

Does Genesis Teach Strict 30 Day Months?

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Some Bible students are proponents of a strictly 30 day month Bible Calendar. Most of the time they proclaim that the calendar of Scripture is strictly solar, and makes no use of the moon in either the year, month, day, or week. They opt for a solar calendar of 12 months, with 30 days in each month.

There are others who will admit that the Biblical months are indeed lunar, and in this present time consist of either 29 or 30 days. This is because a lunation period (of the moon) consists of about 29.5 days. This group, however, teaches that the original, Biblical months were 30 days in length, but due to some supernatural occurrence in the universe, the moon was caused to speed up slightly allowing it to complete a lunation currently in 29.5 days.

Certain Encyclopedia's tell us that, "...the moon takes 29 ½ days to change from new moon to new moon."¹ The statement in this encyclopedia is very easily proven by simply watching and calculating from one new moon to the next. You will always get either 29 or 30 days. The point is that *nature itself* teaches us that the moon yields 29 or 30 day months. What nature teaches is what Yahweh teaches, for He is the Author of nature. Scripture even calls nature as a witness at times in order to prove a point (Rom. 1:26; 1 Cor. 11:15). Therefore Yahweh is not going to be opposed to the teachings of nature, neither nature to the teachings of Yahweh. On top of this we find that the prophet Jeremiah stated in 31:35-36 the following:

Thus says Yahweh, Who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (Yahweh of hosts is His name): "If those ordinances depart From before Me, says Yahweh, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever. (Jeremiah 31:35-35; all quotes from NKJV)

When we continue to read this prophecy of Jeremiah we find that Yahweh also states that if the heavens can be measured and the foundations of the earth searched out, then Yahweh will cast off the nation of Israel. The implication is obvious here. Israel will not cease from being a nation because the heavens will not be measured, the earth's depths will not be searched out, and *the ordinances of the moon and stars will not depart*. Thus, if the moon originally yielded 30 day months, and will at a time in the future again yield 30 day months, the ordinances of the moon would be changing. This would go against the prophecy given by Yahweh to Jeremiah for the nation of Israel, and we should see that those who are teaching this are (without sometimes realizing it) making an attempt to cause Israel to cease from being a nation before Yahweh for ever. Should we believe such a teaching? Proponents of strictly 30 day months point to the book of Genesis, and the account of the great flood. Genesis 7:11 reads:

¹ *The New Book of Knowledge*, 1983 by Grolier Incorporated, Volume 12, pg. 448

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

Here we see that the flood began on the 17th day of the second month. Let me point out that the word *month* here in the Hebrew language is the word *chodesh*, which according to *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* has the meaning of "the new moon; by implication a month." What this shows is that we are dealing with lunar months, because of the use of the word *chodesh*. Lunar months consist of either 29 or 30 days; please remember this. I'll now continue with the commentary.

And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark—they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which *is* the breath of life. So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in. (Genesis 7:12-16)

(1) The rain came down for 40 days and nights, (2) Noah and family entered the ark on the 17th day of the 2nd month, (3) the beasts, cattle, creeping things, birds went in the ark on this same day as well, and (4) Yahweh shut the door on this day. Continuing...

¹⁷Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. ¹⁹And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. ²¹And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. ²²All in whose nostrils *was* the breath of the spirit of life, all that *was* on the dry *land*, died. ²³So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who *were* with him in the ark remained *alive*. (Genesis 7:17-23)

(1) The flood (rain) continued for 40 days as verse 12 already stated, (2) the waters prevailed and caused the ark to be upon the surface of the waters, (3) the high hills and mountains were covered, (4) all that was in the dry land died, and (5) only Noah and company remained alive. Continuing...

And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days. (Genesis 7:24)

The waters were strong upon the earth for 150 days. Do not get the time that it rained confused with the time the waters were strong. It rained for 40 days and nights, but the waters continued strong for 150 days. We have the following facts to consider:

- The rain began on the 17th day of the 2nd month
- The rain continued for 40 days and nights
- The waters were strong for 150 days

Continuing...

Then Elohim remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that *were* with him in the ark. And Elohim made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. (Genesis 8:1-2)

(1) Yahweh remembered Noah and all company, including the animals, (2) Yahweh caused a wind to come and subside the waters, and (3) the rain from heaven stopped. What is interesting here is the fact that this verse makes it sound as if the rain stopped after 150 days, but this cannot be so because we know the rain was only for 40 days and nights. What this shows is that Genesis 8:2 must not be in chronological order as pertaining to the rain. Genesis 8:1-2 actually are to be understood in retrospect, i.e. this occurred at the end of the 40 days and nights of rain.

And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. (Genesis 8:3)

(1) The waters receded after the stopping of the rain, and (2) at the end of the 150 days (mentioned in 7:24) the waters ceased to prevail upon the earth. What we have is rain for 40 days and nights, and then (*inclusive* of the 40 days) the waters prevailing (being strong) on the earth for 150 days.

Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth *month*, on the first *day* of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. (Genesis 8:4-5)

(1) The ark rested on the mountains of Ararat in the 17th day of the 7th month, and (2) the waters decreased until the 10th month, and on the new moon of the 10th month the tops of the mountains were seen. This would mean that there was still water on the earth covering things other than the tops of the mountains. What this passage does not say is that the ark rested immediately at the end of the 150 day period. That is an assumption, not a fact. The fact is that the passage is not in perfect chronological order in its telling of events.

So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters *were* on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. (Genesis 8:6-9)

Now, let me ask you, does the event of 8:6 happen immediately after the events in 8:4-5? Was the end of 40 days after the end of 150 days? Was the end of 40 days after the new moon of the 10th month? The answers to these questions are no. What we have here is a compilation of facts that are not in chronological order, but simply depict for us some of the happenings and times during the great flood. One might possibly say that the 40 days of 8:6 are not the same 40 days of 7:12, 17. I would say that this is a possibility. That is, that after the 150 days of the waters prevailing upon the earth there was an *additional* 40 days, which after Noah sent out a raven and a dove.

If this be the case, then we could also say that the 150 days are not inclusive of the original 40 days and nights of rain. This would mean that 40 days and nights of rain occurred and then there was an additional 150 days of the waters prevailing upon the earth, totaling a sum of 190 days + the 40 days of Genesis 8:6, equaling 230 total days. Is this possible? Yes. Is this exactly what happened? I'm not sure, but my point of all this is that this passage is not one in which we can concretely secure a calendar. There are events out of chronological order and facts are simply given. The non-chronological order of these texts cause me to veer away from trying to implement a calendar teaching here.

If a calendar *is intended* in these verses, it does not prove that all the months in between the 17th day of the 2nd month and the 17th day of the 7th month had 30 days. The sequence would not go, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30; it would rather go 30, 30, 29, 30, 30, 29. You would have 2 months of 30 days back to back on each side of a "sandwiched" 29 day month. With the moon you do not always have months of 29, 30, 29, 30. There are times of two consecutive 30 day months. Five consecutive months of 30 days a piece would be too many days (151 days) to fit into these two time references of Genesis 7:11 and Genesis 8:4. What this causes us to see is that the calendar months implemented by Scripture in Noah's time were definitely lunar months consisting of 29 or 30 days a piece. This is seen by the use of the word *chodesh* in Genesis chapters 7 and 8, and the calendar sequence illustrated hereafter, *if* one is even intended from the passage.

2 nd Month	30 Days					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Gen 7:11(1)	18 (2)	19 (3)	20 (4)	21 (5)	22 (6)
23 (7)	24 (8)	25 (9)	26 (10)	27 (11)	28 (12)	29 (13)
						30 (14)

3rd
Month

30
Days

1
(15)

2 (16)	3 (17)	4 (18)	5 (19)	6 (20)	7 (21)	8 (22)
9 (23)	10 (24)	11 (25)	12 (26)	13 (27)	14 (28)	15 (29)
16 (30)	17 (31)	18 (32)	19 (33)	20 (34)	21 (35)	22 (36)
23 (37)	24 (38)	25 (39)	26 (40)	27 (41)	28 (42)	29 (43)
						30 (44)

4th
Month

29
Days

1
(45)

2 (46)	3 (47)	4 (48)	5 (49)	6 (50)	7 (51)	8 (52)
9 (53)	10 (54)	11 (55)	12 (56)	13 (57)	14 (58)	15 (59)
16 (60)	17 (61)	18 (62)	19 (63)	20 (64)	21 (65)	22 (66)
23 (67)	24 (68)	25 (69)	26 (70)	27 (71)	28 (72)	29 (73)

5th
Month

30
Days

1
(74)

2 (75)	3 (76)	4 (77)	5 (78)	6 (79)	7 (80)	8 (81)
9 (82)	10 (83)	11 (84)	12 (85)	13 (86)	14 (87)	15 (88)
16 (89)	17 (90)	18 (91)	19 (92)	20 (93)	21 (94)	22 (95)
23 (96)	24 (97)	25 (98)	26 (99)	27 (100)	28 (101)	29 (102)
						30 (103)

<i>6th</i> Month	<i>30</i> Days						1 (104)
2 (105)	3 (106)	4 (107)	5 (108)	6 (109)	7 (110)	8 (111)	
9 (112)	10 (113)	11 (114)	12 (115)	13 (116)	14 (117)	15 (118)	
16 (119)	17 (120)	18 (121)	19 (122)	20 (123)	21 (124)	22 (125)	
23 (126)	24 (127)	25 (128)	26 (129)	27 (130)	28 (131)	29 (132)	
						30 (133)	

<i>7th</i> Month	<i>29</i> Days						1 (134)
2 (135)	3 (136)	4 (137)	5 (138)	6 (139)	7 (140)	8 (141)	
9 (142)	10 (143)	11 (144)	12 (145)	13 (146)	14 (147)	15 (148)	
16 (149)	17 (150)	18 (151)	19 (152)	20 (153)	21 (154)	22 (155)	
23 (156)	24 (157)	25 (158)	26 (159)	27 (160)	28 (161)	29 (162)	