

**NOAH'S WORSHIP**  
**September 28, 2014**  
**Genesis 8:1-22**

"And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar." Genesis 8:20

What must Noah's thoughts have been when he exited the ark, one year, two weeks and three days after God shut its door. With wife, sons and daughters-in-law, the only survivors of history's most devastating storm, he had passed through all-consuming judgment and been spared by God in the ark.

Noah entered the ark a middle-aged adult with many peers. He exited as the oldest living man; the head and father of humanity. The world he had known was gone. Everyone he had known outside the ark was dead, with no graves to signify that they ever existed. New vegetation overgrowing mangled debris could not yet hide the evidence that a cataclysmic, violent overthrow had revenged a violent race. What was Noah's response? He worshiped, building an altar and offering a sacrifice unto God.

**Noah's sacrifice demonstrated his submission unto God.** A sacrifice indicates the subservience of the man who offers it, subservience to the one to whom he offers. The world that was destroyed by the flood was marked by insubordination, rebellion and violence. God's destruction of that world revealed His power and His parity. It exhibited His sovereign prerogative to lift up and to cast down, to bind and to loose, to create and to destroy. Whether man acknowledges these attributes is irrelevant; they are real and evident, and will be vindicated in God forever. Man's willful submission to them is accompanied by divine mercy. Noah's first act in the new world signified his submission, and was his consecration of the entire race unto God, exhibiting his own consecration and his desire that the whole surviving race be consecrated.

**Noah's sacrifice demonstrated his gratitude unto God.** God had not destroyed utterly, but had spared humanity. Countless other options were available to God. But He chose to keep mankind, for He delights in communion with the creature whom He created in His own image. Noah had to be acutely aware of the uniqueness of His deliverance; overwhelmed with a sense of wonder that God had spared humanity. Especially, that God chose him as the individual through whom the race was preserved. We do not know how much Noah knew of the gospel that would be revealed through the prophets and apostles who would descend from him. But he knew God had delivered him and destroyed the rest, and he offered a sacrifice of thanksgiving in response.

**Noah's sacrifice made propitiation unto God.** This act of submission and gratitude was the sign of a God-given covering for man's guilt. Adam's nakedness, shamefully exhibited when he sinned, was covered when God took animal skins to clothe him (Gen. 3:21). The animals' blood was shed, signifying the death of the innocent to cover the guilt of man. This precedent was repeated when Abel brought a blood-sacrifice (Gen. 4:1-5). The pre-flood world had this means of covering guilt, a God-approved substitute dying for the sinner. Noah brought this unique and singular way of divine appeasement with him through the flood, and made it his first act as he led the human race in a new existence on a new earth.

Indeed, "herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us" (1 John 4:10). "For God so loved the world" (John 3:16), that He spared humanity so that He could send His son, "made in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin" (Rom. 8:3).

3. A sacrifice of propitiation.

- A. Worshipped the God who could destroy the earth with a flood
- B. Worshipped the God who would spare humanity from annihilation
- C. Worshipped the God who spared humanity by choosing him.
- D. Worshipped the God who was faithful to His word: a word of warning and of deliverance.
- E. Worshipped with costly offering; there were few animals to offer.
- F. Worshipped with clean offering