

Activity Sheet, 9 September 2018

God's flood Genesis 6v9-8v19

- We know what God is like through what he does in our world
- God's flood is the biggest 'natural disaster' of all history

- How many times does Noah speak in the whole flood account in Genesis? (a) 0, (b) 2, (c) 10
- "In other ancient flood stories the gods were scared by the flood." True or false? How does this compare to what Psalm 29v10 says about God?

(1) Reality of flood

- consistency
- dated [7v11, 8v13-14]
- global 'de-creation'
 - ▶ we are descendents of Noah
 - ▶ flood is part of God's 'CV'

- How can we be sure God will never flood the world like this again? (See Genesis 9v11, 15 and Isaiah 54v9)

(2) Reason for flood: salvation (8v1)

- earth is 'corrupt' (=ruined) & violent [6v11-12]
- earth is destroyed (=ruined) [6v13]
 - ▶ God is:
 - good
 - scary
 - patient

- God 'remembering' means he is (a) recalling something he forgot, or (b) taking action to keep his promise to save. (See Exodus 2v24)

(3) Result of flood: rescue of creation

- ▶ God doesn't give up on creation

- Who shuts the door of the ark (7v16)? (a) Noah, (b) God, (c) an angel

(4) Response to flood [Matthew 24v37-39, 2 Peter 3v3-10]

- flood is a 'trailer' for Jesus' return
 - ▶ Are you taking God's warning seriously?

Questions for discussion:

1. Why is the flood story often ridiculed? Why it is also seen as a moral problem for God?
2. On what basis can we be sure this was a global rather than a local flood? Does it matter?
3. Why does accomplishing salvation involve judgement? What examples do we find of this in the Bible?
4. Was the judgement of the flood fair?
5. How should God's purpose for creation affect how we live in it now?
6. How can speaking about the flood be helpful to counter the indifference that is often the response to the gospel? (See 2 Peter 3v3-10).

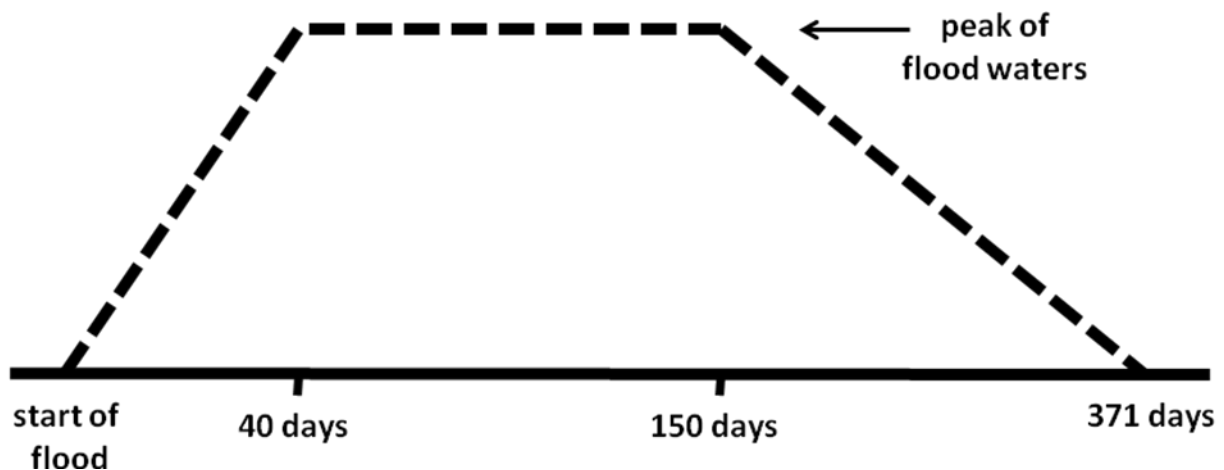
Structure of the account of the flood

Noah and sons (6v9-10)
 Corruption of all flesh (6v11-12)
 Resolve to destroy life in flood (6v13-22)
 Entering the ark (7v1-10)
 Beginning of flood (7v11-16)
 Rising of the waters (7v17-24)
 God remembers Noah and animals (8v1)
 Recession of the waters (8v1-5)
 Ending of flood (8v6-14)
 Leaving the ark (8v15-19)
 Resolve to preserve life after flood (8v20-22)
 Covenant with all flesh (9v1-17)
Noah and sons (9v18-19)

7 days waiting for flood (7v4)
 7days waiting for flood (7v10)
 40 days of flooding (7v17)
 150 days of water triumphing (7v24)
 God remembers Noah and animals (8v1)
 150 days of water waning (8v3)
 40 days of waiting (8v6)
 7 days of waiting (8v10)
 7 days of waiting (8v12)

[Adapted from: Gordon Wenham, *Genesis 1-15* (Word Biblical Commentary, 1987) & *Vetus Testamentum* 28, pp336-348; Bruce Waltke, *Genesis* (Zondervan, 2001); Lee Anseron 'Making the most of the message' *AnswersMagazine*, April-June 2014, pp64-68.]

Possible chronology of the flood



[Adapted from Lee Anderson, 'Details matter' *AnswersMagazine*, April-June 2014, pp60-63]