

Torah Portion Study – Weeks 5 & 6

presented by Gordon Hayes

Portions according to the ancient Septennial Cycle

Torah Portion Reading:

Genesis/Bereisheeth 6:9-8:14

Next Shabbath's readings:

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:15-9:17

Starting this week we will only be looking at the Torah portion.

Torah Reading Text

Genesis/Bereisheeth 6:9-12

⁹ This is the genealogy of Noach. Noach was a righteous man, perfect in his generations. Noach walked with Elohim. ¹⁰ And Noach brought forth three sons: Shēm, Cham, and Yepheth. ¹¹ And the earth was corrupt before Elohim, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² And Elohim looked upon the earth and saw that it was corrupt – for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth –

Genesis/Bereisheeth 6:13-22

¹³ and Elohim said to Noach, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them. And see, I am going to destroy them from the earth. ¹⁴ “Make yourself an ark of gopherwood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with tar. ¹⁵ “And this is how you are to make it: The length of the ark is three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. ¹⁶ “Make a window for the ark, and complete it to a cubit from above. And set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. ¹⁷ “And see, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life from under the heavens – all that is on the earth is to die. ¹⁸ “And I shall establish My covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁹ “And of all the living creatures of all flesh, two of each, you are to bring into the ark, to keep them alive with you – a male and a female. ²⁰ “Of the birds after their kind, and of the cattle after their kind, and of all creeping creatures of the earth after their kind, two of each are to come to you, to keep them alive. ²¹ “As for you, take of all food that is eaten and gather it to yourself. And it shall be food for you and for them.” ²² And Noach did according to all that Elohim commanded him, so he did.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:1-4

¹ And יהוה said to Noach, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. ² “Of all the clean beasts take with you seven pairs, a male and his female; and of the beasts that are unclean two, a male and his female; ³ and of birds of the heavens seven pairs, male and female, to keep offspring alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴ “For after seven more days I am sending rain on the earth, forty days and forty nights, and shall wipe from the face of the earth all that stand that I created.”

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:5

⁵ And Noah did according to all that יהוה commanded him.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:6-9

⁶ Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood-waters were on the earth. ⁷ And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. ⁸ Of the clean beasts and of the beasts that are unclean, and of birds, and of all that creep on the earth, ⁹ two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as Elohim had commanded Noah.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:10-16

¹⁰ And it came to be after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. ¹¹ 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 the heavens were opened. ¹² And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³ On that same day Noah and Shem and Cham and Yepheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, went into the ark, ¹⁴ they and every living creature after its kind, and every beast after its kind, and every creeping creature that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. ¹⁵ And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. ¹⁶ And those going in, male and female of all flesh, went in as Elohim had commanded him, and יהוה shut him in.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:17-20

¹⁷ And the flood was on the earth forty days, and the waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸ And the waters were mighty and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. ¹⁹ And the waters were exceedingly mighty on the earth, and all the high mountains under all the heavens were covered. ²⁰ The waters became mighty, fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:21-24

²¹ And all flesh died that moved on the earth – birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping creature that creeps on the earth, and all mankind. ²² All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. ²³ So He wiped off all that stand, which were on the face of the ground – both man and beast, creeping creature and bird of the heavens. And they were wiped off from the earth. And only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. ²⁴ And the waters were mighty on the earth, one hundred and fifty days.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:1-3

¹ And Elohim remembered Noah, and all the beasts and all the cattle that were with him in the ark. And Elohim made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. ² And the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were stopped, and the rain from the heavens was withheld. ³ And the waters receded steadily from the earth, and at the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters diminished.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:4, 5

⁴ And in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵ And the waters decreased steadily until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of

the month, the tops of the mountains became visible.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:6-9

⁶ And it came to be, at the end of forty days, that Noach opened the window of the ark which he had made, ⁷ and he sent out a raven, which kept going out and turning back until the waters had dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent out a dove from him, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. ⁹ But the dove found no resting place for its feet and returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of all the earth. So he put out his hand and took it, and pulled it into the ark to himself.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:10, 11

¹⁰ And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. ¹¹ And the dove came to him in the evening, and see, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in its mouth. And Noach knew that the waters had receded from the earth.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:12

¹² And he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return to him again.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:13, 14

¹³ And it came to be 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 Noach removed the covering of the ark and looked, and saw the surface of the ground was dry. ¹⁴ And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry.

Torah Outline

Genesis/Bereisheeth 6:9-12

- The genealogy of Noach begins
- Noach was found to be a righteous man
- Noach has 3 sons
- Yahwah looks down and sees that the whole world had become corrupt

Genesis/Bereisheeth 6:13-22

- Yahwah tells Noach that HE is going to destroy all flesh from off the face of the Earth
- HE gives Noach instructions on how to build an Ark
- Yahwah tells Noach that HE is going to establish a covenant with him, his family
- Noach is instructed to bring pairs of the animals with them on to the Ark
- Yahwah further instructs Noach to bring food onto the Ark for him and the animals
- Noach obeys Yahwah

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:1-4

- Yahwah instructs Noach to enter into the Ark
- He further defines that Noach is to bring 7 pairs of the clean animals, as well as birds, and 2 pairs of the unclean animals onto the Ark (pair = male and female)
- Noach is told that it will begin raining in 7 days and continue to rain for 40 days and nights
- Man and beast will be destroyed

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:5

- Noach obeyed all that Yahwah commanded him to do in this regard

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:6-9

- Noach was 600 years old at this time
- All the animals come to Noach in pairs to enter the Ark

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:10-16

- After 7 days, the waters of the flood did indeed begin to cover the face of the Earth
- This occurred on the 17th day of the 2nd month of the 600th year of Noach's life
- On this day Noach entered the Ark with his family and all the animals
- Yahwah shut them in the Ark

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:17-20

- It rained for 40 days and the water became deep on the Earth to a depth of 15 cubits
- The mountains were covered by the flood

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:21-24

- All living creatures that had the breath of life (man, cattle, beast, creeping thing, and fowl) perished in the flood except Noach and all who were with him in the Ark
- The waters were mighty upon the face of the Earth for one hundred fifty days

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:1-3

- Yahwah remembered all those who were in the Ark
- HE causes a mighty wind to blow over the Earth to dry up the waters.
- The fountains of the deep were stopped up and the rain ceased
- The waters quickly receded
- The flood waters was gone at the end of one hundred fifty days

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:4, 5

- On the 17th day of the 7th month the Ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat
- On the 1st day of the 10th month the mountains became visible

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:6-9

- After 40 days, Noach opens the window of the Ark and sends forth a raven
- It kept coming back to the Ark until the waters dried up from the earth
- Noach then sends forth a dove to see if the waters had receded from the ground
- It returns to the Ark and Noach brings it back in to the Ark

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:10, 11

- Noach sends the dove back out 7 days later
- This time the dove returns with a fresh olive leaf in its beak
- By this, Noach knew that the waters had receded from the earth

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:12

- 7 days later Noach sends the dove back out
- This time the dove does not return

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:13, 14

- On the 1st day of the 1st month of the 601st year, the waters dried up from the earth
- Noach removed the covering of the Ark and saw the ground was dry
- On the 27th day of the 2nd month the earth was dry

Notes On Torah Reading

Genesis/Bereisheeth 6:9-12

The word generation is תולדות/toldoth in Hebrew. It is #H8435 and means *generation, family, genealogy, etc.* It appears 39 times in the Tanak. It appears in 7 primary forms.

Form	Scripture References
1) תולדות/toldoth	Genesis/B ^e reisheeth 2:4; Rut/Ruth 4:18
2) תולדת/toldth	B ^e reisheeth 5:1; B ^e reisheeth 6:9; B ^e reisheeth 10:1; B ^e reisheeth 10:32; B ^e reisheeth 11:10; B ^e reisheeth 11:27; B ^e reisheeth 25:19
3) תלדת/tldth	B ^e reisheeth 25:12
4) תולדתם/toldthm4)	B ^e reisheeth 25:13; Exodus/Shemot 28:10; Numbers/Bamidbar 1:20; Bamidbar 1:22; Bamidbar 1:24; Bamidbar 1:26; Bamidbar 1:28; Bamidbar 1:30; Bamidbar 1:32; Bamidbar 1:34; Bamidbar 1:36; Bamidbar 1:38; Bamidbar 1:40; Bamidbar 1:42; I Chronicles/Divre ha Yamim Aleph 1:29; Divre ha Yamim Aleph 5:7; Divre ha Yamim Aleph 7:2; Divre ha Yamim Aleph 7:4; Divre ha Yamim Aleph 7:9; Divre ha Yamim Aleph 8:28; Divre ha Yamim Aleph 9:9; Divre ha Yamim Aleph 9:34
5) תלדות/tldoth	Bereisheeth 36:1; Bereisheeth 36:9; Bereisheeth 37:2; Bamidbar 3:1
6) תלדתם/tldthm	Shemot 6:16; Shemot 6:19
7) תלדתיו /tldthio	Divre haYamim Aleph 26:31

What is interesting about this difference in spelling is that nothing is in the Torah by accident. Every spelling, every letter shape, every letter size, etc. has a purpose and a meaning. It is said, that after the

fall of man in Gan Ayden, the security of the perfect creation was diminished. Thus we see the diminished spelling of toldot. The only other time the word toldot is completely spelled out after the fall is in Rut 4:18. This passage is recognized as having Messianic overtones. It was through this line of individuals who were grafted in from the goyim that the Messiah would later come. We can reason from this that only when Messiah comes will creation's security be restored. And it will be restored to all nations who follow Yahwah, regardless of national heritage.

The 3 sons of Noach were Shem, Cham, and Yepheth. It was through these 3 sons and their wives that the Earth was to be repopulated after the flood.

Shem is #H8035 and is the same as #H8034. It means "name". It also has the idea of character. After all, our character is our name in the eyes of others. That is probably why we do not see many children named Yezebel¹, Adolf, Nimrod, etc. Shem would become the ancestor of most of the people whose history is recorded in the scriptures. It is generally accepted that Shem's descendants settled on the continent of Africa and in the Middle East region.

Cham is #H2526 and is the same as #H2525. It means "hot" as in tropical climate. It is generally accepted that the descendants of Cham settled on the continent of Asia and in the Middle East region.

Yepheth is #H3315. According to Strong's concordance, it comes from #H6601. It means "expansion". Yepheth's descendants are generally thought to have settled on the continent of Europe and in the Middle East region.

It was at this time that the world had become so corrupt and violent that Yahwah decided that HE was going to destroy all living creatures from the face of the Earth. Yet in all this, there was righteous Noach and his family. There have been 2 streams of thought on what the phrase "righteous in his generations", "בְּדֹרֹתָיו הָיָה תָּמִים", "b'dorotayo haya tamim" means. But first we need to recognize the word translated "generations" in this phrase (highlighted) is from #H1755 and means properly "a revolution of time". It is not the word toldot.

Some hold to the idea that Noach was righteous in spite of the evil that surrounded him. This would be much like Avraham and Lot. They were righteous even though those around them were evil. With this explanation we see great honor placed upon Noach. This explanation places the emphasis on Noach and his righteousness. The second understanding of this phrase is that Noach was righteous only in comparison to the wicked people of his day. In another generation, Noach might not appear so righteous. With this explanation, we see the emphasis is on the evil people of the time Noach lived. Given the great length Yahwah goes to preserve Noach and tell of his righteousness, I tend to prefer the former explanation. I do, however, have to say that either one could be true. What we do know is that Yahwah showed mercy to Noach.

We see in this story the basis for a Hebraic mindset. That is, a cyclical way of thinking. Noach was the last of the generations listed in the genealogy of Adam in the last chapter. Yet we see here that he is to become the beginning of the genealogy of mankind in this passage. The cycle of life starts anew.

¹ Actually some people do name their daughters Yezebel. They just do not recognize they are doing so. In English and Spanish, the name is transliterated as Isabel, etc.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 6:13-22

Yahwah goes to Noah and tells him that HE is going to destroy all living flesh from the Earth. HE instructs Noah to build an ark and then proceeds to give him the dimensions and specifications for the Ark.

- It was to be made of gopher wood
- It was to have rooms inside of it
- It was to be pitched on the inside and outside with pitch.
- Its length was to be 300 cubits
- Its width was to be 50 cubits
- Its height was to be 30 cubits.
- There was to be a window whose top was a cubit from the top of the Ark
- There was to be a door in the side of the Ark
- There were to be three levels on the Ark.

Gopher comes from the word #H1613. This is the only occurrence of the word in the Hebrew Scriptures. It is from an unused root word that, according to Strong's, likely means "to house in". We can not be 100% sure what type of wood this was. But the general consensus is that this was cypress wood. There are two main reasons for this thought. First, cypress was a common wood in that region and time. Second, cypress is a very watertight type of wood. It was commonly used in ship building throughout history.

Ark comes from the Hebrew word #H8392, תַּבַּת, tābath, and literally means "a box". Most of us have a picture of the Ark looking like a huge ship like shipbuilders build today. In actuality it would have likely been flat bottomed. It has been shown that this shape would make the most sea worthy vessel for this occasion. It would be less likely to capsize in the turbulent waters that likely occurred with a flood of this type and magnitude. This is also strengthened in the dimensions given for the Ark. The Ark was one-sixth as wide as it was long. It was one-tenth as high as it was long. Engineers have designed a ship with these specifications and it was a very sea worthy vessel. The inside of this Ark was divided into rooms or "nests" for Noah, his family, the animals and the food. The word translated rooms is from #H7064, קְנִיּוֹת, qenim.

As to the actual size of the Ark, we can not be totally certain. The reason for this being that we do not know the length of a cubit that Noah used in building the Ark. But the Babylonian cubit has been standardized at about 18 inches, or 1½ feet. The Egyptian cubit was standardized at 20.6 or 20.64 inches. The Egyptian Royal Cubit was 20.6 to 20.64 inches. Using the Babylonian measurement for a cubit, the Ark would have been 450 feet long by 75 feet wide by 45 feet high. Using the Egyptian Royal Cubit, the Ark would have measured about 515.5 feet long by 85.92 feet wide by 51.55 feet high.

Noah is told to pitch the inside and outside of the Ark with pitch. The general consensus is that he applied a bitumen or tar coating to the wood. That is likely. But that is not the only explanation that is possible.

The first instance of pitch is #H3722. It means "to cover". It is a verb. The second instance translated pitch is #H3724. #H3724 means "covering". This is the noun form of the word. Specifically it means something that is used to cover or waterproof. It can also mean something that is used to dye. Whatever it was, we can be fairly certain that it did not have a strong nor offensive odor. After all, the occupants

would be closed up inside the vessel for quite some time.

Near the top of the Ark was a window. It either came to within a cubit of the top or it extended a cubit above the Ark covering. There is also another interpretation of this window which I will give later. On one side of the Ark there was a door. The door likely led into the middle deck of the Ark. The reason I feel this way is two fold. The scriptures say that there was a lowermost deck. This would seem to me to imply that there was a deck below the deck of entry. Another reason I feel this is so is that this would put the door above the loaded draft line/waterline as the Ark floated on the flood waters. This would prevent any leaking into the bottom deck of the Ark caused by a leaking door.

As I did some research online for this study, I found some interesting information. Not yet sure if it is accurate. I present it with words of caution. One thing I do believe is accurate is the idea that the dimensions of the Ark roughly follow the ratio known as the Golden Ratio. The width of the Ark divided by the height of it comes out to 1.6667. It is mark on if we use the dimensions used in the following link. The Golden Ratio is 1.6180

Here is some information concerning the geometry of the Ark taken from http://www.creationism.org/patten/WindsorNoahsArkGeometry.html#_Toc395518661. The individual here has a couple of drawings of what He thinks the Ark may have looked like in outline shape. They are not the box shape I addressed earlier. But they are a very stable ship design. The Figure 2 he references is to a drawing on the site.

THE ARK'S GEOMETRY AND THE GOLDEN RATIO

Figure 2 summarizes the relationships of those measurements and of the depth mentioned in Genesis. The major transverse chord (maximum beam) is located at the center of the moon pool. The expression "moon pool" is chosen because the vertical hole through the vessel reminds us of the vertical hole in an off shore drill rig vessel. The Ark's moon pool provided forced air ventilation via the roof opening (wave action), access for handling anchor stones, access for dumping garbage and manure, and provided a "softening" of the buoyancy amidships (sic). This last was crucial to maintenance of the structural integrity of the vessel in heavy seas. Without it, the hogging and sagging stresses could have demolished the vessel.

The distance from this major chord to the stern of the vessel is 3819 inches.

$$[1] 6180 / 3819 = 1.618$$

The distance to the bow, therefore is the difference or 2361 inches.

$$[2] 6180 / 2361 = 1.618 \times 1.618 \text{ (& is } 1 + 1.618)$$

The beam was established by multiplying the desired deck area by 1.6180 then dividing that by the length of the vessel. This describes the smallest rectangle into which the boat shape will fit. Ea's (Yahweh's?) requirement was that the area be 44,100 square feet (from the Epic of Gilgamesh). The Genesis account is nearly the same area. It differed mostly in that they used a cubit of 20.6" as compared to the great cubit of 21" and asked for the area by stating one of the principle dimensions. Because the shape of the Ark was developed from a "camber" curve and ellipse (shown in Figure 2), the area inside the deck "circumference" exceeds the 44,100 square feet by exactly 5289.67 square feet. The designers therefore assigned this as the required area to be taken out by putting a rectangular hole through the raft. The Moon pool dimensions

approximate this area difference. Note that this is a spectacular "coincidence" detractors would ask us to swallow as chance.

Their design then requires the moon pool area be 761,713 square inches. The total area inside of the "deck edge outline" was 7,112,113 square inches. The area of the deck is then the desired 6,350,400 square inches. This area, multiplied by 1.61803399 is the area of the circumscribed rectangle or 10,275,163 square inches. The rectangle width (and maximum beam of the vessel) is this larger area (10,275,163) divided by the desired length of 6180 inches. This was how Noah decided how wide to build his vessel. The width of the rectangle is 1663 inches, 79.17 great Babylonian cubits, 80.73 Egyptian Cubits or 138 1/2 feet!

$$[3] (1662.65 \times 6180) / (44,100 \times 144 \text{in}^2/\text{ft}^2) = 1.6180$$

This validates the lofting method. The camber circle and ellipse is a required method to produce a hydrodynamic shape that has exactly one acre of real deck space while still including a functioning moon pool; and, be 6180 inches long. (10,000 / phi or 10,000 x [phi - 1]).

$$[4] 10,000 \times (1.6180 - 1) = 6180$$

Noah was nothing, if not consistent. He went on to determine the length of the moon pool by making it equal to the vessel's length divided by $(L / 1 + 1.6180)$. The width (323 inches) was simply the required area divided by its length. The computer faired lines showed the measured 138 feet to not have been taken at the widest point. The measurement was made at the intersection of iron readings forward of the place the computer identified as the most probable widest point. The fitted curve shows the maximum beam occurs behind this measured point and not at it.

No one in 1985 had tumbled to the principles controlling the location of the maximum beam. There being no transverse line of iron masses located there, the maximum beam wasn't directly measured. Your author was similarly ignorant of the need to measure the beam at this point in 1990. (Your author didn't tumble to the pattern in the artifact or of planet period until August 19, 1991. One wonders how much more there is that we are not seeing.) Note, however, that the curve for the deck edge developed by the camber curve fits the actual dimensions only if the major chord occurs at the center of the moon pool.

Genesis records the depth to be 30 cubits. 1663 divided by the square of phi (2.6180), produces 635 inches, 30.24 great Babylonian cubits or 30.82 Egyptian cubits.

$$[5] 1663 / 635 \text{ approximates } 1.6180 \times 1.6180$$

The length of 6180 inches is 294.28 great Babylonian cubits and 300 Egyptian cubits. If the molded area of the deck is 6350400 square inches, this, divided by the length gives an average width of 1027.57 inches, 48.93 great Babylonian cubits or 49.88 Egyptian cubits. Genesis lists the width as 50 cubits. It appears the average width is intended and not the maximum beam. This is consistent with the concept that expressions of area in that earlier age were typically "X" cubits by "Y" cubits. It may be that they had no word for area, for volume, etc.

Given the variety of lengths the ancients called a cubit, it appears that both the Sumerian and Genesis accounts are "true". Only the length of the cubit differs slightly. The fact the phi ratio shows up in units of measure only in inches, it also appears that it was the inch and not the cubit that served as the actual construction dimensioning unit. The cubit appears to be a unit of measure employed by later examiners. However, the iron indications were approximately one

cubit apart throughout the artifact. The clincher on this assumption of depth (recognizing Noah's penchant for symmetry) is that when the average width is added to the calculated depth, the sum equals the maximum beam!

In all of this, the slight variations from "perfect" are unavoidable because of the inexactness of the irrational number, itself.

What I find interesting about this design is what the author calls the “Moon Pool”. I am wondering if this was not the window that Noah was instructed to build into the Ark. The Hebrew word translated window is #H6672, צִוְהָר, tsōhar. This word means a light or window. Without some sort of opening to the outside, there would be little light in the Ark. It is possible that they used oil lamps and torches for light. The use of oil lamps or torches would present a problem unless ventilation was present.

Studies have shown that we suffer emotionally and physically without exposure to sunlight for any length of time. People suffer “winter sickness” and become emotionally depressed with the diminishing if sunlight in the short three to four month winter period. They still are able to see sunlight. But it is diminished during just this brief time when compared to the amount of time that Noah and the others spent on the Ark.

How he arrived at the idea of a “moon pool” is not fully understood by me at this time. I understand that it fits the mathematics of his Ark scenario. And his argument seems valid that it would have added stability to the Ark as well as providing ventilation and a way of ridding the Ark of the waste that would have otherwise accumulated. I will admit that there remain questions to be answered on this.

Because Noah was instructed to take food onto the Ark for the animals, it does not stand to reason that the animals entered a state of hibernation as some have tried to explain. We all know what occurs when animals eat. Then there were Noah, his wife, his sons, and their wives. Eight people and this many animals can create a significant amount of fecal waste in the time they spent on the Ark.²

I would be amiss if I did not briefly mention the magnitude of this biblical flood. The very word used speaks of a cataclysmic event. Flood comes from the Hebrew word #H3999, מַבּוּל, mabbul. Mabbul means “a deluge”. What is interesting is that the fossil records show that the flood was a global event. It was not a local event as some biblical scholars and skeptics assert. Much has been written on this by Creationists.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:1-4

This brings us to our next thought. Just how many animals were brought onto the Ark? We know, from verse 2, that there were 7 pairs of the clean animals and 2 pairs of the unclean animals that went into the Ark.³ Quite different than our Sunday School lessons that say the animals went in by two into the Ark. A way that I used to be able to remember this number is that it is found in Bereisheeth 7:2. The passage lists fowls, cattle, and creeping things after their kind.

We know that every type of animal that exists today was not on the Ark. That is a given fact. We have

² Noah entered the ark on the 17th day of the 2nd month of his 600th year. He left the ark on the 27th day of the 2nd month of his 601st year. Months are based on a lunar cycle of 29 or 30 days. A lunar year is 354 or 355 days

³ Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14 give a list of the clean and unclean animals.

to remember that there are breeds of dogs, cats, sheep, goats, poultry, livestock, etc. that have only come about because man developed them by selective breeding programs. Some breeds of wild animals are fairly recent in the Earth's history.

A biblical 'kind' would be very close to our genus status today. One individual⁴ has estimated that there were probably 8000 genera of animals that went onto the Ark. He included extinct animals in this tabulation. He says that the median size of the animals on board would be about that of a small rat. He further states that only eleven percent of the animals would have been larger than a sheep. But his number of 16000 animals is way off as there were 4 of each kind of unclean animal and 14 of each kind of clean animal. Another thing he says we need to realize is that not all the animals would have had to be full grown specimens of their kind. Some animals can breed at quite an early age. Nearly all animals today are able to breed before or shortly after one year of age. This would have reduced the amount of space needed to house the animals. Add to this the fact that the decks were fifteen cubits high and you see that they would have been able to stack cages to conserve floor space.

We know from experience today that the majority of animals living are of the unclean status. That means that Noah would have had many more animals that fit into this category and would have only had 4 individuals of these animals on board the Ark. I looked for some information on how many different kinds of clean animal there were. Deuteronomy 14 lists 10 different categories of land animal that can be eaten.⁵ There are only 3 kinds of insect that are clean, the grasshopper or locust, the cricket, and the katydid. When it comes to fowl of the air, we have a much harder time figuring the numbers. There are no clean fowl listed though we later read that songbirds were clean. And we know that quail are clean as this is what Yahwah fed the Children of Israel in their wilderness journeys. We also know that doves and pigeons are clean as they were noted in the sacrifices for the poor. I think it would be safe to say that there were less than 100 kinds of clean fowl. Let us use a rounded up number of 120 kinds of clean animals. That would leave 7880 kinds of unclean animal. Using these figures, we could come up with approximately 33200 individual animals on the Ark. To put this into perspective, if the Ark was a box shape, there would be the equivalent space of 522 auto carrier rail cars. We would need less than 30 of those rail cars for animal housing.⁶

This number could be significantly reduced by the fact that not all insects would have had to have been housed on the Ark for them to have survived. But since insects are generally small, the space difference would not have been significant. There would also not be a great loss of floor space given the shape and dimensions of the Ark proposed by Mr. Winston.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:5

This verse is self-explanatory

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:6-9

We have already discussed the specifics of this passage.

⁴ <http://creation.com/images/pdfs/cabook/chapter13.pdf>

⁵ These are the living creatures which you do eat: ox, sheep, and goat, deer, and gazelle, and roebuck, and wild goat, and mountain goat, and antelope, and mountain sheep.

⁶ <http://creation.com/images/pdfs/cabook/chapter13.pdf>

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:10-16

The flood came upon the Earth on the 17th day of the 2nd month of Noah's 600th year. Not only did it rain for 40 days and 40 nights, but the fountains of the deep opened up. It must have been quite cataclysmic with water seeming to come from all directions.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:17-20

How deep the waters were can only be estimated. But one thing we must remember is that the Hebrew word translated "mountains" in some translations is the Hebrew word "har". It is #H2022 and can mean "*range of hills*" as well as "*mountain*". Geology has shown that even today, the mountains are increasing in height slightly. Part of this is due to the shifting of the tectonic plates that make up the Earth's land masses. It is not necessarily a fact that the high mountain tops like Mt. Everest, and other lofty mountains, existed in the days of Noah. It has been shown by some Creation Geologists that the high mountains of today were a result of the shifting land masses to help the waters recede from the ground. The theory goes that as the land masses increased in height, the seas increased in depth and surface area.

What we can safely deduce from the scriptures is that the water covered the highest land areas by a depth of about 25 to 26 feet. Anyone who has lived near a major river knows how high this can be.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 7:21-24

All living flesh died in the flood if it was not protected on the Ark. Again, we see the statement that the waters prevailed or increased upon the Earth for 150 days before they started to recede slowly.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:1-3

In the fashion of Hebraic teaching, we have a retelling of the flood story from a different vantage point. While it rained 40 days and 40 nights, the waters of the deep kept flowing until the waters reached their maximum depth on the 150th day of the flood. A great wind was caused to blow across the waters and they began to reside. With this much water, it would take a while for the waters to dry up from the land.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:4, 5

On the 17th day of the 7th month the Ark came to rest in a mountain range called Ararat in modern day Turkey. There are several people who claim to have seen the remains of the Ark in this mountain range. However, Turkey prohibits the exploration of these mountain ranges for further proof of the Ark. Part of this reason is likely the fact that Turkey is primarily a Muslim country. As such, they do not want to give any credence to the "Jewish" Scriptures.

On the 1st day of the 10th month, the tops of the mountains began to appear from the flood waters.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:6-9

40 days later, Noah opens the window of the Ark and sends forth a raven. The raven goes out upon the waters and returns until the water had dried up from the land. 7 days after sending the Raven out Noah sends out a dove. Finding no place to rest its feet, the dove returns. One thing I have noticed about doves is that they like to eat seeds from the ground. So it was clear to Noah that the land was not yet dry enough.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:10, 11

A week later Noach sends the dove back out. This time the dove returns with a freshly plucked olive leaf in its mouth. This was a sign to Noach that vegetation was beginning to sprout once again on the land.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:12

Finally, a week later, Noach sends the dove out. This time the dove does not return and Noach reasons that the land is now dry.

Genesis/Bereisheeth 8:13,14

Nearly one year to the day after Noach, his family, and the animals had entered the Ark, the waters of the flood had completely dried up from the face of the Earth. The greatest calamity in the history of the Earth was over and the journey of Noach and the others was about to end. Noach removes the covering he had built on the Ark. For the first time since his journey had begun, Noach can see dry land around him. Yet he does not leave the Ark until he has a direct command from Yahwah to do so. Finally, on the 27th day of the 2nd month, the land becomes dry. Using the luni-solar calendar used by the Hebrews, this would mean that Noach left the Ark one solar year after entering the Ark on the 364th or 365th day.