BIBLE TOPICS · OLD TESTAMENT

The Flood

Genesis 6–9 · About 2518 B.C.

40 Days	150 Days	8 People	1 Year, 10 Days
Of rain	The waters prevailed	Saved in the ark	In the ark

GENESIS 6–9

The Flood in Nine Scenes

The account moves in nine scenes, with the turning point in the middle: “And God remembered Noah.”

1
A World of Violence
Sin spreads to the whole earth, and God is grieved.
GENESIS 6:1–7

2
Noah Finds Grace
One man walks with God in a corrupt generation.
GENESIS 6:8–10

3
The Ark Is Built
Gopher wood, pitch, three stories, a window and a door.
GENESIS 6:11–22

4
Into the Ark
Eight people and the animals go in, and the LORD shuts the door.
GENESIS 7:1–16

5
The Waters Prevail
Forty days of rain; the mountains are covered.
GENESIS 7:11–24

6
God Remembers Noah
A wind passes over the earth, and the ark rests.
GENESIS 8:1–5

7
The Raven and the Dove
An olive leaf tells Noah new life is growing.
GENESIS 8:6–14

8
Noah’s Altar
Worship first, and God makes a promise.
GENESIS 8:15–22

9
The Bow in the Cloud
God’s covenant with every living creature.
GENESIS 9:1–17

KEY VERSE

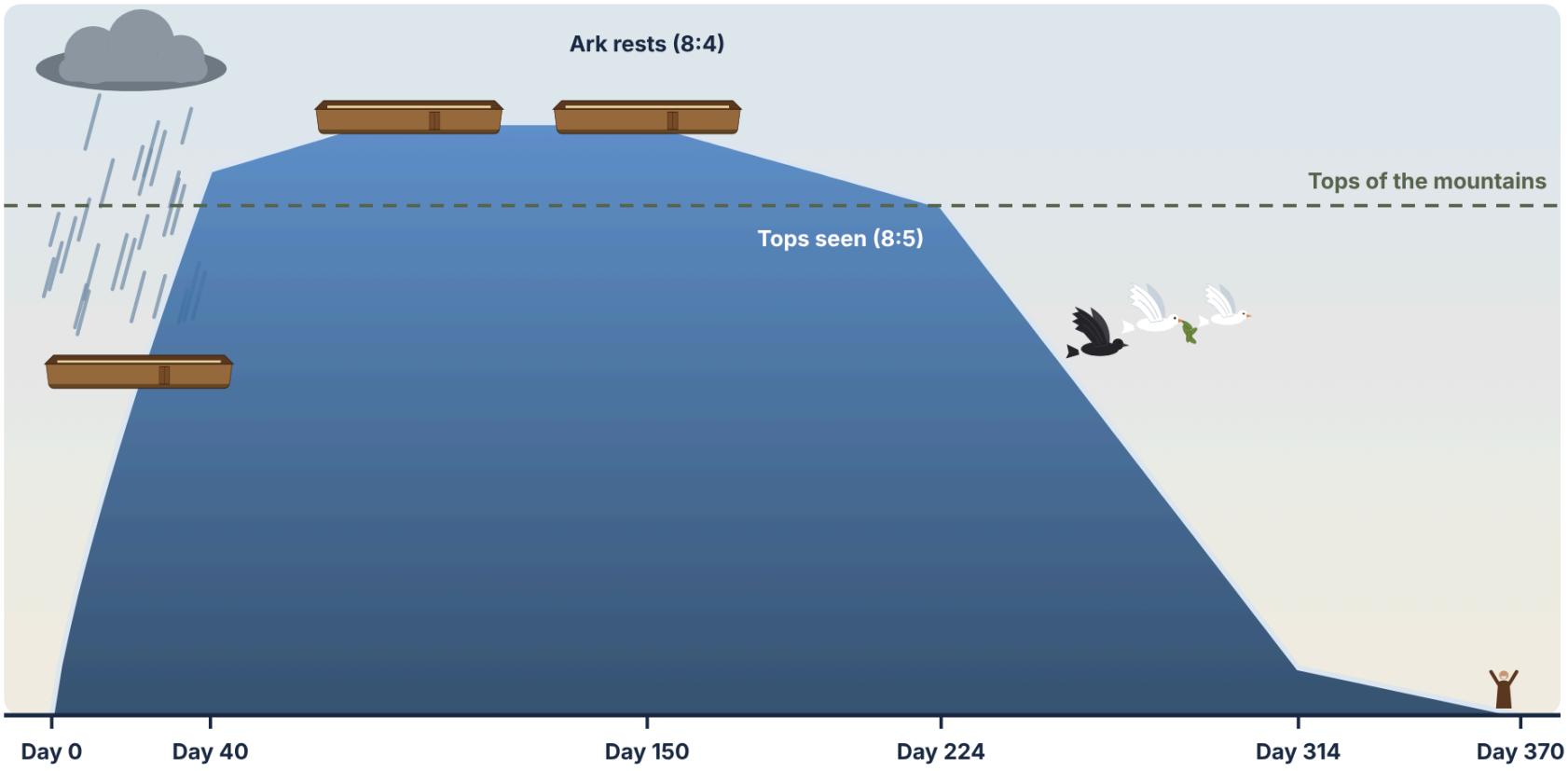
“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”

Genesis 6:8 (KJV)

THE FLOOD AT A GLANCE · PART 2 OF 5

A Year in the Ark

WATER LEVEL OVER THE YEAR (A PICTURE OF GENESIS 7–8, NOT A MEASUREMENT)



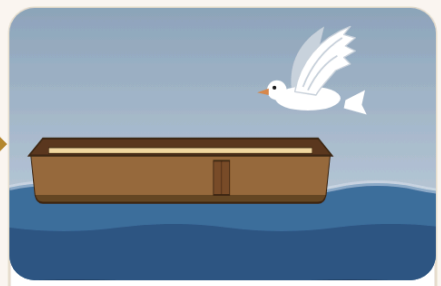
1. **Day 0** The flood begins · 7:11–16
2. **Day 40** The rain ends · 7:12, 17
3. **Day 150** The ark rests · 7:24; 8:3–4
4. **Day 224** Mountain tops seen · 8:5
5. **Day 264** The raven · 8:6–7
6. **Day 271** The dove returns · 8:8–9
7. **Day 278** The olive leaf · 8:10–11
8. **Day 285** The dove stays away · 8:12
9. **Day 314** The covering removed · 8:13
10. **Day 370** Out of the ark · 8:14–16



GENESIS 8:7

The raven

Goes "to and fro" until the waters dry up.



GENESIS 8:9

The dove returns

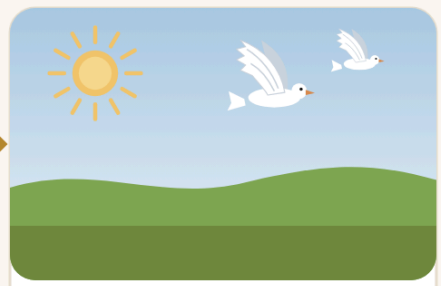
"The dove found no rest for the sole of her foot."



GENESIS 8:11

An olive leaf

"In her mouth was an olive leaf pluckt off."



GENESIS 8:12

Gone for good

The dove "returned not again unto him any more."

BibleStudyForAll.com · Genesis 7:11–8:16 (KJV)

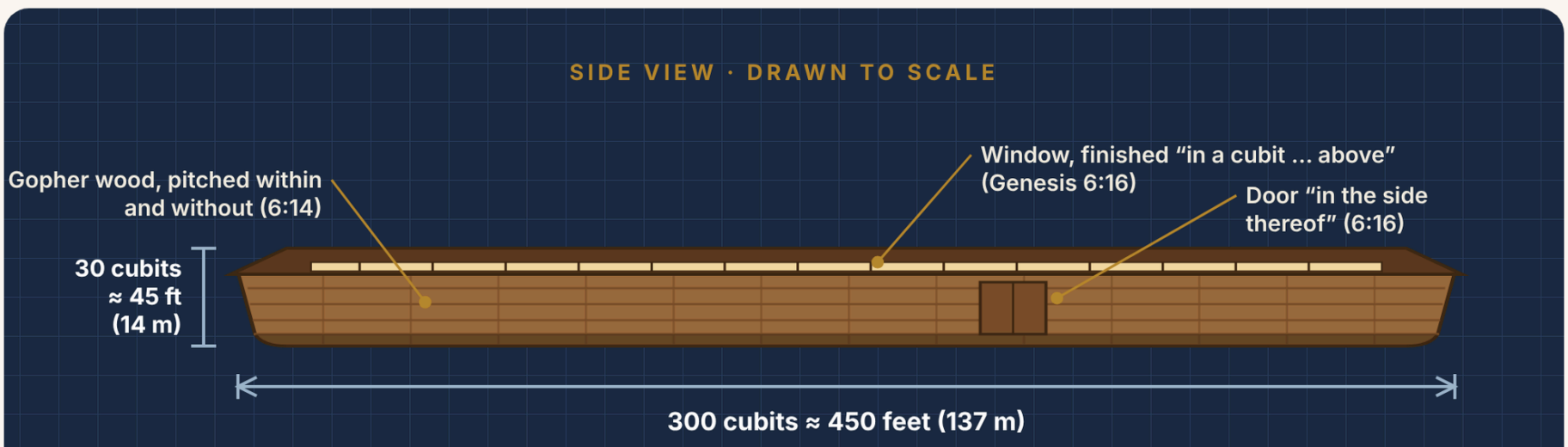
The Ark

GENESIS 6:14–16

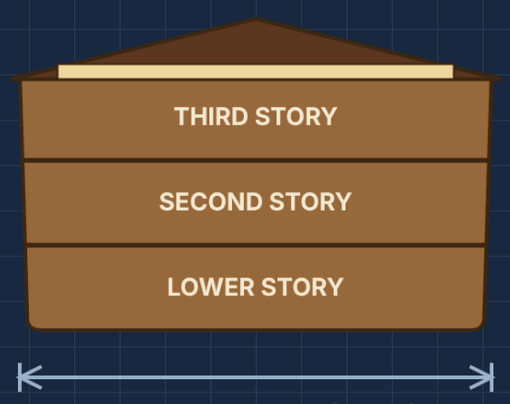
The Ark

God gave Noah the plan in three verses. A cubit is the length from elbow to fingertip, about 18 inches. The ark was a huge wooden barge built to float safely, not to sail anywhere.

SIDE VIEW · DRAWN TO SCALE

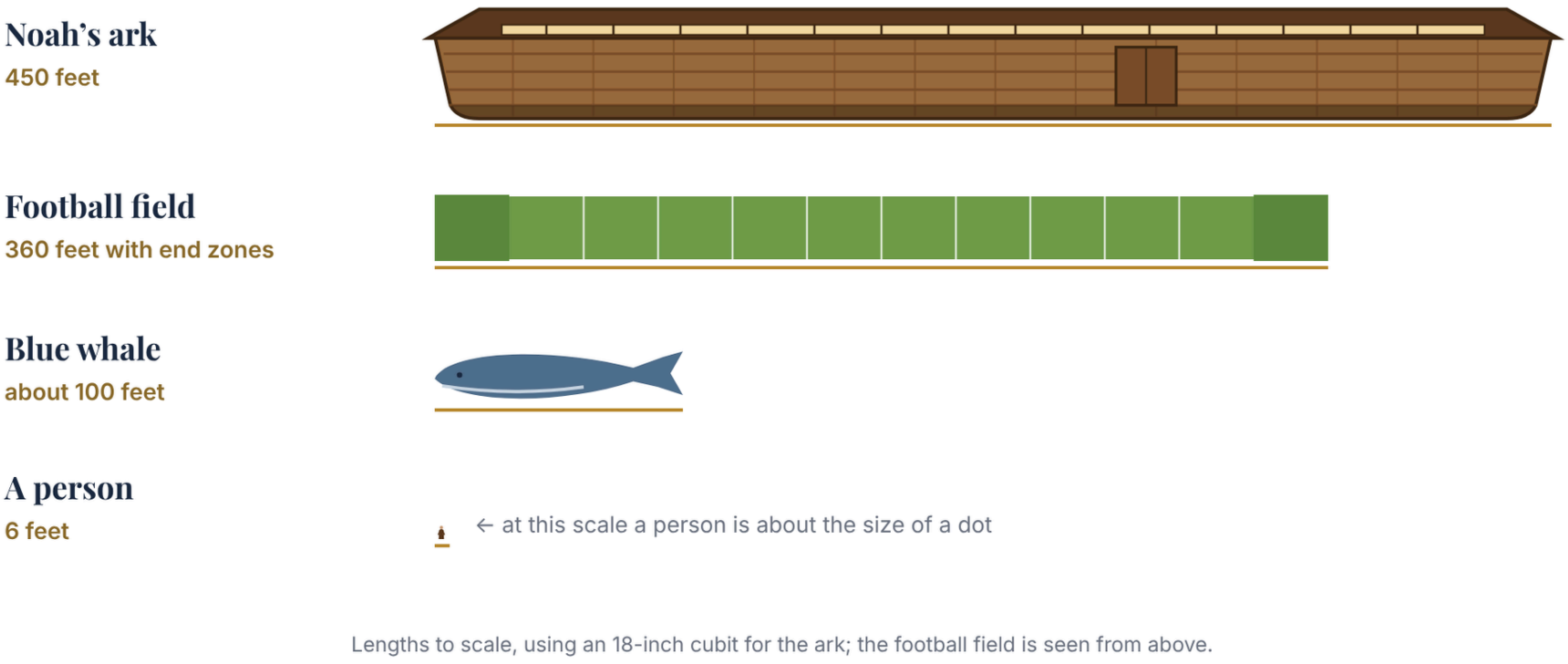


END VIEW · THREE STORIES



Three stories	“With lower, second, and third stories” (6:16)
Rooms	“Rooms shalt thou make in the ark” (6:14), literally nests or compartments
Deck area	About 100,000 square feet over three decks
Volume	About 1.5 million cubic feet, the size of some 500 railroad stock cars
Shape	6 times longer than wide and 10 times longer than tall, a stable, box-like barge built to float, not to sail

A cubit was the length from elbow to fingertip. At about 18 inches the ark is 450 feet long; with a longer royal cubit (about 20.6 inches) it would be about 515 feet.



Lengths to scale, using an 18-inch cubit for the ark; the football field is seen from above.

Lengths to scale, using an 18-inch cubit.

300 CUBITS

Length

About 450 feet (137 m), longer than a football field.

GENESIS 6:15

50 CUBITS

Breadth

About 75 feet (23 m); six times longer than wide.

GENESIS 6:15

30 CUBITS

Height

About 45 feet (14 m), with three stories inside.

GENESIS 6:16

GENESIS 6:14

Gopher Wood and Pitch

Sealed inside and out with pitch.

GENESIS 6:14

GENESIS 6:16

Window and Door

A window above for light and air, and one door in the side.

GENESIS 6:16

GENESIS 7:13

Who Went In

Eight people, two of every kind, and seven pairs of each clean animal.

GENESIS 7:2–3, 13

From Adam to Noah and the Covenant

GENESIS 5

From Adam to Noah

Genesis 5 links Adam to Noah in ten generations. Added together, the ages place the Flood 1,656 years after creation.

FATHER	BORN · LIVED · DIED (YEAR OF THE WORLD)	
Adam	Year 0 · 930 years · died 930	GENESIS 5:3–5
Seth	Year 130 · 912 years · died 1042	GENESIS 5:6–8
Enos	Year 235 · 905 years · died 1140	GENESIS 5:9–11
Cainan	Year 325 · 910 years · died 1235	GENESIS 5:12–14
Mahalaleel	Year 395 · 895 years · died 1290	GENESIS 5:15–17
Jared	Year 460 · 962 years · died 1422	GENESIS 5:18–20
Enoch	Year 622 · 365 years · God took him	GENESIS 5:21–24 · WALKED WITH GOD
Methuselah	Year 687 · 969 years · died 1656	GENESIS 5:25–27 · DIED IN THE FLOOD YEAR
Lamech	Year 874 · 777 years · died 1651	GENESIS 5:28–31
Noah	Year 1056 · 950 years · died 2006	GENESIS 9:28–29 · THE FLOOD: YEAR 1656

Years from creation, from the ages in Genesis 5. Enoch is the one name without “and he died.”

GENESIS 8:20–9:17

God’s Covenant with Noah

The first covenant named in the Bible is made with Noah, his descendants and every living creature. God keeps it by Himself, and it still stands.

GENESIS 8:21

No More Curse

“I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake”

GENESIS 8:21

GENESIS 8:22

Seasons Will Not Cease

“seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”

GENESIS 8:22

GENESIS 9:1

Fill the Earth

“Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.”

GENESIS 9:1

GENESIS 9:6

Life Is Sacred

“for in the image of God made He man.”

GENESIS 9:6

GENESIS 9:11

Never Again a Flood

“neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood”

GENESIS 9:11

GENESIS 9:13

The Bow in the Cloud

“I do set My bow in the cloud”

GENESIS 9:13

The Flood and Jesus

THE REST OF THE STORY

Noah, the Flood, and Jesus

The prophets, Jesus and the apostles all come back to Noah. Jesus used the Flood to warn about His return, and Peter saw the ark as a picture of being saved through Christ.

As the Days of Noe

“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

MATTHEW 24:37

Noah’s Faith

“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house”

HEBREWS 11:7

Eight Souls Saved

“wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”

1 PETER 3:20

A Preacher of Righteousness

“but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness”

2 PETER 2:5

God Keeps His Oath

“For as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth”

ISAIAH 54:9

Jesus, Our Ark

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God”

1 PETER 3:18

FOR TODAY

Five Things to Remember

Read Genesis 6–9 straight through, and notice how the second half mirrors the first as the waters go down.

1

God Hates Sin

The Flood shows that God sees evil, grieves over it and judges it.

GENESIS 6:5–7

2

God Saves by Grace

Noah found grace, and his faith showed in obedience.

GENESIS 6:8, 22

3

One Door of Rescue

Eight people were saved inside the ark.

GENESIS 7:16

4

God Keeps His Promises

The rainbow is the sign that a flood will never again destroy all flesh.

GENESIS 9:11–13

5

It Points to Jesus

His return will come as the Flood did, and He is the ark of safety.

MATTHEW 24:37–39

6

Be Ready

“Therefore be ye also ready”

MATTHEW 24:44

THINK ABOUT IT

Questions for Reflection

Why do you think Genesis says that Noah found grace before it describes his righteousness? What might Noah have faced while building the ark as others watched and doubted? The LORD shut the door: what comfort and what warning are in that line? How can the rainbow strengthen your trust in God’s promises?

KEY THEMES

Six Themes of the Flood

These six truths run through Genesis 6–9.

1

God Judges Sin

He saw that wickedness was great, and it grieved Him at His heart.

GENESIS 6:5–7

2

Grace Comes First

Noah found grace before we are told he was just.

GENESIS 6:8–9

3

Faith Obeys

Noah built the ark for a flood he had never seen.

“Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”

GENESIS 6:22

4

One Way of Rescue

One ark with one door, and the LORD shut it.

GENESIS 7:16

5

God Remembers

God remembered Noah and every creature with him.

GENESIS 8:1

6

God Keeps His Word

The rainbow is God’s sign to every generation.

GENESIS 9:12–16