



(Genesis 8:15-22) And God spake unto Noah, saying, Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. 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 Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him: Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark. 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. 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; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. (KJV)

Introduction:

We exhibit a degree of thanksgiving in life in reverse proportion to the amount of blessings we've received. Martin Luther wrote in his book Table Talk: "The greater God's gifts and works, the less they are regarded."

A hungry man is more thankful for his morsel than a rich man for his heavily-laden table. A lonely woman in a nursing home will appreciate a visit more than a popular woman with a party thrown in her honor. A Russian who finally gets his own copy of the Holy Scriptures after 75 years of state-imposed atheism is more

thankful for his little book than we are for all the Christian books and magazines and translations that overflow our shelves.

Ralph Waldo Emerson observed that if the constellations appeared only once in a thousand years, imagine what an exciting event it would be. But because they're there every night, we barely give them a look.

Once of the evidences of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives is a gradual reversal of that twisted pattern. God wants to make us people who exhibit a thankfulness in proper proportions to the gifts and blessings we received.

--Nelson's Complete Book of Stories Illustrations & Quotes, p. 736

Altars sometimes symbolize a new beginning:

Genesis 12

7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

Genesis 13

18 Then Abram removed [his] tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which [is] in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.

Exodus 17

15 And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi:

Joshua 22

10. And when they came unto the borders of Jordan, that [are] in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh built there an altar by Jordan, a great altar to see to.

Judges 6

24 Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovahshalom: unto this day it [is] yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

1 Samuel 14

35 And Saul built an altar unto the LORD: the same was the first altar that he built unto the LORD.

2 Samuel 24

25 And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.

1 Kings 12

33 So he (Jeroboam) offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, [even] in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

1 Kings 18

30 And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

1 Chronicles 21

26 And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering.

2 Chronicles 15

8. And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD.

2 Chronicles 33

16 And he (Menassah) repaired the altar of the LORD, and sacrificed thereon peace offerings and thank offerings, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.

Ezra 3

2 Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God.

I. God is pleased when His servants place their full faith in Him.

A. Built an Alter

-The first thing we find in the new world is worship.

Mayflower Compact: November, 1620

The Mayflower Compact is a written agreement composed by a consensus of the new Settlers arriving at New Plymouth in November of 1620. They had traveled across the ocean on the

ship Mayflower which was anchored in what is now Provincetown Harbor near Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The Mayflower Compact was drawn up with fair and equal laws, for the general good of the settlement and with the will of the majority. The Mayflower's passengers knew that the New World's earlier settlers failed due to a lack of government. They hashed out the content and eventually composed the Compact for the sake of their own survival.

All 41 of the adult male members on the Mayflower signed the Compact. Being the first written laws for the new land, the Compact determined authority within the settlement and was observed as such until 1691. This established that the colony (mostly persecuted Separatists), was to be free of English law. It was devised to set up a government from within themselves and was written by those to be governed.

In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord [King James](#), by the Grace of God of [Great Britain](#), [France](#) and [Ireland](#), King, [Defender of the Faith](#), etc.

Having undertaken, for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith and Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the First Colony in the Northern Parts of [Virginia](#), do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, Covenant and Combine ourselves together into a Civil Body Politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod, the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of [England](#), [France](#) and [Ireland](#) the eighteenth, and of [Scotland](#) the fifty-fourth. Anno Domini 1620.^{[5][3]}

B. Offered the sacrifice

"Before he built a house—he built an altar."—C. Spurgeon

5 that were acceptable according to...Clean beast: Lev. 1:1-17

- male
- bull
- goat
- lamb
- turtledoves
- young pigeons

Fire: symbol of God's holiness

II. God is pleased to fulfill all that He has said.

A fulfillment of God's covenant promise to Noah see 6:18

- protection
 - preservation
 - **personal purpose—establish a new world**
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- **Established precedent in the new world**
 - **Established worship site in the new world**
 - **Recognized that God's method of salvation was ultimately to bring glory back to Him!**

III. God is pleased when man voluntarily responds to His mercy & grace.

Noah Preached 120 years

1 Peter 3:20

Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein a few, that is, eight souls were saved by water,...

2 Peter 2:5

And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.

smell: *ruwach:* (roo'ack) a primitive root; properly, to blow, i.e. breathe; only (literally) to smell or (by implication, perceive (figuratively, to anticipate, enjoy):--accept, smell, X touch, make of quick understanding.

Only used 11 times in the O.T.

Amos 5:21 (God to Israel before Assyrian conquest)

I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.

- **Obedience is pleasing to God**
- **Worship is pleasing to God**
- **Thanksgiving is pleasing to God**
- **Purity is pleasing to God.**

There is a saying that goes, “Old Fishermen never die, they just smell that way”... we are really tuned in to our sense of smell...

Characteristics of the Noahic Covenant

- Initiated by God
- Universal—all flesh
- Unconditional—no demands of the second party
- Sign—Rainbow

Conclusion

- Knowing and doing are sometimes two parts that don't go together in our lives. What spiritual progress have you initiated in your heart & home?
- While remembering the blessings of the Lord and continually praising Him for victories wrought...Past victories are not sufficient to redeem us from today's trials.
- What does it take for God to get a grip on your heart? The Lord moved a whole world to reveal His everlasting promise to the following generations. What does it take to get your attention? What area of your life is God holding back His judgment upon with His Hand of mercy? Why not acknowledge that area today and humbly submit to His Lordship of your life?