

Genesis 7:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the... This passage belongs to the primeval history section (Genesis 1-11) which establishes universal truths about God, humanity, sin, and divine purposes before focusing on Abraham and Israel. These chapters answer fundamental questions about human origins, the spread of wickedness, God's judgment, and the preservation of a righteous remnant.

Recurring patterns emerge: human sin escalating from individual disobedience to societal corruption, divine patience followed by judgment, gracious preservation of a remnant, and covenant promises ensuring redemptive purposes continue. The genealogies connect historical persons, demonstrate the fulfillment of divine promises (blessing and multiplication), and trace the line leading to Abraham and ultimately Christ.

Key theological themes in this section include:

1. sin's destructive progression affecting all humanity
2. God's righteous judgment while preserving mercy
3. human pride and autonomy opposing divine sovereignty
4. cultural development as both blessing and potential idolatry
5. God's sovereign plan advancing despite human rebellion.

These narratives provide the necessary context for understanding God's calling of Abraham and the covenant promises through which all nations will be blessed.

Historical Context

The primeval history (Genesis 1-11) parallels ancient Near Eastern traditions including Sumerian King Lists (pre-flood longevity), Akkadian flood traditions (Atrahasis, Gilgamesh), and Mesopotamian city foundation myths. However, Genesis demythologizes these traditions, presenting monotheistic history rather than polytheistic mythology. The genealogies connecting Adam to Noah to Abraham provide historical framework absent in pagan myths.

Archaeological evidence confirms ancient urbanization (chapter 4's cities), agricultural development, metallurgy, and musical instruments emerging in Mesopotamia's early history. The Babel account reflects Mesopotamian ziggurat construction (stepped pyramid temples), particularly in Babylon. Linguistic diversity requiring explanation was obvious to ancient peoples, making the Babel narrative culturally relevant.

For Israel in covenant with Yahweh, these chapters explained their relationship to surrounding nations. All peoples descended from Noah, but Israel descended from Shem through Abraham—chosen for blessing all nations. The flood demonstrated God's justice and mercy: judging wickedness while preserving the righteous. This pattern would recur throughout Israel's history, assuring them that God's covenant faithfulness endures despite judgment on the wicked.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does understanding this verse shape our doctrine of humanity, sin, or salvation?
2. What obstacles prevent us from living out the truths presented in this verse?
3. In what ways does this narrative foreshadow or typify aspects of Christ's redemptive work?

Interlinear Text

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|------------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| בָּשָׁנָה | שְׁנִית | לְחַדֵּשׁ | בְּשָׁנָה | מֵאַת | לְמִינְיָה | נִצְחָה | שְׁנִית | בָּשָׁנָה | שְׁנִית | לְחַדֵּשׁ | בְּשָׁנָה | שְׁנִית |
| In | the six | hundredth | In | life | of Noah's | month | in the second | | | | | |
| H8141 | H8337 | H3967 | H8141 | H2416 | H5146 | H2320 | H8145 | | | | | |
| בְּשְׁבָעָה | רַעַם | עַשְׁרֵה | לְחַדֵּשׁ | בַּיּוֹם | לְחַדֵּשׁ | בַּיּוֹם | הַזֶּה | בַּיּוֹם | הַזֶּה | בְּשְׁבָעָה | רַעַם | בְּשְׁבָעָה |
| the seventeenth | | H6240 | day | month | day | the same | broken up | | | | | H3605 |
| H7651 | | H3117 | H2320 | H3117 | H2088 | H1234 | | | | | | |
| מְעִינָת | וּמְתָה | וּמְתָה | בְּהַזְּבֵבָת | בְּהַזְּבֵבָת | בְּהַזְּבֵבָת | וּמְתָה | וּמְתָה | וּמְתָה | וּמְתָה | מְעִינָת | מְעִינָת | |
| were all the fountains | deep | of the great | and the windows | of heaven | | | | | | | | |
| H4599 | H8415 | H7227 | H699 | H8064 | | | | | | | | |
| נִפְתָּחוּ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| were opened | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H6605 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 8:2 (Parallel theme): The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained;

Malachi 3:10 (Parallel theme): Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Jeremiah 5:22 (Parallel theme): Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?

Jeremiah 51:16 (Parallel theme): When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens; and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth: he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.

2 Kings 7:19 (Parallel theme): And that lord answered the man of God, and said, Now, behold, if the LORD should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

Psalms 33:7 (Parallel theme): He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.

Genesis 1:7 (Parallel theme): And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

Ezekiel 26:19 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the Lord GOD; When I shall make thee a desolate city, like the cities that are not inhabited; when I shall bring up the deep upon thee, and great waters shall cover thee;

2 Kings 7:2 (Parallel theme): Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

Isaiah 24:19 (Parallel theme): The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly.