

# THE FLOOD OF NOAH'S DAY HAS MEANING FOR US

## *Note to the speaker:*

Convince audience that (1) Flood was real, historical event; (2) Jehovah will destroy present world in "great tribulation"; (3) in order to be survivors, we must take action and condemn the wicked by strong faith.—Re 7:14

## **THE GLOBAL FLOOD WAS REAL, A HISTORICAL EVENT** (15 min.)

One of the most commonly known Biblical stories is about the Flood of Noah's day

You may have wondered or heard asked: 'Did Flood really occur? How can we be sure?'

We know there was a global flood *because the Bible clearly teaches it as a factual event*

The account of it is narrated as Biblical history in the Word of God

Genesis chapter 6 tells of pre-Flood world and God's instructions to Noah for the ark; also shows that Flood would be global, not local (Give highlights of Genesis chapter 6) (*it-1* 609)

Chapter 7 describes the loading of the ark and the actual Flood

Genesis 8:1–9:19 relates drying of waters off the earth, unloading of ark, and God's covenant with every living soul on earth

The remainder of the Bible presents the Flood as real, a historical event

The prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel accepted Noah as a historical person and referred to him (Read Isaiah 54:9 or Ezekiel 14:14)

Jesus, Paul, and Peter accepted Flood as historical and used it as a warning (Read Matthew 24:37, 38) (Heb 11:7; 2Pe 3:5-7)

Conclusion should be clear: The Bible presents account of a global Flood, not as a parable or fable, but as real, historical event

Accepting the Flood helps to explain a number of otherwise unexplainable facts

Excavations all over the world have uncovered bones and carcasses of thousands of buried animals, often animals that would not normally herd together (*is* 39-40; *g75* 6/8 7)

Also amazing are carcasses of tens of thousands of animals unearthed in cold north; not animals now native to that region (*ce* 203; *it-1* 610; *gm* 114-15)

Apparently, even those areas enjoyed warm climate (*w76* 712)

The Biblical Flood account would explain all these circumstances—how?

It explains where the floodwaters came from (Read Genesis 7:11) (*gm* 111-13)

Vast quantity of water vapor could have served as an insulating moisture blanket

Could account for earth-wide warm climate that evidence shows once existed (*it-1* 610 ¶4)

Rupturing of blanket meant once moderate polar regions were suddenly plunged into deep-freeze conditions, catching animals unaware

Only after the Flood is there mention of extremes in temperature (Ge 8:22)

The pre-Flood mountains may have been much lower than they are now (*it-1* 610 ¶1)

In time ocean floors sank and land surfaces rose to accommodate floodwaters on earth

Accepting the account also makes understandable the many Flood legends (*gm* 116; *g89* 1/8 7; *w86* 9/15 4)

What may we thus conclude? There is no reason to doubt the Flood's historicity (*Lmn* 7 ¶11)

But what real meaning does that have for us? Why not just shrug it off as unimportant ancient history?

## **DESTRUCTION OF AN UNGODLY WORLD SETS A PATTERN FOR OUR TIME** (18 min.)

Only the Bible explains why the Flood occurred and what it should mean to us

Tells us the ancient world was destroyed because of its extreme ungodliness

Wickedness had been manifested from the time of man's expulsion from Paradise

Wickedness definitely intensified with the passing of time (Read Genesis 6:1-4)

Why had wickedness intensified so? Bible alone supplies the answer

These 'sons of God' were spirit creatures, not just ordinary men who married women (*it-2* 996-7)

Materialized angels fathered sons who were called "Nephilim" (Ge 6:4)

Name literally means "fellers," that is, bullies, tyrants (*it-2* 491-2)

Their fathers forsook *God-assigned* positions; why would they or their offspring obey any other laws of man or of God? Obviously would not

From account, we note repeated emphasis on extreme ungodliness (Ge 6:5, 11-13)

Jesus adds to this description (Read Matthew 24:38, 39)

Not all persons back there were equally bad, but were involved in own daily pursuits

Ignored as of little importance divine warning Noah delivered

Do you begin to appreciate how this has meaning for us?

God has no less reason to act against present ungodly world

Jehovah remains constant; similar circumstances would prompt similar reaction (Mal 3:6)

Today, as then, violence abounds; war, crime, lawlessness

World around us, like the ancient one, is filled with sexual perverts

God still condemns these perversions (Ro 1:26, 27, 32)

Demon influence is strong today, even as it was back then (g86 8/22 5)

Current flourishing of astrology, study of the occult, use of Ouija boards

More subtle demonic influence is manifested in false religious teachings

To tamper in political affairs of the world puts one in line to be gathered to Har-Magedon by “expressions inspired by demons” (Re 16:14, 16)

Most people, as Jesus predicted, are apathetic toward divine warning

Warning is directed primarily toward *believers* (Read Matthew 24:37-39, 42)

Destruction of ungodly world ‘set a pattern of things to come’ (Read 2 Peter 2:5, 6)

Fulfillment of that pattern will also be vast, global (2Pe 3:5-7, 10; *sl* 290, 292, 294, 306; *rs* 113-15)

Not literal earth to be destroyed; Flood did not destroy the actual globe

Ungodly world, made up of “earth” of humans under governmental “heavens,” must go

“Fire” indicates permanent destruction in store for these (Isa 66:15, 16)

“Earth and the works in it” exposed as deserving destruction

The “elements,” or spirit that motivates ungodly men, will be reduced to nothing

Should have special significance to us, for Witnesses have often proved from Bible and fulfillment of prophecy that we are living in last days

Peter emphasizes that this should affect our thoughts and deeds (Read 2 Peter 3:11)

The fact that the Flood’s destruction of ungodly world was a pattern for the destruction God will bring in our time gives it real meaning for us, involving our life

Only Noah and his family survived destruction of the ancient ungodly world; how can his example show us how to be preserved through the end of this system?

### **DO YOU CONDEMN THE WORLD THROUGH YOUR FAITH?** (10 min.)

Noah demonstrated by action that it was possible and practical for a person to listen to Jehovah’s Word and harmonize his life-style with God’s will (*w89* 10/1 10-15)

By his obedient actions, Noah proved that his contemporaries were wrong

He condemned the world of that time by his faith (Heb 11:7)

He paid attention to “the word of God” and obeyed it

The “world of ungodly people” did not do so and proved deserving of being condemned to destruction

The world in which we live has been condemned to destruction (2Pe 3:7)

As in Noah’s days, there will also be survivors

What will determine either one’s survival or one’s destruction?

In Noah’s days, those who centered their lives on personal pursuits were destroyed (Mt 24:37-39)

Noah and his family centered their lives on doing Jehovah’s will: constructing the ark and preaching

They were survivors (1Pe 3:20)

It required unquestioning faith for Noah and his family to be different

But their faith condemned the world; it proved that all others could have done the same (Heb 11:7)

Jehovah decided who would live and who would perish

There had to be a marked difference between the two groups

At the great tribulation, there will again be those who perish and those who survive (Mt 24:21, 22, 40, 41)

Into which group will you fall?

Can people around you see you as different from the world that has been condemned?

Does Jehovah view you as different, or does he see you as part of this condemned world?

Do you ‘walk with God’? (Mic 4:2)

Are you holding to God’s righteous standards?

Do you exert yourself as “a preacher of righteousness”?

Is it obvious to all observers, heavenly and earthly, that you have strong faith?

Do you evidence this by action?

Does your conduct silently condemn the world’s corrupt behavior? (1Pe 4:3, 4)

### **DO NOT MISS THE MEANING OF THE FLOOD ACCOUNT FOR YOU** (2 min.)

We have covered a number of important points about the Flood that should have meaning for all of us

The Flood was a *real* event that can be located in history; Noah was a real person, a servant of God

We should consider that Biblical record of the Flood was preserved by Jehovah out of consideration for us

It tells us why he destroyed an ancient ungodly world and why he preserved Noah

He uses it as a pattern for us, helping us to have faith like survivor Noah and be preserved

We can thank God for such a record by learning well from it and acting appropriately

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read)