



*Happy New
Year*

Hunger For Truth Newsletter

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E-Newsletter

Proverbs 7:2 • Matthew 5:6 • John 8:32 • II Timothy 3:16-17 • Hebrews 4:12

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“Hunger for Truth” is a monthly e-newsletter publication edited by Craig Glickman who is a member of Community Baptist Church of Quakertown, PA where the pastor is Dr. David Smith.

GREETINGS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! **Happy New Year to all!** 2009 was a great year with many ups and downs. Even in the down times the Lord was always there to comfort, guide and encourage. The Lord is good! Tell it wherever you go! I praise God for 2010 and look forward to what He can and will do in all our lives. It is my prayer that the Lord will take H.F.T. to new heights this year for His honor and glory. I praise God and want to thank each every one of you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for the kind compliments many of you have sent. They are a blessing as well as encouraging to me.

This months issue is long as I have two articles from Bro. Sam Borso on Proverbs and Noah. Sam is a good friend of mine. These articles are well done and have a lot of great information.

MEDITATE ON THE WORD (*Psalm 1:2; Psalm 119:148*)

“A Study Of Proverbs”

By: Bro. Sam Borso

BACKGROUND - For the most part, attributed to king Solomon (1Kings 4:29-34), son of David and Bathsheba. Some believe that king Lemuel in Ch.31 may actually be Solomon, and that Lemuel was a nickname his mother used for him (Lemuel means "belonging to God").

The book of Proverbs is included in the category of poetical books (Job - Song of Solomon). The time period which it was written/collected/recorded is given as 1000 - 700 B.C., according to the Treasury of Scripture Knowledge. While Solomon wrote and collected the Proverbs, it is likely that the servants of king Hezekiah organized the book to its present form (Prov.25:1).

According to Webster's 1828 dictionary, a *PROVERB* is a moral sentence or maxim (established principle or truth, see 1:5,17), that is enigmatic (a dark saying, using obscure language; has a hidden meaning which requires interpretation - see 1:6,23). (e.g. Joseph, Daniel - God-given ability to understand) (A moral sentence could also be called 'good advice'; see 1:10, 4:14,23, 5:1-2, 6:29, e.g. "honesty is the best policy"). (note - references from Proverbs will not include the book name, only the ch. & vs. numbers)

STRUCTURE - The book is organized into several distinct sections:

1:1-7 is an introductory statement involving the impartation of 11 Godly qualities to the learner. (wisdom, instruction, understanding, justice, judgment, equity, subtlety, knowledge, discretion, learning, wise counsels).

The next section goes from 1:8 thru 9:18, and contains 17 lessons, each beginning with "my son" or "ye children". In this section we see a contrast between 2 symbolic women, Wisdom & Folly, or the Virtuous Woman & the Strange (or Foreign) Woman.

The next section would include chapters 10 thru 29, and is a collection of independent proverbs with no specific theme.

Chapter 30 is identified with a man named Agur, son of Jakeh, who spake unto Ithiel and Ucal. These names are not found elsewhere in Scripture, and may only be symbolic names, to convey a message that is rightfully included here. (Jakeh means "hearkening", Agur "gatherer", Ithiel "God with me", and Ucal "overcomer").

Finally, chapter 31 gives us the wise teachings to king Lemuel from his mother, which includes the description of the Virtuous Woman in vs. 10-31.

Among the writing styles used in the book of Proverbs are: narrative (the harlot's snare 7:6-23), and couplets. Couplets can be either supporting or contrasting assertions, and can be found within a verse (1:7, 5:5), between adjacent verses (4:18-19), or between adjacent passages (2:1-9, 2:10-20).

SYNOPSIS - The short summary is that the book of Proverbs contains practical instructions for life, based upon Godly wisdom, to be used along with our common sense (e.g. 6:27-29).

Within the proverbs, we learn about the benefits of Godly living, and the consequences of ungodly living. We can find advice for men, women, and children, young and old. We find examples of both good & bad men, women, and children. There is advice FOR: chaste living, work ethic, finances, the tongue, honesty, marriage fidelity, obedience, generosity, happiness, health, choosing friends, etc. Advice AGAINST: crime, meddling, adultery, drinking, gambling, laziness, lies, cheating, bribery, gossiping, slander, etc.

The key verse to all of Proverbs is 1:7 (also see 9:10). Chapter 1 sets the tone for the rest of the book.

CHAPTER ONE - could be considered the key to all of Proverbs. It can be broken into 4 parts:

Vs. 1-9 : Godly wisdom is given to those with a desire in their heart to learn God's ways, and are humble before Him.

Vs. 10-19 : Here we see the trap of sin, and how it is not obvious. (compare 1:17 to 7:23)

Vs. 20-30 : Wisdom is available. To turn from it carries grave consequences. In vs.23 we see that God opens the eyes of those that love Him.

Vs. 31-33 : THEREFORE – God gives us a summary of the first 30 verses.

CH.1 - Turn to God at His reproof, seek God's wisdom. (key vs. 32,33)

As mentioned, Chapter 1 sets the tone for the rest of the book:

CH.2 - Learn God's ways for your life. (key vs. 20-22 , which summarize the chapter)

CH.3 - Benefits of trusting the Lord. (key vs. 5-7, 33 , see vs. 27-31 for some things to avoid)

CH.4 - For children to follow through life. (key vs. 23)

CH.5 - Follow God, forsake evil. (key vs. 21) Sin is to the soul as disease is to the body. Sin can also cause disease to the body (see 5:11-12, and 7:23)

CH.6 - Watch what you're getting into. (key vs. 23)

CH.7 - A harlot's snare. (key vs. 27) (compare the curse of ch.7 to the blessing of ch.8)

CH.8 - What is wisdom? (key vs. 18) A secondary application is to hearing God's word in the Bible.

CH.9 - More about wisdom. (key vs. 10)

CH.10 - Righteous and wicked people. (key vs. 2,6,22)

CH.11 - Righteousness and unrighteousness. (key vs. 21,30)

CH.12 - Righteousness and unrighteousness, love instruction. (key vs. 15,28)

CH.13 - Wise counsel and understanding. (key vs. 10,14)

CH.14 - Benefits of wisdom and righteousness. (key vs. 6,12,27)

CH.15 - Good advice concerning: the tongue, morals, our actions, our visibility before God, possessions, material things. (key vs. 1,3,16,24,33)

CH.16 - How to deal with our sinful nature. (key vs. 3,6,8,18,25)

CH.17 - Moral virtues and their contrary vices. (key vs. 1,14)

CH.18 - Moral virtues and their contrary vices. (key vs. 5,10,12)
warnings against: self-righteousness, conceit, self-esteem, haughtiness, pride

CH.19 - Moral virtues and their contrary vices. (key vs. 1,11,21)

CH.20 - Moral virtues and their contrary vices. (key vs. 1,9,22) (alcohol warning)

CH.21 - Advice and consolation to the righteous, warnings to the wicked. (key vs. 2,16,21,30)

CH.22 - How to live; dealing with riches and poverty. (key vs. 2,6,17)

CH.23 - How to live; things to avoid, right choices to make. (key vs. 4,17-18,23,27,31)
(strong message regarding alcohol addiction in vs 29-35)

CH.24 - How to live; follow God's way. (key vs. 1-4)

CH.25 - Dealing with others: our attitudes, actions, speech. (key vs. 4,7,8-9,11,28)

CH.26 - Fools, sluggards, troublemakers, liars. (key vs. 4-5,16,20)

CH.27 - Maxims and observations of Solomon. (key vs. 1,6,9,12)

CH.28 - Warnings to the wicked; seeking riches & power. (key vs. 6,10,20)

CH.29 - Advice for rulers. (key vs. 2,12,16,25)

CH.30 - Learn God's ways. Be reverent to God, and humble before Him. (key vs. 4,5,8-9,32)

CH.31 - The teachings of a godly mother. The example of a virtuous woman. (key vs. 1,10-11)

There is a thematic verse repeated many times throughout Proverbs, regarding the way of man, or the way of the wicked, or transgressor, or slothful. It is repeated word for word in 14:12 and 16:25, and found in other places with various wordings: 2:12, 4:19, 7:27, 12:15,26, 13:15, 15:9a,10,19, 16:2,29, 19:3,21, 21:2,8,16, 28:26, 30:12. That way is contrary to God's way. The right way is given in 3:5-6, 9:32-35, 12:28, 15:9b,24, 16:6, 21:21, 22:4-6, 23:26, 28:25-26, 29:25, 30:5, 31:30 .

One way to use the book of Proverbs is to read the chapter each day, which corresponds to the day of the month. It is a good way to start out each day. Try to select a verse that blesses your heart. The key verses listed above are not an 'official' list. Depending on your particular circumstances, a different verse may touch your heart. You can either memorize it for the day, or write it down on a small piece of paper and recall/read it often during the day, especially if you are burdened, tempted, or stressed-out by things that happen. This would be following the advice of chapter 3. It only takes a few minutes to read a chapter of Proverbs, and it would be time well spent each morning. Doing this will take you through the book of Proverbs 12 times a year, and you will have lots of good, Godly, advice stored up in your heart.

“Noah and the Genesis Flood”

By: Bro. Sam Borso

INTRODUCTION

Why study about Noah, the ark, and the Genesis flood? To go over a bunch of facts and figures? In fact, we will be doing just that. But, more importantly, we have a job to do. That job would be summed up in this verse - 2 Timothy 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Basically, what we will be doing is a topical study of one of the most significant events in the history of this world, as revealed to us through God's written word, and hopefully coming away better prepared to deal with the attacks against God's word.

As we study the Bible, it is important to learn how to exegete properly, that is, to get the precise meaning that God intended, and not what we think it says, or what we want it to say. An illustration from the Bible itself, shows how easy it is to go away with a wrong idea. John 21:21-24 "Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what *shall* this man *do*? 22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what *is that* to thee? follow thou me. 23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what *is that* to thee? 24 This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true." We can see from verses 23-24 that John understood what the

Lord was saying. But perhaps the other disciples weren't paying attention enough to hear the very first word, "IF" , that Jesus spoke. Let us pay attention to God's word, and be careful handlers of the Bible, so that we are indeed "...workmen that needeth not to be ashamed" (2 Tim.2:15).

Another verse to set the tone for our study would be - Psalm 119:89 "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."

It is interesting to note the word "settled". This is the Hebrew word *nakar /naw-kar'/* , which means : to scrutinize (look intelligently at), hence: to acknowledge, be acquainted with, care for, respect, revere. This verse fits nicely with one of our memory verses - Psalm 138:2 "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." Therefore, God not only holds His word in high regard, but is also caretaker of it.

As saved, born-again, children of God, we must declare the truth of God's word in Scripture. As we saw in the two verses from Psalms, God Himself holds His word in high regard, and so should we.

Our faith is intertwined with every Bible doctrine. We cannot capitulate or compromise on any point, without doing serious damage to the testimony of God's written word. It is my hope that this study of Noah and the Flood will help you to be a steadfast defender of God's precious and holy word.

THE ARK

Genesis 6:14 "Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch (Heb.*kaphar*) it within and without with pitch (Heb.*kopher*). 15 And this *is the fashion* which thou shalt make it *of*: The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. 16 A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; *with* lower, second, and third *stories* shalt thou make it." (pitch - verb Heb.*kaphar /kaw-far'/*, to cover - noun Heb.*kopher /ko'-fer/*, a covering - was a water- proofing substance; unknown in our time, but unlikely to be the same tar we use today, since modern petroleum products are made from deposits of 'fossil fuels' laid down by the flood).

A cubit is the measure of a man's arm, from the elbow to the tips of his fingers, or about 18 inches. This would make the ark 450' long, by 75' wide, and 45' high. (it is impossible to know the exact length of the cubit used for the ark, historically there are cubits ranging from 17.5 to 20.4 inches) The three levels inside would each be 15' high, or otherwise divided for a total of 45'. These internal decks would have made the ark more structurally sound, as well as giving it more deck space for the animals and supplies.

(side note - a span is approx 9 inches, the measure of an outstretched hand, or a half cubit)

The capacity of the ark was calculated at approximately 15,000 tons. This is derived by calculating the total volume to be about 1.5 million cubic feet, and using the rule of 1 ton of usable cargo space for each 100 cubic feet. Another way to state the capacity is that it was equivalent to 522 railroad stock cars which can hold 240 sheep-sized animals per car, for a total of 125,280. Furthermore, it has been calculated that approximately 35,000 animals would have been on the ark. (The Genesis Flood book, on pages 63-88, covers the subject of the animals while on board the ark for a year, the possibility of them being in hibernation, and their migration/dispersion afterwards. Every variety of animal or bird did not need to be on board the ark. Only a relatively small number of basic "kinds" were needed, from which all the varieties we see today would develop. The zoological term is "descent with variation".)

From the Biblical account in Genesis, it appears that Noah took from 100 to 120 years to build the ark. These verses give us some idea of the timing: In Gen.6:3 God gives a warning 120 years before the flood. In Gen.6:10, the birth of Noah's 3 sons is mentioned, when Noah is 500 years old. In Gen.6:14 God tells Noah to build the ark. The flood began when Noah was 600 years old (Gen.7:11). There is no precise year mentioned in scripture, when construction of the ark began. In Gen.6:14-22, God is speaking only to Noah. There is no mention of anyone helping him with the construction. We could make an educated guess that Noah's family helped him with the work, but it seems unlikely that the wicked and ungodly of Noah's day (Gen.6:5) would have had anything to do with Noah or the ark. We could also surmise that Noah would have kept himself and his family separated from unbelievers, and would not have desired to yoke up with them to accomplish what God had commanded him to do. As you look through Scripture, there are many examples of God working through individuals or small groups of faithful people to accomplish great things. Heb.11:7 only mentions Noah as preparing the ark.

One possibility is that Noah could have used animals to help him. Remember that they had no fear of man prior to the flood, and after the flood men learned to domesticate animals for doing work. It would also be fitting to employ them, since a representative portion of the animals would be saved aboard the ark. Of course this is only a possibility,

and such speculation could get out of hand if it is entertained to any degree. It is best to defer to what the Bible actually tells us, as being reliable information.

THE ARK (continued)

Although we get very little detail about the ark, other than its dimensions and basic structure, it does not seem to have been a complicated vessel. We only know that Noah followed God's commandment to build it. What God told Noah to build was sufficient for the task. It would protect them from the flood, and was big enough to hold the people, animals, and all the food/supplies (Gen.6:21) they would need. God would take care of the ark (Gen.8:1) while the flood was raging. From the Biblical account, we don't see Noah doubting or worrying about anything. We could compare this to God's simple plan of salvation, and trusting confidently in Him for the saving and eternal security of our souls.

There was only one ark, no other way to avoid the judgment of the flood, just as there is only one Saviour for mankind, Jesus Christ (John 14:6) and no other way to avoid the judgment for sin.

(side note - there is no reason to assume that the ark was built anywhere near the place where it finally came to rest. It floated for approximately 110 days. Moving at only 1 mile per hour, it could have traveled 2,640 miles. Nor would it have made much difference how far it floated, for the geography and topography of the entire earth (Gen.6:13) was altered by the flood, so the post-flood world that Noah and his family stepped out on would have been unrecognizable from what they knew before.)

THE OCCUPANTS

Noah, his wife, his 3 sons: Japheth, Shem, Ham, and their wives (8 people , Gen.6:18).

Clean beasts - male and female, 7 each. Fowls - male and female, 7 each. Unclean beasts - male and female, 2 each. (Gen.6:19-20, 7:2-3) Nowhere in Scripture do we see an account of Noah having to chase after, or capture these animals. In Gen. 6:20 God told Noah that the animals "shall come unto thee". Gen.7:15 tells us that they "went in unto Noah". We know from Scripture that animals had no fear of man before the flood (Gen.9:2), and we can also see from the verses noted, that God would have selected the animals and sent them to Noah.

God would save this remnant of man and animals alive, not only to repopulate the earth after the flood, but ultimately through the Godly line of descendants of Noah and Shem, God would also fulfill His prophecy and promise to send a Saviour, that He made when Adam and Eve fell into sin in the garden (Gen.3:15).

(side note - a conservative estimate of the world population at the time of the flood, is 1 billion. this is calculated from some assumptions: 90-year generations, 18 generations, 1.5% population) (growth, 6 children per family. The size of the 18th generation would have been $2(3)^{18}$, or 784 million. The total of 1 billion includes those living from previous generations.) - TGF

THE FLOOD (Genesis chapters 7, 8)

Genesis 7:4 "For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth."

From the study of dispensations (i.e. the 7 ways God would reveal Himself to, and deal with, mankind), we know that the flood was God's judgment for man's failure during the 2nd dispensation, known as the Age of Conscience. Gen.6:1-5 hints at a demonic plan, to utterly corrupt mankind, already in progress. Whatever the case, the wickedness in the world was so great (Gen.6:5) that God used the flood to put an end to it. God decreed in Gen.6:7 that His judgment would fall on all that dwelt on land, both man and beast, creeping things, and the fowls of the air. In Gen.6:13 God declares that He will destroy all flesh, with the earth. This was a world wide event, not a local (nor 'tranquil') flood as some scoffers would have it. The only survivors would be those who were on board the ark. To call the flood a local event, in the first place, is contrary to the Bible, because God's decree was against all flesh, only those aboard the ark would survive. When the flood was over, God made a promise to Noah, in Gen.9:11, that he would not destroy all flesh, nor the earth, again with a flood. To call Noah's flood a 'local event', in effect, levels an indictment against God as a covenant-breaker, since there have been many local floods since Noah's time. If it were only a 'local flood' there would be no need to save men and animals aboard the ark, in order to repopulate the earth. The flood waters rose to a height of 15 cubits (22.5 feet) above the very tops of "all the high hills that were under the whole heaven", prevailing for 150 days. To call Noah's flood a local event, is not only illogical based on the description of the flood (i.e. you can't pile up water), but also blasphemy against God because it disputes the account of the flood in Scripture, and therefore calls God a liar. As Christians, we have to be very careful to stand apart from

the lost world when they dispute the Bible in their unbelief. We are God's children and should heed the exhortations in 2 Tim.2:15-16.

Read the following verses, and ask yourself - Does this sound like a 'local event' ? Genesis 7:17-24 "And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth. 18 And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. 20 Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered. 21 And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. 23 And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. 24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days." (side note - fish and other sea creatures would not all be destroyed, though the fossil record bears witness that some did perish)

Notice how the preceding verses are written with much redundancy, describing the same thing, but in different ways. This is not necessarily a good style of writing (by man's literary standards), but it is nevertheless an effective way to indicate the worldwide scope of the flood. God knew that scoffers would try and find a way to disprove the account of the flood, but the only ways to do that are to downplay it, or dismiss it as a fable (more blasphemy). When faced with truth, one can either be humble and believe; or push back in unbelief, scorning, mocking, and hurling false accusations.

A timeline, from Gen.7:1 - 8:16, noting how precisely the events are described in Scripture:

- Noah and the others, and animals, go into the ark, and the door is shut and sealed by God.
- The rain began on the 17th day of 2nd month, in the 600th year of Noah's life; 7 days after the ark was sealed by God.
- The rain continued for 40 days, and the ark began to float; "the waters increased, and bare up the ark"
- In addition to the rain, the fountains of the deep were also opened and remained open, while the waters rose above the mountain tops, and the flood "prevailed" (Heb. *gabar* - strengthened) for 150 days
- At this point, when the flood waters were at their height, we read in Gen.8:1 that God "remembered" (Heb. *zakar /zaw-kar'/* - be mindful of - many shades of meaning) Noah, and the animals, which were in the ark. It was not that God forgot about Noah and the ark while He was busy with the flood, but rather that He DIDN'T FORGET about them at any time, and they were constantly under His watchful eye and protecting hand. God then made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters "asswaged". In other words, the flood was now being abated, or pacified, by God. It is hard to imagine what it would have been like in the ark, already after many months of tempest, and the deluge being at its peak, but it could not have been anything but fearful. It is noteworthy to see how Scripture tells us, at this point, that God, in His watchful care for Noah and the rest, would now cause the flood waters to begin receding, and give encouragement to Noah and his family. (1 Cor.10:13) (Many years hence, there would be others in a boat upon a raging sea. Jesus would rebuke the sea, and the waters would again obey Him, as written in Mark 4:39).
- The fountains were stopped, rain was restrained, and the flood waters receded for 150 days. While the waters were receding: On the 17th day of the 7th month, the ark rested (Heb. *nuwach /noo'-akh/* - set down) on "the mountains of Ararat". (thus the ark was floating for approx 110 days) (side note - the ark would have been drafting about 23', and so even though the ark was grounded, 23' of water had to recede before the ground under the ark was exposed). On the 1st day of the 10th month, mountain tops were seen. 40 days later, Noah sends out a raven and a dove, the dove returns. (The raven was a strong flier, and could survive on floating debris and carrion, but the dove needed fresh plant material and dry ground to survive). 7 days later, he sends the dove out again, and she returns with the olive leaf (not a branch, as is often mis-quoted). 7 days later, he sends out the dove for the 3rd time, and she does not return. Noah now knows that the waters were abated from the earth so that vegetation was returning, and the dove could find a place to rest.
- On the 1st day of the 1st month of the 601st year of Noah's life, Noah removed the door. He beheld that the "face of the ground was dry". (probably no standing water, but not solid enough yet to walk on)
- On the 27th day of the 2nd month of the 601st year of Noah's life, "was the earth dried", and God spake to Noah and told him to go forth from the ark. Thus, 1 year and 17 days * after entering the ark, Noah and his family, and all the animals, left the ark. (* 1 year of 360 days + 17 days = 377 days, considering 12 months of 30 days, as used in Revelation 11:3. Some calendar historians think that at the time of the flood, the calendar was based on lunar months of 29.5 days, which would make the number of days in a year to be 354 days. In that case, the time aboard the ark

would be $354 + 17 = 371$ days. Just to propose a possibility - perhaps the solar & lunar years were in sync back then, but catastrophic effects of the flood could have altered the rotation of the earth enough to account for the present year length of 365.2425 days, thus the discrepancy between the number of days per year now, as compared to Noah's time.)

CHRONOLOGIES (A.M. means Anno Mundi, Latin for year of the world)

Adam (and all things) created - 1 A.M. = 4004 B.C. Gen:1-2 (1 - 930 A.M.) (birth - death)
 Methusaleh born - 687 A.M. = 3317 B.C. Gen.5:21,27 (687 - 1656 A.M.) - Noah's grandfather
 Lamech born - 874 A.M. = 3130 B.C. Gen.5:25 (874 - 1651 A.M.) - Noah's father
 Adam dies - 930 A.M. = 3074 B.C. Gen.5:5
 Noah born - 1056 A.M. = 2948 B.C. Gen.5:28-29 (1056 - 2006 A.M.) - Noah dies Gen.9:29
 Shem born - 1558 A.M. = 2446 B.C. Gen.5:32 (1558 - 2158 A.M.)
 Lamech dies - 1651 A.M. = 2353 B.C. Gen.5:30
 Flood begins - 1656 A.M. = 2348 B.C. Gen.7:6
 Tower of Babel - 1757 A.M. = 2247 B.C. Gen 11:1-9
 Abraham born - 2008 A.M. = 1996 B.C. Gen.11:26 (2008 - 2183 A.M.)
 Isaac born - 2108 A.M. = 1896 B.C. Gen.21:5 (2108 - 2288 A.M.)
 Shem dies - 2158 A.M. = 1846 B.C. Gen.11:11
 Jacob born - 2168 A.M. = 1836 B.C. Gen.25:26 (2168 - 2315 A.M.) - Jacob dies Gen.47:28
 Moses born - 2433 A.M. = 1571 B.C. (2433 - 2553 A.M.) Ex.2:2, Deut.34:5-7
 Solomon born - 2971 A.M. = 1033 B.C. 2 Sam.12:24 (2971 - 3029 A.M.) - dies 1 Kings 11:43
 Solomon builds temple - 2993 A.M. = 1011 B.C. 1 Kings 6:1 dedicated 3000 A.M. = 1004 B.C.
 Jesus born - 4000 A.M. = 4 B.C. Matt.1:16, Luke 2:7 - crucifixion 4036 A.M. = 33 A.D.
 today - 6010 A.M. = 2007 A.D.

Noah was born 126 years after Adam died, but because of the long lifespans before the flood, his father Lamech could have talked with Adam, and Noah could have talked to many descendant of Adam (except Enoch), all the way back to Adam's grandson Enos. Likewise, Abraham was born only 2 years after Noah died, but could have talked with many descendants of Noah, all the way back to Shem (except for Peleg and Nahor). Thus, there was a direct line of person-to-person contact from Adam to Lamech, then from Lamech to Shem, then from Shem to Abraham.

Of Noah's sons, Japheth was called the elder (Gen.10:21), and Ham was called the younger (Gen.9:24). The assumption then is Shem was 2nd in age. The only birth date we can get with precision from Scripture, is for Shem. He would have been born 1558 A.M. (subtract 100 from Arphaxad's birth in 1658 A.M. - Gen.11:10).

Shem lived for 600 years (Gen.11:10-11), and Eber, his great-grandson, lived 464 years (Gen.11:16-17). (Eber was born in 1723 A.M.) The Israelites are also known as 'Semites' or 'Hebrews' because of their patriarchs Shem and Eber, who outlived their descendants all the way down to Abraham, with Eber even outliving Abraham. ('Jew' is a more recent term, short for Jehudite or descendant of Judah)

LESSONS / CONCLUSIONS

Noah's obedience - unquestioning (Gen.6:22, 7:5) Noah simply did as God commanded him. We should take Noah's example to believe and obey God, regardless of how impossible it might seem, or how contrary it is to the worldly way. We must also learn to be patient, follow God's leading, and wait for His command (Gen.8:16). Noah waited almost 2 months for God's command to leave the ark.

Noah's testimony - Noah lived by faith in God, his life bearing witness to that unwavering faith, and was therefore a recipient of God's grace (Gen.6:8-9). God establishes his covenant with Noah (Gen.6:18). God calls Noah righteous (Gen.7:1). After leaving the ark, Noah's first act was to build an altar to God and offer a sacrifice (Gen.8:20). Noah was a God-fearing man, heeded God's warning and built the ark, because of his faith in God. Even though the things God warned of were things that Noah had never seen, (nor any man), he believed with simple, unquestioning faith (Heb.11:1,7).

The Biblical descriptions of the ark and flood are given with detail and precision. There is no reason to call this a fable, or give in to the objections of unbelievers. Present these solid Biblical facts and stand firm on God's word.

The evidence of the flood is seen all over the earth, as it should be. The layers of sedimentary rock, containing the fossilized remains of plants, animals, fish, etc. are NOT the result of millions of years of evolution and eons of slow geologic processes. The only way for living things to be fossilized in the quantity and condition as we find them today, is by the rapid burial which occurred worldwide during Noah's flood. What we refer to these days as 'fossil fuels' are the result of vast amounts of plant and animal life which were swept up by the flood waters approximately 4,350 years ago, deposited and covered by sedimentary layers to form coal, oil, and natural gas deposits. Most, if not all, of the earth's surface geology, and topography that we see today, are the direct or indirect result of the flood. The Ice Age would have come right after the flood, and was most likely caused by the post-flood conditions on earth and in the atmosphere. This Ice Age lasted about 700 years, 500 years to build up, and then 200 years to melt (this could account for the eventual submersion of land bridges between the continents). There is abundant evidence of the flood everywhere on earth, all one has to do to interpret the evidence correctly, is to start with a Biblical viewpoint, then realize that the story of Noah's flood in the Bible is indeed true.

So then, why should we even be concerned about something that happened over 4,300 years ago? Because God's word is true, detailed, and accurate, when it comes to the account of Noah's flood, or creation, or any past or future event written about in its pages. It is also true and accurate when it describes the spiritual condition of mankind, and when it gives the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ alone. As Christians, our faith and ability to witness rests on our own, unshakeable belief in the written word of God. We can depend on it, and share it with lost people, without reservation. We cannot compromise with the world when it attacks the Bible. We are blessed indeed to have the Holy Scriptures (Ps.1:1, 119:9,128,130), God's perfect word of truth (Ps.119:140, 1 Cor.13:10), preserved for us unto this day (Psalm 12:6-7, 100:5). If God Himself magnifies His word even above His own name, how can we do any less? (Psalm 138:2)

2 Peter chapter 3 makes reference to the flood, and gives warnings to both saved and unsaved. The lost world likes to scoff and joke about such things, but Christians should know better, and be prepared to rebuke the works of darkness with the light of Scripture.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Genesis 5 - genealogies from Adam to Noah

Genesis 6-11 - account of the flood, and generations following - to Abraham and Lot

1 Chronicles 1:4 - Noah and sons listed in genealogies

Joshua 24:2-3, 14-15 - Abraham and his father Terah mentioned as living after the flood

Job 22:15-17 - mentions the wicked which were overthrown with the flood

Psalm 29:3,10 - God's power and majesty, vs.10 "flood" - same Hebrew word used in Gen.6-11

Psalm 74:15a - possible ref to God breaking open the "fountains of the great deep" (Gen.7:11)

Psalm 90:1-2 - consider God's wrath, apply our hearts to wisdom

Psalm 93 - a testimony to God's eternity and might

Psalm 104:5-9 - refers to the flood being above the mountains, then "fled" to the ocean basins. This may indicate a sinking of the earth's crust to form the oceans.

Psalm 32:1-7, Isaiah 43:1-2 - not direct refs to the flood, but speak of God's protection for the righteous

Isaiah 28:2 - warnings to Israel, consider God's might and judgment

Isaiah 54:9 - God refers to the promise He made to Noah

Ezekiel 14:14,20 - Noah called righteous

Matthew 24:37-39 - Jesus compares the end times to Noah's day - Luke 17:26-27 parallel verses

Luke 3:36 - Noah and sons listed in genealogies

Hebrews 11:7 - by faith, Noah prepared the Ark

1 Peter 3:20 - mentions Noah, ark, 8 saved

2 Peter 2:5 - Noah preached righteousness, then God brought judgment on the unbelieving world

2 Peter 3:5-6 - scoffers deny both the past flood, and coming judgment

CREDITS: (1) The Holy Bible KJV - all Scripture verses are from the King James Version, (2) book "The Genesis Flood" (TGF) by John C. Whitcomb Jr. and Henry M. Morris, (3) Strong's Concordance of the Bible, (4) The Reese Chronological Bible by Edward Reese, (5) The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge - mostly for dates, (6) this paper was compiled and written by Sam Borso

(rev. 31 Jan 2007)

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9)

ADDITIONAL NOTES :

Global animal dispersion:

The questions of global animal dispersion in general, and marsupials in Australia in particular, are very good ones. There is much agreement among Biblicists and non-Biblicists, regarding land bridges that once connected the land masses we see today (see p7 - notes on the Ice Age), but not on the time scale for the dispersion of living creatures around the world, nor on the way these animals came into being in the first place. (i.e. Creation vs. evolution)

Getting back to the marsupials - this very subject (along with the edentates of South America) is dealt with in the book "The Genesis Flood", on pp 79-88. This is part of chapter 3, which also deals with the animals while on board the ark. Chapter 3 is on pp 55-88, and is recommended reading. The gist of what is in the book is that the animals dispersed primarily by way of the continental land bridges. The book also give possible reasons why animals with unique characteristics are found in Australia, or other parts of the world. One reason given is contention with other kinds of animals, which drove them ahead of other kinds of migrating animals. (side note - Marsupials have abdominal pouches where immature babies are carried, protected, and fed by the mother. In Australia, kangaroos and koala bears are marsupials, in North America, the only marsupial is the opossum)

Another point made in the book is that animal migration only needed hundreds of years to take place, not tens of thousands, or millions. (at 2mph, for 10 hours/day, 5 days/wk, 40 weeks/year, they could have traveled 4,000 miles per year) Along this line, it is important to look at what the Bible says, in Gen. 8:17, and 9:7. In these verses, God gives the commandment to be fruitful and multiply upon the earth. Also significant in those two verses, is the word "abundantly", referring to an ability to breed prolifically. This commandment is given first to the animals, and then to Noah's family. I have no problem believing that the animals were completely obedient to God's command, and not only did multiply "abundantly", but also went abroad "upon the earth" and dispersed quickly, as God intended them to. Furthermore, a fair assumption is that vegetation would have been quite sparse just after the flood, and that, combined with animals killing each other for food, would have put additional pressure on different varieties of animals to migrate quickly, and across great distances, as a matter of survival.

On the other hand, we humans, being free-willed and disobedient, decided to stay put and build the tower of Babel, only 100 years after the flood. You would think the judgment of God by a worldwide flood would still be fresh in the minds of Noah and his family, and the stories of the flood given to the first few post-flood generations would have made an impression. Instead of defying God by building the tower, people should have been more willing to obey God and disperse. Of course, God forced the issue of dispersion, by confounding their language, and they eventually dispersed after that.

A piece of guesswork on my part is that the animals would have been migrating out ahead of the humans who were busy with their tower building. Then, when God dispersed the people, they could have pushed the animals to migrate even faster, to stay ahead of the humans, who would have been hunting them for food. Also, as humans moved outward through the earth, they would have taken some domesticated animals with them.

One thing to remember is that there is no documented evidence of exactly how all the animals and people dispersed throughout the world in the first few centuries after the flood. This was survival time for everyone, and no doubt it was a difficult and dangerous time to be alive. It is no surprise that we have no written records of these times. All we can do today is look at the fossil records, and for the most part, speculate about those things that happened from the flood to the time that people began to write things down, and more importantly - Scripture began to be recorded for us by Moses. The bottom line is, we don't have all the details. At some point our faith has to take over, and just believe what God has written down for us. However, we can take educated guesses, based on what we know to be factual, and also based on our love of God and His word. If our guesses fit well with what we see today, then we as Bible-believers have as much right to state our theories as do the evolutionists. The big difference between the two camps, is in who or what we place our faith in, because either standpoint requires faith in something we cannot prove with physical evidence.

ADDITIONAL NOTES :

Rainfall rates:

As documented by the American Meteorological Society, the world record rainfall rate occurred at Holt, Missouri, on June 22, 1947. During that rainstorm, approximately one foot (304.8 mm) of rain fell in 42 minutes. If we calculate according to that rate, in 40 days, there would be over 1,300 feet of rainfall. From the Biblical account of the pre-flood world, there was a supply of water vapor in the atmosphere (firmament - Gen.1:6-7), which contributed to the deluge (Gen.7:11-12). From the Biblical account in Gen.7:12 it would appear that for 40 days and nights the rain continued without ceasing. However, it is also noted in Gen.8:2 that after 150 days, "the rain from heaven was restrained", therefore it seems that after the initial 40 days of continuous rainfall, the rainfall still occurred, but perhaps intermittently. It also seems that the reason for the stoppage of rain was for the sake of Noah, his family, and the animals aboard the ark (Gen.8:1). According to Gen.2:5 there was no rain prior to the flood.

Human life spans:

The average lifespan of pre-flood patriarchs is 912 , from Adam to Noah (eliminating Enoch). Shem lived to be 600. Arphaxad to Eber average is 445. Abraham was born 351 years after the flood, and lived to 175. Moses, born 776 years after the flood, was 120 when he died. Thus you can observe the dramatic decline in human life spans post-flood, probably due to the drastic changes in the earth and atmosphere as wrought by God due to the flood. Furthermore, the human gene pool was now becoming more corrupted with each generation.

Today, the max age for humans seems to be 120 (as dictated by limits of DNA replication), with the average probably in the 60-80 year range. Psalm 90:10 tells us that 70 years is considered a normal life span.

When the earth is restored by God in the Kingdom Age, it appears that death from old age will not occur during those 1,000 years.

“It’s Only a Tract”*By: Richard A. Wilson*

It’s only a tract! You may tear it, and crumple it up in your hand;

The wind, as it passes, may bear it and scatter it over the land.

It’s only a tract! You may spurn it, and deem it unworthy of thought; may ridicule, trample and burn it, despise it and set it at nought.

It’s only a tract! But it telleth of holiness, happiness, Heaven; Where God in eternity dwelleth.

With sinners His love has forgiven. It speaks of a future in glory, of present enjoyment and bliss; And will you neglect such a story, so loving, so joyous as this:

It whispers, “No matter how hardened, No matter how vile you have been, you may at this moment be pardoned, and saved from the bondage of sin.”

It points to the Substitute dying.

The Sinless, for sinners like you, Oh, Soul, on His merits relying, come, prove that its message is true.

It is but a tract! Yet its warning is whispered in Jesus’ own voice; and at the acceptance or scorning either Heaven or Hell will rejoice!

Freedom From Unrest*Author Unknown*

“Jesus said, Come unto Me, all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matt. 11:28).

We which have believed (on Jesus Christ) do enter into rest. (Heb. 4:3)

To whom sware God that they should not enter into His rest, but to them that believed not. (Heb. 13:8)

There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked. (Isa. 48:22)

Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 5:1)

Jesus said, learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls (Matt. 11:29)

Why art thou disquieted within me, O my soul...hope thou in God. (Ps. 42:5)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

In Christ Jesus, ye who were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ, for He is our peace. (Eph. 2:13-14)

SONG OF THE MONTH

“All For Jesus”

This great hymn has a very powerful message in its words. Are we giving all to Jesus? We, as believers need to strongly consider the words to this hymn which go like this: *(1) All for Jesus, all for Jesus! All my being’s ransomed powers, All my thoughts and words and doings, all my days and all hours. (Refrain) All for Jesus, All for Jesus! All my days and all my hours; All for Jesus, All for Jesus! All my days and all my hours. (2) Let my hands perform His bidding, Let my feet run in His ways, Let my eyes see Jesus only, Let my lips speak forth His praise. (Refrain) All for Jesus, All for Jesus! Let my lips speak forth His praise; All for Jesus, All for Jesus! Let my lips speak forth His praise. (3) Since my eyes were fixed on Jesus, I’ve lost sight of all beside, So enchained my spirit’s vision, looking at the Crucified. (Refrain) All for Jesus, All for Jesus! Looking at the Crucified; All for Jesus, All for Jesus! Looking at the Crucified. (4) Oh, what wonder! How Amazing! Jesus, glorious King of Kings, Deigns to call me His beloved, Lets me rest beneath His wings. (refrain) All for Jesus, All for Jesus! Resting now beneath His wings; All for Jesus, All for Jesus! Resting now beneath His wings.*

“Let us praise our precious Savior in song all the day long.”

“CHILDREN FOR CHRIST”

Memory Verse – Psalm 94:19 “In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul.”

😊😊 **WHAT DO YOU THINK?** 😊😊

NAME _____

This is to find out what you think about Bible words and a fill-in-the-blank on salvation. Show this to the person who gave this to you when you are done and he/she will go over it with you.

WRITE WHAT COMES TO MIND ABOUT THESE WORDS:

BIBLE –

JESUS –

GOD –

FLOOD –

HELL –

HEAVEN –

CHRISTIAN –

GRACE –

CHURCH –

DEVIL (Satan) –

SIN –

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

I am a _____ deserving of _____. I believe that _____ died for my _____. I am _____ for my sins. I want to follow the _____ and live my life for _____. I want to keep _____ 1st place in my life.

NEWS & UPDATES

The “bone chilling” cold of winter is now here and snow has fallen several times already. As I mentioned last month, snow is a great picture of Christ’s precious sin cleansing blood that washes us “white as snow”. Let us Praise God for the winter season and all seasons, which He has made.

I also at times may send out special prayer updates or other information the Lord may lay on my heart to give to all of you. The e-mails will have “Hunger for Truth Important Info Please Read” in the subject line.

I would like to ask a big favor of each and every reader. Please forward this newsletter to your family, friends, and fellow church members. I would like to be able to add more people to the mailing list each and every month as the Lord leads. Thank you for your help. I greatly appreciate it.

PRAISES

I praise God for all He has done in 2009 & for what He can and will do in 2010, and for the privilege and blessing of preparing and sending out this newsletter to people all across the land. As always, I praise God and want to say thank you to each and every one of you who take the time to read this every month.

On Dec. 20th and 27th Community Baptist Church had its first Christmas cantata entitled, “Gift of a Lifetime”. It was very powerful and many people were blessed, encouraged and convicted by the powerful message in the drama and song. The HFT editor is in the CBC choir and I was privileged to praise the Lord in the music part of the cantata. I am already looking forward to singing for the Lord in next year’s cantata.

I also want to thank each and every one of you who have sent e-mails about how the Lord has blessed you. The sole purpose of this newsletter is to honor and glorify the Lord and be a blessing and encouragement to others.

As always, I challenge and encourage both young and old to take time each week to take a stack of gospel tracts from your local church and get them out to the lost however the Lord leads. Make sure you do not have any left by the end of the month. Maybe, you will need more, praise God! I will be doing the same myself and praying for you all as you do this for the honor and glory of the Lord.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Salvation of my sister Wendy & friend Ben (*NEW*)
- Salvation of my nephew Jacob

- Fruit from “Gift of a Lifetime” Cantata on 12/20 and 27th at Community Baptist Church (*NEW*)
- Ben from PA (age 11) who has Neuroblastoma and mom Patty. Both need salvation (*NEW*)
- Flooding in the Philippines affecting several missionaries and their church bodies.
- A local church to be planted in **Ocean City, MD** (this resort town is a huge mission field with thousands of visitors every year. As far as I know there is and has NEVER been a solid local NT Baptist church planted in or within 30 minutes of this town!) (Please pray for God’s will to be done and that He would call someone to meet this great need) (*NEW*)
- Wisdom regarding Hunger for Truth Ministries and the e-newsletter
- Souls who were witnessed to last month for salvation
- Pastor Paul Fedena and wife Shirley for various health needs (*NEW*)
- Unspoken requests for the HFT editor
- Unspoken requests for several friends of the HFT editor
- Wisdom regarding FT Christian service for the Lord someday as the Lord leads
- God’s blessing upon and growth of Bible believing, Bible preaching, Biblicist Baptist local churches all across the world and for more to be planted.

IN NEXT MONTH’S ISSUE

You will find a great article on “Revival” and a poem entitled “The Secret Place” as well as two new devotionals. Their will also be a great new fun activity for the kids.

A New column called “CHURCH PLANTING” which will list a city and state in the United States of America that has NO solid, Bible believing, Bible preaching local NT Baptist Church within 30 minutes of town! Population will also be listed. It is sad and scary how many towns do not have a local church in their area to reach the lost for Christ. It is the HFT editor’s desire to make these needs known to readers so they might be prayed for that the Lord would send a servant with the ability to meet the need who He has clearly called to plant a local church there.

Thank you so much for reading this. I praise God for all my dear brothers and sisters in Christ and I greatly appreciate your prayers. May each and every one of you be richly blessed as we serve our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

His Servant,
 Craig G.
 Prov. 3:5-6

P.S. If you have any ideas on any improvements to the newsletter, I’d like to hear from you. Please e-mail me and let me know. If you know somebody who would like to be added to the newsletter, please have them e-mail me and I will get it out to them as soon as possible. Also, just in case you do NOT wish to continue receiving this monthly newsletter, please e-mail me with "please remove" in the subject line.

