

## Genesis 7.17-24 poetic and chiasmic shape

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### 7.17-20 POETRY

17 The flood continued **forty days** on the earth [Heb, *`al ha'erets*];

and the waters **increased**,  
and bore up the **ark**,  
and it **rose high above** the earth [Heb, *`al ha'erets*].

18 The waters **swelled and increased greatly** on the earth [Heb, *`al ha'erets*];  
and the **ark floated** on the face of the waters.

19 The waters **swelled so mightily** on the earth [Heb, *`al ha'erets*] that all the **high mountains** under the whole heaven **were covered**;

20 the waters **swelled above the mountains, covering** them fifteen cubits deep.

### 7.21-23 CHIASM

21 And all flesh died [Heb, *go`*, “expire”] that moved [Heb, *rms*] on the earth [Heb, *'erets*], birds, domestic animals [Heb, *behemah*], wild animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth [Heb, *`al ha'erets*], and all human beings [Heb, *'adam*];

22 everything on dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died [Heb, *moth*].

23 He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground [Heb, *'adamah*], human beings [Heb, *'adam*] and animals [Heb, *behemah*] and creeping [Heb, *rms*] things and birds of the air; they were blotted out from the earth [Heb, *min-ha'erets*].

### 7.24: FRAMING CONCLUSION

And the waters **swelled** on the earth [Heb, *`al ha'erets*] for **one hundred fifty days**.