**‘Time’s Up’**

***1Then the Lord said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. 2You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; 3also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. 4For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made.” 5And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him. 6Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.***

***7So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. 8Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, 9two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. 10And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. 11In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. 12And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.***

***13On the very same day Noah and Noah’s sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark—14they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. 15And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. 16So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.***Genesis 7:1-16

Noah was five hundred years old when we first heard anything about him, and he had begotten Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Now, he was six hundred years old and had done all that the Lord had commanded him to do. The ark was complete. The food was stored. Everything was ready. The clock was ticking. Soon the rains and the flooding would come. Now it was time for everyone to board the ark. The animals, birds, and creeping things came to Noah two by two in pairs, male and female. Seven pairs of every sort of clean animal came to Noah and one pair of the unclean animals came to Noah. All Noah had to do was receive them and take them to the place they would be sheltered throughout the storm.

The Lord gives us much needed detail in the flood account. We are told that Noah is six hundred years old at the time of the flood. When the rain begins, Noah was six hundred years, two months, and seventeen days old. God gives us specifics on purpose. His specifics enable us to follow the events as they unfold. These are mile-markers along the timeline. They provide us with key information, which in many cases, allows the truthfulness of the Bible to be verified by archaeologists, astronomers, and others. When skepticism regarding the Bible is high, specifics are wonderful. It keeps people from heading down ridiculous rabbit trails. *[An example of what I’m trying to convey here is this: The ark was 300 cubits by 50 cubits by 30 cubits (450 feet by 75 feet by 45 feet). These exact measurements prevent the claim that some might try to make that they “found” Noah’s ark. When in fact, the vessel they found was only 100 feet by 25 feet by 10 feet!]* Many of so-called Biblical “discoveries” can be ruled out simply because God loves detail and was willing to share them with us.

The loading process took seven days. Then we are told that God was the One who shut the door of the ark, sealing everyone safely within. The rain could begin to fall, and it did. We are told that it both rained, and that the “fountains of the great deep were broken up.” Not only was water coming upon the earth from the heavens above, but it was coming upon the earth from below the earth’s surface. Could it be that the surface of the earth was broken up into pieces because the fountains of the great deep opened and this how the continents were formed?

Eventually the entire earth was covered in water – just as it had been before the Lord began the creation process in Genesis 1.

God was starting over.

*Kathleen*