

Genesis 7:1-24

Introduction: Many Old Testament scholars see something similar to the following outline:

- A. God resolves to destroy the earth—6:1-13
  - B. Noah builds the **ark**—6:14-22
    - C. God commands Noah to **enter** the ark—7:1-9
      - D. The Flood begins—7:10-16
        - E. The Flood prevails 150 days—7:17-24
      - F. GOD REMEMBERS NOAH—8:1A**
        - E. *The Flood recedes after 150 days*—8:1b-5
        - D. *The earth dries up*—8:6-14
        - C. *God commands Noah to **exit** the ark*—8:15-19
  - B. *Noah builds the **altar***—8:20
- A. *God resolves not to destroy humanity*—8:21-22

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- 1) God commands Noah and his family to **enter** the ark—7:1-9
    - a) God's command rooted in His omniscience—7:1
      - i) God declares Noah to uniquely conform to God's standard (righteousness)
    - b) God's division of creatures into categories of clean and unclean—7:2-3, 8-9
      - i) This paves the way for the later divisions under the Law (cf. Leviticus 11).
        - (1) Cf. Genesis 8:20-21; 9:3
        - ii) Note that the animals came into the ark after Noah was already aboard.
    - c) God's revelation of the Divine cause of rain and its destructive result—7:4
      - i) When the destruction is over, the wicked will be gone. (Ross)
    - d) God's grace evident in Noah's life—7:5-7
      - i) Cf. 6:22; 7:5, 9, 16
  - 2) The Flood begins—7:10-16
    - a) One week delay—7:10
    - b) Water came from beneath and above—7:11-12
      - i) Returning to something similar to Genesis 1:2
    - c) Obedience to and protection from Yahweh—7:13-16
      - i) Shutting the door is protection for Noah and his family and rejection for all else.
      - ii) Cf. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:18-22
  - 3) The Flood prevails 150 days—7:17-24
    - a) Water covers the whole earth, including mountains—7:17-20
      - i) Literally, "*the waters were great exceedingly, exceedingly*"
      - ii) Death and destruction comes to all those outside the ark—7:21-24

—The narrative of the flood testifies to God's power and freedom over his creation. It shows him to be a God who judges sin in deadly anger. (Ross)

—Catastrophe does not interrupt God's desire to bless the world. (Ross)

—"It is not that there are not propositional promises; it is not that there are no good and sufficient reasons to know that the things are true. But faith is standing against what is seen at the moment and being willing to be out on the end of a limb in believing God." (Schaeffer)

Universal Reach of the Flood  
 (taken from *The Book of Genesis*, Arnold Fruchtenbaum, 173-174)

Point	Statement/Evidence	Ref.
1	A local flood would make the building of the ark unnecessary, because Noah and the animals could have gone to higher ground.	
2	The very large size of the ark would be unnecessary if the flood were local.	
3	Since animals were universal, if not men, the gathering of the animals would not have been necessary if this were only a local flood.	
4	The use of universal language in the relevant passages indicates the physical world was covered (v. 19); all physical life was destroyed (v. 22).	Gen. 7:19 and 7:22
5	The long time the people and animals spent in the ark requires a universal Flood to account for the need; a local flood would not have taken all this time to recede. --The earth was totally covered by water for 150 days. --It took about 75 days of decreasing water before the tops of the mountains could be seen. --The flood waters disappeared only after 317 days, and the earth was dry only after 375 days. (perhaps 370?) --While the Flood prevailed for 150 days, it took 225 more days for the earth to dry up. All this requires a universal, not a local flood.	Gen. 7:24 Gen. 8:3-5  Gen. 8:13-14 with 7:11
6	The Flood covered all the high mountains by 22 feet, which could only happen with a universal Flood.	
7	The purpose of the Flood was to judge the entire world population, both animal and man, which again would require a universal Flood to accomplish.	Gen. 6:5-7 and 6:11-13
8	God promised He would bring no more Flood upon the earth; if this was a local flood, then God has broken His promise many times since they have been many local floods. However, if this promise was universal, God has kept His promise.	Gen. 8:21-22 and 9:11-15
9	All present humanity is said to have originated from the three sons of Noah, which would not be the case if this Flood had been merely local.	Gen. 9:18-19 and 10:32
10	All the biblical references to the Flood outside Genesis presuppose a universal Flood. The II Peter 3:5-6 passage makes a comparison with creation and the final destruction of the world in the Tribulation, which is also universal.	Job 22:15-16; Ps. 104:5-9; Isa. 54:9; Matt. 24:39; Luke 17:27; Heb. 11:7; I Pet. 3:20; II Pet. 2:5 and 3:5-6
11	The universal Noahic Flood has parallels in over 40 other cultures that did not have the Bible.	