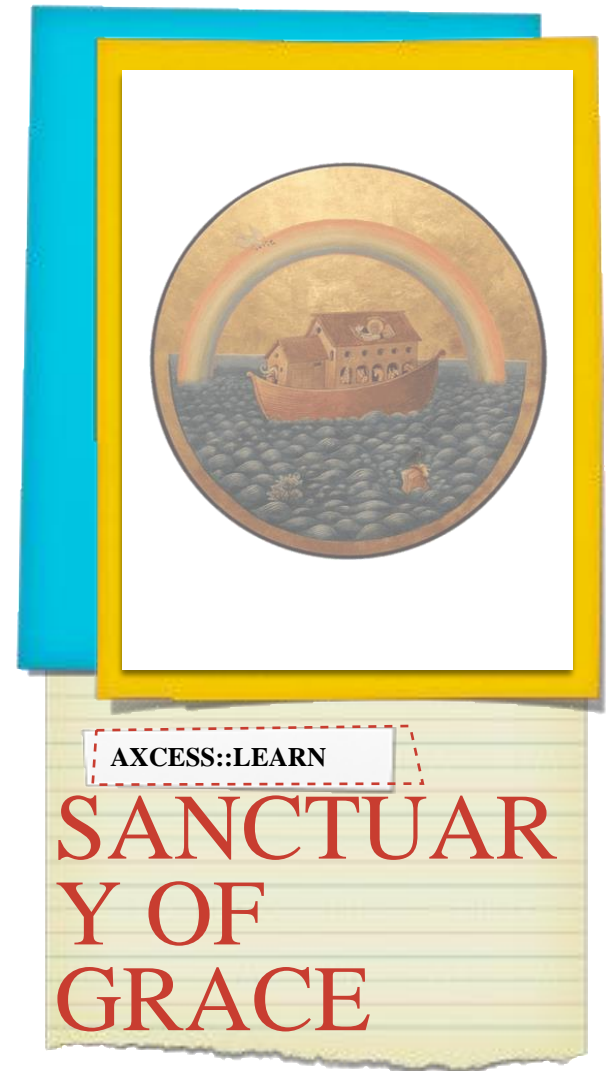




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****Italicized words in brackets interlaced in the text are the Hebrew words that were used in the oldest known manuscripts. Approaching Scripture through the Hebrew mindset and context can help us to appreciate more fully and to properly interpret what the passage is actually intending to communicate.*



GENESIS 7

_v.1 tzaddik - God invites Noah “Come into the ark, you and your household.” Noah needed to RSVP. What common Christian misconceptions are held about **righteousness** in the OT versus the NT? **Salvation** is a gift! It cannot be earned by works.

—Why was Noah saved? **Grace** is not a NT concept. “But Noah found **grace** in the sight of ADONAI” (6:8). Noah was set apart from the rest of his generation as **righteous (tzaddik)**, especially the N’filim who had corrupted mankind (6:5).

—God does not destroy the good along with the wicked!

_v.2-3 clean/unclean = pure/impure 7 pairs of clean (*tahor*) animals. 1 pair of unclean (*tamei*) animals. In the case of animal sacrifices, only clean animals may be used. In the case of food, only clean animals may be eaten (*kosher*). Up to this point, the only suitable food was plant life (7:21). When the Bible speaks of food, it refers only to the things God told man he could eat. Prior to the Flood, to Noah, *clean* and *unclean* simply meant animals that God told him were suitable for sacrifice and those that weren’t—food wasn’t part of the equation.

_v.4-12 Floodwaters It was not just rain! “...all the fountains of the great deep (*tehom*) were broken up, and the windows (*arubbah*) of the sky were opened.” [v.11] This underwater cavern, or network of caverns, that had up to that point been filled with water, now spewed out onto the surface. The firmament (*raqia*) opened its windows to allow the celestial waters above it to be dumped on the earth and join with the terrestrial and subterranean waters to flood the entire face of the earth.

“The Great Deep” We’ve encountered the term *the great deep* back in Genesis 1. Could it be that this great deep, being emptied of its water to judge the world with a flood, was readied to judge HaSatan? In Revelation we are told that HaSatan will be thrown into the Abyss (the *abussos*), same word for *the great deep*.

_v.13-24 shut in How many people entered the ark? Eight is the number of redemption throughout the Bible. “Those that entered the ark, male and female of all flesh, entered as God commanded, and ADONAI shut him inside”(v.16). Noah and all inside had become the object of divine care and protection, while to those outside the season of grace was over.

GENESIS 8

_v.1-5 zakar God *remembered* Noah...To “remember” in this context doesn’t mean a collection of fond memories by God. Rather, it implies focussing on the object of memory, which then results in positive action. God *remembers*...and then God *does* something! God caused a WIND **ruach** to pass over the flood-filled earth. We get a glimpse of a sort of regeneration of earth.

_v.6-14 raven & doves - The raven (*scavenger/unclean*) survives on a broad range of food types. If any food was available outside the ark, the raven could survive. A dove (*clean*) is much more selective in its food choices. The dove’s choice of food would indicate that new life had begun to grow...then Noah and his family could also survive outside the ark.

olive leaf Doves don’t eat olive leaves, which are bitter and have no nutritional value. The only reason the dove collected the olive leaf was to build a nest—a new home in a world renewed after the Flood.

The Flood as Shadow of the Living Water This Flood that destroys the old would also purify and make way for the new. Death of the corrupted was needed in order to prepare for new life. This is a type and a shadow of what is to come. ****Messiah Yeshua is called the Living Water in the NT.**

_v.15-22 Out from the ark God commands Noah to take his wife, his sons and their wives, and all the living things and go out of the ark...let the families swarm and fill the earth, be fruitful and multiply on the earth.

Noah’s sacrifice Noah built an altar to God and took of every species of animal and bird as a burnt-offering. God accepted Noah’s sacrifices and found them pleasing. God was never again going to destroy all land-inhabiting creatures in the way He had just done. —ADONAI said in his heart “I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, since the imaginings (*yetzer*) of a person’s heart are evil (*rah*) from his youth (*mine’araw*)” [v.21]

Because Noah trusted and obeyed God, God declared Noah **tzaddik**. This most fundamental principle of salvation—trusting God and being credited (as opposed to earning) righteousness—is the same today as here in the OT, in Genesis!

NOTES

How long was Noah in the ark?

—600th year, 2nd month, 10th day, entered the ark

—600th year, 2nd month, 17th day, flood began

—Waters flooded earth 150 days (5 months of 29.5 days), incl. the 40 days & 40 nights of rain, + initial receding.

—600th year, 7th month, 17th day, waters receded to point ark rests on mountain

—Waters continued to abate...600th year, 10th month, 1st day, mountain tops were visible

—40 days later (600th year, 11th month, 10th day)

Noah sent out a raven and a dove. Over the next 14 days, Noah sent out two more doves. In all this took 61 days (2months + 1day)

—By Noah’s 601st year, on the 1st month, the 1st day, the water had dried up. (*New Year*)

—Noah waited 1 month and 26 days before he disembarked in the 2nd month, the 27th day of his 601st year (27+29=56 days...8 weeks after New Year)

From the beginning to the end, the **Flood lasted one Hebrew lunar year and eleven days** (29.5 days x 12 months + 11days) ...**about 365 days** Gen. 7:11-8:14.

Significant numbers in these passages::

7-completion 40-test, trial, probation / 8-redemption

HEBREW WORD DEFINITIONS

tahor - clean, pure

tamei - unclean, impure

tehom - deep (*of subterranean waters*) abyss, grave

arubbah - lattice, window, sluice

zakar - remember, call to mind...toward action

raqia - firmament (*holding up celestial waters*)

ruach - wind, spirit, moving force