INTRODUCTION:

So God instructs Noah to build an ark. God gives him the design and the measurements of the ark, for God was going to flood the earth with water, and everything on earth would die. The ark would be large and enormous enough to have Noah, whom God had made covenant with, along with his wife, his sons, and their wives; also with two of every sort of every living thing, fowl, cattle, creeping thing of the earth after his kind—male and female. These animals would come to Noah, and he would keep them alive, for he would gather enough food for all to eat on the ark. Noah did what God commanded of him (6:14-22).

LESSON: I. PREPARATION COMPLETED GENESIS 7:1-4

7:1 And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. The ark has been built, preparation is complete, and is ready to embark. It took 120 years, and while building and preaching the coming of judgment to the people, now, God gives the great invitation to Noah to enter into the ark; to come in with all of his family because God had seen his righteousness in this generation. There was not a single person that God saw was righteous except Noah. There were no other persons following God or lived like God wanted Him to live except Noah. Two things had to be going on in Noah’s mind:

1. He was terrified because he knew that the earth and every living thing upon it were going to be destroyed—every friend, other relatives, neighbors.
2. But, he was comforted because he was vindicated and delivered from all the trials of this evil world, and from the abuse of the ungodly—that talked about him while he preached to them, laughed at him, ridiculed him, mocked him, and persecuted him.

God knows how to comfort and carry his followers through frightening and terrifying experiences, even the experiences of death itself. As he entered the ark along with his immediate family, it was bound to ease his heart, for his family was also saved with him because they believed. To enter the ark was entering the place of safety and salvation which is not allowed for the unrighteous. They could not receive the invitation nor could they board the ark to enter and live in the safety of God’s presence.

7:2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female. At first God said in 6:19 that He wanted two of every animal. Now, Noah is told of more of the details: save by sevens of every clean beast male and seven female; and by two of every unclean beast. That's a lot of animals for they were to
preserve the species. Some of the clean animals would be needed for sacrifice and worship; therefore, more would naturally be needed.

7:3 Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth. Save by sevens male and seven female of fowls also of the air— that is, keep the seed alive of fowls and birds of the air on the face of the earth, so there would be every kind of offspring reproduced again; to keep their kind alive.

7:4 For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth. God is saying that He had given man 120 years to come to Him and if they had not repented, then in these last seven days; a week from today, time will be up. And He will cause it to rain, not just for a day, but for 40 days and 40 nights. And every living thing that's not in the ark that God had created will be destroyed from off the face of the earth. But, I believe that in these last seven days Noah continued to preach to a lost generation. God spelled it out so explicitly, for He gave man chance after chance after chance that there could not be any mistake of His intentions; and they could not go back to say I didn't know. And we can go back and see that 40 had significant meaning:

- The spies sent by Moses to spy out the Promised Land, returned searching after 40 days.
- Israel wandered for 40 years in the wilderness because of unbelief.
- Moses was in the mountain with God for 40 days and nights receiving the Law.
- Elijah fasted for 40 days and 40 nights.
- Nineveh was given 40 days to repent.
- Jesus Christ fasted for 40 days and 40 nights being tempted by the devil in the wilderness.
- Jesus Christ was on the earth for 40 days after His Resurrection before ascending into heaven.

II.  READY FOR THE STORM  GENESIS 7:5-10

7:5 And Noah did according unto all that the Lord commanded him. There was nothing missing out of what God had commanded of Noah. He disobeyed in nothing! All Noah had were the Words of God and by faith Noah followed God's Word and the warnings of judgment to come. No rain had fallen; don't know if there was a dark cloud in the sky, but, the ark was built, the animals had come, the food was supplied and stored within the ark, and all were now in the ark—animals, his family, and himself ready for the storm.

7:6 And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. Noah became a parent at the age of 500 (5:32). Then he preached and built the ark for 120 years. Now, he is 600 years old when the flood waters came upon the earth.

7:7 And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. There was one door and only eight persons altogether entering into the ark—Noah, his wife, his 3 sons, and his 3 sons' wives went in because of the flood waters. There was safety inside the ark.

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7:8 Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth,— The clean and unclean beasts entered into the ark. The fowls and every creeping thing upon the earth entered the ark.

7:9 There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah. They came into the ark two by two at a time; male and female as God had commanded.

7:10 And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth. And it happened just as God had spoken: after the seven days, the flood waters were upon the earth.

SUMMARY:

The invitation to Noah and all of his family is extended by God to come into the ark, for he was the one that was found righteous in his generation. God had looked at Noah’s life and had seen him in his generation to be a just man. And God tells Noah to save the clean male and female of every beast by sevens and the unclean male and female by two; also, the fowls of the air by sevens male and female to keep their kind alive. And God will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that God had made He will destroy from off the face of the earth (7:1-4).

Noah did everything the Lord commanded of him and now, he is 600 years old when the flood waters came upon the earth. Only eight persons altogether entered into the ark, along with the clean and unclean beasts, the fowls and every creeping thing, two by two at a time; male and female they came as God had commanded. And after the seven days, the flood waters were upon the earth (7:5-10).