

Genesis 8:1-22  
"A New Beginning"

In Ch 7 we left Noah afloat, on a great big boat ☺... You know the narrative, God had said that because of the fact that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, & that *every* intent of the thoughts of his heart was *only evil, continually* that He was going to destroy man & every living thing, every creeping thing & every bird of the air from the face of the earth... But Noah *found grace* in the eyes of the Lord (praise be to God).

So God told Noah to build an ark; & for *decades* he would labor, he would preach *to* people, plead *w/people* to turn from their sin & trust in the Living God. He walked *w/God*, witnessed *for* God but rather than responding to the message, mankind rejected the opportunity to turn from their sin & trust in the Lord. Then the day came; God told Noah, "Come into the ark", the invitation (if you will) unto salvation, to find rest, sanctuary, safety & security in His provision from what would otherwise be certain destruction.

& God brought to Noah 2 of every living kind on the face of the earth (7 each of the "clean" animals, 2 each of the "unclean", [now we spoke of what those #s looked like in our last study & if it would be possible for the ark to actually hold all those animals, if you're interested in that I'd recommend you grab a cd, or download the mp3 from sermon audio) & God shut the door. The invitation unto salvation was closed. & We read in Vs 11 of Ch 7 that in the 600<sup>th</sup> yr of Noah's life, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> month, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the month, on *that day* all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, & the windows of heaved were opened. There were torrential down pours & tremendous upheavals of water upon the earth...

The word of God says that the waters increased & lifted up the ark & it rose high above the earth; the waters prevailed & greatly increased on the earth & all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. & *All flesh died that moved on the earth: birds & cattle, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, & every man. All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, all* that was on dry land, died. God destroyed every living thing which was on the face of the ground, *only Noah* & those who were w/him in the ark remained alive. Look at Vs 24 (Ch 7)

Most people think of the flood as lasting 40 days & 40 nights, not true. It rained that long; the fountains of the deep were erupting for that period of time. But the waters covered the face of the earth for months... Noah would remain on the ark for over a year...

3 Basic stages to Ch 8. We will see the floodwaters *drained*, the earth *dried*, & the ark *disembarked*. We'll see the faithfulness of God; rest & renewal after times of tribulation...

Ch 8 is the end of the storm & a new beginning. So if you find yourself in a stormy season of life, take heart, God is faithful; He will see you through & on the other side is rest & renewal; a new beginning.

### Vs 1

We read here that God “remembered” Noah, but let me encourage you w/this: God never *forgot* Noah. Sometimes human language falls short of Divine attributes or actions; it’s like, “How can I describe an action that transcends humanity in a manner that meets my understanding?” We call words like this “anthropomorphisms” it’s a big fancy word that means ascribing a human characteristic to God’s Person... We do this all the time when we speak of the “hand” of God, or the “eyes” of the Lord. Well, God isn’t a man, He’s Spirit, He’s not limited by these 2 appendages we call hands, or these 2 organs of vision that we call eyes. He’s all powerful, all seeing, all knowing; but we need words that bridge the gap between His infinite nature & our finite understanding. So we attach these words to Him, but they don’t come close to the fullness that is true to Him.

& If God knows *everything*, He can’t forget *anything*. He never forgot Noah; when it speaks of God “remembering” it speaks of Him acting upon His word which He’s previously given. God had made a commitment to Noah & now He’s proactively fulfilling that commitment.

But let’s talk about this for a minute, because (time for transparency here) how many of you would be bold enough to say that there have been turbulent times in your life, “stormy seasons” in your life in which you felt forsaken? Now we *know* God *hasn’t* forsaken us, “*For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”*<sup>1</sup> Yet that doesn’t nullify the *feeling* of being forsaken. The feeling of being forsaken (quite frankly) is a normal human emotion that most all of us (whether we admit it or not) have experienced. The psalmist cried out, “*Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? Why do You hide in times of trouble?”*<sup>2</sup> In the book of 2nd Cor, Paul said that while he was in Asia that he was burdened so *beyond measure*, so *above strength* that he despaired even of life! Jesus Himself, upon the cross being cast into the depths of humanity cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matt 27:46)

As you study Gen 7-8 we have no record of God speaking to Noah even once throughout the entire time of this trial (for over a year)!

<sup>1</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Heb 13:5). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>2</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Ps 10:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

I would imagine that there were times he (&/or his family) wondered whether or not God had forgotten them. Listen, months went by, no word from God, tossed about upon the ocean, driven back & forth by waves that refused to relent... but what was happening during that time? Noah was learning (all the more) what it meant to live by faith. His boat wasn't sinking, though being tossed to & fro, waves crashing against the side of the ark, but it was still floating, & he was still alive, what did that mean? It meant that God was w/him, that God had not left nor forsaken him... Are you pickin up what I'm throwin down 😊?

Maybe that's you today, it's been months since you've heard from God, you're being tossed around on the ocean of life, driven to & fro by the waves of 1 tough time after another & you're wondering if God's forgotten about you... Listen to me, you're still here, your ship hasn't sunk, & you're learning to walk by faith regardless of how you feel.

God made a promise to Noah (& check this out), *"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"*<sup>3</sup> (Praise God?)

When God gives to you His word, He'll never resend it, recall it, or recant it; the gifts & calling of God are irrevocable (Rom 11:29). Now I don't know about you, but that encourages me. Because God has given me His word on another matter; the matter of believing upon the Lord J.C. That if I would believe upon Him I will never perish, but have everlasting life, & I'm so glad that God is not a man that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. He has said & He will do, He has spoken & He will make it good...

God has not forgotten you, He's given His word to you, so be confident of this very thing, *"...that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;"*<sup>4</sup> God was faithful to His word to Noah, & He will be faithful to His word to you. Regardless of how we feel; I thank God that my feelings don't annul God's faithfulness.

God caused a wind to pass over the earth. We're beginning to see evaporation cycles, this would've began to trigger what science refers to as the Ice Age. Dr Henry Morris writes, *"The sharp changes in temperature following the flood, occasioned by the precipitation of the vapor canopy that had maintained the greenhouse effect over the world, led to the buildup of great thicknesses of snow and ice near the polar regions. These eventually radiated out in the form of tremendous ice sheets, covering northern Europe and reaching down into the northern third of the United States in this hemisphere. The Ice Age probably lasted several hundred or a thousand years...and undoubtedly had a profound effect on the earth's animal kinds."* Henry Morris, *The Genesis Record*, p. 215-16

<sup>3</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Nu 23:19]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>4</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Php 1:6]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

## Vs 2-5

Throughout this time we're talking about cataclysmic upheavals upon the earth. Entire Mt ranges being shoved up violently, the weight of the waters causing areas of the sea bed to collapse creating valleys & various reservoirs for waters to subside as they receded from the earth. Write it down & look it up later, Psalm 104:5-9

Notice also in Vs 4 that in the 7<sup>th</sup> month on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the month the ark "rested". It was a fresh start, a new beginning, a clean slate. The ark came to rest; Noah didn't drive the boat, he wasn't steering the barge, he was nothing more than a passenger on board who by God's grace, was saved. Rest was found after the storm.

## Vs 6-14

The ark was lodged there upon Mt Ararat for some 3 months before the Mt peaks were finally standing up out of the water. Noah then waits 40 more days, opens up the window that he'd made there in the ark & winds up sending out 2 birds on a scouting mission of sorts.

1<sup>st</sup> he sends out a raven & we read that the raven just kept going to & fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. The raven is a scavenger/carrion kind of bird. This is telling us that it was digging the feast of rotting flesh that it found floating upon the waters. No need to return to the ark, it was content to indulge itself upon the things of this world. (Can you see where this is headed)

The dove on the other hand didn't want anything to do w/what it found & it returned to Noah who received her again into the ark. Now, that's good & bad (as we'll explain in a moment). The 2<sup>nd</sup> time Noah sent out the dove, it returned w/a sign of life which encouraged Noah & then the final time he sent it out, it didn't return. The earth was clean it found itself at home once again.

Now there are a # of things that we can glean from this. As you probably know (& if you don't you will now) the dove in the scriptures is picture, or a type of what? (Or perhaps I should say "who"?) The Holy Spirit. Perhaps you recall from the baptism of Jesus, *"When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"*<sup>5</sup> & You thought your baptism was cool, right? The Lord's was way cooler. But here's the point, the Father sent out the Holy Spirit & He found a place to call home in the person of J.C.

<sup>5</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). [Mt 3:16-17]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

He didn't return to the Father like, "There was no place for Me, everything was unclean."

Let me get to the point, the Father sends out the Holy Spirit who is "flying around" our lives. He's looking for a place to land, a home to inhabit, God wants your life to be a place for His power, we know this. Remember these words, *"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."*<sup>6</sup> He wants to do great things in our lives, but when He surveys the situation what does He find? Does He return to the Father like, "There was no place for me to take up residence in \_\_\_\_'s life." Or perhaps He comes back w/a little olive leaf in His mouth & it's like, "There's hope, but I'm still not at home yet, can't remain in that place."

We wanna be in that place whereby the Holy Spirit of God comes upon us, fills us to the overflow & finds Himself right at home in our heart.

Unfortunately there's a raven in the mix, right? The war between the flesh & the Spirit, one little bird in you wants to feast on the things of this world, finds himself right at home in the rot that this world has to offer. The Holy Spirit wants nothing to do w/that. When His home is in your heart, you won't feel at home in the sensual, self-seeking, flesh feeding environment of this world. The bible tells us that we're to crucify the flesh & to walk in the spirit. Write it down, look it up later Galatians 5 (just read the whole Ch).

Now there's another side to this, when the Dove came back, Noah didn't stand idly by & just say, "Well if it wants to come to me it can." But rather he extended his hand, attracted it's attention & drew it in... So many times when it comes to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives we think, "Well, I'm here, if He wants to work in me He can."

We stand by idly, passively, when God would have us to seek Him proactively... There you are at the parade, there's a couple kids just standing there & just by the fact that they're there a little piece of candy occasionally lands by them & they're blessed simply by being there. God can do that, He can throw a little blessing your way just because you're there (& He will).

But then there's that other kid, he's jumping up & down, waving his hands *incessantly*, is begging people *obnoxiously* & candy is flying his way non-stop, he's over there bathing in tootsie rolls & everyone around him is receiving candy just because it's bouncing off him, it keeps getting thrown at him!

Follow me; here comes the Lord. He's looking for a life to use, He has blessings to bestow. Some of us will sit by passively & we'll receive something occasionally just because God is merciful. Then there are others who will be all, "Lord, me, me, me, I'm over here, throw it my way, I want it, bless me, use me, show me what to do, God give me the fullness of Your Holy Spirit, cleanse me, fill me, God me, choose me!"

Listen, I'm not saying you're not saved (if you've received J.C.), I'm saying are you leading a life set apart to J.C. are you available (truly) to be used by J.C. & are you just chomping at the bit for any opportunity, that God might pour His Spirit out upon you & be glorified in you? Leave Gen 8 & turn to **Isaiah 6** (Vs 1-9)

Isaiah was hanging out in the presence of the Lord & found himself confronted w/the opportunity to be used by the Lord & just volunteered for the job. God wants to do a work, He just needs a volunteer.

**Vs 15-19**

Question, was Noah brought safely through the storm? Yes. Did he find rest on the other side of the storm? Yes. Did it come as quickly as he wanted it too? Probably not. God's not on our schedule, we're on His. Noah received God's promise through faith & patience, we don't read of him hearing from God from the day he entered the ark, until the day God told him to leave the ark (over 370 days).

We read in the book of Hebrews, *"And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."*<sup>7</sup>

Btw, as for the prophetic picture here. We don't believe the Noah represents the church who will be kept safe through the Great Tribulation. We believe Noah represents a type of Israel (the 144,000 found in Rev 7) whom God will seal & see safely through His wrath before the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ. We believe the church is represented by Enoch (Gen 5) who walked w/God & was not for God took him (raptured him) prior to pouring out His wrath.

Ok, initially God gave the invitation to Noah to "come" into the Ark. Now He gives him the command to "go out of the ark" to be fruitful & multiply (much like Adam) on the earth.

Listen, that's always the way it is. 1<sup>st</sup> it's "Come & see" then it's "Go & tell".

<sup>7</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Heb 6:11-12). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Initially he was assured of salvation, then he was commended into service.

Jesus said, *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*<sup>8</sup>

Then after some time of growth, learning to walk by faith, finding rest & roots in Him takes place He says, *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."*<sup>9</sup>

We love the fact that Noah didn't leave the ark until he heard from God, but once God told him to leave, he immediately disembarked. Waiting *on* the Lord, responding in obedience *to* the Lord...

## Vs 20

Man, it just keeps getting better doesn't it? You've been cooped up on the ark for over a year; everything & everyone on the earth has died. You feel like you haven't had a proper bath, you've dealt w/the stench of the animals, you're finally told you're to leave the ark. Now what do you do? Do you go for a run? Think to yourself, there's absolutely nothing that can harm me, I'm safe. Do you cry as the result of P.T.S.D. take some time alone to decompress, what do you do?

Noah builds an altar to the Lord, takes of every clean animal & every clean bird & makes a sacrifice of worship to God. Noah *walked w/the Lord, worked for the Lord, witnessed for the Lord, waited on the Lord & now he worships the Lord.*

Whether God does something great, or brings you through something great our result should always be the same; we're to worship the Lord our God.

Not only did Noah give to God, but he gave to God at great cost. When is the last time you gave to God in such a way that it cost you? It was truly a *sacrifice* to you. Noah was risking extinction here, each one of these animals were on the "endangered species" list of his day. Yet God found the sacrifice well pleasing in His sight.

Write this down & when you get time look it up, 1 Chron 1:1-27. It's a great life lesson. David had sinned, God was judging the sin & David went to buy a threshing floor to make a sacrifice to God. The owner was like, "You're the king, you can have it for free." David said this, *"No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for the Lord, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing."*<sup>10</sup> How can it truly be a sacrifice if it's not mine, & how can it truly be a sacrifice if it costs nothing? David understood the meaning of sacrifice, Noah understood the meaning of sacrifice, of worship. Our lives are to be a sacrifice, an offering of worship to God.

<sup>8</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Mt 11:28). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>9</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Mk 16:15). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>10</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (1 Ch 21:24). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

We're to give of our 1<sup>st</sup> fruits to God (not what's left, or when it's all said & done I'll see what there is, the 1<sup>st</sup> fruits), we're to give the sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips...

Why is costly sacrifice pleasing to God? Because He's greedy? No, what do we have but that He hasn't given it? God's the One who put all the animals on the ark to begin with. But rather it's because God Himself sacrificed at great cost & when we sacrifice in a costly manner it shows we're being conformed into the image of Jesus who Himself was the greatest display of costly sacrifice (here's another one to look up later Eph 5:2).

### Vs 21-22

My heart fails to measure up to God's in more ways than I can count. But there's 1 that I think I'm pretty close... God loves the smell of a good BBQ & I do too 😊.

It's another anthropomorphic term, God "smelled" a soothing aroma. More pleasing to God than the smell of the sacrifice was the heart of Noah *in* the sacrifice.

& God said in His heart, "That's it, I'm not going to curse the ground anymore" (He didn't remove the curse, but said that He wouldn't add to it anymore) "& neither will I ever destroy the earth again as I have done." Meaning no more worldwide floods even though we may deserve it; God satisfied His wrath in another way. Through pouring out what we deserve upon the Person of His own Son, J.C. upon the cross. He's paid the price for our sin & God can be gracious to us through the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf...

Then we see the climactic/seasonal changes coming into focus, cold, heat, winter summer. Day & night, seedtime & harvest. A couple months ago many of you planted a garden, now you're harvesting that. There's seed time & harvest, cold/heat, summer winter, day & night. The fact that those things happen w/out fail bears witness to the word of God & His faithfulness to man. Things we take for granted, creation is constantly preaching to man, day & night, through cold & heat, winter & summer, seedtime & harvest.

His word has not failed, His word *will not* fail, if He has said it He will make it good & having begun a good work in you... He will be faithful to complete it.

### Prayer Points:

God thank You for Your word. How refreshing & refocusing it is. We thank You for Your faithfulness & we desire the fullness of all that You have for us. As You search our hearts, may Your Holy Spirit find us clean before you, & available to you, show Yourself strong on our behalf, give us hearts loyal to You.



Question: As God searches your heart what does He find, perhaps the Holy Spirit has never found a place to rest in your heart because you've never surrendered your heart to J.C. If that's the case & He's speaking to you today I would urge you to turn from your sin & believe upon the Lord J.C. who has loved you, shed His blood for you & is waiting to forgive you.

Maybe you know the Lord, you've given your heart *to* the Lord but as God "sends out His Holy Spirit" (if you'll allow me that term) at best He brings back an olive leaf to God saying, "He wants to follow You, she desires to walk w/You, but there's still a lot of debris in his/her life". You've not asked God to fill you to the overflow, to have His way *in* you, to give the fullness of His Holy Spirit *to* you.

Oh you're saved, but you don't lead a victorious life, there's no power there. **Don't be the cool kid who hopes the candy lands by them as the parade goes by, humble yourself, reach out to God, say God please, teach me what it means to be wholly surrendered to You, to be empowered by Your Spirit, here I am, send me... Reach out in faith, I'm asking you to ask God to fill you w/the fullness of His Holy Spirit**

Jesus said, *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

Matthew 5:6

We want to ask God to fill us w/His Spirit & to fill us w/His love

*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal.* 1 Corinthians 13:1

Now I could lead you in a prayer & that would be fine. **But I'm going to ask you to come to God in faith & ask, ask Him to pour His Spirit out upon you, to empower you to lead a life set apart to Him, in victory over sin, that you would have boldness & heart that breaks for the lost, that He might baptize you in the Holy Spirit & that your life would never be the same from this day forward for the glory of His name. Lift your hands & open your heart to God, worship Him in this moment...**

It's a new beginning...