



Genesis 7& 8 - Answers

7:1-5

1. Can you tell from the passage whether just Noah was "righteous"? Or the whole family?

In my Bible, the NKJV version, it says: "...I (God) have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation". The "you" could be singular, and then refer only to Noah...or it could be plural, and then refer to the whole family.

So, were these 8 people all trusting in God as they entered the ark, or was just Noah? Did they all have faith? Were they all saying words similar to these in their hearts? "Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name. Let Your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, just as we hope in you." (Psalm 33:20-22)

Let's go to some other passages in scripture to see if we can get an answer to this question:

- ⁸ Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: ⁹ "And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants^[a] after you, (Genesis 9:8)
- "...in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water." I Peter 3:19b

I don't think there is a clear answer to this question, but here are my conclusions:

1. Eight people got into the ark. The whole world around them refused to join them. That in itself might lead us to assume they were all people of faith – why else would you leave all common sense behind and do such a foolish-looking thing?
2. God established His covenant with all 8 of them as they stepped of the ark. His covenant was non-conditional – they didn't have to do anything to receive the benefits of His promises as part of this covenant. Would God have offered this covenant to them if they were not people of faith? The answer to that is surprising. This Noahic covenant was not one of promising eternal life – instead, the covenant simply said "Here's the way things will be different for the whole world after the flood." These were promises of God to the earth and all who lived on it and would live on it from that time forward. Many of those would be non-believers, but still God offered and has kept this covenant to all. So this line of reasoning doesn't give us any answer, one way or the other, to our question.

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3. I Peter 3:19 says 8 souls were saved by water. Now we know they were saved from the flood – but they also were a very strong illustration of the future salvation of many people – a salvation from the judgment of God. A salvation which would require a step of faith. This verse convinces me that the family of Noah were not just tagging along with faithful Dad, but were people of faith themselves.

2. Can you “save” your family?

This is why I am asking this question: Too many people in our world today are resting in the fact that they are safe in the circle of God’s love and protection simply because their parents are people of faith. The Bible just doesn’t teach this. Every person must stand before the LORD on their own and answer the question: “Have you believed in Jesus?”

We can pray for our families, talk to our families, influence our families in a hundred different ways. But we cannot save them. We cannot guarantee their position in eternity simply because we are ourselves believers in Him.

3. God commanded Noah to take “by sevens” the male and female of every “clean” animal and “by two” the male and female of all animals that are “unclean”. What is the difference between “clean” and “unclean” animals?

Clean animals would have been OK for eating and for sacrificing. Unclean animals were not OK for either eating or sacrificing, but are still a part of God’s creation and necessary for the functioning of the world. Here are some examples of unclean animals: camel, rabbit, pig, and anything with paws (dog, cat, bear, lion, tiger...etc.).

Noah would have taken extra of the clean animals so that there would be some for eating, some for sacrificing, and some saved for letting loose into the post-ark world so that they could begin to create more animals of their kind.

7:6-16

4. What is the sequence of events? Is the following sequence of events right? If not, what order should they be in? (see the chart on the following page)

Noah & family enter the ark
Animals come to Noah
Rain Begins
Animals enter the ark
7 days pass
Springs come up from the deep
God shuts the door

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Event	Explanation
Noah & family enter the ark	First, Noah and his family enter the ark. Everything is ready.
Animals come to Noah	Then, the animals begin to arrive, 2 by 2, and in 7's.
Animals enter the ark	Then the animals enter the ark. Noah and family get them organized within the ark.
God shuts the door	Once all the animals are in, God shuts the door behind them. At this point, all of Noah's family, and all animals, birds, insects are in the ark.
7 days pass	This had to be really hard for Noah and his family. 7 whole days pass with Noah and family inside the ark, with all those animals. Waiting. Waiting for God to begin the rain and begin the flood. What do you think was going through their minds?
Rain Begins	Now they hear the sound they have been waiting for. They have never heard this sound before. Raindrops hitting the roof of the ark.
Springs come up from the deep	The flood itself begins – not just because of the amount of rain coming down from the heavens, but also because of the waters which flow up from below the earth.

5. Is there significance in the fact that God gave us precise details and exact dates (2nd month, 17th day) when the flood came?

We've seen before that God is a God of details. We see that again. He also seems to be a God of timing. He cares about when things begin and when they end. He plans ahead and appears to be calm and ready for things to start happening. He also asks us to put our timing to the side and be willing to work within his plans.

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6. What is meant by “fountains of the deep”? (11)

I’ve only been a part of one flood in Indiana. We had been having lots of rain for a couple of weeks, as I remember. One Saturday the rain just came and came and came, and the little creek behind our church got so full it couldn’t easily pass under the roadway next to our church. The water began to flood the roadway, then backed up into our church parking lot and across the street it backed up into the little apartments next to the road. People were surprised by the waters which crept into their apartments and then got deeper and deeper. Refrigerators began to float. The people in the apartments scrambled to find ways out of their apartments. Many tried to cross the roadway, where the waters were now at least waist-deep, and made it to our church building, which was a little higher above the waters. The waters got as high as the church doorway, but stopped there.

Ours was a little flood – nobody was seriously injured...they were just scared a little and anxious to get to somewhere safe. It came not just because of the rain, but also because of the waters which had nowhere to go from the creek behind the church, and the water which was already built up in the ground from the previous weeks of precipitation.

“Fountains of the deep” would have been accumulations of waters underground which bubbled up because there was nowhere else to go.

7:17-24

7. Was the flood really worldwide?

The passage seems to include every possible part of the world being covered by the flood.

8. What parallels can be drawn between the ark and Jesus Christ? (Chart is from Nancy Guthrie’s Bible Study on Genesis – “The Promised One” – page 96)

Ark	Christ
The ark was a divine provision of grace (Genesis 6:13-14)	John 3:16, Rev. 13:8
The ark was a refuge from divine judgment (Genesis 6:17-18)	Acts 4:12, Romans 5:9-10
God invited Noah and his family to come into the ark. (Genesis 7:1)	Matthew 11:28, Acts 16:31
The ark was a place of absolute security (Genesis 6:14, 7:16, 8:18-19)	John 10:28, 18:9, Colossians 3:3, I Peter 1:5
The ark bore the judgment of God in the form of the flood (Genesis 7:17-18)	John 12:32-33, I Peter 2:24
All of those outside the ark perished (Genesis 7:21-23)	Acts 13:40-41

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9. What parallels can be drawn between the flood and God's final judgment?

It has been promised. It is coming. It will not wait once it starts. The flood was water. The final judgment will be fire. Those who survive will be the ones who have taken the way of escape offered by God.

10. What were the purposes of the flood?

To cleanse the earth. To give a fresh start. To keep man from totally destroying himself before the Savior could come.

11. What are the purposes of God's final judgment?

To re-make the earth. To give a fresh start. To save mankind out of this world of sin and usher them into the home that will last forever.



When God spoke unto Noah,
And told him build the ark,
The Lord knew well the vessel
Would cheerless be and dark.
So God said "Build a window"
With outlook toward the sky
So when it's dark and lonely
You'll see Me standing by"

The storms may come, but fear not
Oh, Noah I am nigh
And through the open window
You'll see Me standing by.

12. What is our window?

The Bible is our window. Through it we see Jesus standing by in the midst of our storms.

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13. Why did Noah enter the ark?
Why did Noah leave the ark?

These are just 2 simple questions to focus our minds on what is key to the story of Noah: Noah believed in God and trusted God and therefore obeyed God, no matter what. God was the center of this story. And Noah's kind of belief is true belief. No other kind of belief is the kind of belief God requires. Noah was not a perfect man – we're going to see that clearly in Chapter 9 – but he had faith in God, Who is perfect.

14. How do you think Noah and his family felt as they left the ark?

Frightened. Relieved. Excited. Curious. Adventurous.

15. 8:17 What can every living creature now do...now that they are off the ark?

Be fruitful and multiply. The earth needed to be filled again.

16. 8:20 What was the first thing Noah did after he and the animals left the ark? (:20)

Make a sacrifice to God. Why? Because Noah knew the only reason he was alive was because of God. And his whole future was totally dependent on God. And he also knew he didn't deserve a lick of this. So he sacrificed to God, killing innocent animals and shedding their blood so that he would never forget – someday someOne innocent, one of his own descendants, would be the final sacrifice for sin, and would wash away all of his guilt and imperfection forever.

17. How is that similar to your response when you heard of salvation through Jesus?

Very similar indeed. When I realized Jesus had died for me....not just for the whole world, but for me....I was so grateful that I just wanted to give something back to Him for what He had done for me. But I knew I had nothing to offer Him. I knew His sacrifice was priceless – I could never match it. So I just told Him He could have my life, if He wanted it. It wasn't much, but it was all I had.

18. 8:21-22 What promise does God make as Noah comes off the ark?

Never again will He wipe all life from the face of the earth through a flood.

19. Has God kept this promise?

Yes.

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20. Even in the final judgment at the end of times is this promise still in effect?
(Rev. 19)

In the end, God does wipe all unbelieving men from the face of the earth. They die because He judges them for their sin of not believing in Him. But not all men are wiped out, and not all animals are wiped out. And it's not by a flood. It's by fire.

So, yes, God keeps His promise to the end.