

The Noah Cycle (Genesis 6:9-11:9)
Genesis: The Foundations of Our Faith
March 17, 2024

1. The Adam Cycle (Review & Cont.)

A. Genesis 5:1-32 – bad news & good news

B. Genesis 6:1-8 – on demons & giants

2. Opening Prayer

3. The Structure of the Noah Cycle (Gen. 6:9-11:9)

I. “These are the Generations of Noah” (6:9-9:29)

A. Genealogy: Noah’s (Good) Character & Three Sons (6:9-10)

B. Narrative: The Flood – God Judges the World but Remembers Noah (6:11-9:17)

A’. Genealogy: Noah’s (Bad) Character & Three Sons (9:18-29)

II. “These are the Generations of Noah’s Sons” (10:1-11:9)

A. Genealogy: The Table of Nations (10:1-32)

B. Narrative: The Tower of Babel (11:1-9)

4. Content of the Noah Cycle

A. The Flood Story (Gen. 6:11-9:17):

1. Overview of the Flood Story

2. Themes from the Flood Story:

a. God’s Faithfulness to His Covenant

A. God pledges to destroy all flesh (6:13)

B. The Flood will destroy all flesh (6:17)

C. Covenant for Noah’s family/animals (6:18-20)

D. Food for animals during the Flood (6:21)

E. Command to enter the ark (7:1-5)

F. Noah’s 600th year – flood begins (7:6)

G. Birds enter the ark (7:8)

H. 7 days waiting for the Flood (7:10)

I. Rain on the earth (7:12)

J. Birds enter the ark (7:14)

K. Yahweh shuts Noah in (7:16)

L. 40 days of floodwaters (7:17a)

M. Waters increase (7:17b-18)

N. Mountains covered (7:19-20)

O. 150 days – waters prevail (7:24)

P. GOD REMEMBERS NOAH (8:1)

O’. 150 days – waters abate (8:3)

N’. Mountain tops visible (8:4-5)

M’. Waters abate (8:5)

L’. 40 days of water receding (8:6a)

K’. Noah opens the window of the ark (8:6b)

J’. Raven, dove leave the ark (8:7-8)

I’. Water on the earth (8:9)

H’. 7 days waiting for the waters to subside (8:10)

G’. Dove leaves the ark (8:7-8)

F’. Noah’s 601st year – earth dries (8:13)

E’. Command to leave the ark (8:15-19)

D’. Animals become food after the Flood (9:1-4)

C’. Covenant for Noah’s family/animals (9:8-10)

B’. No Flood will destroy all flesh (9:15)

A’. God pledges to preserve all flesh (9:17)¹

¹The above chart is adapted from Gordon Wenham, “The Coherence of the Flood Narrative,” and Joshua Bermann, *Inconsistency in the Torah: Ancient Literary Convention and the Limits of Source Criticism*, 261.

b. God's New Creation

- Multiples of seven
- Parallels with six days of creation

c. The Weight of God's Judgment

d. The Gravity of God's Grace

- Noah's unworthiness (6:8; cf. also 9:18-29 below)
- 100-year window for repentance (6:3; 1 Pet. 3:20; 2 Pet. 2:5)
- Man's wickedness both *before* (6:5) and *after* the Flood (8:21)
- Spread of sin, judgment and grace pattern (see below)

The Spread of Sin and God's Just/Gracious Responses in Genesis 1-11

Human Sin	God's Judgment	God's Grace
1. The Fall of Adam and Eve (3:1-6)	Curse on the serpent, ground; judgment on man, woman (3:14-19)	God promises to raise up a conquering seed in Eve's line (3:15) and covers Adam and Eve's nakedness (3:21)
2. Cain murders Abel (4:8)	Curse on Cain; alienation from the ground (4:10-12)	God puts a protective mark on Cain (4:15)
3. Sin spreads and intensifies in Cain's line (4:22-24)	[Flood]	God provides Seth, and people begin calling on His name (4:25-26)
4. Sons of God intermarry with daughters of women (6:1-4); violence/corruption (6:5, 11-12)	The Flood destroys the ungodly (7:6-24)	God provides Noah (5:28-29) and spares him, his family and the animals (6:8, 18-20; 7:7-9, 13-16, 23; 8:1)
5. Noah's drunkenness and Ham's dishonor (9:20-22)	Curse on Canaan (9:25, 26, 27)	Shem and Japheth cover Noah's nakedness (9:23); the elect line continues in Shem (9:26); Japheth will enjoy fellowship with Shem (9:27)
6. Humanity proudly builds a tower to prevent dispersion (11:4)	Dispersion and confusion of languages (11:8-9)	God elects Abraham (12:1-3)

B. The Fall of Noah and Ham (Gen. 9:18-29)

1. Flashbacks of the Fall
2. Misuses of Gen. 9 throughout History
3. The Problem of Generational Sin

C. The Table of Nations (Gen. 10)

5. Typology in the Noah Cycle

- A. New Creation in Christ – baptism, dove, cleansing the heart
- B. Christ Reverses Noah's Fall – garden, wine, sleep, nakedness, world impact
- C. The Final Judgment – Luke 17:26-27; 2 Pet. 3

6. Closing Prayer