven years of witness to the Jewish people with Messiah, or Jesus, being killed in the middle of the week, or 3 1/2 years,(31 A.D.) and then 1,810 years until the sanctuary would be cleansed (1844 A.D.—See Bible study on the [Millennium](#)).

When Jesus was baptized the Holy Spirit descended upon Him with power to do the work as God's Messiah (**Luke 3:22**). After this Jesus began to go among the people healing, and teaching them the truths of the kingdom of God. He also told them the prophecies were fulfilled. "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." **Mark 1:15**. Jesus knew He was right on time according to God's timetable.

The prophecy also predicted the exact time when Jesus would die for the sins of the world. "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself." **Daniel 9:26**. Jesus Christ was the only Person who could possibly fulfill this prophecy. He was the only One who came at that time and did what the Bible predicted He would do. Then the final week—the 70th week was fulfilled. "Then He shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering." **Daniel 9:27**. In the middle of the 70th week, or three and one half years after He began to preach the gospel of God Jesus was taken prisoner by the priests and rulers of the Jews. He was delivered to the Roman authorities to be tried. He was delivered to Pilate who commanded Him to be crucified. Thus, Jesus died exactly on time. In the middle of the 70th week, as the prophecy required. The last three and one half years of the 490 years was spent as the prophecy said, confirming the covenant. God kept His promise.

Just before Jesus died He had said to the Jewish people, "See! Your house is left to you desolate." **Matthew 23:38**. The temple would become desolate of God's blessing--its ceremonies and its purpose would be fulfilled. "Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom." **Mark 15:38**. God's presence was not seen there anymore. The temple ceremonies were now useless, for Christ had come. When Jesus died it was at the time of the evening sacrifice that had been offered for centuries for the sins of the people. Each sacrifice was to point forward to the time when Jesus would come as the "Lamb of God" (**John 1:29**) to take away the sins of the world. God's covenant with the Jews came to an end at the close of the 70 weeks. That was in 34 AD. At that point the gospel was taken more directly to the Gentiles of the world.

During the next 1,810 years many other prophecies recorded in Revelation were being fulfilled. Then in 1844 the judgment began. That is why you are hearing this message tonight—the prophecies are being fulfilled. "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come." **Revelation 14:7**.

Since 1844 Jesus and all of heaven have been involved in the time of the judgment, finishing the final events just before He comes. Jesus has been in the most holy place of God's temple in heaven pleading for the forgiveness of people's sins as they turn to Him (**Hebrews 7:25 & 9:24**). He is now the representative of this earth and our High Priest (**Hebrews 4:14-16**).

¹ http://www.grisda.org/resources/kinsey_fld.ppt

² <http://www.grisda.org/origins/17008.htm>

³ <http://www.noahsarksearch.com/noah.htm>