

Series: Chronologies

Deluge

A chronological study of the great universal flood, its date, and stages, based on the story of the Book of Genesis



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1. General Introduction

The search for knowledge of God and his purpose for man constitutes the most exciting of the adventures that the human mind can propose. The challenge of finding in the holy book that golden thread of the plan of salvation will reward the scholar, who will be able to understand the majesty of the effort of the One who "spared not his own son" (**Romans 8: 32**).

The set of treatises on Bible chronology, of which you have in your hands one of the studies, has been prepared to provide the lay member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with the knowledge required to teach others about how to grow "in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (**2 Peter 3: 18**) as well as to "present defense with meekness and reverence to all who call you to account for the hope that is in you" (**1 Peter 3: 15**).

The author is a regular member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1977, a church elder since 1979, a husband, father, and grandfather, with the joy of having his entire family in "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (**Jude 1: 3**) and who also fully subscribes to the 28 official doctrines of the church.



I reiterate that these treatises have been prepared for the Church member, so he must graduate the dose of knowledge he must transmit to those who are interested in knowing Jesus, whom the prophet calls the "**Desire of Ages**" (**Haggai 2: 7**).

That is why, at the same time, we have also wanted to include complementary material to the chronology that we hope will allow you to broaden your current knowledge, as well as to be prepared to go deeper into "things in which the angels desire to look" (**1 Peter 1: 12**). Your ability to introduce these sub-themes in harmony with the central concepts is key to facilitating the transfer of knowledge that you and I intend.

Since the knowledge of our God and His purposes will be, by the work and grace of the Holy Spirit, always in full development, you will be able to find regular updates of each treatise (see the date yy.mm.dd that accompanies the name of the file). These updates, of course, will also correct some of the human flaws that may have gone unnoticed by the author. On the other hand, your well-intentioned purpose in helping us improve these issues will always be welcome.

2. Structure of the Treatise of Chronology

At the beginning of each treatise, we will present the general structure of the set of these using a numbered block diagram, called the General Treaty Map. This chart (which appears on the following page) will allow you to see where the treatise you have in your hands fits about the other topics. To make it easier to locate, in addition to the numbering, it will be marked in a different color than the others. Collect the topics, update them, and order them in this sequence if you find it useful to your own development of knowledge.

The numbers in each block simultaneously establish the order of creation of these treatises and the logical dependence between them as well. The blocks from number 70 onwards represent, in turn, a set of treatises on that topic. I have grouped them into 6 major themes:

a.	Comparative Religions	Series 70.nn
b.	Chronologies	Series 75.nn
c.	Gospel Harmonies	Series 80.nn
d.	Genealogies	Series 85.nn
e.	Bible Biographies	Series 90.nn
f.	History	Series 95.nn

The reading of these topics will give you the frame of reference to understand the most thematic treaties. These other topics have their own structure that will be related to the one mentioned here.

After the diagram of the whole, you will find a block diagram of the study itself, called the Treaty Map, where you will be able to notice the following

- Each block of the diagram indicates the reference verse or verses at the bottom and a short phrase that corresponds to the logic of its inclusion in the topic.
- You will notice that there are some blocks, with different colored verses, that refer to parables that help to understand the central theme.



- c. Other blocks, which do not contain verses, expose issues that you might touch upon when presenting the study; issues that have a historical, geographical, scientific, technical background, among others. You will find in this study some information that will help you expose these concepts.
- d. These two types of blocks are not necessarily included in all studies.
- e. The arrows indicate the logical sequence in which the author thinks these topics should be presented. The sequence is set from left to right and from top to bottom. However, your own initiative and knowledge of your listeners' needs may point you in a different direction. Let yourself be guided in prayer by the One who cannot err.

After the mentioned map, you will find one or more chronology diagrams that will be discussed in this study.

At the end of this graphic phase, you will find the study in detail, which will follow, as far as possible, the structure of the block diagram. Some complementary materials to the study will be included at the end. I recommend that you read them in advance to find the exact moment to include them in your presentation.

To the extent possible, I have presented the source of some of these topics so that you can extend your understanding by reviewing them. I do not pretend to know everything these sources deal with, so I encourage you to go deeper and tell me how to improve this content. I have included some images found on the Internet to make your reading more enjoyable, I hope you like them.

The written phase of the study will contain:

- a. Headings for the main sub-themes.
- b. Biblical quotations (in red).
- c. Quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy (in green).
- d. Citations from books or articles of diverse authors, intended to extend their knowledge on the subject (in blue).
- e. Comments on the mentioned quotations; in some cases, these will be presented before the quotation, as an anticipation of the statement, while in others they will be placed afterward as a confirmation of the concept being held (in black).
- f. Maps, chronograms, genealogies, and other diagrams when appropriate to the subject matter.
- g. Complementary material is grouped in a section that helps to understand some of the aspects that could arise when dealing with the central theme with other people. Not all topics necessarily contain this material.

Unless otherwise indicated, the quotes from the Holy Bible are from King James Modern Version, my favorite in English. Sometime I will include other versions to compare or expand the understanding of a text.

When you develop a Bible study on this subject with people outside the Church, I recommend that you use the section corresponding to the study (with the verses included in the block diagram) without presenting the statements of the Spirit of Prophecy. Comment on the accompanying materials as they come up in the exposition, as well as in the question-and-answer phase.

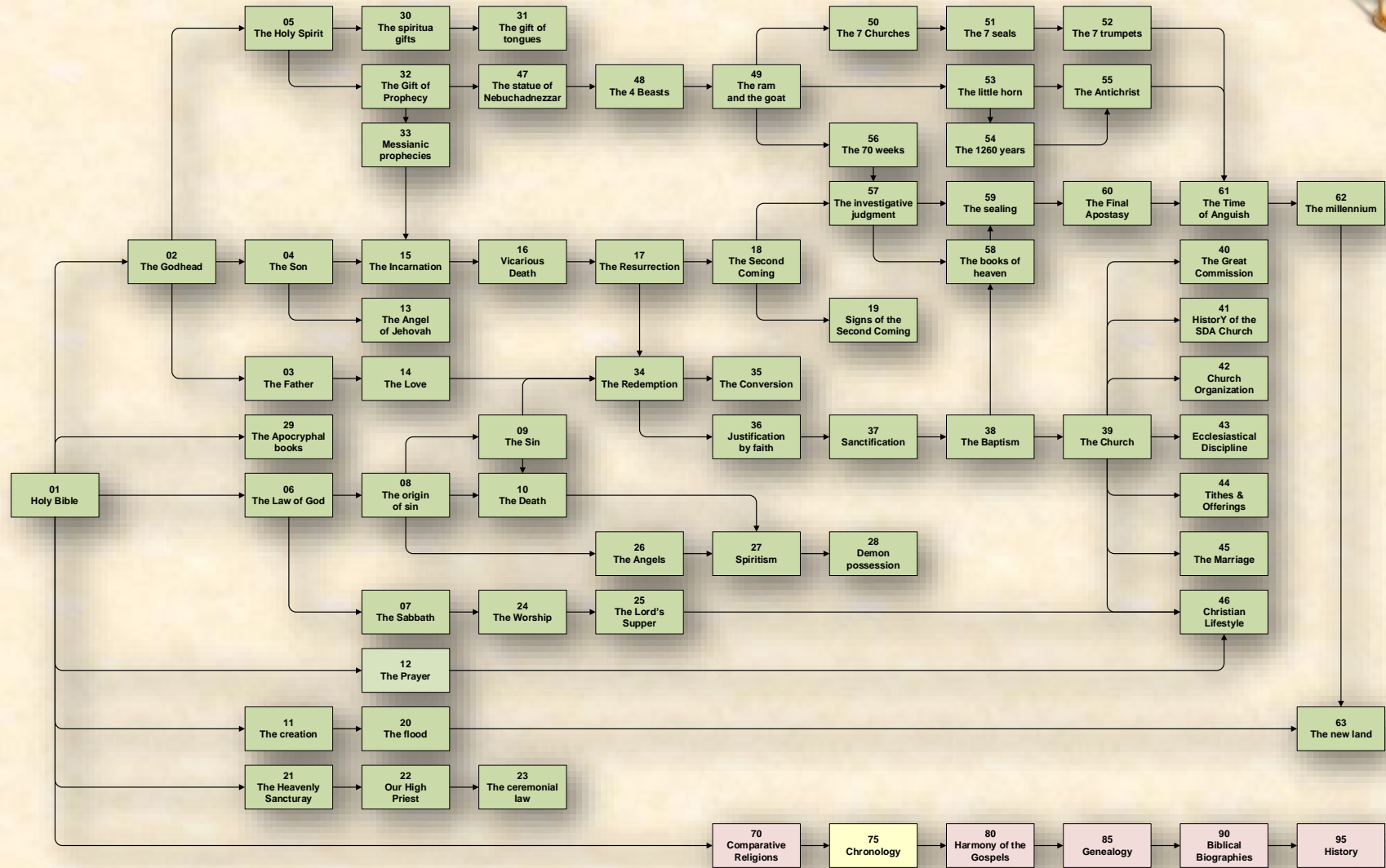
I have also prepared a file that includes all of the block diagrams from the treatises so that they will be helpful to your memory when presenting the topic. I have also created a file with a copy of all the contents of the treatises so that you can review them without opening each of the documents, in case you are looking for a specific subtopic.

Allow me, as I have done up to now, to address you personally during the study. I believe that this is how our Savior spoke to those He loved and wanted to save. Surely you will do the same with those who listen to you for this purpose.

This is a free material that surely has come to you by someone who appreciates it and wants you to know even more about Jesus and His wonderful plan of salvation. Spread it in the same way, for "freely you have received, freely you give" (Matthew 10: 8).

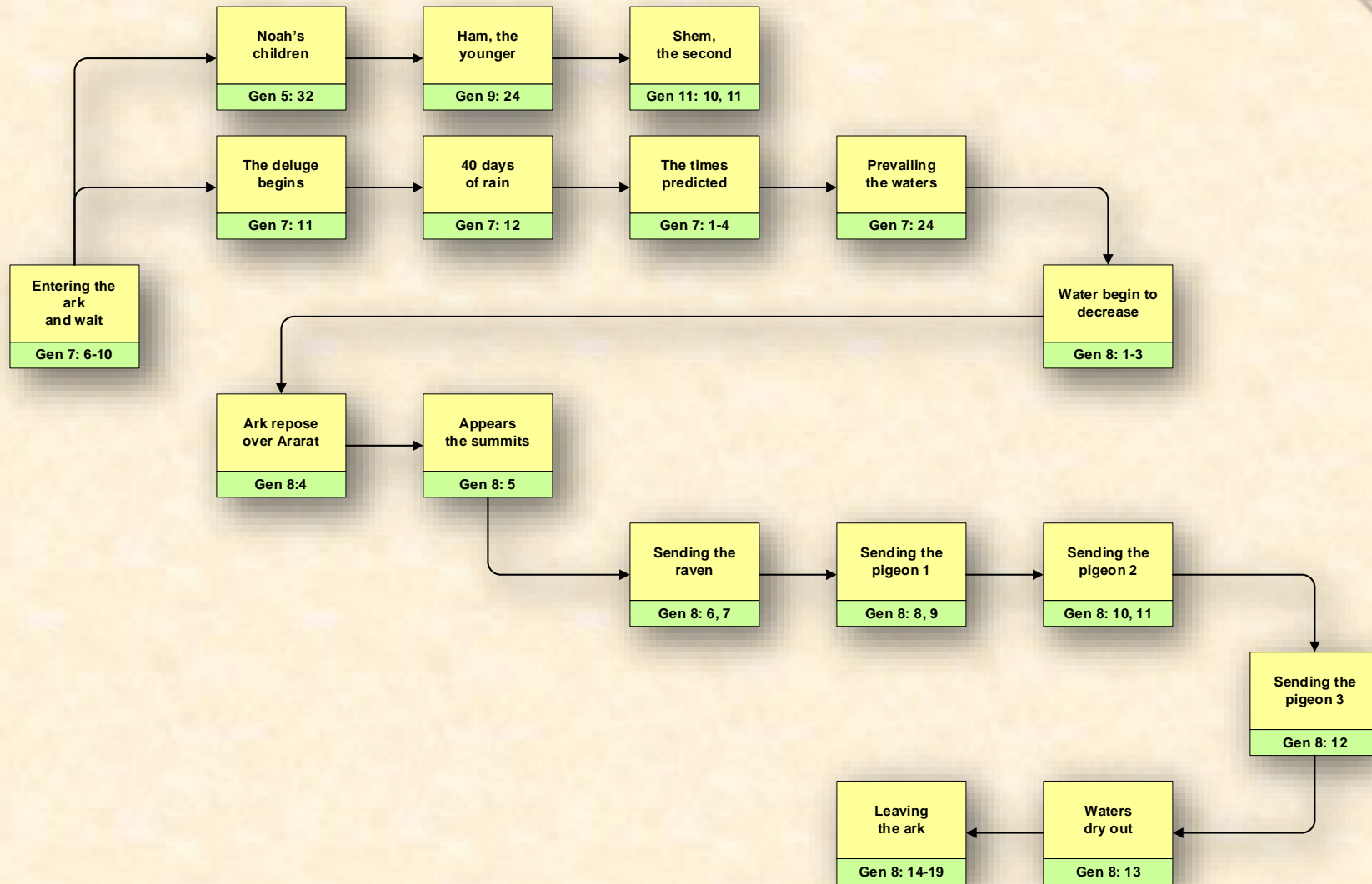


3. General Treatise Map



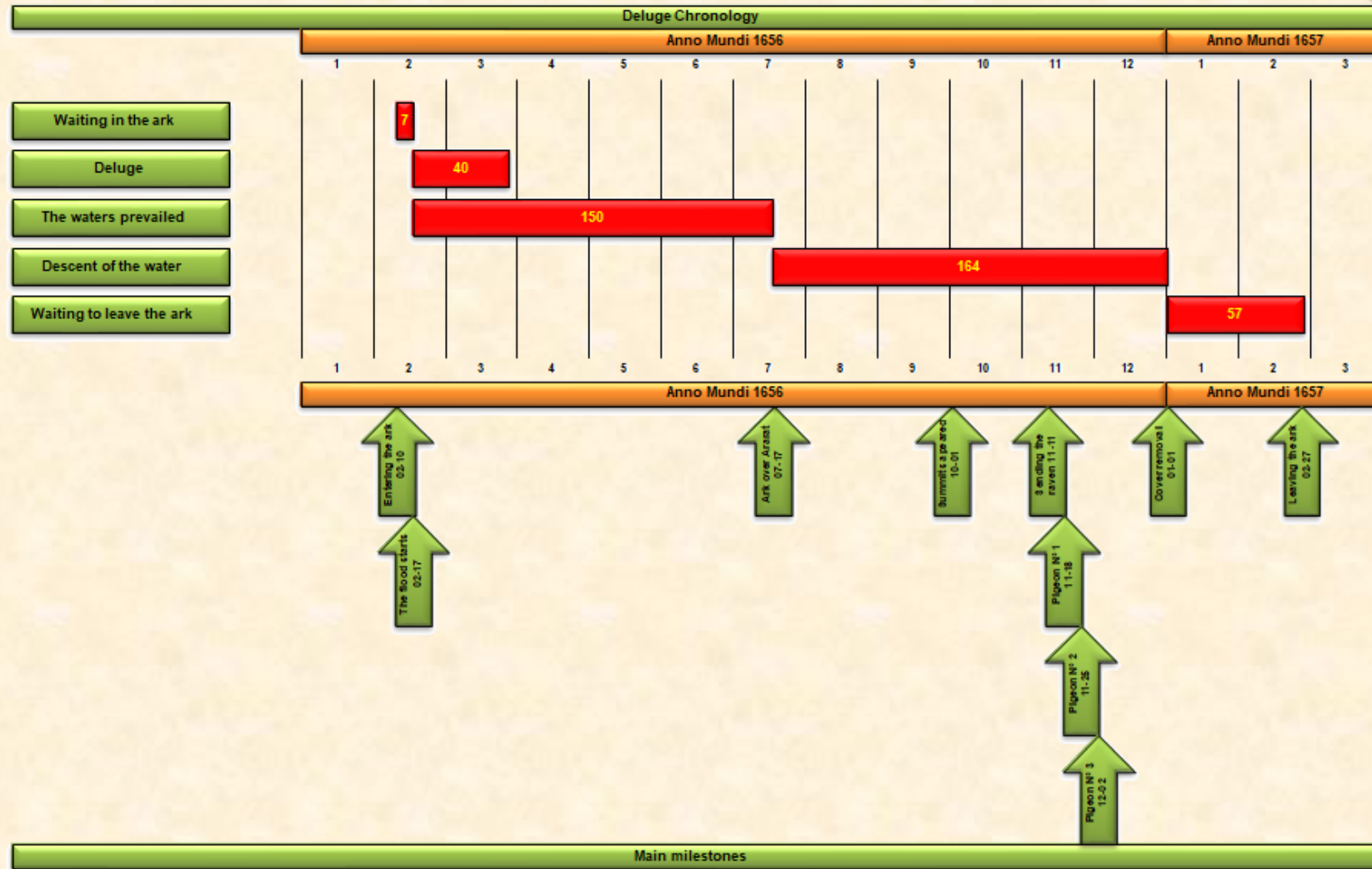


4. Treatise Map





5. Chronology Diagram





6. Purpose of the Treatise

The purpose of the treaty is as follows:

- a. To present the chronology of the flood in its various stages.
- b. To fix the events that occurred during the flood.
- c. To provide background information on the flood.
- d. Establish the relative ages of Noah's children.

7. Development of the theme

7.1. The Flood Process

The story of the flood is presented mainly in chapters 7 and 8 of the book of Genesis. In a previous study, we have fixed the approximate date of the flood: 1656 AM.

I would like you to note that the flood began 7 days after Noah and his family had entered the ark.

And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. And Noah went in. And his sons and his wife and his sons' wives went in with him into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. Of the clean animals, and of the animals that were not clean, and of the fowls, and of everything that creeps on the earth, two by two they went in to Noah into the ark, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. And it happened after seven days that the waters of the flood came into being on the earth.



Genesis 7: 6-10

For seven days after Noah and his family entered the ark, there appeared no sign of the coming storm. During this period their faith was tested. It was a time of triumph to the world without. The apparent delay confirmed them in the belief that Noah's message was a delusion, and that the Flood would never come. Notwithstanding the solemn scenes which they had witnessed... they still continued their sport and revelry, even making a jest of these signal manifestations of God's power. They gathered in crowds about the ark, deriding its inmates with a daring violence which they had never ventured upon before.

At the end of seven days clouds began to gather. This was a new sight; for the people had never seen clouds... Soon rain began to fall. Still the people tried to think that this was nothing very alarming... For a time the ground drank up the rain; but soon the water began to rise, and day by day it rose higher and higher. Each morning as the people found the rain still falling they looked at one another in despair, and each night they repeated the words, "Raining still!"

Ellen G. White, Conflict and Courage, 40

For seven days after Noah and his family entered the ark, there appeared no sign of the coming storm. During this period their faith was tested. It was a time of triumph to the world without. The apparent delay confirmed them in the belief that Noah's message was a delusion, and that the Flood would never come. Notwithstanding the solemn scenes which they had witnessed—the beasts and birds entering the ark, and the angel of God closing the door—they still continued their sport and revelry, even making a jest of these signal manifestations of God's power. They gathered in crowds about the ark, deriding its inmates with a daring violence which they had never ventured upon before.

Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, 98, 99

Noah had three children, who entered the ark with their wives and Noah's wife. A total of 8 people. The analysis of some verses allows us to determine the relative ages of the patriarch's children. The following



verse seems to suggest that they were triplets since it seems to indicate that they were all born together. If from other verses we know that they are not triplets, the eldest was likely born when Noah was 500 years old.

And Noah was five hundred years old. And Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Genesis 5: 32

When the episode of Noah's drunkenness is narrated, and the mockery that Ham made of it, it is mentioned that this was the minor. It is not possible to determine the date of birth, nor the death of Ham and Japheth.

And Noah awoke from his wine, and came to know what his younger son had done to him.

Genesis 9: 24

However, it can be determined that Shem was 100 years old when he had his son Arphaxad, who was born 2 years after the flood. So, Shem must have been the second and was born in the year 502 of Noah's life (1558 AM). Therefore, Japheth was the oldest and should have been born at 1556 AM, so he would have been 100 years old when the flood happened.

These are the generations of Shem. Shem was a hundred years old and fathered Arpachshad two years after the flood. And after he fathered Arpachshad, Shem lived five hundred years. And he fathered sons and daughters.

Genesis 11: 10, 11

The date of the beginning of the rain is provided, seventeen days of the second month, so it is possible to know that obviously, the entrance to the ark would have ended on the 10th of the same month. The fixing of the dates is done by assuming a month of 30 days and a year of 12 months.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, in the seventeenth day of the month, in this day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of the heavens were opened up.

Genesis 7: 11



Adding 40 days that the rain lasted and the irruption of "all the fountains of the great depth", we have that the flood (in its active part) ended on the 27th day of the third month.

And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

Genesis 7: 12

It is interesting to note that this period of 40 days of rain as well as the 7 days of waiting had been prophesied by God shortly before the animals and men entered the ark. So even during the terrifying wait before as well as during the terrible and

tumultuous 40 days Noah and his family could wait for the fulfillment of God's plan.

And Jehovah said to Noah, You and all your house come into the ark, for I have seen you righteous before Me in this generation. You shall take with you every clean animal by sevens, the male and female. And take two of the animals that are not clean, the male and female. Also take of the fowls of the air by sevens, the male and the female, to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth. For in seven more days I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights. And I will destroy from off the face of the earth every living thing that I have made.

Genesis 7: 1-4

The context of the other verses allows us to indicate that the 150 days of the prevalence of the waters include the 40 days of rain as we will see later. Therefore, it is not 150 days after the rain stopped, but since the beginning of the flood.

And the waters prevailed upon the earth a hundred and fifty days.

Genesis 7: 24

The period of one hundred and fifty days mentioned in the following quote is clearly the same as in **Genesis 7: 24**.

And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle which were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. Also the fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and rain from heaven was restrained. And the



waters returned from off the earth continually. And after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters had gone down.

Genesis 8: 1-3

The key to ensuring all this is the following verse; pointing out that on the seventeenth day of the seventh month, the ark, as the waters receded, landed on the Ararat Mountains, an area in present-day Armenia. This is 5 exact months (of 30 days each, one more reason to sustain the assumption of 30-day months) after the beginning of the rain.

And in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat.

Genesis 8: 4

After 40 days the mountain peaks were discovered with the sustained decrease of the waters.

And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. And the tops of the mountains were seen in the tenth month on the first day of the month.

Genesis 8: 5

Forty days after the ark landed on the mountain, Noah sent a raven that kept coming and going until the waters dried up.

And it happened, at the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. And he sent forth a raven, and it went out, going out and returning until the waters were dried up from off the earth.

Genesis 8: 6, 7



The following verse seems to suggest that the dove was sent at the same time as the raven. Ellen G. White's account says that it happened 7 days after he sent the raven, which seems to me to be logical as well. If the raven returned time after time, it would not be logical to have sent the dove at that very moment. He sent her a second time 7 days later, returning with the olive branch, and then a third time after another 7 days and she did not return.

He also sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had gone down from off the face of the earth. But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot. And she returned to him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. Then he put out his hand and took her, and pulled her in to him into the ark.

Genesis 8: 8, 9

And he waited yet another seven days. And again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. And the dove came in to him in the evening. And, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf plucked off. So Noah knew that the waters had gone down from off the earth.

Genesis 8: 10, 11

Forty days after the tops of the mountains became visible, they sent out a raven, a bird of quick scent, to discover whether the earth had become dry. This bird, finding nothing but water, continued to fly to and from the ark. Seven days later a dove was sent forth, which, finding no footing, returned to the ark. Noah waited seven days longer, and again sent forth the dove. When she returned at evening with an olive leaf in her mouth, there was great rejoicing.

Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, 105

And he waited yet another seven days, and sent forth the dove. And she did not return again to him any more.

Genesis 8: 12

The story sets the date when Noah was able to remove the cover of the ark and see the dry land.

And it happened in the six hundred and first year, at the beginning, on the first of the month, that the waters were dried up from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked. And, behold, the face of the earth was dried!

Genesis 8: 13

They still had to wait a few more days until the earth was dry enough and God authorized them to leave.

And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. And God spoke to Noah, saying, Go out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and your sons' wives



with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you, of all flesh, of fowl, of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth, so that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful and multiply upon the earth. And Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. Every animal, every fowl, and every creeping thing, all which creeps upon the earth after their families, went forth out of the ark.

Genesis 8: 14-19

7.2. Chronology

Based on all this record it is possible to calculate the duration of the main events according to the following table:

Flood Phase	Duration in days	Total duration	Phase start	Phase End	Initial date		Final date	
					Month	Day	Month	Day
Waiting in the ark	7	7	0	7	2	10	2	17
Deluge	40	47	7	47	2	17	3	27
The waters prevail	150	157	7	157	2	17	7	17
Descent of the water	164	321	157	321	7	17	1	1
Waiting to leave the ark	57	378	321	378	1	1	2	27

The data in green is obtained directly from the biblical information while the complementary calculations based on it appear in black. Note that the second event (the rain stage and the total shock) is included within the period of the third (the prevalence of water), so you see that they are not added to the table.

You will have noticed that the chronology is defined based on the Anno Mundi era (AM or year of the world) which is understood to have started from creation. It is possible, based on other chronologies, to draw a parallel between that era and the AC/DC era we are familiar with. There is, however, as is to be expected, a greater margin of error as we move back to the protohistoric time.

By referring in the Holy Bible to the months and days in which some of the key events begin or end, it is easy to determine the length of the total process of the flood: that is, from the entrance to the exit of the ark. The duration is 378 days, (one year and 18 days, inclusive) which represents exactly 54 weeks. It also allows us to notice that the months were periods of 30 days, this is especially clear, as we have already mentioned, because of the time that the waters prevail over the earth.

The date of the beginning of the deluge is the year 1656 AM (according to what we have studied in the treatise on the chronology of the antediluvian patriarchs). Therefore, the total process of the flood ended the following year 1657 AM.

The definition of the day until when the waters prevail allows us to verify that the periods of 40 and 150 days were simultaneous, that is to say, both begin with the beginning of the fall of the rain.

7.3. Conclusions

The chronology allows us to draw the following conclusions:

- The total process of the flood lasted 378 days or 54 weeks.
- The actual rainfall time was 40 days, a little over 10% of the entire time.
- At the beginning of the flood, Japheth would be 100 years old, while his brother Shem would be 98 years old. It is not possible to define the age of Ham, the youngest, although it is possible to assume that he was a few years younger than Shem.





d. There was no birth of children during the flood as confirmed in the following verses:

In this same day, Noah and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, entered into the ark.

Genesis 7: 13

Go out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and your sons' wives with you.

Genesis 8: 16

Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

Genesis 10: 1

to disobeying ones, when once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared (in which a few, that is, eight souls were saved through water);

1 Peter 3: 20

e. Assuming that Noah and his family entered the ark on the first day of the week

- The flood began at the end of the hours of the first Sabbath in the ark.
- He would also have sent the raven and three times the dove on four consecutive Sabbath days.
- The cover of the ark would have been removed on Sabbath, the first day of the year 1657 AM.
- Besides, eight people left the ark on a beautiful Sabbath crowned by a rainbow.

God bless you.

