

Genesis

Chapter 7:17-8:5

✚ **Gen 7:17-24** *Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. 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. All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. 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. And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.*

Last week the question came up whether there were mountains in the time of Noah or if it was flat land. Let's look at verses 19-20 in the NLT and this will answer the question.

✚ **Gen 7:19-20 (NLT)** *Finally, the water covered even the highest mountains on the earth, standing more than twenty-two feet above the highest peaks.*

So here we see that the water was 22 feet above the highest mountain which answers the question. Yes there were mountains.

We think that the flood happened so suddenly and caused everything to be under water and then just continued to rain for 40 days. It did rain for 40 days and nights, but it took time for the earth to be flooded.

I wonder what the people were thinking during this time.

Remember that this was the first time it had ever rained, and a mist was not just coming up out of the ground to water the earth, but as we saw last week it was now gushing out of the ground. Rivers, lakes, streams were now spilling over. I'm sure the people were scared to death, literally. Remember that Noah was preaching during his 120 years of building the ark, and not only Noah but his family also. There were stories of Noah's great-great grand father who was taken up into heaven by God. But the people didn't believe it. To them it was only a story or fable, just as it is with God's Son, Jesus. People think that it's just a story like Santa Claus and they don't believe that He was taken up to heaven and now sits at the right hand of the Father.

They have made up their excuses just like they did in Noah's day. But just as Noah warned them, so do we warn them, and even though they don't believe now, they will when we are all gone, some will be scared to death like the people were in Noah's day. For 2000 years people have been saying that Jesus would return, and you will hear it here again. Jesus will return, but before He does, hundreds of thousands, even millions of

people will disappear. And the prophecies of Revelation, Isaiah, and Ezekiel will come to pass for seven years, just as the God has said.

You think things are bad now, this is just the beginning. After the church is gone, things will only get worse. *"We won't have them darn Christians around to mess things up."* *"They just spoil all our fun"*, they say. They think that we are so bad, but they're just thinking about number one, themselves. They don't understand that the #1 is Jesus. The good thing is that some will believe and be saved during the seven year tribulation, but it will be a lot harder then than it is now.

It rained for 40 days and nights. The number 40 also represents a cleansing. Here we see God cleansed the earth with 40 days and nights of rain.

Here are other instances of cleansing for 40 days

† **Ex 34:28** *So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.*

Moses cleansed himself spiritually before he wrote the Ten Commandments.

† **Jonah 3:4** *And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"*

Jonah gave Nineveh 40 days to cleanse themselves or God would destroy them.

† **Num 14:33** *And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness.*

The children of Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years to cleanse them of the sin that was amongst them.

† **Ex 14:26** *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen."*

Remember the Egyptians that chased Moses and the children of Israel across the Red Sea, well the water killed the wickedness that was pursuing them.

The word "prevail" means strength. So for 150 days the water had tremendous strength. It did stop raining after 40 days but the water still continued to rise for up to 110 more days. Remember that the rain was not the only source of water for the flood, it came up from the earth as well.

Finally everything died on the earth, or at least everything that breathed air, which would leave out water life, but there was probably death there also since the waters were polluted at this time.

✠ **Gen 8:1-5** *Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. 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.*

God remembered Noah and the animals. Did He forget about them? No, it's more of a pay attention to, rather than a forgetting and remembering. God did not forget about His creation, but God does choose to forget.

✠ **Heb 8:12** *"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."*

✠ **Psalms 103:11-12** *For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

Do you sometimes feel that God has forgotten about you? At this point God has not spoken to Noah yet, but God was thinking about him. God may have not spoken to you yet, but that doesn't mean He's forgotten about you.

A wind passed over the earth, does that sound familiar?

✠ **Gen 1:2** *The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

But there is another case of this also.

✠ **Ex 14:21-22** *Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.*

As we saw in our study on the Holy Spirit, the wind is a form of the Holy Spirit. Water also represents the word of God.

✠ **Psalms 119:9** *How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.*

† **John 15:3** *You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.*

† **Eph 5:26** *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.*

Also, think about baptism and how we bury our old selves in the water.

† **Romans 6:3-6** *Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

The old self is the sinful self, Christ's death was to bury our sins, and we have died to our sins and have been raised new in the likeness of Jesus Christ. Just as the children of Israel were saved by water and the old sinful nature they had of living and desiring the old life of the Egyptians were all buried into the sea. God even showed them the consequence of living the lifestyle of sin through the Egyptians, whose end was death.

So it is with us in baptism, our old desires we bury in the water. But the children of Israel, even though the old ways were at the bottom of the sea, they still desired to go back. So it is with us sometimes, we think about how we used to be, and the fun we used to have and desire to go back to it. The children of Israel forgot about the hard labor that they endure everyday and only thought of the flesh and how the flesh was fed. So do we when we think of our past lives and how bad it really was and only remember how the flesh was satisfied. If you think about it, you were separated from God before this time, and for a short time He had forsaken you, but God remembered His mercy upon you and forgave you because of His Son Jesus!

† **Isaiah 54:7-9** *"For a mere moment I have forsaken you, But with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," Says the LORD, your Redeemer. "For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn That the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, So have I sworn That I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you."*

✠ *Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. 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.*

Who remembers what month the flood started?

† **Gen 7:11** *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.*

It was 5 months to the day before the ark hit dry ground. But actually it wasn't dry ground yet. The mountains were still under water, but it acted as a stop for the ark. It still took another 3 months before the top of the mountain could be seen.

If you think about it Noah was kind of stuck where he was with no relief in sight for three months. He didn't know what had stopped the ark, all he knew was he was going nowhere. We call it a dry spell, but Noah called it a wet spell.

Are you going through a dry spell right now? Do you feel stuck where you are, seeing no relief in sight? Noah waited on the Lord. Remember that God was in control of the ark and where it moved to and when it stopped.

Is God in control in your life?

As we saw in the study on the Holy Spirit that the Holy Spirit can stop you from going the wrong way. Maybe it's time to stop and rest in the Lord. Don't sit there and complain that God is not using you, or you feel stuck in a situation. Rejoice because the Lord is watching over you just as He was with Noah.

Noah had no control over when he would see land again. God will show you the top of the mountain just as He did with Noah, but in His time, not yours.