



Genesis – Chapter 7:11-8:19  
The Global Cataclysm! (Part #1)  
(Lesson #14)

Before advancing our lesson, let's first, let's go back and look at what God did on the first three days of the creation week:

***"1 ¶ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 ¶ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day." (Ge 1:1-5 ESV)***

On the first day, God created the planet (matter), energy, and possibly space. The earth was a water covered planet spinning in the darkness. The Father willed, the creation, the Son did the actual creating, and the Spirit of God was hovering (brooding) over the face of the waters, likely energizing this new creation.

God speaks, Let there be light... And although God has not yet created the sun, he has created light. He calls the light day, he calls the darkness night. The evening and the morning were the first day. Day one ends with God's new creation, earth in the light of God, although currently water covered.

We then read: ***"6 ¶ And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 7 And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. 8 And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day." (Ge 1:6-8 ESV)***

God creates an expanse "in the midst of the waters." Now the only waters we are aware of up to this point is the waters that cover the earth. God made this expanse and it separated the "waters from the waters."

In fact, it separated the waters that were under this new expanse from the waters which were above this expanse.

God called this expanse that had waters below (the earth, covered in water) and waters above, heaven. It is here that God created our atmosphere. The strange part is that our atmosphere is described as having waters "above."

There are many who believe that when God created, here on day two he placed a water, water vapor, or ice canopy above the planet. As you consider this, a few additional items to consider.

Josephus was of Jewish priestly descent, he fought against the Romans and served as general of the forces in Galilee until he surrendered in 67AD. He is best known for writing "The Jewish War" and "Antiquities of the Jews."

In **Antiquities of the Jews, Book 1, chapter 1** Josephus wrote of the creation:

*"After this, on the second day, he placed the heaven over the whole world, and separated it from the other parts, and he determined it should stand by itself. He also placed a crystalline [firmament] round it..."*

Now Josephus's writings are **not scripture**, but they likely accurately reflect Jewish thought at that time.

Is it possible that the original creation looked much different than what we see today? Much greater land masses, probably a single large super-continent, smaller oceans, and a **water, water vapor, or ice canopy?**

Dr. Walt Brown has done some great research on this topic and although he does not believe there was a canopy, he concludes that if there was a canopy it would have raised the pressure across the planet. For this, and other reasons, the limit would be 40 feet for the thickness of the canopy, at the most.

Was there a canopy? I would say probably, but we cannot be sure. It is at least a possibility. It clearly would have been relatively thin containing less than 40 feet of water or equivalent.

The next point we need to discuss is something we see on day 3. Here is the account of day 3:

***“9 And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. 10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. 11 And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.” (Ge 1:9-13 ESV)***

If you remember, during week one I said this sounds like something **totally different** than what we would have expected.

Based on this text, and others, many have proposed that God pulled a great deal of the water that was covering the planet **below the crust of the planet**, into **caverns that were below the crust of the earth**.

This would have possibly been a spherical shell of water, say below our crust (**10-50 miles or so**) and obviously it would have been under **tremendous pressure**, due to the layer of rock that was on top of it. The speculation is that this subterranean cavern of water would have been  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 mile thick.

**There are other verses that hint at this:**

*“6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses.” (Ps 33:6-7 ESV)*

*“4 to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever; 5 to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever; 6 to him who spread out the earth above the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever; 7 to him who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever;” (Ps 136:4-7 ESV)*

*“1 The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, 2 for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.” (Ps 24:1-2 ESV)*

I would summarize, there is the possibility of a canopy and the high probability of subterranean waters on our pre-flood planet.

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***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.***

***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.*

**Vs 11** - Then after 7 days, in the **600<sup>th</sup> year** of the life of Noah, in the **second month**, in the **seventeenth day of the month...**

An honest reading of the text would demand that this is a **literal event** that **happened at a point in time** in the **life of Noah**. In this case, that point in time was in the **600<sup>th</sup> year** of the life of Noah, in the **second month**, in the **seventeenth day of the month**, on **that very day**, all the **foundations of the great deep burst forth!**

The fountains, literally the “**springs**” of the great deep **burst forth**, were **broken up**, were **cleaved open!**

**BBE** - *all the underground springs erupted*  
**HCSB** - *all the sources of the watery depths burst open,*  
**Message** - *all the underground springs erupted*

Do not let these words slip by and **miss the geophysical implications** of this event.

**The fountains, the springs of the great deep burst forth on that very day.**

**If we understand this event correctly. What might this have looked like?**

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A global cataclysm. It is no surprise God used a Hebrew word that He only used to describe the **global flood**. It is no surprise the New Testament has a word that is used in no other setting other than the **global flood!**

This was a massive, globe changing event that happened, in real time, and the Bible is clear when!

**Discussion about the moon:**

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**Vs 11b** - Also **On that very day...** the **windows of the heavens were opened**. Some believe this is the destruction of the canopy.

Others believe this is a graphic description of what those in the ark would have seen when they peered out the window.

**Two translations:**

**HCSB** - *the floodgates of the sky were opened,*  
**Message** - *windows of Heaven were thrown open.*

**Vs 12** - Rain fell from the skies for 40 days and 40 nights. The downpour continued **unabated for 40 days**.

We get it, this is not like a rain shower that you and I experience today, the principle driving agent for the rain is clearly the **fountains of the great deep!**

This would have been water, mud, pebbles, and rocks raining back down on earth that lasted for forty days and forty nights. We can imagine the rocks and pebbles would have decreased as the water layer on the surface thickened.

It rained until the **600<sup>th</sup> year, 3<sup>rd</sup> month, and 27<sup>th</sup> day** of the month of Noah's life.

**Vs 13** - Again, reiterating the work of the last seven days to get all the animals on the ark is now completed and all 8 humans have entered the ark.

On that **very same day** that the flood came upon the scene Noah was able to complete the work and him and his family are safe on the ark.

**Vs 14** - Here we are clearly told what entered the ark:

- **Every beast** – according to their kind
- **All livestock** - according to their kind
- **Every creeping thing** – according to their kind
- **Every bird** – according to their kind

**SUPPOSED OBJECTION** Often the **objection from sceptics** is; how did Noah put all the different animals or all the different animal species on the ark?

**He did not.** He did not put “all animals” on the ark. He did not put “all animal species” on the ark.

**He put two of every kind and as we saw last week, 14 of every clean kind and 14 of every bird.**

Last week I told you that at the **Ark Encounter** they have estimated **1,398 kinds**, so we will round that up and say **1,400 animal kinds**.

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

The longer ark (20.4 inches in cubit) would have been **510 feet long** with a carrying capacity of **2,200,000 volumetric cubic feet**. The capacity is equal to **761 standard livestock cars**.

Livestock cars can carry 240 sheep. This means equivalent carrying capacity of **183,000** sheep sized animals.

**So, they loaded approximately 6,755 animals that God sent to the ark!**

**Things that are not listed:**

- Any form of **sea life**
- **Bugs, beetles, gnats and flies**. Could they be included under the heading of “creeping things” yes, that is possible. **But not required.**
  
- **The ark is the place where God will protect the eight humans and all animals.**
- **The ark is a place of safety and deliverance.**
- **The ark is a picture, it is a type, of our salvation.**
- **The ark saved Noah and his family from God's temporal judgment.**
  
- Man will be protected from a **future eternal judgment**, by being in the **ark of the Lord Jesus Christ**. That is the only method for eternal salvation.
- They were on the ark a year, and there are two points that are not mentioned, but I am sure both are true.
  - No one **died on the ark**.
  - No one had **babies on the ark**.

**Vs 15** - Notice the animals went into the ark **with Noah** or **even to Noah**.

**Noah did not go find the animals**; Noah did not go **animal trapping**. **God sent the animals** to Noah, and those animals as they arrive were loaded (during those last seven days) onboard the ark.

Again, this is repetitive for we know the clean came in as seven pairs, or as some translations seven of the clean kind. But notice, it is all flesh that has the breath of life.

**\*\*\* If you remember, last week we talked about clean and unclean animals. \*\*\***

After class Bill made a point that is **worthy of repeating**. Namely, Noah did not necessarily need to know what was clean or unclean, because God is the one who was bringing the animals to him.

**Vs 16** - So they all loaded the ark and the **Lord shut him and them in**. The **Lord closed the door**.

The Lord, shut him in, the Lord tucked Noah, his family, and the animals in the ark that would deliver them and not a hair on their head would be injured!

When God closed the door, the option, the possibility to believe and respond to what God said ended. The ability to believe and be delivered was over.

The theological discussion about the possibility of rain and the likelihood of a flood were over.

The day of grace had ended. The chance to respond to God by faith came to a close.

**APPLICATION: There is a point of application that we cannot lose here. The day of grace will one day end.**

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*17 ¶ The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18 The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. 20 The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. 21 ¶ And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. 22 Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. 23 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. 24 And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.*

**Vs 17** - So it rained for **forty day and forty nights** and we were clearly told that. Now some additional information, the flood, this is the Hebrew word, which means **global catastrophe style flood**. This is a **one of a kind flood** and the word is used **uniquely to describe this event**. מַבּוּל (mabbuwl).

We are told what we would imagine that during this time, foundations of the great deep opened, window of heaven opened, and it is raining the flood waters **“increased.”** The Hebrew word רָבָה (rabah) (raw-baw’), means just that, **to increase, to grow, to multiply**.

The waters are increasing on the earth and the ark, which likely drafted 25 feet, or even more, is **lifted from the face of the ground**.

The point in stating this is obvious, the water level, wherever the ark was constructed, is now deep enough to lift this massive wooden barge afloat! The ark rose **“high above the earth!”**

**Vs 18** - Here we are introduced to a new Hebrew word, one that I believe is worthy of some brief explanation to help you make sense of the accounts of the global flood.

We are told the waters were **increasing**, **רבה (rabah)** now we are told the waters prevailed. This Hebrew word **גבר (gabar)**, means **to be mighty** to be **strong**, to be **powerful**.

**This has nothing to do with level**, rather the waters were **“mighty”** they are **prevailing** over the earth!

One additional piece, that we already know, but Noah states it flatly. **The ark floated on the face of the waters.**

**Vs 19** - Here we are told for the second time that the water **“prevailed”** again this is the same word we first saw in Vs 18 **גבר (gabar)**.

In fact we are now told that all of the **high mountains under the earth were covered**.

**This removes any possibility of this being a local flood.** The word itself had already done that, but now we find the description does it as well! If this does not the next verse will for sure!

**Vs 20** - Here again is the Hebrew word **גבר (gabar)**. It was first introduced in **vs 18**, it was repeated in **vs 19**, and it is used a third time here in **verse 20**.

The writer (Moses) wants us to understand that at this point the waters are **mighty on the planet!**

In fact, we are now told not simply that the mountains are covered, but that they are covered by **15 cubits of water**. Using that same Hebrew long cubit, the writer is telling us that the mountains were covered by **25 ½ feet of water!**

**There is no way for this verse to be true if the flood was local.**

**Vs 21** - Notice, “all flesh” that moved on the earth, bird, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth died. And all mankind. And all **אדם (‘adam)**.

All of mankind perished in the flood. In this way, Noah’s flood, the ark, the event are a picture of final judgment.

**APPLICATION:** As horrifying as verse 21 is, and it is, imagine what it will be like for men and women who have never placed faith in God’s son to stand before Him on that final day!

**Vs 22** - Moses clarifies to make sure we understand. Everything that lived on the dry land, in whose nostrils was the breath of life **נשמה (n’shamah)** – breath. **רוח (ruwach)** – spirit, wind or life perished.

**If it lived on the earth, and breathed through its nostrils, it died, it perished.**

**Vs 23** - Here again, to make sure we get it, you see the repetition. God, **“blotted out”** (destroyed) God wiped out, every living thing from the face of the ground. He also blotted out **man אדם (‘adam)**.

Now if Hebrew or for that matter English language means anything, God destroyed from the face of the planet, **everything that breathes (including all mankind)!**

**This is shocking and reminds us of God’s hatred for sin.**

We saw God's patience in Methuselah's long life, but we see that ultimately the warning will end, ultimately the pleading will end, ultimately the sermons will end. Ultimately **judgement will fall!**

**Vs 23b** - Now we read this and of course we understand this is true. But do not miss the point, God had **created a rescue plan** for those who lived in Noah's day.

His rescue plan required you to be in the ark. His rescue plan required them to believe and respond (by faith).

Noah had preached about the rescue plan, and **all who were in the ark, as promised, were delivered from the catastrophe, from the temporal judgment that was the global flood.**

**Vs 24 - We need to pause here just a moment and discuss this word.**

**The Hebrew word translated prevailed is once again the word גבר (gabar) (gaw-bar').** It means to be **strong**, to have **strength**, to be **mighty**, to be **great**.

The waters begin to prevail as they covered the face of the earth, and the ark was lifted up on the face of the waters (7:18). The waters prevailed on the earth and covered the mountains (7:19). The waters prevailed 15 cubits above the mountains (7:20).

While the water level was **decreasing from its maximum**, the waters were **still prevailing**. So, the word does not mean increasing, it means being mighty over the face of the earth. **Here we see the waters (prevailed) for 150 days.**

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*“1 ¶ But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. 2 The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, 3 and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, 4 ¶ and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. 5 And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.*

**Vs 1** - Again we see **anthropomorphic language**. God had never forgotten Noah, so that we can follow the story, God “remembers” Noah.

This phrase is a **Hebraism**, a Hebrew idiom or expression. It **provides the idea** that **God began to take actions on their behalf**. It is a similar idea to “God hear our prayers.” God hears everything, what we are asking is God **take action on my behalf**.

Here God steps in and begins to take specific action and causes a wind to blow over the earth that is currently covered with water, this is at least one of the things that aids in the **waters subsiding**.

The Hebrew word translated “**subsided**” is only used a few times and means to **appease, assuage, or decrease**.

Now the exact point that God sent this wind is unclear. We can imagine it is somewhere **after the 40 days of rain** and something that is leading up to day 150 when the **ark lands on the mountains of Ararat**, but exactly when the waters start to decrease is not stated, but **I would conclude in this 110 day period**.

**Vs 2-3** - Here we are told what appears to be **three things**, but it could be **two**:

- 1) The **fountains of the deep** are closed.
- 2) The **windows of heaven** are closed.
- 3) The **rain from the heavens is restrained**. Now we know from clear declaration by God, that it rained **40 days and 40 nights**.

We do not know at what point the “**fountains of the great deep**” were closed, we can **imagine** on or slightly after day 40, but we cannot be sure. They could have still been allowing water to escape beyond that point. But we recognize as time passes the pressure difference is decreasing and thus the flow is decreasing.

If the window of heaven was a canopy, we can imagine that it was **destroyed relatively quickly** when the flood was initiated.

**Vs 3b** – *At the end of 150 days the waters had abated*, this statement is a little hard to place.

If this is a summary of the next 150 days, it is a marker that lands on the **600<sup>th</sup> year, 12<sup>th</sup> month, 17<sup>th</sup> day** of the month. Keep that in mind as we develop the chronology of the flood.

**Vs 4** - Now this statement is **very clear**, it is in the **seventh month** and the **seventeenth day of the month**, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.

If we use a 30-day month, this would be **five months** this would be **150 days** (using a 30 day month). So the waters prevailed during this period, but the level went up to max and then started decreasing although the waters were still **MIGHTY** on the earth.

So for five months, they have been **adrift** on the **waters** and then on the **600<sup>th</sup> year of Noah**, on the **7<sup>th</sup> month**, on the **17<sup>th</sup> day of the month**, the inhabitants here grinding and feel the jolt as the ark begins to **grinds to a halt** in the mountains of Ararat.

We can imagine that Noah would have **written that down in the deck log!**

**APPLICATION:** Can you imagine what it would be like to be **adrift** on the open sea for **five months**. First being slammed by the catastrophe that was the flood and now just **adrift**. Where was God?

**Vs 4b** - *the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat*. It is important to note that there are many smaller mountains around Ararat, and it could be on one of these smaller mountains the ark landed.

Notice that the ark “**rested.**”

It brings with it the picture of the ark laboring to accomplish the work of saving the occupants from God’s temporal judgment that came during the days of Noah.

Have completed that work, the ark “rested.” Reminder - God rested following the creation events.

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*“The Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead also on the seventeenth day of the seventh month. The seventh month of the Jewish civil year (and this is probably the calendar used here in Genesis 7 and 8) later was made the first month of the religious year, and the Passover was for the fourteenth day of that month (Exodus 12:2). Christ our Passover (I Corinthians 5:7), was slain on that day, but then rose three days later on the seventeenth day of the seven month of the civil calendar.” Henry Morris - The Genesis Record*