

Panorama Bible Study

The Plan of the Ages, Study 4

THE DISPENSATION OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT FROM THE FLOOD TO THE DISPERSION AT BABEL

*Interesting facts about Noah's Ark: Approximately the length of 1 and ½ football fields or **450 feet, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high**. Not all animal species entered the Ark as **SINGLE PAIRS** (male and female). The single pairs of each species were the **UNCLEAN animals** which could **NOT** be used for sacrifice. The **CLEAN** animals which could be used for **sacrifice entered the Ark as SEVEN pairs of each species in order for there to be enough to sacrifice** without wiping out the species. The **SEVEN** is used again as God's **perfect** number, the **fulfillment** number. A **sacrifice** was coming in the New Testament which would be **PERFECT** and the **FULFILLMENT** of all sacrifices that came prior.

REMEMBER: God is establishing a **pattern of a calendar** with the Flood. This is why He inspired the writer of Genesis (Moses) to record certain dates concerning the Flood. Last week we saw that the **FIRST date** recorded is **2nd MONTH, 17th DAY** and is when the **Flood began**.

1. Genesis 7:11-23 This Flood was historic, **physically** and **spiritually**. There was not only rain falling from the "opened windows of heaven," but it seems the whole world convulsed so that the "fountains of the deep" were broken up. The earth was **BAPTIZED** (totally immersed) in water. **The relationship to the New Testament believer's BAPTISM is cited in 1 Peter 3:20-21.**

God is painting a picture that when He judges, He does a **THOROUGH JOB—EXTERNALLY and INTERNALLY**. When He judges sin in us, **through the Cross**, it is **thoroughly JUDGED—**inside and out! The earth, **physically**, never looked the same again. It was **NEW**, just as we do not "**look**" the same **SPIRITUALLY** after the **NEW BIRTH of SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST**. We are **NEW creatures**. The Flood pictures the **earth** coming into a **NEW BIRTH** which foreshadows the **believer's NEW BIRTH**.

2. Genesis 7:24 The waters were upon the earth **150 DAYS**. (5 months)

As the Old Testament explains in Isaiah 54:9 and the New Testament in 1 Peter 3:18-22, and 2 Peter 2:5; Noah's Flood was a **FLOOD OF JUDGMENT UPON ALL FLESH** and it was a **FORERUNNER** or **TYPE AND SHADOW** of the **FLOOD OF THE BLOOD** at Calvary's Cross

which would **JUDGE** and **PAY THE PENALTY for SIN (FLESH NATURE)** for **ALL** of humanity—the whole-wide-world—just as **Noah’s FLOOD JUDGED the WHOLE WORLD**. Keep in mind that the Flood of Noah occurred because **God SPOKE His WORD** and **DECLARED** it to happen. Also keep in mind that **WATER** is the instrument He used to cause the judgment.

QUESTION: Can you think of some of the **symbolisms** of **WATER** in the Bible?

ANSWER: (See Ex. 40:7, 12; Le. 1:9,13; Le. 15:5; Deut. 11:4; Isa. 12:3; Mt. 3:11, 16; Mt. 14:29; Jn. 3:5; Eph. 5:26)

As we studied last week, Noah and family sat in the Ark **7 days before the rain began**. Just as the number of **7 days** was in the **original** creation, this **7-day period** was a picture of God **RECREATING**. Since the New Testament refers back to Noah’s Flood as an example of the **Spiritual principles**, this recreation demonstrates the **Spiritual “RECREATION”** of a person when he/she comes to **Christ, our ARK of SALVATION**. The Bible tells us we become a **NEW CREATURE**. (2 Corinth. 5:17)

3. Genesis 8:1 God begins to **RECREATE** the earth using the **WIND!**


QUESTION: Since the Flood is a physical illustration with types and shadows of our salvation in Jesus Christ, what does the **WIND** represent?

ANSWER: (See Ezek. 37:9; Jn. 3:7-8; Acts 2:2)

4. Genesis 8:4 The Ark rested in the **7th MONTH, 17th DAY**.

Again, notice that God is specifying exact dates. The Jewish people have had 2 calendars—a **civil calendar** which starts at Rosh Hoshana in the Fall in the month known as TISHRI and a **religious calendar** implemented by Moses at God’s instruction starting at Passover in the Spring in the month known as NISAN. Some scholars believe that the “resting” of the Ark in the 7th month, 17th day is the 1st month (NISAN) of the religious calendar. That would mean that the **ARK that foreshadowed Jesus as our ARK of Salvation** came to rest in the month of **Passover** when **Jesus** would be **crucified on the 14th** and **resurrected 3 days later** on the **17th!!!** This would also **be the date** the Israelites would later **cross the Red Sea** which also pictures **SALVATION in Jesus Christ** and His **RED SEA of BLOOD**.

5. Genesis 8: 7- 12 Noah released a **RAVEN**, a bird which feeds on **dead flesh**, and then a **DOVE**. Notice the **Dove** is sent out **3 times** and never returns on the third occasion.

Notice that the periods between sending the dove out are **7 DAYS**. (God loves the number 7!) 

QUESTION: What does the **DOVE** symbolize in the scripture and **WHERE** did the **DOVE** find rest for the sole of her foot in the New Testament?

ANSWER: (See Mat. 3:16) _____

6. Genesis 8: 14 Noah was called **OUT** of the Ark in the **2nd MONTH, 27th DAY**.

TIME SINCE FLOOD BEGAN: 1 YEAR, 10 DAYS.

TIME FAMILY WAS IN ARK (INCLUDES 7 DAYS WAITING): 1 YEAR, 17 DAYS

7. Genesis 8:20-21 Noah built an altar **BEFORE** he built a house!!! God promises that the **FLOOD of JUDGMENT** is a **ONE-TIME event**. **This foreshadows the one and only FLOOD of JUDGMENT upon our sins at the Cross.** Jesus will **NEVER** be crucified again, as is stated in Hebrews:

“...But now **ONCE** in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” (Hebrews 9:26)

8. Genesis 9:3 God now allows the eating of meat, but **NOT** with the **BLOOD**. **WHY?** He is establishing the principle that the “life is in the blood.”

9. Genesis 9:6 Capital punishment.

10. Genesis 9:13 As proof of the **COVENANT with Noah** that never again would a flood destroy all flesh, God put the **RAINBOW** in the cloud. God says in Psalm 89:34 that He does **NOT** break a covenant—that He does **NOT** alter that which comes out of His mouth. In verse 16 of Genesis 9 He says it is an **EVERLASTING COVENANT**. As **PROOF** that the **NOAHIC COVENANT** is still in effect and **IS EVERLASTING**, look at what John sees in the Book of Revelation:

“And immediately I was in the Spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in Heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a **RAINBOW** round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.” (Rev. 4:2-3)



AMAZING!!! John sees a **RAINBOW**, which **ties together the beginning** of it all (Genesis) to the **final culmination** (Revelation). No human intellect could have made such a connection! John was **“in the Spirit”** to receive such spiritual understanding.

QUESTION: What does it mean to be **“in the SPIRIT?”**

ANSWER: _____

11. Genesis 9:20-21 Noah begins his life in husbandry (agriculture, like Adam and Eve) in this newly created earth. He drinks some fermented wine and is drunken—asleep in his tent.
12. Genesis 9:22 **HAM** looked upon his father’s **NAKEDNESS**, then went and told his brothers, **SHEM** and **JAPHETH**. **“NAKEDNESS”** hearkens back to Adam’s and Eve’s realization of **NAKEDNESS** after the Fall in the Garden. The scripture seems to indicate that **HAM told his brothers in ridicule**, maybe mocking his father.

QUESTION: What should **HAM** have done?

ANSWER: _____

13. Genesis 9:23 **SHEM** and **JAPHETH** demonstrated **INTEGRITY** by **HONORING** the position their father held in the family and in the earth. They showed respect for God’s **order of AUTHORITY** in His creation, as well as recognizing that **NAKEDNESS** (especially **NAKEDNESS that represented SIN**) needed **COVERING**. They did **NOT** look upon their father’s nakedness, but walked backward into the tent to **COVER** him with a **GARMENT**.

Interesting that in the original creation, when Adam and Eve **FELL**, **GOD COVERED** them with **coats (garments)** of skins. Now, in the **recreation**, perhaps **SHEM** and **JAPHETH** are **demonstrating the spiritual principle learned from the Garden of Eden: Our NEED for**

God's COVERING when we sin. (For as Godly Noah demonstrated, we've "all sinned and come short of the Glory of God.") This "**GARMENT**" they used could have been made from **skins** of animals, as God had used for the **NAKEDNESS** of Adam and Eve. "**Garment**" can also be translated as "**MANTLE,**" which makes us think about the fiery prophet, **ELIJAH,** who used **HIS MANTLE** to demonstrate the **SPIRIT and POWER of GOD.**

14. Genesis 9:24-25 Noah awakens and knows what Ham had done to him. Noah says, **CURSED** be **CANAAN** (Ham's son) and states that his descendants would largely be a people who **SERVED** others.

Some folks would say, "What kind of grandfather is Noah to **CURSE his own GRANDSON, CANAAN,** who didn't have anything to do with the actions of his father, **HAM?**"

It needs to be understood that God used the status of the patriarch in a family to **speak PROPHETICALLY** and this is what Noah was doing. Noah did not **create** a **CURSE** upon his grandson, **CANAAN.** Noah was **prophetically SEEING the CURSE** that would come because of rejecting God's way. **HAM** had demonstrated an **indifference** to the **spiritual principles**—a lack of respect. He saw no need for a **COVERING!** His actions showed that he **walked after the flesh and not after the spirit.** The Bible says that the **sins of the FATHERS** are visited **upon the children to the 3rd and 4th generation** (Numbers 14:18). This **DOES NOT MEAN** that children of **SINFUL FATHERS** are **DOOMED!!!** It is illustrating the **POWERFUL INFLUENCE** and **CONSEQUENCES of SIN in a family;** that unless the power of sin is broken through someone in a family coming to the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins, the influence and consequences of sins **will continue.** (God even says that when this forgiveness happens in a family, **His Work of Favor and Grace continues for a thousand generations!** However, Jesus taught us that **SIN is a STRONG MAN,** BUT...that **He, Jesus,** is the **STRONGER MAN** who can **BIND the STRONG MAN.** Mark 3:27) Noah foresaw by the Spirit that **Ham's descendants** (for the most part) would be **driven by their flesh nature** as their father Ham had been. This **grandson, CANAAN,** is the father of the descendants known as **CANAANITES.** God would later allow His **chosen people out of SHEM** (specifically, descendants of his son, **ARPHAXAD, that is the HEBREW people**) to conquer and possess the **land known as CANAAN.** Again, God was demonstrating the **spiritual principle** of those representing **HIS SPIRIT conquering** that which is of the **FLESH, FALLEN SIN NATURE.** We, the believers, are like a **SPIRITUAL ISRAEL** which God has empowered through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to **CONQUER CANAAN LAND** that exists **INSIDE OF US—our old FALLEN, SIN NATURE!!!**

15. Genesis 10:2 The sons of **JAPHETH**: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, Tiras

PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THESE SONS' NAMES:

GOMER, MAGOG, TUBAL, MESHECH and the grandson of Japheth, **TOGARMAH**, begotten by Gomer. You will see these names again as representative of nations in a **futuristic, END-TIME battle** in the Book of **Ezekiel**, leading up to **ARMAGEDDON**.

***JAPHETH'S descendants become the peoples who settled ASIA MINOR, ARMENIA, CAUCASUS and EUROPE:**

Russians, Germans, Britons, Scythians, Medes, Ionians, Athenians, Iberians, Muscovites, Thracians. Most Americans are of the lineage of **JAPHETH**.

16. Genesis 10:6 The sons of **HAM**: Cush, Mizraim, Phut, Canaan

As stated above, **CANAAN'S** descendants are the ones who God will command Israel hundreds of years later to conquer. God will give Israel their land.

***HAM'S descendants become the peoples who settled AFRICA and ARABIA:**

Ethiopians, Egyptians, Libyans, Canaanites

17. Genesis 10:8-10 Ham has a **NOTORIOUS grandson, NIMROD** begotten by CUSH. He is a mighty hunter, which demonstrates his **appetite for THE FLESH**. He is a **CARNAL man**, driven by the desires of his **FALLEN FLESH NATURE**. It is **IMPORTANT** to remember that **NIMROD** starts a **KINGDOM** named **BABEL!!!** It is a self-centered, man-driven with “no need for God” Kingdom.

***Remember BABEL. It will become BABYLON and God will use it all throughout the Bible and ending with it in the Book of Revelation with the name BABYLON as symbolizing the world in all its fallen, sin nature—man dominated—in need of JUDGMENT and ERADICATION.**

18. Genesis 10:13-14 Ham has another **NOTEWORTHY** great-grandson, **PHILISTIM**, grandson of Ham's son, MIZRAIM.

QUESTION: Looking at the name **PHILISTIM**, who do you think his descendants will be?

ANSWER: _____

19. Genesis 10:22 The sons of **SHEM**: Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, Aram

IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT!!! The SCARLET THREAD of REDEMPTION!!!

ARPHAXAD is the son of Shem. Out of **ARPHAXAD** will come the Hebrew nation and eventually the **Messiah, JESUS CHRIST**. Notice the **genealogy** in the **New Testament, Luke 3:36**. It is documenting that God made **GOOD** on His ancient prophecies concerning the **lineage of the MESSIAH**.

***SHEM'S descendants become the peoples who settled ASSYRIA, SYRIA, PERSIA (IRAN), NORTHERN ARABIA, MESOPOTAMIA (IRAQ):**

Persians, Assyrians, **Chaldeans/Hebrews (Abraham was called by God out of UR of the CHALDEES, which is the Babylonian area from the tower of BABEL)**, Lidians, Armenians, Syrians.

20. Genesis 11:1 The earth was of **ONE LANGUAGE**.

21. Genesis 11:2 The people are beginning to congregate in the **Kingdom Babel** that the notorious grandson of Ham, **NIMROD**, began. It was in the land of **SHINAR**. This name will be used again in the Bible to denote **absolute REBELLION and WICKEDNESS**. (Zechariah 5:11)

22. Genesis 11:4 The people are **worshipping THEMSELVES!** "It's all about **ME, REALLY.**" They wanted to make a name for themselves with a tower to reach up to **HEAVEN!!!** This was probably an ancient ziggurat where cultic worship of the stars and heavens took place.

Their plan was seriously **FLAWED!** We **CANNOT** get to **Heaven** in our **own EFFORTS!** It's that **doggone sin issue that SEPARATES us** from God and **His HOLY PRESENCE!** Jesus spoke it plainly:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth **NOT** by the door into the sheepfold, but **climbeth up some other way**, the same is a **THIEF** and a **ROBBER.**" (John 10:1)

The people at the Tower of Babel were an illustration of what God does when people try to come into His Presence, into His Holy Heaven, **in rebellion to the WAY** He has given.

23. Genesis 11:6 God had to take charge because the people were in **UNHOLY UNITY**, of **ONE MIND** and **ONE LANGUAGE**.

24. Genesis 11:7-8 God came down and **confounded their language** so they could not understand each other. The people began to speak **DIFFERENT LANGUAGES** or **TONGUES**. This caused the scattering of the nations.

25. Genesis 11:9 It is called **BABEL**, which means **CONFOUNDING, CONFUSING**. It is where we get the word **“BABBLE,”** as in a baby **babbling** or a person babbling incoherently.

The Tower of Babel is a very significant event in Bible prophecy. It is an **ANTITYPE** of what happened on the **Feast Day of PENTECOST** in the Book of Acts when the **Spirit was poured out and the CHURCH was born**. At **Babel** God caused the **different TONGUES or LANGUAGES to DISPERSE SINFUL men** with wicked motives. **At Pentecost**, in the Upper Room, the **outpouring of the HOLY SPIRIT** caused the 120 believers to **speak in TONGUES or LANGUAGES** which spoke to the many people gathered in Jerusalem for the feast from all nations/languages. It was used to **BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER IN CHRIST**. It is a staggering **COUNTERFULFILLMENT** of the **TOWER OF BABEL**.

Are you beginning to believe, if you hadn't already, that this Bible was Authored by God Almighty as He moved upon the pens of the writers?

26. Genesis 11:10-32 The remainder of the chapter **meticulously LAYS OUT** the **BLOODLINE** of the coming **REDEEMER**. It follows from **SHEM**, through his son, **ARPHAXAD**, and eventually gets to **ABRAM** who lives in **UR of the CHALDEES** (the Babylonian area). Abram's father later relocated the family to **HARAN** in anticipation of eventually getting to Canaan.