

The Written Account of the Generations of Noah

6:9 to 9:29

Moses edited and compiled twelve family documents in the book of **Genesis**. The major structural word for **Genesis** is *toldot*, which means **the written account of**, or *this is what became of these men and their descendants*. The noun is often translated *generations*, *histories* or *descendants*. After the section on the written account of the generations of Adam from 5:1 to 6:8, we have the fourth *toldot*, **the written account of the generations of Noah**. **The previous toldot went from the blessing of Seth to the cursing of the demonic angels; however, this toldot goes from the cursing of the flood to the blessing of salvation. Therefore, what this fourth family document tells us is what became of Noah. And what became of Noah was that He was saved through the ark, which is a type of salvation through Christ (First Peter 3:20-21).**

The entire Flood account follows an antithetical structure. There is a parallelism, where the first letter is antithetical to the second letter, and so on, with the letter **F** being the turning point.

- A **God** resolves to destroy humanity with a Flood (6:11-13)
- B Noah builds an ark (6:14-22)
- C **God** commands Noah to enter the ark (7:1-9)
- D The Flood begins (7:10-16)
- E The Flood covers the earth for 150 days with the mountains covered (7:17-24)
- F God remembers Noah (8:1a)**
- E The Flood recedes after 150 days and the mountains become visible (8:1b-5)
- D The earth dries (8:6-14)
- C **God** commands Noah to leave the ark (8:15-19)
- B Noah builds an altar (8:20)
- A **God** resolves never again to destroy humanity with a Flood (8:21-22)

The number seven is also very prominent in this *toldot*. Seven days are mentioned (7:4 and 10, 8:10 and 12). There are seven pairs of clean animals and birds (7:2-3). God spoke to Noah seven times (6:13; 7:1; 8:15; 9:1, 8, 12, 17). The Hebrew stem *aseh*, *to do or to make*, is used seven times in 6:13-22 in conjunction with the building of the ark. The root word *to come* is used seven times from 7:1-16. The stem of *to destroy, erase or wipe out* is used seven times in the Flood account. The word **covenant** is used seven times from 9:8-17. And finally, Noah's name appears thirty-five (5X7) times in the entire Flood account.

Up to this point, we have seen the name of **God** alternate back and forth between **Elohim** and **ADONAI**. From 1:1 to 2:3 the name **God** or **Elohim** is used, *because He is the God of Creation*.

Then from 2:4 to 4:26 the name **the LORD** or **ADONAI** is used *to emphasize that He is the One who always exists, the God of redemption and mercy*. There are only a couple of exceptions to this. One is the temptation in 3:1-4, where Satan lies to Eve that she will become like **God**, *the God of creation*. And the other is in 4:25 where Eve says that **God**, *the God of creation*, has given her another child. Other than these few exceptions, the name **the LORD** or **ADONAI** is used throughout.

In **Chapter 5** the name changes back to **God**, or **Elohim**, with the exception of 5:29. The reason for this change is that the righteous line of Seth is traced down to Noah and what is emphasized is that *Elohim is the God of righteousness*.

In 6:1-8 the name changes back to **ADONAI**, or **the LORD** *because as man becomes more corrupt, the fact that He is the God of redemption and mercy is emphasized*.

In this section these names will continue to change back and forth. The question is, why? The answer lies with **Him** and not man. When **the Ruach HaKodesh** wants to emphasize **God**, *the creator or destroyer, the God of righteousness*, **He** uses **Elohim**. And when He wants to emphasize *redemption and mercy, the One who always exists*, He uses **ADONAI**, or **the LORD**.