

Following the Biblical Stream:

By Philip Busby

We ended last time with the story of Noah sending out birds to gauge the state of the world after the ark had come to ground. This took us through Genesis chapter 8 verse 12, and the fact the dove Noah sent out did not come back to him anymore. She had found a world ready to be lived in without the life support the ark had been all this time!

Verse 13 gives us a fact from God. The verses we just came through show us what Noah was doing to find out what the state of the post-flood world was like, but verse 13 is not a guess from Noah. This verse is a fact laid out by God for us to see. It was in the six hundred and first year of Noah's life, on the first day of the first month that we find the flood was truly over. The cycle had come full circle. Noah, his family and the animals he had been

caring for, could truly start organizing themselves to get on with life in a normal way. Chapter 7 verse 11 tells us, it was on the seventeenth day of the second month of Noah's six hundredth year that the flood began. Verses 3 & 4 here in chapter 8 tell us the ark came to rest 150 days after this, on the seventeenth day of the seventh month. Remember two segments back, we talked about how you can get to the 150 days from chapter 7 verse 11 to chapter 8 verse 4. In this segment, we want to do better math, and using a Biblical perspective, look at how the entire sequence can be put together in order to get us all the way to verse 13 here.

The scenario which gave us the most correct numbers for the 150 days came by giving each of the months 30 days. On the modern Jewish calendar

the months alternate, for the most part, between 29 and 30. This is because the moon cycle they are based on is only 29.5305882. In ancient times, they did not know and/or care about our exact figure, but they did know a moon cycle did not fit neatly in a specific number of earth rotations - or what we call days. So too, a set number of moon cycles, no matter how you fit them into days, does not fit neatly into earth's orbit around the sun - or what we call a year. The original calendar God gave Israel, started in line with the barley harvest. Because of this, you did not have the calculated addition of a month every so many years to keep the lunar based calendar in step with a solar one, or the seasons. The moon cycle was observed for what it was, unlike today, where it's given a set number of days on a calendar. In the ancient times we have more information about, we see the passage of time was marked much more by natural observation than we care to use today, and Noah would certainly have been going strictly by natural observation of those things which God specifically said He put in place for the purpose. (Gen. 1:14-19) In doing this, Noah's months would not even have been so perfectly alternating between 29 and 30 days. There very well may have been several months in a row which had 30 days, and when it

was observed the moon cycle was falling behind, there would have been a few months of 29 observed before it started getting a little ahead. One thing we are familiar with, which is likely the case even in Noah's day, was that there were twelve moon cycles (which we call months) observed to make a full year in most years. However, just like observing so many days to make a month, this does not keep you in line with the solar year and the seasons. On a modern lunar calendar, this is only calculated to happen every so many years; but in Noah's day, it would take a natural observation of the seasons getting out of sync with the new year to cause a person to add a thirteenth moon cycle to the end of a particular year. Thus, one would guess it would happen more inconsistently in ancient times, and be more of a declaration than a forgone conclusion. This by far does not mean they were untidy about it, but just that natural events made more sense to them than the ticks of a clock which slowly kill us today!

Because the thirteenth month would have rarely been added, we can feel pretty safe in saying the year we are talking about was only twelve months. Further, there is the issue that in the year we are discussing, the only people alive were riding in the ark.

There would not have been a lot of reasons for them to observe a thirteenth moon cycle to keep the year with seasons, which at the time, had no relevance! On top of all this, chapter 8 is pretty clear about its numbers. There's only a few places you can even argue there may have been time unaccounted for. These are places such as between verse 12, where Noah sends out the dove for the last time, and verse 13, where Noah opened the door of the ark. Another is between verse 14, where we are told the date the earth was fully dry, and verse 15 which begins the instructions for leaving the ark. To think something out of the ordinary happened in either of these places is to believe that after laying it all out about how many days Noah waited for things, suddenly the information just stopped being consistent and informative. When you look at the Bible as a whole, this just doesn't stand to reason!

One other point, some may question, is the time between the raven and the dove. It may seem to some that it's not made clear if the raven and the first flight of the dove happened on the same day or a few days apart. It's my belief it was the same day. This is due to the facts I talked about in our last segment. The raven was a differ-

ent kind of probe from the dove. Its purpose was not the same; therefore, Noah had no reason to wait and see what the raven told him before he sent out the dove. If he waited at all, I believe it was only a matter of hours, just to see if it were possible that the raven was completely unwilling to stay outside, and the numbers would seem to back this up. To make logical sense of the writing here, and stay with the cycles we are told Noah followed, there just isn't much space to believe Noah waited to send the dove out the first time. Again, let's do some math to see how it comes together. To get the 150 days the last time we did this kind of thing, we found we hit the nail on the head by using 30 days per month. However, as I covered above, when you look at how ancient lunar calendars, we know of, were calculated, it's not out of the realm of believability that in Noah's day there were strings of months with 30 days, then a few with 29. Our calculations last time were reasonable, but we can do better!

Going all the way back to the beginning of the flood, we see that all the numbers began in chapter 7 verse 4, where God tells Noah he has 7 days before the rain starts. Verse 10 states, "...after seven days..." the water broke

forth. This sets a weekly cycle for the events, and we can see just how it may have unfolded. We don't know if it was literally on a Sunday that God gave the boarding order, but symbolically it works. Calculating in weekday symbolism also helps you understand things when you study the feast days and calendar God gave to Israel. So, let's use it here. To do this, we will say that the boarding call came, at the very least, on a representative Sunday. Noah was given 7 last dry days, a Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sabbath. Which means the rain started on a representative Sunday. Here is where I will stop using the word "representative" in front of all the days, because you get the point of what we're doing. The boarding call came on the tenth day of the second month of Noah's six hundredth year, which means the Sabbath in the cycle would have been the sixteenth. On Sunday, the seventeenth, the fountains of the deep broke up, and unlike we did in our earlier segment's calculations, this day should be included in the 40 days and nights of rain, which is more appropriately in line with verse 11 of chapter 7.

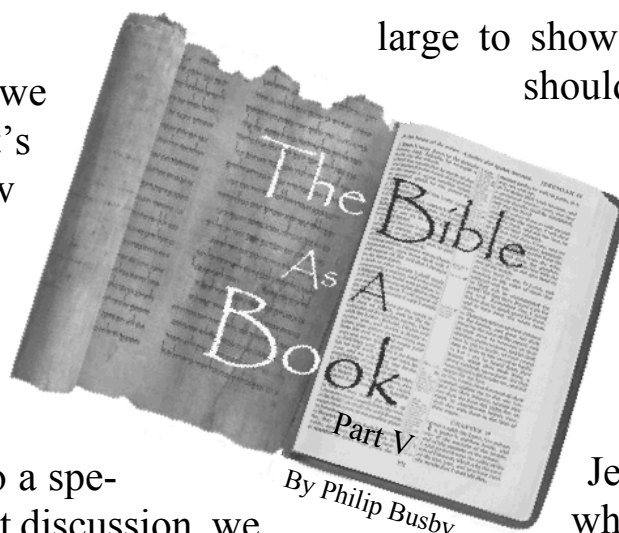
If the second month had 29 days, the last day of rain was the twenty-seventh day of the third month. Now,

the main point in doing these kinds of calculations in our earlier segment, was that we determined the 40 days of rain was part of the 150 days referred to in chapter 7 verse 4 and chapter 8 verse 3. If the third month started a string of 30 day months going through the sixth month, and the last day of rain was on the twenty-seventh, we are left with 3 days of the third month to start our next calculations. Three days from the third month plus 30 days in the fourth, plus 30 days in the fifth, plus 30 days in the sixth, gives us 93 days. If we add the 40 days of rain to this total, we get 133 days. If you subtract 133 from 150, you are left with 17. The last day of the 150 was the seventeenth day of the seventh month. This is the same day we are told in verse 4 of chapter 8 that the ark came to ground.

One quick note: If you already see, or for after you see, what I mean by a Biblical perspective, is that 150 is not divisible by 7, but like the two 40 day time periods, it is laid out specifically for us. It's also a number which has to do with nature taking its course, not a number directly controlled by conscious choices. Now, if the seventh month had only 29 days, which it would be appropriately time for, and we begin our count with the day after

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So far in this series, we have talked about why it's important to know how the Bible came to be as a book, and why God gave us a written Word at all. Now, we want to talk about why God gave His written Word to a specific people. To begin that discussion, we have to back up through the question of why, and talk about the simple fact that God did! There are many people who do not realize that God didn't simply put His Word out to the world and let chance carry it around. Many people who lived in the time we often refer to as the middle ages, are revered for their courage because they literally gave their lives to free the Word of God from religious overlords who did not want to allow the general population the opportunity to read and know the Bible for themselves. Great men of God took great risks to get their hands on various portions of God's Word, and much time was spent translating the Word into languages which people of their region could understand. There was further work done so that the Word could be distributed to the common man at a price which even the poorest could afford. In Europe, the Bible was one of the biggest reasons the printing press was invented, and so widely used. Now, I will agree that this is all part of a mostly Gentile Christian history which we can love and use as examples to our children and Christians at



large to show what our dedication should be to God and His ways. However, one of the saddest facts is that not all that risk had to be taken.

There were many Jews all over the world who held in the care of their synagogues and/or families, written copies of, at the very least, what Christians call the Old Testament. Something which has been lost on Christians is that you can't understand the New Testament without reading the Old. Thus, this information would have been of great value to Christians of the middle ages, as well as the development of the Christian religion. However, in defense of these men who did not simply go knocking on the doors of synagogues desiring the Word, we have to remember that without the Word, specifically the Old Testament, they may not have realized they could do this! Some might argue that the Jews would not have shared with them, but I don't believe this is true. In some places and under certain circumstances, it may have taken time to build a rapport with the Jewish community which would have allowed access to the actual writing, but many Jews would have been freely willing to teach Christians many things. This kind of dialogue would probably have even changed the entire face of the religions we know as Christianity and Juda-

ism, especially on the level of both religions understanding their common bond of serving The One True God. It is later Christians, after the Bible became widely printed and distributed, which have to answer the question of why they don't understand the direct connection the Word has with the Jews, and those of us living today with Bibles readily available are certainly not the least of these. The Bible clearly shows us that God's Word, not just the "Old Testament" but the "New" as well, was entrusted to the Jews!

You see, God is very organized in His plan. We have already talked often about the Garden of Eden in this study, and it serves to look at it again here. The garden was a place where things were not just wild and natural. It was a place God specifically planted on a specific spot. God did not just throw man out into the world; He placed Adam in the garden. (Gen. 2:8) As we have also covered, it was up to man, right from the start, as to whether he would follow God or go his own way. However, that does not preclude the fact God had and has a plan! Planting the garden and placing man in it was only the beginning of that plan in action. The fact man chose to take of the one thing God told him not to take of and that it resulted in man being driven from the garden, has not changed God! (Ps. 102:24-27, James 1:16-20) It's not God's will for any of us to perish but that each of us come to repentance. (II Pet. 3:9) However, God's plan is not thwarted by the fact all men will not choose this path. (Rom. 3:1-8) This is because God's plan is based on

free will from the very beginning of things! It gives those who desire not to follow, the opportunity to walk away; but at the same time, ensures that those who do not want to follow cannot stop those who want to. This is a foundational fact as to why God came in the flesh to show us He holds the power over death, hell, and the grave. We are not to fear those who can take this life from us. (Matt. 10:28) Man can do all he wants to try and make us not follow God's plan, but even the threat of death will not work on the one who loves God more than what this life has to offer. The devil can do all he wants to change our mind and even threaten us with death, but just as Jesus proved, killing those who trust in The One who is the giver of all life, is actually a mistake. "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Philippians 1:21 Bottom line, we are not to fear the devil or man. The only thing there is to fear is being rejected by God on Judgment Day! (Matt. 7:21-23)

God is the only One who can destroy both the body and those parts of us which are not of the body. When we are told to work out our salvation with fear and trembling, it is this aspect we are being told to look at. (Phili. 2:12) Man and Satan can rage all they want, but only the fearing a rejection by God has productive ability in our lives. Now, we are not told to fear God because He is mean or unloving! We are told to fear Him because He is obligated to judge sin. (Isa. 45:20-23) We are all sinners, and there is not a one of us which is righteous. (Ps. 14, Rom. 3:9-10) However, death allows us to shed the sin we

carry and are guilty of in this life. This is great, but then we will need a place to continue our existence where sin no longer is. Jesus left this world to prepare a place for that purpose, but it's only those who desire God's plan which will enter into that place. (John 14:1-6) Those who do not desire, no matter how much they may have performed religious ceremonies meant to get them there, will not enter in. (II Cor. 6:14-18, Eph. 5:1-10) Man can see the outward appearance, and what we look and act like is important. However, God can also see the heart's desire, and He will choose who meets the criteria for entrance or rejection. (Rev. 21:22-27) Thus, it is He we should fear.

This also is very good news, because God's Word shows us He has a plan and that it is organized in spite of man's disorganization and sin. God wants those who believe in His plan to be a part of enacting it. This is why one day God called a man who desired to follow God's plan, to build an ark of safety. God had decided man had become so disobedient to, and/or devoid of, the knowledge of His plan, there was no point in his further existence. However, God still partnered with the one last man who still believed, and created a way to escape the coming flood. (Gen. 6:1-8) So too, when time itself began to chip away the knowledge of God's plan among men, God decided there was need for His instructions to be written down! In order to do this, God once again looked to those who desired

His ways, to partner with. God decided the right man for the job was a man named Abram. (Gen. 12:1-3) God would change his name and his wife's name; thus, we know them as Abraham and Sarah. (Gen. 17) From specific descendants of this man and wife, God would build a nation. They would not become a nation because, like other family groups, they grew, stayed together and formed a governing entity on a specific spot. These people would be grown and bound together by God. God would keep them together by circumstances in spite of geographical challenges, and eventually, they would be given a specific governing system by the hand of God!

The governing system would be based on one simple thing - the plan of God. Again, God gives us a free will, and He works with that. Even after God confounded the languages at the Tower of Babel, (Gen. 11:1-9) man went on to form into groups on a smaller level. Some people try to blame God for war because instead of being one big happy group, He made us several smaller groups which have trouble getting along. However, this is just silly! God confounded our languages to protect the individual and breakup the group mentality which would take from each individual their individuality. Instead of getting that message, man still went out and formed into groups which often stifled the individual, and this led to competition between groups. Competition over resources, ideas, and

the simple concept of power - not to put to fine a point on it - is what has led to war and much suffering. The fact man insists on living this way is what causes war, not God's intervention. People can be very different and still get along, but they choose not to. Even within groups there often forms smaller competing groups which stifle the individual. Children are often forced to join groups at very young ages or be harmed by them. This happens in every form from the social clicks of the school yard which dictate whether you get certain opportunities on the basis of how cool you are, all the way to gangs which end up clashing with other gangs in what can be described as nothing short of military action.

This is how man lives his life, not the plan of God. However, in the midst of all this, God did an amazing thing which the more you look at, the more you study, and the more you understand it, the more amazing it becomes. God setup a group in the same base form man had chosen to live his life. God established a nation. However, this nation would not be about the group, it would be about the individual! This nation was to be an example to men as to how you could live in the structure which man chose to live in and use it to protect God's purpose for the individual, instead of squelching it. This is amazing stuff in light of the fact man has lived this way for so long now, many people today just can't imagine how you could live without a government dictating law. What would a world look like without borders, where people could simply

travel and do the things they imagined to do? We do see places in the world where there is not a government or at least a stable ruling entity, and the people who live there need to be part of some "protective" group or they seem to just get mowed down.

On the flip side of this, we often recognize when we look at bad governments just how much this system can also take from our lives! However, we just can't seem to see a better answer. Thus, there are many people who believe they are working in the best interest of man, who want to continually expand government. In the end, all this does is intrude on the choices of individuals more and more. A world without borders may be a dream man gives lip service to, but the only thing he can imagine will accomplish this feat is to make one big government which rules everything. This just takes us full circle back to something God judged as such a bad idea that He confounded our languages to put a stop to it, and even since the time of the Tower of Babel, the idea has been tried more than once! Some of the ancient empires had such great success at putting large parts of the world under their control, that current ideas such as the United Nations can only dream of such accomplishment. However, it didn't work out then, and it's not going to work out now. The only way it will ever work is for there to be a perfect leader who has absolute power. Now, the Bible tells us it will come to this one day, but the leader will not be of the sinful lineage of Adam. The leader's name is

Yashua, and He is the only begotten of The Father! (John 1:14) In English, we know the name as Jesus!

The Bible tells us Jesus will return a second time and utilize another idea of man, which is that the strong shall rule, and there will be no one who can stop Jesus. (Matt. 26:59-64, Rev. 19:11-21) Again, God is not mean; He is perfectly just! Right now, the just shall live by faith, but one day, justice will be the government enforced law of the world! This will not come about because one day God looks down and decides if that's how they want to play ball, He'll show'em how it's done! It will come about because God has been offering the right solutions all through the process, and in the end, it's the only option left. Jesus came to this earth the first time to peacefully offer Himself as that one perfect leader man's ideas necessitate. This did not result in Him being killed because the world just accidentally trampled over this peace loving man during a food riot. He was not crucified because the world simply did not understand their system dictated the need for one perfect leader. The Roman empire was at a zenith, and one perfect leader was all that was needed. It also did not happen because Jesus tried to walk into the set of world power and asked the current ruler to simply step down and trust that He was the answer. God had a plan which had been unfolding for centuries.

The plaque above Jesus' head, while He hung on the cross, read His crime, and

what it declared was that He was The King of the Jews. (John 19:19-22) This was precisely what the wise men who came from afar to worship Jesus during His childhood said they had come to find. (Matt. 2:1-2) Why would anyone have even the slightest idea that this was important? Why would anyone from outside Judah care about the fact the Jews had a new born King? Judah was under the rule of the Roman empire, and Herod was a Roman puppet king. Uprisings of the Jews had failed before, so why would a new born of the House of David mean anything? The answer to all this is that fact we have been talking about: God's plan was and is organized. There was no need for a wise man to care about any other country's new born king, but The King of the Jews meant something special in the world. Why? Because this was one of those specific points for which the Jewish nation was organized.

There is a prominent theory in the Christian world of "prophetic interpretation" which teaches that before Jesus returns the second time, there will arise a specific person who will fool the world into believing he is the messiah. I do not have the space in this writing to go into the ins and outs of why this is wrong, but I bring it up because throughout my life I have heard different philosophies as to who the "anti-christ" is. Through my years in ministry, I have been asked if I believed this person or that person was possibly the "anti-christ," and what has always amazed me is that I can't think of a single time when the person someone

taught, thought, or asked about, was Jewish! If the philosophy was right and there was going to be a person who would rise to power under the cloak of being the messiah, whom the Jewish nation would all go after and be fooled by, the very first thing that person would need on their résumé is that they were, at the very least, of Jewish descent, not to mention, actually of the line and lineage of King David.

The world has produced a significant number of tyrants, dictators, and brutal men who, even through sly means, have gained power. The truth is, many of these men are not obviously brutal and heartless. They often appear to be some of the coolest, smoothest, and well meaning people you have ever met. However, in the end, they are interested in nothing more than power and control. Even those who seem well meaning and seem to be working on things for the good of society, are still very uncaring about the individual, because they believe what is good for the whole outweighs the desires and even the needs of the individual. They believe caring about what man can accomplish together is more important than the path an individual desires for the life God granted to them. It's often and largely about what keeps the wheel moving far more than it's about the individuals who get crushed by the wheel. This way, is not God's way, and the Tower of Babel story is the proof that God is never going to allow one man of the line and lineage of Adam, to rise up and rule the entire

world, even if that is just before the return of Yashua!

God's plan was not entrusted to Abraham because God wanted to make an elite group of people who would have heavenly privileges above the rest of the world. God did not tell Abraham that it would be through that specific son he fathered with Sarah that this nation would come, so that those who followed would be granted a pass to heaven no matter what they did. Esau clearly shows us this. (Rom. 9:13) There was no intent to freeze out the rest of the human race from knowing or serving God when He told Jacob his name would no longer be Jacob, but Israel! No, the intent was just the opposite of those things. The intent was to lay a responsibility on the shoulders of one nation who would see it as their ancestral heritage to have The One True God as their God. The beauty of it all is that for all the false gods man would create in all the various societies and religions of the world, there would never fail to be a group of people who said, "Our fathers worshiped The True God." This is why our Creator is often referred to as, "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob!" (Gen. 50:24, Ex. 3:6, 6:1-7)

The cultural aspect of this would go even deeper than just three forefathers who served God. We talked about why God waited so long to give us a written Word, and a large part of the answer is that point of man being close enough to the beginning of his existence that he had

not lost touch with the truth like future generations would be in danger of. So too, God would wait until man had showed the way he insisted to build and organize his world before God would intervene in a parallel way, to carry forth His plan without thwarting man's free will. Patterns which are large in nature are often repeated when you look at something very small. Paul says in Romans 1:20 that God is clearly seen in the things He created. That is very true, and it's also true we can identify God's patterns in the lives of men, by looking for the same ideology we see in nature. Just as God waited to give man a written Word, He would go through a similar process with how He would give it. One man was told that to descendants he did not even know he would have, God would commit His oracles. (Gen. 17:1-7, Rom. 3:1-2) Abraham, and even that son through whom the nation would come, would see very little of the promise come to pass, but one of his grandsons would still believe with all his heart. (Heb. 11:8-13) Through him, the foundation of the new nation would be laid. However, by the time of his death, his family would no longer even be living on the promised land the nation was to receive by the hand of God. (Acts 7:15-18) The next generations would believe in the covenant, not because it was laid out in front of them, but because they were not far enough removed from the patriarchs to forget the oral traditions. They also were not ready to be the nation God was making them into.

As the generations passed, God led them into a situation from which there was no human escape, so He could prove to them it was He who was on their side and nothing which followed was an accident. (Ex. 14:10-31) This brought a fresh and new perspective to that generation of the children of Israel about The God their fathers had served and made a covenant with. They may or may not choose to follow, and that would still be their individual choice, but it was foolish beyond measure to question the existence of God. They had lived in a land which served more gods than one can hardly count, yet The God of their fathers crushed that land time and time again without encountering the slightest resistance. Both Pharaoh and his many gods were destroyed without Israel having to lift a finger!

Man went his own way, and Noah came through a worldwide flood with just his family. God worked His plan, and Moses led thousands out from a devastated Egypt. After the flood, man attempted to reach the heavens with a tower he was building. After God touched their tongues so they would leave off their wicked building project, they left in various groups to different regions of the world and began again. After Egypt, God brought the children of Israel to a mountain which He had created. There, The True God Of Heaven, touched the earth, and bound the children of Israel together as a nation tapped for His purpose, by giving them Words. These Words would not confound them, but show them how to continue to see a far more positive

outcome in their lives than the ways of man had been bringing the world at large! (Ex. 19 & 20) As a nation, they were to follow the path and be an example of what the world would look like if man would put his trust in the ways of God instead of the way which seems right unto himself. (Prov. 14:12) A living breathing example of God's existence and plan would be established on the earth by giving these specific people His Words, not just as a suggestion, but as a national identity!

Paul asks if there is any advantage to being a Jew over being a non-Jew, and the answer is profoundly, yes! However, it's not that God loves them more. The Jewish advantage is that to them was committed the oracles of God! (Rom. 3:1-2) Good examples? For those who still lived in Judah there was no long trek to be taken such as the wise men had to take to see God incarnate for themselves. The wise men gave the time period of two years for when they had first seen the star which led them, but the shepherds who were simply abiding in the fields of Judah keeping watch over their flocks that night, were able to go and see the great joy which was to all people! (Matt. 2:7-16, Luke 2:8-20) The aged prophet and prophetess who abode in the temple each day did not have to go anywhere to see it for themselves. Mary and Joseph brought The Consolation of Israel right to where they were. (Luke 2:21-39) Jewish children who live in religious families learn

the Bible inside and out on a level many non-Jewish ministers never obtain. They live the rituals of past and foreshadowing prophesy every year; where as, many non-Jewish believers barely understand what they are reading in their Bibles and what many of these prophecies in action even look like!

However, just like the wise men, if we desire to know what they look like, we do not have to look for some secret society or go on harrowing adventures to see what God has done. We do not have to wonder where we can get God's instructions, because there is a specific people who attempt to live it, and it was made their culture. We do not have to wonder, through what people, the rightful King of the world will come, because there is a people established by God for the purpose. We do not even have to painstakingly search among those people for which family He is supposed to be from, for God made the promise, The Messiah would come through the House of David. (John 7:42) We don't even need to wonder where He will come to, because there's a geographical location established for the purpose which, just as God's Word tells us it would, is more and more becoming the focus of the world, today. (Micah. 4:1-4) God didn't want there to be any question marks or wondering about His plan, so He laid it out, not just in writing, but in flesh and blood!

Let's stay in God's Word!

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the ark came to ground, we start with the eighteenth. Which means, we have 12 days left in the seventh month. If the eighth and ninth months also have 29 days, you get 70 days or ten full weeks in this period before verse 5, which brings us to the first day of the tenth month. Now, verse 6 tells us Noah waited 40 days to send out the raven. If we start counting from the tenth month's first day when the mountain tops were seen, and we see it as time for another string of 30 day months, we have the full 30 days of the tenth month to start our next calculation. If we subtract those days from the 40, we are left with 10. The fortieth day would be the tenth day of the eleventh month. Now, here is where we get heavily back to those representative days of the week. If Noah waited the 40 days and sent out the birds on the forty-first day, the raven was sent out, and I believe the first flight of the dove also took place, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, which we will look at as a representative Sunday. The dove came back, and verse 10 says Noah waited 7 days before sending her out again. If the eleventh was a Sunday, the seventeenth would be a Sabbath; and the eighteenth day of the eleventh month, another Sunday, would see the second

flight of the dove. This time, she comes back in the evening with a freshly plucked olive leaf, and Noah waits 7 days more. Eighteen plus seven brings us to the twenty-fifth day of the eleventh month for the third flight of the dove, and verse 12 says the dove never came back again!

This brings us to yet another verse which begins with the statement, "And it came to pass..." The last time we saw this was in verse 6, after Noah had waited the 40 days. As there, so too here, some time has passed between the verses. Verse 13 is talking about the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundredth and first year of life. That may be a lot of firsts, but since the Bible is basing this on Noah's life and not a pre-established new year, we should pause to say - "Happy Birthday Noah!" As a birthday present, Noah got to open the door of the ark for the first time in months. Getting back to our calculations: If the eleventh month had 30 days, we need to start our day count from the twenty-fifth, which would once again, be a representative Sunday, and make the thirtieth day of the eleventh month a Friday. This gives us 6 days. If the twelfth month had 29 days and it started on a Sabbath, its last day would also be a Sabbath! The next day, would be the first day of the first

month of Noah's six hundredth and first year, which is the day verse 13 is talking about. It would be a representative first day of the week right in line with the way Noah sent out the dove; and on this day, Noah removed the door from the ark's one substantial opening!

However, Noah did not leave the ark on that day. He would wait for God to give him the go-ahead before he went out, and released the animals to go out into the new world. Verse 14 tells us that day would not come until the twenty-seventh day of the second month. Just over a year from the day the rain began to fall! If the first month had 29 days, and you start counting with day one, you have the full 29 days of month one. Add to that the 27 days in month two, and you get 56 days. This is, yet again, sets of seven. Eight to be exact, and the twenty-seventh day of the second month, would be a Sabbath! It would be on this day that Noah would hear God's voice telling him he and all that was with him could go out of the ark. Noah, I'm sure, was more than happy to hear and heed this instruction from God; and the following verses tell us the first thing Noah did was build an altar and worship the Lord!

Now, I realize that some people will contend that I am just playing with the numbers here to get what I want, but that is truly not my intent. My intent is to help people think things through when it comes to the Word of God, in a Biblical way. If you're going to read the Bible, read the Bible! Far too often, people look at something which they do not completely understand, and they go looking for the answer out in the world. Now, it's my opinion that more and more things such as archaeological discoveries have proven the truth of the Bible's story line. Even those things which some said disproved the Bible have often later been seen to be misinterpreted, and in reality, they do line up with God's Word. However, we often want to gauge and interpret the personal reactions of people in the Bible by how we feel today in our media overloaded, much like the days of Noah, marrying and divorcing, child abandoning, foul mouthed, immodest, indecent, morally bankrupted world. (Matt. 24:35-42) God's ways are not our ways according to Isaiah 55:8; thus, we cannot interpret the Bible by the ways of men. What we forget is that many of the stories about personal lives in the Bible - and such is the case with Noah - are about people who are serving God. Our

ways are not God's ways, but God's ways are what true believers are attempting to make their ways! True believers daily nail to the cross the temptations of the flesh, not just by gritting their teeth and hoping for the best. (Gal. 5:24-26) They do it by attempting to live in the ways God created us to live. The Bible instructs, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21 Paul lays out in the fifth chapter of the book of Galatians, beginning in the nineteenth verse, a long list of fleshly works which are manifestations of people living in the flesh and allowing its desires to guide their everyday choices. Then he goes on to lay out nine beautiful things which grow in our lives, not just because we get down on our knees one day and say a sinners prayer. They grow because we attempt, on a regular basis, to find and follow Biblical patterns for life, while continually shunning desires of the flesh even if those desires don't seem to us to be hurting anyone! Paul points out, against these nine beautiful fruits of the spirit there is no law. Jesus said you get to heaven by walking a narrow path, (Matt. 7:14) and I have often talked about the fact this is so because there is a right-hand and a left-hand side, both of which you must be careful not to step out into. However, when it comes to these fruits, you can

indulge in as much of these as you can possibly become, and it only brings you closer and closer to God! As we walk in this world, we are surrounded on both sides with the wickedness of those who do not desire the things of God over the things of this world. Behind us is the path we have already walked, and there is no value in turning back. (Luke 9:62) Up ahead is that true new heaven and new earth, with its new Jerusalem, where our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ awaits with outstretched hands. To quote an old song, "Oh! I want to see Him, look upon His face, there to sing forever of His saving grace; on the streets of glory, let me lift my voice, cares all past, home at last, ever to rejoice!" How about you?

Until next time, Shalom!

Noah's 600th Year

Year

Month

2 29 Days

Month

3 30 Days

Month

4 30 Days

10th Boarding Call 17th 40 Days & Nights of Rain 27th

Month

5 30 Days

Month

6 30 Days

Month

7 29 Days

150 Days of Prevailing Water

Ark Came to Ground 17th

Month

8 29 Days

Month

9 29 Days

Month

10 30 Days

70 Days of Decreasing Water

Tops of Mountains Seen 1st

Month

11 30 Days

Month

12 29 Days

Month

1 29 Days

Raven and 1st Dove Flight 11th 18th 25th

Ark's Door was Opened 1st

2nd Dove Flight 2nd Dove Flight

Month

27th

Command to Leave the Ark 27th

Flood Timeline