

summed up in a few sentences.* It happened about sixteen hundred and fifty years after the creation of man, and about two thousand three hundred and fifty years before the Christian era. Noah, forewarned of God, had prepared an ark for the saving of himself and his house. He was also commanded to bring into the ark of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort, to keep them alive with him. Of beasts which were clean, according to the Jewish law, Noah was to take to him by sevens—that is, seven males and seven females. He was also to take of all food that was eaten, to keep alive the tenants of the ark, both rational and irrational. A week after Noah entered the ark, taking with him his three sons and his wife, and his sons' wives; a rain, which lasted forty days, began to fall, and the fountains of the great deep were broken up; so that the land was overflowed by the waters, till all the hills that were under the whole heaven were covered. The waters had so far abated, one hundred and fifty days after the deluge commenced, that the ark rested on the mountains of Ararat. At intervals of a week each

* Gen. ch. vi., vii., viii.