

clean animals, the male and its mate; birds of the air also, and their kind alive on earth. ⁴For in seven days earth for forty days every living thing that came out from the face of Noah did all that the LORD commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. ¹⁹The waters swelled so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered; ²⁰the waters swelled above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. ²¹And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all human beings; ²²everything on dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. ²³He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, human beings and animals and creeping things and birds of the air; they were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. ²⁴And the waters swelled on the earth for one hundred fifty days.

8 But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the domestic animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided; ²the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, ³and the waters gradually receded

sacrifice (9.1-17). **6-16:** Noah, his family, and the animals enter the ark twice during the interweaving of the two flood accounts discussed above. Whereas the flood caused by forty days of rain (7.12; 7.4), the Priestly account attributes the closing of the protective dome created on the second day (1.6-8), thus allowing the ark to meet (7.11). **17-24:** The P and non-P strands are thoroughly interwoven in this itself, including multiple descriptions of the extinction of life outside the ark. Imagery seems to have been a powerful image of chaos worldwide. Though many of floods, there is no geological evidence of a global flood of the sort described in the Priestly account of 8.2b-3a, this unit comes from the Priestly writer. **1-2a:** God's wind in the process of starting the re-creation process. The closing of the *fountains of the heavens* reestablishes the space for life that was first created on the first day of creation (1.1-5). **3-5:** In the Mesopotamian Gilgamesh epic the boat also rested on a mountain,

from the earth. At the end of one hundred fifty days the waters had abated; ⁴and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵The waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains appeared.

⁶At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; ⁹but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. ¹⁰He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; ¹¹and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. ¹²Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

¹³In the six hundred first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the

Ararat, a region in Armenia. **6-12:** Part of the non-Priestly account. In the Gilgamesh epic (see v. 4) the hero sent out two birds, a dove and a swallow, each of which came back; the third, a raven, did not return. **13-19:** The Priestly account resumes here with a description of the exit from the ark of Noah, his family, and the animals.

8.20-9.17: Divine commitments after the flood. This section features two accounts of God's commitments after the flood (8.20-22 non-P; 9.1-17 P), both of which include God's promise not to destroy life through such a flood ever again. **8.20-22:** The non-Priestly tradition describes Noah's *burnt offerings* of clean animals (see 7.2-3n.). In the Gilgamesh epic (see 8.4n.; 8.6-12n.) the hero offered sacrifices and "the gods smelled the pleasant fragrance" and repented of their decision to destroy humanity. Here the LORD smells the *pleasing odor* of Noah's offering and resolves never again to curse the ground or destroy all creatures (v. 21). The LORD does this despite full recognition that the human heart has not changed (cf. 6.5-7). The final result of Noah's sacrifice is the LORD's promise to preserve the cycle of agricultural seasons (v. 22). A central aim of temple sacrifice in Israel and elsewhere was to preserve that cycle. The echo of that idea here is yet another way in which the "non-Priestly" primeval history reflects temple concerns (see also the focus on responses to sacrifice in 4.1-8 and notes on 2.8-9, 10-14; 3.24). **9.1-17:** The Priestly tradition lacks an account of sacrifice (see 7.2-3n.). Instead it focuses on affirmations of some aspects of the creation in 1.1-31 and revisions of others. **1-7:** This section begins and ends

ground was drying. ¹⁴In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. ¹⁵Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶"Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." ¹⁸So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. ¹⁹And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.

²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹And when the LORD smelled the pleasing odor, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.

²²As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,

summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

9 God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply,