

Exegetical Notes – Genesis 7:1-24

“The Basket of Salvation”

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen for Cornerstone Fellowship

101 Kylies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-1375

charleshjensen@aol.com

Of all the people who lived on the earth, God found only one man who sought to trust Him and obey Him, Noah. God ordered Noah to build an ark, the Hebrew word means basket of salvation. God’s judgment would fall on the earth. Noah and his family would be the faithful remnant through which mankind survived.

Verses 1-3

The LORD then said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. ² Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, ³ and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth.

- When the ark was finished, God told Noah to move into it with his family. Noah’s family consisted of Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives. Eight people were to move into the ark.
- Noah was to take seven pairs of every kind of “clean” animal and one pair of every kind of “unclean” animal into the ark. Clean animals were those considered proper to offer as sacrifices in worship of YHWH. Unclean animals were those not considered proper sacrifices to God. Every kind of creature was among those taken into the ark.

Verses 4-5

⁴ Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.”⁵ And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

- God told Noah that in one week, rain would begin to fall on the earth. The rain would fall for 40 days and 40 nights. Every form of life outside of the ark would die. Only those with Noah would survive.

- Noah was completely obedient to the word of YHWH. This is what sets him apart from the rest of humanity. He trusts God and he obeys God.

Verses 6-17

⁶ Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. ⁷ And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸ Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, ⁹ male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰ And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. ¹² And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³ On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. ¹⁴ They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. ¹⁵ Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. ¹⁶ The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.

- Noah was 600 years old when he entered the ark with his family and the creatures God had commanded him to take with him.
- On the 17th day of the second month of Noah's 600th year, the rain began to fall and all the waters of the earth broke loose.
- God shut Noah and those with him into the ark so that they were protected by God.
- Even in judgment, God's grace is displayed. He has provided a remnant through which life will survive. He has put his protection over the ark and those in it. He has caused the waters to rise rapidly so that His judgment falls quickly on that which has rejected Him.

Verses 17-24

¹⁷ For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. ¹⁹ They rose

greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. ²⁰ The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits. ²¹ Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. ²² Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. ²³ Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

²⁴ The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

- The waters continued to rise for 40 days and 40 nights just as God had said. The waters rose so high that the highest mountain peak was covered by more than 20 feet.
- Everything outside on the earth died because of sin. The judgment of God is just.
- While the waters rose for 40 days and 40 nights, the water covered the earth for 150 days.

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