

Noah

Introduction

Like most of God's servants, Noah's life is linked to the events that occurred during his lifetime. During the days of Noah, there were drastic changes in the standards of the world. Changes that forced God to pass judgment on their wickedness and send the flood. Because Noah's conduct was so different from that of the wicked, God gave Noah grace and allowed him to build the ark to save himself and his family. God saw these events as being so important for future generations, that He dedicated four full chapters of Genesis. There is more material about the flood than there is about the creation and time spent in the garden. This material can be organized and looked at under the following headings:

1. Events Leading to Corruption(6:1-7; 11-13)	2. Noah's Character (6:8-11).
3. Preparing the Ark(6:12-22).	4. Duration and Extent of the Flood(7:11-24)
5. Entering a Changed World; (8:1-22; 9:1-7)	6. Covenant of Rainbow(9:8-17)

1. Events Leading to Corruption(Gen 6:1-7; 11-13).

The account begins with one specific event that led to the flood. It all began when men began multiplying on the face of the earth.

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. Gen. 6:1-2

Have you ever wondered just how many people there were at this time? The chart below offers some estimates that give us some idea of the possibilities. The first three columns give the number of generations, the name of each Patriarch, and his age at the birth of his first son. The 4th column adds up the ages showing there were about 1550 years from Adam to Noah. If each patriarch had 10 children(5th column) then there would have been five couples in the first generation(6th column). If that number continued until Noah, there would have been almost 20 million people on the earth.

	Patriarch	Age	Time	Children	Couples	Children	Couples
1	Adam	130	130	10	5	6	3
2	Seth	105	235	50	25	30	15
3	Enosh	90	325	250	125	150	75
4	Cainan	70	395	1250	625	750	375
5	Mahalalel	65	460	6250	3125	3750	1875
6	Jared	162	622	31250	15625	18750	9375
7	Enoch	65	687	156250	78125	93750	46875
8	Methusaleh	187	874	781250	390625	468750	234375
9	Lamech	182	1056	3906250	1953125	2343750	1171875
10	Noah	500	1556	19531250	9765625	11718750	5859375

Even if they had 6 children (7th column) in their 900 year life span there would have been over 10 million Remember, Abraham was multiplied to over 650,000 men alone in only 430 years (Gal. 4:17)!

Of similar interest are questions about their advancements into technology, arts, science, energy and exploration. They had been commanded to multiply, to subdue the earth, and take dominion(Gen 1:26-28). With life spans of 900 years, it is difficult to imagine what they could have accomplished. Imagine if Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, or Albert Einstein had been given another 800 years to work. God gives only a small snapshot.

- ◆ After Cain left the presence of the LORD(only a man) he built a city named Enoch(Gen. 4:16-17).
- ◆ They developed tents and a nomadic culture(Gen. 4:20).
- ◆ They created musical instruments and music to play on them(Gen. 4:21).
- ◆ They created cutting instruments of brass and iron and some form of industry in which they were cutting things(Gen. 4:22). These things could have been wood, precious stones, gold, fabric or all of them and others as well. Job spoke of some of the accomplishments men were doing not long after the flood.

Surely there is a mine for silver, And a place where gold is refined. 2 Iron is taken from the earth, And copper is smelted from ore. 3 Man puts an end to darkness, And searches every recess For ore in the darkness and the shadow of death. 4 He breaks open a shaft away from people; In places forgotten by feet They hang far away from men; They swing to and fro. 5 As for the earth, from it comes bread, But underneath it is turned up as by fire; 6 Its stones are the source of sapphires, And it contains gold dust.

7 That path no bird knows, Nor has the falcon's eye seen it. 8 The proud lions have not trodden it, Nor has the fierce lion passed over it. 9 He puts his hand on the flint; He overturns the mountains at the roots. 10 He cuts out channels in the rocks, And his eye sees every precious thing. 11 He dams up the streams from trickling; What is hidden he brings forth to light. Job 28:1-11

It is evident from these words that the foolish images of cave men or savages are just foolish imagination. As is the silly notion that people today are smarter and more advanced than those who lived before us. We must never forget that man never really changes.

That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun. 10 Is there anything of which it may be said, "See, this is new"? It has already been in ancient times before us. 11 There is no remembrance of former things, Nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come By those who will come after. Ecc. 1:9-11

They had the same resources and opportunities to gain knowledge as we do today and lived far longer than we. It is foolish and arrogant to think we can do more today than they could then. Though it is now impossible to know the advancements they acquired because the flood destroyed everything and perhaps that was one of the reasons God destroyed the entire earth with a flood.

A. The Sons of God and the Daughters of Men

And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth. 1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. Gen. 5:32; 6:1-2

The wording of this passage has led to many long discussions among Christians and Bible Scholars. All that is recorded in the remainder of Chapter Six, "came to pass" after "men" began to multiply on the face of the earth. Who are these "men?" At first glance, it appears to be all men. Yet there is clearly a distinction being made between two different groups of men. The first group of men had daughters, and the second group(sons of God) took them as wives. Who are the men who began to multiply on the face of the earth and had daughters? What group of men(sons of God) saw these daughters and made them their wives? The most logical and Scriptural explanation is set forth in the two distinct genealogies of Genesis 4-5. After Cain went out from the presence of Jehovah(stopped all relationship with God and becoming only a man), he began to have children(Gen. 4:16-24). These are the "sons of men," who were living out of the presence of Jehovah, thus living only as men. They did not recognize God, so they were only men and their daughters were born only to men.

After the birth of Seth, Men began to call upon the name of the LORD and the genealogy of Adam through Seth was recorded(Gen. 4:25-25; 5:1-31). These are clearly the sons of God above. They are the men who were born from Adam through Seth ending in Noah. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Luke traced all of these men back to Adam and then called them by the name "son of God."

Sons of Men(4:16-24) Sons of God (5:1-31; Lk. 3:36-38)

	God
	1 Adam
2 Cain	2 Seth
3 Enoch	3 Enosh
4 Irad;	4 Cainan
5 Mehujael,	5 Mahalalel
6 Methushael,	6 Jared
7 Lamech.	7 Enoch
8 Jabal/Jubal	8 Methusaleh
	9 Lamech
	10 Noah

the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, 37 the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan, 38 the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God. Lk. 3:36-38

In the first column is the genealogy of the sons of men through Cain. They were those with the daughters.

In the second column is the genealogy of the sons of God who took wives from the sons of men.

a. They will Turn your Sons Away from Following Me

The marriage of the "sons of God" and "daughters of men" is the only fact God revealed that brought the two groups together and led to a complete corruption of the entire human race. His later warning to Israel that the same thing would happen to them if they married the people of the land of Canaan adds weight to the conclusion that these are the groups under discussion and that this is the event that led to their corruption.

Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. 4 For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. Deut. 7:3-5

There really is no other scriptural or logical conclusion to be drawn. Chapter five ends with the genealogy up to Noah and no hint of such wickedness. It was these "daughters of men" who turned away the hearts of the "sons of God" leaving the world in total wickedness. God saw these changes

with grief and sorrow.

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." Gen. 6:5-7

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13 And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Gen. 6:11-13

The entire inhabited earth was affected by this union. No one but Noah was left. The superlatives here tell the tale for there is no exaggeration. These are the facts as God saw them.

1. The wickedness of man was great in the earth.
2. Every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
3. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.
4. All flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.
5. The earth is filled with violence through them.

There are several important things to be learned here. **First**, it is fraught with peril for a servant and child of God to choose an ungodly spouse. Solomon was a godly man who had spoken to God in a dream, been inspired by the Holy Spirit, and seen great miracles, yet his wives turned even his heart.

But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites — 2 from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love. 3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. 4 For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David. 1Kings 11:1-5

Second, the depth of depravity revealed just how dark man's heart can become. When "every intent" in the heart of a man is "only evil" and one thought follows another, and that evil is "continual" so that never is there a good thought or intent man has reached the furthest depths of evil.

b. All flesh had Corrupted their Way on the Earth.

Third, not only was the inside of man's heart rotten to the core, but the earth itself was corrupt (rotten). His deeds matched his heart. All the lusts of the flesh listed in the NT, all the lists of wickedness and ungodliness set forth throughout the Scriptures were being practiced. The term "flesh" is used in the same sense as Romans 6-8. These are the carnal and fleshly desires of man that enjoy fulfillment outside of God's law. The more God's law condemns it, the more pleasurable it becomes to the flesh. This part of man had corrupted itself. Using the same word, Moses warned Israel, that if they did not listen to God's word the same corruption would happen to them.

For I know that after my death you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. And evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands." Deut. 31:29

And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way. Judg. 2:19

It is quite possible and even probable that the things recorded in the first chapter of Romans is the same path these men and women took.

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. Rom 1:24-32

It would be a dark and dismal place indeed if fulfilling these terrible things were the only thoughts of every man continually.

c. The Earth was Filled with Violence

Fourth and finally, the earth was filled with violence. Violence is a terrible violation of loving our neighbor and it is selected as a terrible example of the corruption of those in the earth.

*knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, **for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers**, 10 for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, 1 Tim 1:9-11*

*Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, **hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders**, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Gal 5:19-21*

As we leave the wickedness that brought the flood remember the prophecy of Enoch who spoke these words over 500 years previously.

Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." Jude 14-15

2. Noah's Character (Gen. 6:8-11).

While the rest of the world was descending into wickedness, corruption and darkness and God was grieved over their thoughts and conduct, Noah was different.

But Noah found favor in the eyes of Jehovah. 9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, (and) perfect in his generations: Noah walked with God. Gen 6:8-9

Noah found favor because God saw him as a righteous man. As we saw earlier when discussing "hungering and thirsting for righteousness," it described God's perfect manner of treating others fairly, justly and honorably. What God does naturally, we are commanded to do through His law. The more closely we follow God's law, the more righteous we become. Noah sought to keep all of God's laws. While the rest of the world was becoming wicked and corrupt, Noah kept his moral integrity.

The second quality God saw in Noah: he was "perfect" (NKJV; ASV) or "blameless" (NASB; ESV).

tamim OT:8549, "perfect; blameless; sincerity; entire; whole; complete; full." The 91 occurrences of this word are scattered throughout biblical literature ... Tamim means "complete," in the sense of the entire or whole thing: ... In several contexts the word has a wider background. When one is described by it, there is nothing in his outward activities or internal disposition that is odious to God; "...Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God" Gen 6:9. This word describes his entire relationship to God. (Vine's Expository Dictionary)

With the verb's fundamental idea of completeness, Samuel inquired of Jesse, "Are here all ... thy children?" (1 Sam 16:11). ... describing an entire day (Josh 10:13) or a whole, and therefore healthy, vine (Ezek 15:5). ... moves naturally toward that which is ethically sound, upright (Ps 19:14). The "perfect" decision, as made by lots, is the correct one (1 Sam 14:41). As made by men, it is the right one (Judg 9:16,19). Asaph praised the completeness or integrity of King David's heart (Ps 78:72). (Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament).

The flaws God saw in everyone else were not present in Noah. He had not corrupted himself. His thoughts were not evil continually. No violence was found in him. There was "nothing in his outward activities or internal disposition that is odious to God." We see both his righteousness and blameless uprightness in how he carried out the commands of the Lord.

Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he. Gen 6:22

Noah did everything God commanded him to do exactly as he was commanded to do it. This not only made him righteous and blameless/perfect, but it also revealed the depth of his faith which is recorded in Hebrews 11.

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. Heb. 11:7

As we have already noted with Abel and Enoch, faith always comes by hearing God's Word (Rom. 10:17). When God warned him, he responded by doing "all that God commanded him." But with Noah we learn more about even more about what God is looking for. Noah's faith was in response to "being divinely warned." While some reading this only think of the ark and the flood, since no one could know if there would really be a flood, the truth is more complicated and comprehensive than that.

Being Divinely Warned

Every command and every truth in Scripture is a divine warning! The judgment of the flood was only a type of the judgment at the end of the world. Abel was also divinely warned that his actions would

be judged, as was Enoch and as are we. The NT Scriptures are just as much a divine warning of things to come as Noah's was.

For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. . . . 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 2 Peter 3:5-7; 10-12

As they were warned of the flood, we are warned of fire. As they were warned to repent and enter the ark, we are warned to repent and be baptized. This type and antitype are clearly identified by Peter.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 21 There is also an antitype which now saves us — baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 1 Peter 3:18-22

Taken literally, type and antitype are illustrated with an old standard typewriter with keys mechanically connected to rods that push a ribbon onto the paper and leave a mark. The mark left on the page is type and it was called a typewriter because you could quickly put type on a paper with it. If you gently push a single key and look at the edge you see the "antitype."

"antitupos.... 1.... repelling a blow, striking back, echoing ... 2. Metaph....In the N.T. language antitupon ...1. A thing formed after some pattern... 2. A thing resembling another, its counterpart; something in the Messianic times which answer to the type..." (Thayer, 51; 499)

The key that struck the blow always left a type or figure that resembled itself on the paper(typewriter) or metal(coin). The Holy Spirit used this term when He wanted to reveal how an event God did or revealed in the Old Testament is the type left on the page of a spiritual reality in heaven.

The Holy Place in the temple is a type and heaven is the antitype(Heb 9:23-24). The bronze serpent in the wilderness(type) and Jesus on the cross(antitype)(Jn. 3:14-15) and Jonah in the belly of the fish(type) and Jesus in the tomb(antitype)(Mt. 12:39-41) are also used in the same manner.

The relationship between type and antitype is in identity. Those who looked on the serpent lived and those who believe in Jesus will live. Jonah went into the belly but came out again, and Jesus went into the tomb and came out again.

This is exactly how baptism and Noah's ark are antitype and type. Just as the ark saved Noah, baptism now saves us. Just as all who passed through the water in the ark were saved, so now all who pass through water in baptism will be saved. Just as those who refused to enter the ark were lost so those who refuse to be baptized are lost. Just as they saved themselves from that crooked generation by building and entering the ark, so now we save ourselves from our crooked generation by being baptized. All commands are like this. We all face judgment and the word Jesus spoke will judge us in the last day if we do not accept it by faith by hearing and obeying.

He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him — the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. Jn. 12:48

He Condemned the World

This is another important concept that is often used in the Scriptures. By doing what God told him to do, Noah proved to the rest that they could have done it too. It was not too hard and it was not too complicated. By trusting God he took away all excuses others might have used. Jesus spoke of exactly how this will be done when He used Jonah and Nineveh and the Queen of Sheba.

For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. 42 The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here. Mt. 12:40-42

Noah also took away the final excuse they could have made. "How could we have known?" We just didn't know. But Noah was a preacher and the ark itself was a monument to the truth of his preaching.

and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 2 Peter 2:5

It is this preaching that Peter described in his previous letter when he spoke of the Spirit that preached while the ark was being prepared.

but made alive by the Spirit, 19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark

was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 1 Pet. 3:18-21

Noah condemned the world because: 1. He built the ark which was a testimony of the coming judgment. 2. He was a preacher of righteousness. 3. He had the Spirit (was inspired) in this preaching for the Spirit himself was giving him the words and thus all was done perfectly.

He Became Heir of the Righteousness which is According to Faith

Noah is the first patriarch given this specific designation, but this was not revealed to those under the Law. Only Christians receive this information. *"The righteousness which is according to faith"* is the theme of the book of Romans. After revealing that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23), The Holy Spirit showed that every servant of God who seeks to be justified and seen as righteous by God must do it the same way that Abraham did. Even in Genesis God revealed that Abraham was reckoned righteous because of his faith.

And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. Gen 15:6

God used Abraham's faith to forgive him of all his sins. Once forgiven, his account had no sin left on it so he was accounted as a righteous man. It was not the way he obeyed all of God's commands that made Abraham righteous. It was the faith that led him to obey all the commands to the best of his ability. Once God saw that faith, he forgave him and consider him righteous.

What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." 4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. 5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, Rom 4:1-5

Abraham was not justified because of his deeds and works. He was a sinner like everyone else. He was justified by his faith. He too, as Noah, was an heir of the righteousness that is according to faith. Abraham is the template for all. As God justified Abraham, he also justified Noah, and he also justified us. That God accounted Abraham as righteous based upon his faith was not just for Abraham. It was also for all Christians.

17 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all ... 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. 22 And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness." 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification. Rom 4:17, 21-25

Abraham is the father of all who are righteous based upon their faith and submission to God's commands. Because Noah moved with godly fear and did all that God commanded him he was an *"heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."* Because Abraham believed and trusted God when God made him a promise, he too was an *"heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."* In exactly the same way, when we believe that God raised Jesus from the dead after delivering us from our sins we too become an *"heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."*

3. Preparing the Ark(Gen. 6:12-22).

Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. 15 And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. 16 You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks. Gen. 6:14-16

From the information given above, many different drawings and images have been created. We don't know the exact length of a cubit, the thickness of the boards used, the configuration of the dimensions, and many other details. Some envision the ark like a ship and others like a chest or box. We don't really know exactly what gopher is and how big the tree actually grows. We don't know the technology Noah had at his disposal to cut the trees, form the wood and lift it into place. We don't know how it was fastened together or whether Noah hired others to help him build it or was expected to build it by himself. These are not important things, but without some of them it is difficult to create an image in our mind. So after we read the above, many of us will have totally different images.

A cubit is the span from the tip of the finger to the elbow. Since the average is about 18" or 1.5,' most encyclopedias translate the dimensions as 300 cubits(450 feet) long, 50 cubits(75') wide and 30 cubits(45') tall with three floors or stories of 10 cubits(15') each. But it could have been longer/shorter.

Those with the wisdom to figure these things out tell us the ark would contain about 1,400,000 cubic feet. It would take 150,000 board feet to build such an ark. After it was built it would have the same volume as a freight train with 522 standard livestock cars or 261 12' tall double semi trucks driving down the highway. Since we load about 240 sheep in a single boxcar, the ark could have held about 125,000 sheep. There are less than 18,000 known mammals, reptiles and amphibians living. Two

of each would give 36,000. So the ark could easily do what God wanted it to do.

Not only was Noah told to build the ark, but also to gather enough food for all the animals and gather all the animals into the ark. Although many assume Noah had to go out and hunt for all the animals and bring them into the ark, the Scriptures also leave open the possibility that God did something to the animals that led them to come to Noah. First God tells Noah to bring them, but later states that they would come to him.

19 And of every living thing of all flesh YOU SHALL BRING two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. 20 Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind WILL COME TO YOU to keep them alive. ... 2 You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; 3 also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. ... 7 So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. 8 Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, 9 two by two THEY WENT INTO THE ARK TO NOAH, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. ... and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. 15 And THEY WENT INTO THE ARK TO NOAH, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. 16 So THOSE THAT ENTERED, male and female of all flesh, WENT IN as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in. Gen 6:19-20 ; 7:2-3; 7:1-9 7:13-16

4. Duration and extent of the flood(Gen. 7:11-24).

Noah's age is exactly pinpointed when the flood came. So also is exactly what occurred. The fountains of the deep were broken up, the windows of heaven were broken and all the water within them was pushed upward. Some also speculate there was more water in the atmosphere before the flood, that the polar ice caps were not yet extensive, but regardless of how God did it, all the water necessary to created such a flood existed and God used it to cover then entire earth.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. 12 And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights. Gen 7:11-12

Scripture is also specific that all the high mountains of the earth were covered. God made this happen and whether it was natural or supernatural is immaterial to us. Some scientists scoff that there is not enough water on the earth to do this. Yet nothing is impossible for God. Just like the creation and the final judgment, God could undo natural law if He chose to bring about His purpose.

Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18 The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. 20 The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. Gen 7:17-20

God also made clear that His purpose was met. All flesh died. Noah, his family, and all that were in the ark were all that was left alive.

And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. 23 So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. Gen 7:21-23

It took 40 days to cover the mountains and 150 days with them covered to accomplish God's plan.

12 And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.... 24 And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days. Gen 7:12, 24

The waters began receding, and the ark came to rest on Ararat in the 7th month and 17th day of the month, but it was not until the 601st year, 2nd month and 27th day of the month that they came out onto the land. That makes one year and 10 days for all to be accomplished in the flood.

4 Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. 5 And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. 6 So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. ... 13 And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry. 14 And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried. 15 Then God spoke to Noah, saying, 16 "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. ... Gen 8:4-6; 8:13-16

5. Entering a Changed World; (Gen. 8:13-22; 9:1-7)

After Noah left the ark, he made a sacrifice to God. As God witnessed the manner it was offered and what was in the heart of Noah as he offered it, God made a decision and a promise. As long as the earth remains, there would never be such a catastrophic event again.

Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. 22 "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease." Gen 8:20-22

With this promise we don't have to worry about global warming, nuclear winter or any other man made catastrophe. As long as the earth continues, none of these things will occur. There will be seedtime and harvest. There will be cold and heat. There will be winter and summer. There will be day and night. None of these things will cease as long as the earth endures.

God then changed something very fundamental. In the initial creation, God had created all the animals and man to eat herbs.

And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. 30 Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. Gen 1:29-31

After they leave the ark, God makes several changes to the relationship between Man and the animals. There was a change of attitude. Animals now feared and dreaded man. Man was now given further dominion over all things. Man is given the right to eat of all that lives. Just as God had given him green herbs, so also he now gives them all that lives. But God made it very clear that the eating of any animal could only be done when the blood was removed. It was unlawful for man to eat any animal that still possessed its blood. This is clearly God a very important command because it was given again in the Law of Moses and again in the law of Christ.

And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. 3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. 4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. Gen 9:2-4

Whatever man of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who hunts and catches any animal or bird that may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and cover it with dust; 14 for it is the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life. Therefore I said to the children of Israel, You shall not eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off. Lev 17:13-14

Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, 20 but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood. Acts 15:19-20

His final warning concerned murder. Because man is created in the image of God, anything that sheds that blood is to be put to death. This blood is so precious that God will require it of every animal and every man who sheds it. The manner in which it will be required is stern. If an animal sheds man's blood then that animal's life is required. If a man sheds the blood of another man then that man's blood is required. Whenever a man dies at the hand of animal or man, the only way to cover the price of that shed blood is the life of the one who shed it.

Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. 6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man. Gen 9:5-6

6. Covenant of Rainbow(9:8-17)

God then made a covenant with Noah and all his future seed(every human being). He made a promise never to flood the earth and destroy all flesh in the manner He had just done. God then gave the rainbow as the sign of this covenant. Every time he sees the bow in the sky he remembers his promise and at the same time those of us who see that rainbow should also be reminded of this covenant. Although a rainbow contains great beauty in showing all its colors in bright splendor and warming our hearts, it must never stop only with its own glory. The real power of the rainbow is the covenant it represents. It is this covenant we should be teaching our children and it is the power of this covenant that should hold more awe to us than the rainbow itself. The bow reminds us that God has kept his promise all these years and will keep it to the end of time. It is tangible proof of the truth of the flood and of God's faithfulness ever since.

And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you. 10 And with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you. Of all that go out of the ark, even every beast of the earth. 11 And I will establish my covenant with you. Neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of the flood. Neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. 12 And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations. 13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. 14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud, 15 And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. Gen 9:9-15

