

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

### Message #25

### Genesis 8:1-22

There are at least four Biblical purposes for Divine Judgment: 1) To destroy the wicked (Genesis 6:5-7); 2) To separate the righteous from the wicked (Matthew 13:30); 3) To vindicate the righteous from all wrongs done against him (Revelation 6:10-11); 4) To preserve the righteous (Genesis 6:17-18).

**IN TIME GOD WILL SEND HIS FIERCE WRATH TO DESTROY THE WICKED BUT HE WILL PROTECT AND PRESERVE THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED GRACE.**

The Wrath of God had been swift and devastating, covering the whole world and destroying all life (Genesis 6:19-23).

**NARRATIVE REALITY #1** - What God did. 8:1-5

**(Action #1)** - God remembered Noah. 8:1a

The Hebrew word “remember” carries with it the idea of preserving and contemplating something with one’s mind with the idea of preserving what you contemplated. It is not that God had forgotten about Noah during the time of the flood, it was that now at this point, He was contemplating and focusing on the promises He had made to Noah (i.e. 6:19-20).

**(Action #2)** - God removed the water. 8:1b-5

God caused the wind to pass over the land, which caused the waters to subside (8:1b). He caused the gushing fountains of the deep and the raining waters from the sky to stop (8:2). He systematically removed the water from the earth (8:3) and caused the ark to sit on the mountains of Ararat (8:4). The specific day the ark came to rest on the dry ground was exactly 150 days after the rain began to fall, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the second month (7:11), which would be the 17th day of the seventh month. According to verse 5, the waters continued to decrease another 74 days after the ark was sitting on top of the mountain and other mountain tops could not be seen for another 74 days.

Ararat is a high plateau located on the far eastern boarder of modern Turkey. In the Bible, Ararat refers to a mountain (Genesis 8:4); a country (Armenia) (II Kings 19:37; Isaiah 37:38); and a Kingdom (far eastern boarder of modern day Turkey) (Jeremiah 51:27). Ararat is known for its two large mountain peaks which ascend high into the sky. Little Ararat stand nearly 13,000 feet high and the Great Ararat rise nearly 17,000 feet above sea level. There have been many expeditions to explore these areas in an attempt to find Noah’s ark and a large wooden structure has been spotted which is encased in ice on the Great Ararat.

**NARRATIVE REALITY #2** - What Noah did. 8:6-14

As we have already learned, the faith of Noah was not simply one of belief but also one of obedience.

**(Action #1)** - Noah opened the window. 8:6

40 days and nights of rain, 110 more days of rising water (150 days), 74 more days of water going and decreasing (8:4-5) (224 days), and 40 more days until Noah sends out the raven (8:6), which means he has been in this ark connected with water for 264 days when he opened this window. Think of the fact that Noah has been locked in this ark with his family and the animals and the muck and sewage for 264 days plus 7 days before the flood which equals 271 days. There must have been moments when Noah wished, as Kent Hughes said, that the ark would hit an iceberg like the Titanic.

**(Action #2)** - Noah sent a raven. 8:7

The actual process Noah must go through before he gets out of the ark demands patience. Noah stayed faithful to God even during the monotony of life. Sometimes life is not exciting and days are monotonous, but one can still walk with God, wait on God and work for God.

A raven is a known scavenger bird that will land anywhere, even in dirty, muddy places and eat about anything. If this bird found a place to land and a corpse of some sort to eat, it would not return to the boat.

**(Action #3)** - Noah sent a dove. 8:8-12

Seven days after sending out the raven, Noah sent out a dove (8:6, 10). Total flood time is **271** days. He sent out a dove three times in seven day intervals (8:10, 12) so the total elapsed time is **285** days. A dove does not like muddy, wet land. Doves delight in places that are very dry. The dove would testify of the condition of the ground.

**(Action #4)** - Noah removed the covering. 8:13-14

Because this word for “covering” is the same word used in Exodus 26:14 in connection with the tabernacle, most assume that Noah had made a covering of animal skins as kind of a rain tarp for the top of the ark.

After sending the dove, 29 more days elapse from 17<sup>th</sup> day of second month in year 600 (7:11) until the first day of the first month in the year 601 (8:13) until the land is dry, plus another 57 days go by before Noah goes out of the ark (8:14). So the total of water time is **371** days. Morris calculates this as the total time that Noah and his family were in the ark, however, if we add the seven days that Noah was in the ark prior to God sending the flood waters (7:4, 10), the grand total amount of time that Noah and His family were in the ark was **378** days.

**NARRATIVE REALITY #3** - What God said. 8:15-17

It had been over a year since God spoke to Noah and the delay must have, as John Calvin said, prompted Noah to think he was floating in ‘isolated oblivion.’ God’s first commission to Noah over one year earlier was to get into the ark, and now it was get out of the ark. An important dispensational truth is seen here - what God does and demands at one time changes for another time depending on what is going on in His program and plan. Notice the emphasis is on God speaking to Noah (8:15) - Noah was the righteous man God was directing.

As Noah came out of that ark, he was stepping into a new world that had been washed clean by judgment. To the east was Asia, to the north was Europe, to the south was Africa and to the west were the Americas. It has been geologically observed that apparently at some point there were land bridges that one time existed after some considerable lowering of water levels (Morris, p. 215).

The command to be fruitful and multiply is a new beginning, God inaugurating new blessings. It is never the purpose for any of God's living beings to be fruitless and isolated.

**NARRATIVE REALITY #4** - What Noah did. 8:18-20

**(Step #1)** - Noah obeyed God. 8:18-19

This is a key feature of Noah's life - he believed God and obeyed God, no matter how tough the assignment.

**(Step #2)** - Noah worshipped God. 8:20

Noah's first thought was toward God. **Ever since Eden, the only way of access to God has been through a blood sacrifice.** Here is the first mention of an altar. Noah built an altar and offered, as sacrifice, one of all the clean animals and birds. It is significant to note that to this point we have no record that God commanded Noah to do this, which means Noah is simply doing this because he has a heart that wants to worship God.

More than likely, this worship service was one of thanksgiving and dedication, rather than propitiation. But before Noah and his family ventured out in this new life, they began with worship. Their relationship with God was based on blood sacrifice.

**NARRATIVE REALITY #5** - What God did. 8:21-22

**(Response Way #1)** - God accepted the sacrifices. 8:21a

The LORD was pleased with the sacrifices offered to Him; they were a "sweet-smelling" aroma. He promised never again to destroy the world by a flood.

**(Response Way #2)** - God promised no judgment. 8:21b-22

Verse 21 is revealing because we see that God knows that man's heart is evil from his youth. **Total depravity is not just an interesting doctrine, it is a personal reality.** All have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God and this sin problem is in a person from his youth. That is why one must be born again. Physical birth and physical works will never make a sinner righteous with a Holy God. A blood sacrifice is required for sinners to be right with God. A sacrifice has been made at the altar of the cross and if you will by faith believe on Jesus Christ, you will be spared from God's wrath, even though you are a sinner from your youth.