

GENESIS 8:15-22

LESSON: THANKSGIVING AND A PROMISE — November 25, 2018

INTRODUCTION:

The days of the Flood had occurred and the waters prevailed, and now God remembers Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that were with him in the Ark. So, He made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. At the end of 150 days the waters stopped and the Ark rested in the 7th month on the 17th day upon the mountains of Ararat. The waters continually decreased until the 10th month on the 1st day of the month, and then tops of the mountains could be seen. At the end of 40 days, Noah opened the window of the Ark and sends out a raven that flew back and forth until the earth was dry. Now, Noah sends out a dove to see if the waters were still too high, and if it could find dry ground. The dove was not able to find rest for the sole of its feet, so it returned to Noah for the water was still too high. In 7 more days, Noah sent the dove out of the Ark again, and towards the evening the dove returned to the Ark with an olive leaf in its mouth (beak). Now, Noah knows that the waters had diminished from the earth. Noah waited another 7 days, sending the dove out and it didn't return to the Ark. The 600th year and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the ground was dry. By the 2nd month on the 27th day, the earth was completely dry. (8:1-14).

LESSON: I. LEAVING THE ARK GENESIS 8:15-19

8:15 And God spake unto Noah, saying,— God speaks to Noah after a year and ten days.

8:16 Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. It is time and God tells Noah to bring his family out of the Ark. He was to do this without fear; without apprehension of the utter devastation he might see. This would now be his home.

8:17 Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth. And every living creature that was with him in the Ark was brought forth out of the ark, so they can multiply (breed abundantly) in the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on the earth. Noah didn't have time to get a feel of his surroundings, for he had work to do. And at God's command; at God's Word like before, Noah continued to believe God. And I know he was glad to get out of the ark.

8:18 And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him:— And Noah did as he was told. Noah didn't have to worry about any neighbors, for there weren't any. They were the only ones there. It was almost like Adam and Eve alone with the animals, but without the Garden. The earth Noah stepped onto was no longer filled with lush green vegetation or fruit

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bearing trees or beautiful colors of anything. Instead it must have been debris or carcasses of animals or bones of people or other things you would find after a hurricane or tsunami. Can you imagine the impact on one's shoulders knowing you are the only ones on the earth? But, Noah stepped out in obedience; he was instructed to come out of the Ark, just as he was instructed to preach one message for 120 years— it's gonna rain. He knew that when the whole earth flooded, it was because of man's disobedience.

8:19 Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark. The beast, the fowl, whatever crept on the ground came out of the Ark. I wonder did they run wild out of the ark? - But if you've heard the elephant story, that if you keep him chained up for so long, he won't go any further than his chain allowed him even when the chain is taken off. But we know when God speaks even the animals know how to listen.

II. WORSHIPPING GOD GENESIS 8:20-22

8:20 And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl,— The altar was where Noah and his family would worship God, thereby honoring God; inviting God's presence in, where God would be approachable, and where man would become acceptable to God. In the Old Testament, the godly line of believers worshipped God primarily at altars and approached God through the sacrifice or the shed blood of animals.

So, after coming out of the Ark, Noah built an altar to the Lord by taking (one) of every clean beast, and (one) of every clean fowl, and offering burnt offerings on the altar. Mind you, it didn't matter what Noah saw when he stepped out of the Ark, he knew how to obey and give reverence to God after departing the Ark! God was still speaking because he knew how to take the clean beast and the clean fowl and place them on the altar. He put God first before building a house, or making a merry celebration. He built an altar to the Lord.

8:20C ...and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

The **burnt offering** is the offering that a person offered when he wanted to thank and praise God; make renewed commitments. The burnt offering is not to be eaten by man, but was to all be consumed on the altar as a gift to God. ¹The sons of Adam had built no altar for their offerings, because God was still present on the earth. It seems that the burnt offering is first mentioned here in Noah's time. God had to place this on his heart. We would later find out in the Levitical Laws given by Moses that...

- Four animals were used in animal sacrifices. The rich sacrificed the larger animals and the poor the small birds.
 1. A **bullock** or an **ox** (Lev.1:5).
 2. A **sheep** or **lamb** (Lev.1:10).
 3. A **goat** (Lev.1:10).

¹ <http://biblehub.com/commentaries/genesis/8-22.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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4. A pigeon or turtle-dove (Lev.1:14).

- i. The burnt offering was a freewill offering. God did not force man to come (Lev.1:3).
- ii. The animal offered and sacrificed was always to be a clean animal; free from blemishes, disease, injuries, or defects of any kind.
- iii. The animal was sacrificed meaning its life was given up and its blood shed as a substitute or ransom for the person's sins.
- iv. The animal would then be burned upon the altar. This symbolized the holiness and wrath of God.
 1. Judging and consuming the sin being borne by the animal.
 2. Purifying that which was impure.

8:21 And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake;— God saw the fear and apprehension of Noah's heart, but God also saw Noah's worship. The smell that arose from the burning meat was to be a pleasing, satisfying aroma unto God. This symbolizes that the sacrifice pleased and satisfied God. It satisfied God's holiness and made one acceptable to God. However, God saw beyond the animal sacrifice to the death of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, for the sins of the world which was to be future tense. God sees the end at the beginning. God was not only looking at Noah, but beyond, and made promises to him. *"I will not again... any more for man's sake."* This is to Noah and mankind.

1. God promised to never again curse the earth with a flood despite man's depravity and sinfulness.

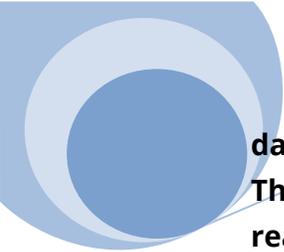
8:21b ...for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth;— This now shows God's great pleasure to Noah's sacrifice and God's great promise to Noah and the human race. God saw the horror of Noah when he looked around upon the devastated and barren earth, covered with scattered debris everywhere. God saw the questions flooding Noah's mind, wondering if God would launch the judgment and flooding again, for he and his dear family were still of Adam's race; still sinful and sure to sin in the future because *the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth*. God repeats this verse from Genesis 6:5, for He had seen man's wickedness before the flood.

8:21c ...neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

2. God purposed to never again destroy life upon earth with a universal flood, neither man nor animal—not as a judgment.

8:22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. God still promises that while the earth remains...

3. God purposed to guarantee the times and seasons of the earth until the end of the world. God purposed to give assurance to those who have survived this horrific flood and to us in the future. There is seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and



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day and night. The order of nature which was destroyed by the flood is restored. Therefore they are able to plan for the future. Sowing and reaping would still be a reality while the earth remains. The cycle of planting seed is followed by reaping the harvest. There will be seasons of cold and heat; summer and winter. There will be day and night. God established the cycles for our living—time to plant—time to grow—time to harvest—time to rest—time of seasons.

SUMMARY:

Then God spoke to Noah and told him to bring his family out of the Ark and every living creature that was with him in the Ark, so they can multiply (breed abundantly) in the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on the earth. And Noah did as he was told (8:15-19).

After coming out of the Ark, Noah built an altar to the Lord by taking one of every clean beast, and one of every clean fowl, and offering burnt offerings on the altar. The fragrance of Noah's offering ascended to God and it pleased Him, thereby God promised to *not curse the ground any more for man's sake; not smite any more with a universal flood; purposed to guarantee times of planting, harvesting, cold and heat, summer and winter and day and night shall not cease while the earth remained"* (8:20-22).