

Genesis 7:1-5

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God tells Noah to enter the ark. Further instructions are to take a male and female of every unclean creature and seven pairs of every clean creature into the ark. The flood would begin in seven days and last forty days destroying every living thing on the earth. Noah obeyed God.

Now God commands Noah to *enter the ark*. Noah has been faithful to build the ark, now it is time to enter. God repeats that Noah will be saved because Noah *alone* had been *seen to be righteous before God's eyes in this time*. Noah was righteous and therefore God could trust him when He commanded the ark be built. Noah was blameless in God's sight, but *all his household* was saved from the flood as well. Noah's being right with God blessed his whole family. But it also blessed the animal kingdom. God used Noah's obedience to *keep offspring* of all breathing animals *alive on the face of all the earth*.

There were eight people on the ark, four men, and four women (Noah and his wife, their three sons and the son's wives). Noah obeyed God in faith and God counted it as righteousness. The book of Hebrews says, "By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith" ([Hebrews 11:7](#)).

Noah was told to take in the ark seven pairs of each of the *clean* animals and two pairs of the unclean animals, both a male and female. This is the first instance of the use of "clean" to describe animals. Centuries later, the Bible describes clean animals. In the Law to Israel, clean animals were allowed to be eaten. However, God did not give humans permission to eat animals until [Genesis 9:3](#), and in that command He does not make a distinction between clean and unclean. We are not told that God explained the difference between clean and unclean to Noah, but since Noah immediately sacrificed of the clean animals after the ark landed, it seems clear this was knowledge he had.

God warned Noah that in *seven more days* it would *rain on the earth forty days and forty nights*. God makes it clear the intended impact of this deluge,

saying *“I will blot out from the face of the land every living thing that I have made.”* Once again, *Noah did according to all that the Lord had commanded him.*

The animals were saved to maintain life, and to repopulate the earth. In verse 4, the phrase *“every living thing”* means all that existed on the earth. The flood wiped out or erased all that existed. *Noah did all that God had commanded* is a clear emphasis, repeating what was just recently stated in [Genesis 6:22](#), which also says Noah did all God commanded him.

Biblical Text

¹ Then the Lord said to Noah, “Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you *alone* I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time. ² “You shall take with you of every clean animal by sevens, a male and his female; and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and his female; ³ also of the birds of the sky, by sevens, male and female, to keep offspring alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴“For after seven more days, I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights; and I will blot out from the face of the land every living thing that I have made.” ⁵ Noah did according to all that the Lord had commanded him.