**‘The Flood’**

***17Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. 19And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. 20The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. 21And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. 22All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. 23So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. 24And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.*** Genesis 7:17-24

***1Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. 2The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. 3And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. 4Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. 5And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.***

***6So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. 7Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. 8He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. 9But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. 10And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. 11Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. 12So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.***

***13And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry. 14And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.*** Genesis 8:1-14

We are given many details in these verses from Genesis 7 and 8. The rains fell forty days and forty nights, but the flood waters prevailed upon the earth for one hundred and fifty days. Everything throughout the earth was covered with water. The verse, ***20 “The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered”*** is better translated ***“Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail, and the mountains were covered”*** as found in the Jubilee Bible 2000 translation. Many Bible scholars understand this to mean that the draft[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1) of the ark had to be a minimum of fifteen cubits (twenty-two and a half feet) in order for the ark to float. The depth of the water could have been much greater than fifteen cubits so that mountains were covered, but anything less than fifteen cubits would have grounded the ark.

Genesis 8 begins, ***“1Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark.”*** God did not forget about Noah. This simply means that the time had come for God to return to His work of starting over with the earth and its creatures. Everything was dead. The great wickedness of that generation had been washed away.

A wonderful thing happened on the one hundred and fifty day mark (the seventh month, the seventh day of the month). The ark, which had been floating above the surface of the earth (upon the waters) for many days, came to rest ***on the mountains of Ararat***. We are not given a specific mountain within the mountains of Ararat which would enable us to pinpoint the exact location of the ark’s resting place. But, at least, we’re given a general location on planet earth rather than no location at all. The fact that the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat doesn’t mean that the mountain peaks could be seen at this point. That momentous day wouldn’t come until the first day of the tenth month, or roughly seventy-three days later! Another forty days would then pass before Noah opened up the window of the ark and released a raven. Oddly, we aren’t told that the raven returned to Noah at the ark. What we are told is that it flew “to and fro” over the waters/earth until the earth was dry. Surely the raven didn’t fly “to and fro” without resting. It is likely that the raven found rest upon the ark itself or possibly on floating debris it saw as it flew above the waters of the earth.

Another detail the Lord has pointed out is that by sending out a raven and a dove, Noah sent out an unclean bird and a clean bird. The dove was sent out three different times. The first time the dove was sent out by Noah appears to have coincided with the release of the raven. But the dove didn’t find a place on the earth for rest, and so it returned to Noah. The second time the dove was sent out by Noah was seven days later. This time the dove returned to Noah with a freshly plucked leaf of an olive tree in its mouth. The third release of the dove was another seven days later. This time the dove didn’t return. Now, Noah knew that the surface of the earth was dry – but it wasn’t yet dry enough to be habitable. Another fifty-seven days would pass before the Lord would give Noah the “green light” to come out of the ark.

All totaled, Noah and his family and the creatures with him in the ark were in the ark for one year and ten days! This is a very long time for anyone to be cooped up.

*Kathleen*

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref1) Draft is how much water the boat “draws” – that is, the distance from the waterline, to the bottom of the keel. Draft is an important measurement because it tells you how deep the water must be for the boat to not hit the bottom. For example, a boat with a 6’ draft will hit the bottom (“run aground”) when the depth of the water is 6’ or less.