

Two Flood Accounts in Retrotranslation

The YHWH Account

^{5:32}After Noah was five hundred years old, he fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

^{6:1}When people began to multiply on the face of the ground, and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that they were beautiful, so they took wives for themselves of any they chose. ³YHWH said, “My spirit will not remain with people indefinitely, for they are mortal; their days will be one hundred twenty years”. ⁴The Nephilim were in the land in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God mated with the women, who bore children to them. These were the heroes of old, men of renown.

^{6:5}YHWH saw that the wickedness of the people was great in the land, and that every inclination of their inner thoughts was evil all the time. ⁶YHWH was sorry that he had made people in the land, and it pained his heart. ⁷YHWH said, “I will wipe out from the ground the people I have created—the people along with animals and creeping things and birds of the sky, for I am sorry I made them.”

^{6:8}But Noah found grace in YHWH’S sight. ^{7:1}And YHWH told Noah, “Go into the ark, you and your whole household, for I have seen that you alone in this generation are righteous before me. ²Take with you seven pairs of all the ritually clean animals (the male and its mate), and a pair of the animals that are not clean (the male and its mate), —³and also seven pairs of the birds of the sky, male and female—to keep their kind alive on the face of all the land. ⁴For in seven days I will send rain on the land for forty days and forty nights; and I will erase from the face of the ground everything that I made”. ⁵And Noah did everything that YHWH had commanded him ^{6:16b}Then YHWH shut him in.

^{7:10}After seven days the water of the flood came on the land. ¹²The rain fell on the land forty days and forty nights. ¹⁷The flood continued forty days in the land; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the land. ¹⁸The waters rose and increased greatly on the land, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. ¹⁹The water rose so much on the land that all the high mountains under the whole sky were covered; ²⁰the water rose above the mountains covering them fifteen cubits deep. ²²Everything on dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. ²³He wiped out everything alive on the face of the ground—people and animals and creeping things and birds of the sky; they were wiped out from the land. Only Noah was left, and those who were

The Elohim Account

^{6:9}These are the descendants of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with Elohim. ¹⁰And Noah had three sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

^{6:11}The land had become corrupt in Elohim’s eyes, and the land was filled with violence; ¹²Elohim saw that the land was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its ways on the land. ¹³Elohim said to Noah, “I have decided to make an end of all mortals; for the land is filled with violence because of them; I am going to destroy them along with the land. ¹⁴Make yourself an ark of cypress wood. Make it with reeds, and cover it inside and out with pitch. ¹⁵This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. ¹⁶Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above. Put the door of the ark in the side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks”.

^{6:17}“For my part, I am going to bring a flood of water on the land, to destroy from under the sky all flesh in which is the breath of life. Everything on the land will die. ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you; and you are to come into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing—of all flesh—you are bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they are to be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds according to their kinds, of the farm animals according to their kinds, and of everything creeping on the ground according to its kind—two of every kind shall come in with you—to keep them alive. ²¹Also, take with you every kind of edible food and store it up; it is to be food for you and them.” ²²Noah did this—all that Elohim commanded him.

^{7:6}Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the land. ⁷And Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives, went into the ark ahead of the waters of the flood. ⁸Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, ⁹two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as Elohim had commanded Noah. ^{7:11}In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life—in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month—on that day the primeval waters erupted and the floodgates of the sky were opened. ¹³On the very same day Noah, with his sons Shem and Ham and Japheth, his wife, and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark—¹⁴they

with him in the ark.

^{8:6}At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark he had made ⁸and sent out a dove to see if the water had subsided from the face of the ground. ⁹But the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him in the ark for the water was still on the surface of all the land. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. ¹⁰He waited another seven days, and again sent out the dove from the ark; ¹¹the dove came back to him in the evening, and in its beak there was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the land. ¹²Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him anymore. ^{13b}Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was firm.

^{8:20}Noah built an altar to YHWH and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹And when YHWH smelled the pleasing aroma, he said to himself, “I will never curse the ground again because of people, because the inclination of their hearts is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.

²²As long as the land endures,
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night
will not cease.”

[Genesis 5:32; 6:1-8; 7:1-5; 6:16b; 7:10, 12, 17-20, 22-23; 8:6, 8-12, 13b, 20-22]

and wild animals of every kind, farm animals of every kind, and every kind of creeping thing that creeps on the land, and every bird of every kind—every bird, every winged creature. ¹⁵They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as Elohim had commanded.

^{7:18}The water rose and increased greatly on the land, so that the ark floated on the surface of the water. ¹⁹The water rose so much on the land that all the high mountains under the whole sky were covered; ²⁰the water rose above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. ²¹All flesh died that moved on the land—birds, farm animals, wild animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the land, and all human beings. ²⁴And the waters dominated the land for one hundred fifty days.

^{8:1}And Elohim remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the farm animals that were with him in the ark. Elohim made a wind blow over the land, so that the waters subsided. ²The eruptions of the primeval waters were stopped and the floodgates of the sky were closed; the rain from the sky was held back, ³and the water gradually receded from the land. At the end of one hundred fifty days the water abated, ⁴and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.

^{8:5}The water continued to recede until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains appeared, ⁷and he sent out a raven; and it went back and forth until the water was dried up from the land. ¹³In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the water was dried up from the land. ¹⁴In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the land was dry.

^{8:15}Elohim said to Noah, ¹⁶“Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁷Take out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the land—so they may abound in the land, and be fruitful and multiply in the land.” ¹⁸Noah 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 land, went out of the ark by families.

[Genesis 6:9-22; 7:6-9, 11, 13, 15-16, 18-21, 24; 8:1-5, 7, 13a, 14-19]