

Mini Study

The Flood

The following outlines the length of time that elapsed during the flood. Although most people characterize the flood as lasting only 40 days and 40 nights, the total elapsed time that Noah and his family were in the ark is considerably longer. Below is a description of events pertaining to the flood. To the right of each event are the number of days that elapsed. As this chronology clearly indicates, Noah was in the ark for over one year.



Chronology of the Flood

There were forty days during which the rain fell	40
Throughout another 110 days, the waters continued to rise, making 150 days in all for their "prevailing." (Gen. 7:24)	110
The waters occupied 74 days in their "going and decreasing" (AV margin). This was from the 17	74
Forty days elapsed before Noah sent out the raven (Gen. 8:6-7)	40
Seven days elapsed before Noah sent out the dove for the first time (Gen. 8:8). This period is necessary for reaching the total and is given by implication from the phrase "other seven days" (Gen. 8:10)	7
Seven days passed before sending out the dove for the second time. (Gen. 8:10)	7
Seven days passed before the third sending of the dove (Gen. 8:12)	7
Up to this point, 285 days are accounted for, but the next episode is dated the 1 st of the month in the 601 st year. From the date in Gen 7:11 to this point in Gen. 8:13 is a period of 314 days; therefore, an interval of 29 days elapses	29
From the removal of the covering of the Ark to the very end of the experience was a further 57 days (Gen. 8:14)	57
Total	371

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The Size of Noah's Ark

Most people fail to grasp the tremendous size of Noah's ark because they don't understand its measurements (see Gen. 6:14-16). Estimates on the size of a cubit range from 18 to 25 inches.

Size based on a 18" cubit

Length: 450 feet
 Width: 75 feet
 Height: 45 feet
 Displacement: 35 to 43 thousand tons

Size based on a 21" cubit

Length: 525 feet (a 45-story building)
 Width: 87 feet, 6 inches
 Height: 52 feet, 6 inches
 Displacement: 40 to 50 thousand tons

Size based on a 25" cubit

Length: 625 feet
 Width: 104 feet
 Height: 63 feet
 Cubic feet: 3,600,000
 Carrying capacity: 25 trains (each with 52 cars)
 Three decks: 38 college basketball courts

Consider how long it took to build the ark:
 120 years (Gen. 6:3)