

# Genesis 7:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.

## Analysis

---

**Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that ...** 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

---

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

---

1. How does this verse deepen our understanding of God's character and His relationship with creation?
2. What specific changes in thinking or behavior does this verse call us to make?
3. How does this passage point forward to Christ and the gospel of redemption?

## Interlinear Text

---

מִכָּל לַחַי הַטָּהוֹר H3605	וּמִכָּל הַבְּהֵמָה הַטָּהוֹר H929	וּמִכָּל הַחַי הַטָּהוֹר H2889	וּמִכָּל הַחַי הַטָּהוֹר H3947	וּמִכָּל הַחַי הַטָּהוֹר H0	וּמִכָּל הַחַי הַטָּהוֹר H7651
וּמִכָּל הַחַי הַטָּהוֹר H7651	וּמִכָּל הַחַי הַטָּהוֹר H376	וּמִכָּל הַחַי הַטָּהוֹר H802	וּמִכָּל הַחַי הַטָּהוֹר H4480	וּמִכָּל הַחַי הַטָּהוֹר H929	וּמִכָּל הַחַי הַטָּהוֹר H834
וּמִכָּל הַחַי הַטָּהוֹר H2889	וּמִכָּל הַחַי הַטָּהוֹר H1931	וּמִכָּל הַחַי הַטָּהוֹר H8147	וּמִכָּל הַחַי הַטָּהוֹר H376	וּמִכָּל הַחַי הַטָּהוֹר H802	

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Genesis 8:20** (Parallel theme): And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

**Leviticus 10:10** (Parallel theme): And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;

**Genesis 7:8** (Parallel theme): Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth,