



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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## Genesis 7

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Genesis 7.

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### Topics.

- God tells Noah to take seven pairs of animals and birds onto the ark.
- Noah, his wife, his sons and wives enter the ark and the flood came.
- The heavens were opened and Noah and his family went into the ark.
- The waters prevailed 150 days and blotted, out every living thing.
- Was there rain before the flood of Noah?

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

**The previous chapter:** in chapter six the focus was upon the sons of God seeing the daughters of man and taking them for wives; the LORD being grieved, because every thoughts of man's heart was evil; Noah being a righteous and blameless man who walked with God; God telling Noah to build an the ark because He will bring a flood upon the earth; the LORD saying He will establish His covenant with Noah and Noah entering the ark.

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### GENESIS 7:1-4

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#### God tells Noah to Take Seven Pairs of Animals onto the Ark.

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- **Genesis 7:1-4:** 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. <sup>2</sup>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, <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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."

**Noah was righteous man before the LORD in his generation:** (v1) this expression does not mean that Noah was without sin, there has only every been one man who walked upon earth without sin and his name was not Noah but the Lord Jesus Christ, if any of us could attain to the glorious state of being sin free, Christ died for no reason. Jesus didn't suffer on the bloodstained cross of Calvary so that we could live a sin free life, but because we couldn't. God's statement, Noah was a righteous man means that he was a decent, honourable man who not only did what was just and right, but also faithfully obeyed God. He was a righteous man in a world taken over by evil, violence and corruption and the only man left on the earth that the Bible states walked with God and was blameless even though he lived in a society saturated with sin and rebellion against God. It's hard to imagine such unwavering faithfulness in the midst of such godlessness.

Over and over again in the account of Noah's life we read, "Noah did everything just as God commanded" he was the only man alive that pleased God. His long and godly life of 950 years (Gen. 9:29) exemplifies his obedience and his faith. He lived amongst such a corrupt, violent and wicked race that God was forced to bring His judgment upon them and destroy them from the face of the earth which means that Noah became the second natural head of the human race (Adam being the first). In Genesis chapter one we are told that the LORD gave every green plant

for food to every animal; to every bird; to everything that creeps and to everything that has the breath of life (Gen. 1:30) which means that at the beginning of creation neither man, animal or bird ate meat or were a threat to human life. It cannot be stated with absolute certainty when man began to eat meat or when animals began to eat each other for the following two reasons:

1. Almost all of the covenants made between God and man have the consumption of food associated with them and almost all the blood sacrifices the people offered before the LORD became food for the high priest, the Levitical priesthood and their families therefore we cannot know if Abel and his family ate his sacrifice.
2. God did grant mankind to eat meat after the flood (Gen. 9:2-3) but this does not necessarily mean that the generations prior to the flood did not eat meat prior to this since they were grossly evil and cared nothing for God's word and His ways.

However, we do know that in the Garden of Eden and the covenant of creation prior to the flood God provided fruit and plants as food for mankind and the animals. Then in the covenant with Noah in the New World after the flood God changed this to include, both fruit, plants and meat which indicates that there was some very significant change that had occurred from the world prior to the flood and the world after the flood. The first covenant meal was based upon fruit from the Tree of Life. There was no need to include a sacrificial substitutionary animal in the covenant of creation because Adam had not sinned. It is only after man's sin that a redemptive-substitutionary sacrificial animal sacrifice is introduced in the covenant for the New World. (Heb. 9:22). The Old Testament ceremonial sacrifices signify the blood of Christ, the Lamb without blemish, shed upon the cross of Calvary. The New Covenant is no longer bloody, because Christ's blood has been shed once for all time. (Heb. 7:27). The participation now is not in eating the physical, but the spiritual it has been changed from eating a portion of a sacrificed animal to sharing a meal of bread and wine with brothers and sisters in Christ and spiritually share in his presence and in his once-for-all-time blood sacrifice.

**NOTE:** religions that legalistically and dogmatically forbid eating meat for religious reasons and thereby force their followers to be vegetarians are acting against God and putting their followers in direct rebellion against His will as stated in God's word's "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you." (Gen. 9:3). Some commentators say that even if a person has not chosen vegetarianism for religious reasons it is still a rebellion against God and a slap in His face. However, I would suggest that this is taking things far beyond what God intended since He did not command mankind to eat meat, but gave permission to do so. Added to this many are not comfortable in killing animals and for this reason choose to be vegetarian. These people are not forbidding others to eat meat nor are they acting against God, but are simply being true to their conscience and acting from their heart-filled compassion toward animals. For more see the title:

- When did Man and Animals begin Eating Meat? (2016).

In Articles on Website Menu.

**The greatness of Noah's faith:** the LORD tells Noah, to take seven pairs of all living creatures, because he is about to send rain for forty days and forty nights, that will destroy every living creature from the earth. Ponder for a moment Noah's great faith, he believed everything God had told him, yet he had never seen or experienced any disasters on earth especially one with the world changing magnitude of the flood. The faith of New Testament believers works in the same way, they see nothing, but believe everything that the Scriptures proclaim. Neither the God who they worship, the Saviour in who they trust and the heaven to which they are awaiting are seen by their natural eyes, they believe in all these based

upon the word and promise of God. However it is extremely important and necessary to use our senses and reason to function and live a balanced and safe life in this mortal world, but when it comes to salvation and eternal life our senses and reason must submit to the dominion of faith since faith is the foundation of God's Kingdom and the only path to everlasting life. The Bible was not written as a history book or to gratify our curiosity—but for the salvation of our mortal life to eternal life and though there maybe much detail of history lacking and little to satisfy the curiosity of some there is abundantly more than enough to accomplish the salvation of all.

**NOTE:** some dogmatically claim that there was no rain until the flood, to discover if this is a true statement, see the title:

- Was there Rain before the Flood of Noah? (At the end of this study).

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## GENESIS 7:5-10

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### Noah, his wife, Sons and Wives Enter the Ark and the Flood Came.

- **Genesis 7:5-10:** And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him. <sup>6</sup>Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, <sup>9</sup>two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. <sup>10</sup>And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth.

**Noah was six hundred years old:** (v6) during the early generations' families were quite different to what they are today with a mom and dad and two kids. These people had an average of 800-year life spans. If they only bore children during 200 of these years and only had one child every 5 years, they would have died with over 2 million descendants each. Multiply that by just the number of people the Bible names and it gives a very huge population, even back as early as this the people were being fruitful and filling the earth (Gen. 1:28).

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## GENESIS 7:11-16

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### The Heavens Opened and Noah and His Family Went into the Ark.

- **Genesis 7:11-16:** 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. <sup>12</sup>And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. <sup>13</sup>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, <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. <sup>16</sup>And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.

After one hundred and twenty years when Noah was 600 years old he entered the ark with his wife, his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, their wives and two of every kind of living creature on the seventeenth day of the second month. The heavens opened and all the fountains of the deep burst forth and rain fell forty days and forty nights (Gen. 7:11-14).

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## GENESIS 7:17-24

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### The Waters Prevailed 150 Days and Blotted Out all Living Things.

- **Genesis 7:17-24:** The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. <sup>18</sup>The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. <sup>19</sup>And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. <sup>20</sup>The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. <sup>21</sup>And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. <sup>22</sup>Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. <sup>23</sup>He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. <sup>24</sup>And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

**Fifteen cubits:** (Gen. 7:20) there are varying ideas concerning the exact measurement of a cubit this is because it is not an exact measurement. A cubit is the Hebrew measure of length it arose (as did the English foot) from the simple estimating of distance in terms of the body. Farmers today measure the height of horses by hands. The word cubit comes from the Hebrew word ('ammah). Strong's Concordance states that a cubit is a unit of measure of the fore-arm (below the elbow to the hand) (approximately 12 inches (300mm) while a long cubit is the length of the fore-arm plus the length of the hand (approximately 18 to 20 inches (450 to 500 mm)).

**Fifteen cubits:** supposing a cubit is 300mm it means that the waters rose about 4½ metres (about the height of a two-story building) above the mountain tops.

**150 days:** (about 21 weeks or 5 months) (Gen. 7:24).

**Ponder for a moment:** how Noah and his family might have felt during those days on the ark and the conversations they may have had watching the horror of every living creature drowning not knowing what was to become of them. Not only did Noah have faith, but so too did his family.

**Was there rain before the flood of Noah?** Some worldwide dogmatically claim that there was no rain prior to the flood of Noah. The focus of this study is set upon discovering whether this is a true statement or not.

### **The LORD God had Not Caused it to Rain on the Land.**

- When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, <sup>6</sup>and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground. — <sup>7</sup>then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. (Genesis 2:5-7).

Based upon these verses (and a few others) some worldwide dogmatically claim that there was no rain prior to the flood of Noah, but all that can be concluded from these verses with certainty is that no rain had fallen up to that time which is the time prior to the creation of Adam. This is because Genesis chapter two is primarily a detailed recapping of the six days of creation. The verse is describing the environment before Adam was created. The mist may have been one of the primary methods that God used to hydrate the dry land that He created on day three and most likely the watering source for the vegetation throughout the remainder of the creation week. (Gen. 1: 9-13). But it is not necessary to claim that this mist eliminated the need for rain until the time of the flood or that it was the only source of water after Adam's creation and that there was no need for the existence of gentle showers of rain after he was created. These verses do say that prior to the sixth day God watered the plants with a mist and that God had not yet caused rain or created a man to till the ground (Gen. 2:5-6), but to claim that there was no rain until after the flood based upon this verse has no more logical reason than to say (from the same passage), that no one tilled the ground (farmed it) until

after the flood. Genesis makes it very clear that the sun and the seas were present prior to the flood (Gen. 1:10-15) and every knows that rain is an integral element of the earth's water cycle (i.e., the processes of water evaporation, cloud formation, and showers continually recycling the world's water supply) and that this cycle of water is controlled by the energy of the sun and tied to many other aspects of the earth's climate. To dogmatically insist that showers of rain (the normal environmental process) was not in operation prior to the flood is speculation since there is so much that we are not told and do not know.

### **Concerning events unseen, Noah built an Ark and saved his household.**

- 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. (Hebrews 11:7).

The expression, "events as yet unseen," as used in this verse is also used to support the theory that there was no rain prior to Noah's flood, but it is far more likely the words, "events as yet unseen," refer to the impending catastrophic global flood which was not only something, not yet seen and something no one could possibly imagine, but also something people needed to be warned off far more than a normal shower of rain.

**Good study practice:** it is always a good practise of Bible study to use caution before making dogmatic and absolute statements about biblical things that give very little detail of the story or the total whole. This principle should be applied to the environment prior to the flood since there are many things about the pre-flood world that we cannot know with certainty. There is no-doubt that the environment and the surface of the earth prior to the flood were greatly changed. It is also certain when the fountains of the deep broke open and the cataclysmic forces that altered the surface of the earth to accommodate the floodwaters it brought about permanent changes to the earth's environment and to the climate as we know the world today.

### **My Bow in the Cloud shall be a Sign between Me and the Earth.**

- I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. (Genesis 9:13).

It is commonly thought that God specially created the rainbow as a sign of His promise, but it does not necessarily imply that God had never set a rainbow in the clouds before, but only that, from now on, the rainbow appearing as it had when the rain was ending would from the time of the flood have a special significance and act as a reminder of God's promise to never again send such a cataclysmic worldwide flood.

**Conclusion:** since there is so little detail given concerning the environment and so much, we don't know concerning the climate during the generations prior to the flood no one can prove with absolute certainty whether there was rain prior to the flood or not. To dogmatically insist that there was not rain and even worse ridicule those who think otherwise is foolishness since in the grand scheme of salvation to eternal life God is not going to reject those who have lived their life faithfully in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ simply because they believed it did not rain prior to the flood or believed there may have been showers of rain during those generations.

**A good Christian principle:** it is always good Bible practice to keep upper most in our mind that there are some biblical arguments that we should avoid because of their absurdity and others we should avoid being dogmatic about because they lack details of the complete story and therefore cannot be proved, beyond a shadow of doubt from Scripture. The no-rain theory prior to the flood should not be dogmatically taught or used to divide the body of Christ since it cannot be proved beyond a shadow of doubt from Scripture.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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