



THE FLOOD PART X- ENTERING THE ARK COMPLETED & BURSTING FORTH OF THE WATERS

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. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the :2very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark-- they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

Genesis 7:11-16

If you still have the outline for this study, you will note that this passage of Scripture appears in two places in the outline. Last week we commented on the completion of the act of entering the Ark - The Lord shut them in. The Lord sealed their salvation! We need not comment further on the entering of the Ark.

When we looked at the chronology of the flood, we looked at the date given here (see the Chronology). We shall consider the significance of the forty days later. Here we shall consider what actually happened.

The fountains of the great deep were broken up. In Genesis 1 we were introduced to the "Great Deep" with the Spirit of God hovering over the "face" of it. (Genesis 1:2). Here we are dealing with the "fountains" pertaining to it. The Hebrew (אין - Ain) refers to a spring or an underground source of water.

If you return to Genesis 1, you will find that God did two things of significance here. There was God's Spirit hovering over the deep, in control of it. There was a firmament in the air, keeping the waters above

it from falling to earth. The only water the earth had, on its surface, was what had collected into seas and that which the Spirit allowed to come up from the deep to provide irrigation . . . *but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.*

Genesis 2:6

Now God changed two things. The Spirit no longer controlled the water rising out of the abyss and so the "fountains" were opened wide and it gushed forth in abundance.

The windows of heaven were opened. The firmament was no longer "firm." Whatever this "firmament" may have been, it ceased to exist. All of the waters which had been held above this "window" were allowed to fall to the earth as rain. The condemned world had it from both ends. The waters were coming up and the waters were coming down - and they were in the middle. When God does a thing, He does it well.

Now, why for forty days and nights? Surely the rest of mankind died off well before that? Forty days are mentioned in:

Genesis 50:3	The time to embalm Joseph;
Exodus 24:18, 34:28,	Deut. 9:9 & 11 & 18 & 25,
Deut. 10:10	Moses on Mt. Sinai;
Numbers 13:25, 14:34	Spying out the land;
I Samuel 17:16	Goliath testing Israel;
Jonah 3:4	Time for Nineveh to repent
Matthew 4:2; Mark 1:13; Luke 4:2	

The Lord's Testing
Acts 1:3 The Lord's appearance after He arose;

In all of these there is a period of some sort of testing involved. It may be to prove what is good (the Lord's testing to show He was sinless) or what is bad (Goliath, who was not unconquerable). Most of these involved death (embalming, death in the wilderness, Goliath's, and the Lord's death and resurrection).

The forty days and nights of rain were a test period to definitely separate that which was good (Noah and family) from that which was not (the rest of mankind) and to assure the death of the wicked.

