

Genesis 8 – Creation’s New Beginning

I. The Receding of The Flood Waters (1:5)

A. The Salvation of Noah is Secure (1a)

1. God Remembered Noah

- a. This doesn’t mean that God forgot and then recalled Noah’s circumstances
- b. When God “Remembers” in the Bible it is associated with His action toward the object He remembers
 - i. Gen. 19:29 – God remembered Abraham and saved Lot because of it
 - ii. Ex. 2:24 – God heard the people’s groaning and remembered His covenant with Abraham...
 - iii. Luke 1:54 – “He has given help to Israel His servant in remembrance of His mercy...” (When Jesus was born)
 - iv. Luke 23:42 – “Remember me when you come into your kingdom”

2. Noah is perfectly protected by God’s promise

- a. God promised Noah that His covenant would be established with him (Gen. 6:18)
- b. God destroys all things in creation, but “remembers” Noah – protects the ark and delivers it from destruction

B. The Waters Begin To Abate (1b-3)

1. God Brought A Wind Over The Waters (1b)

- a. The Word “wind” is the same word translated Spirit in Genesis 1 (רוּחַ) *ruach*.
 - i. There is also a single word in Greek that means either spirit or wind, depending on the context πνευμα (*pneuma*)
 - ii. This doesn’t necessarily mean the Holy Spirit blew over the flood waters, but again and again we see that Moses is using the same language describing the flood and creation.
 - iii. Moses intends for the reader to see the similarities – God is beginning creation again
- b. The Wind sent by God illustrates that just as it was God that brought the flood, God takes measures to relieve it. This is not simply a freak natural disaster that is correcting itself.

2. God Closes the Sources of The Waters (2)

- a. Both the fountains of the deep and the rain was stopped
- b. Notice the passive voice (called a “divine passive”). God stopped the fountains and the rain. Justice has been satisfied.

3. The Waters Begin to Recede
 - a. The Flood covering the earth began to recede back into the “fountains of the deep” and evaporating back into the atmosphere.
 - b. After 150 days the waters were “abated” – the word means decreased or lessened, **הָסַר** (haser)
- C. The First Signs of Land Appear (4-5)
 1. The Ark Comes To Rest in Ararat (4)
 - a. In the seventh month the ark touches land in the mountain range around Ararat (Eastern Turkey)
 - b. Notice that “mountains” is plural – this is not necessarily on Mount Ararat but in the range of mountains.
 - c. Noah remains in the ark another 2½ months before any land is actually visible.
 2. The Mountaintops Become Visible (5)
 - a. The Waters Continue to Recede until the 10th month
 - b. The Tops of the Mountains become visible in the 10th month – Noah has been in the ark for 8 months.
- II. The Dry Land is Re-Established (6-13)
 - A. Noah Sends Out Birds To Test The Land (6-12)
 1. Noah Sends Out A Raven (6-7)
 - a. The Raven is a stronger bird than a dove and a consumer of carrion
 - b. The Raven simply back and forth from the ark until the flood subsides
 - i. Perhaps the raven simply flew out from body to body feeding on the floating animals and people
 - ii. We are not told the circumstances of the raven’s goings
 - c. Many people theorize about the significance of the raven as opposed to the dove that returned to the ark
 - i. i.e. the raven is unclean bird symbolizing the impurity of the past is gone etc.
 - ii. i.e. The dove, which represents purity, is welcomed back into the ark
 - iii. While this is possible, it is better simply to take the raven and the dove as historical narrative
 2. Noah Sends Out A Dove Three Times (8-12)
 - a. The Dove’s First Flight (8-9)
 - i. The Dove Finds No Place To Land (8-9a)
 - The dove’s purpose is stated – “to see if the waters had abated”

- Noah is still waiting on God – He sends the dove in the hope that it may be soon when God opens the door
 - The dove finds no “rest” – Although the ark “rested” on the mountains, the earth is not ready to sustain life.
 - ii. The Dove Returns To the Ark (9b)
 - The waters were still upon the whole face of the earth
 - The dove once again finds rest as Noah reaching out and takes it back into the safety of the ark
 - b. The Dove’s Second Flight (10-11)
 - i. The Dove is Sent Out Again (10)
 - Noah waits another week and sends the dove out again
 - ii. The Dove Returns With an Olive Leaf
 - The olive leaf is one that is freshly plucked
 - This means the foliage is growing again – there is life upon the land
 - Noah’s excitement must have been peaked but he would wait another week
 - c. The Dove’s Third Flight (12)
 - i. The Dove Does Not Return
 - ii. The Dove evidently finds “rest” in the land that is now producing life and able to sustain life
 - iii. Noah knew that the land was dry and creation was ready for its restoration
- B. Noah Sees The Ground Dried Up (13-14)
1. The First Day of the First Month of the New Year, the Waters were dried from the “ground”
 2. Noah removes the “covering” (a word used often for the covering over the tent of meeting) from the ark and beholds the dry land for the first time in 11 months.
 3. The 27th day of the second month – the entire earth was dry
 - a. Noah entered the ark in the second month of his 600th year and the earth was completely dry in the second month of his 601st year.
 - b. He departs almost two months after the waters were dried from the “ground”
- III. The Beginning of A New Creation (15-22)
- A. Noah Comes Out Of The Ark (15-19)
1. God Commands Noah to Leave The Ark (15-16)
 - a. Noah does not leave the ark until commanded by God

- b. God commanded Noah enter the ark and now commands him to depart
 - c. This is the first time we see God speak again to Noah after the command to enter the ark
 - i. Did God speak to him during the flood?
 - ii. If not, how much faith did it take to stay sane in the ark for a year? What about the time after the ark came to rest in the mountains.
 - 2. God Re-Issues The Command To Fill The Earth (17)
 - a. God gives the remnant of creation the same command He gave at the beginning
 - b. The animals are to be fruitful and multiply
 - c. They are to begin again fulfilling God's initial creation mandate
 - i. This also implies that Noah and his family will multiply and increase on the earth
 - 3. Noah and His Family Obey God's Command (18-19)
- B. Noah's First Act After Coming Out Of The Ark (20-21a)
 - 1. Noah Worships God (20)
 - a. This is the first record in Genesis of an altar being built
 - i. The altar was built "to the Lord"
 - ii. There was worship before Noah, but the pattern of building an altar to God, which will be repeated by Abraham, Isaac, etc. begins here.
 - b. Noah sacrifices from every clean beast and bird that comes off the ark ("some of all the clean")
 - i. These were whole burnt offerings given in thanksgiving and devotion to God
 - ii. The term for burnt offering is again used in Genesis when God commands Abraham to offer up Isaac
 - c. Worship is the proper response to deliverance
 - 2. Noah's Worship is Pleasing to God (21a)
 - a. Notice that Noah's offering is not to earn God's salvation
 - b. God has already saved Noah from the judgment
 - c. Worship is the response of the heart delivered by God
- C. God Declares Mercy Upon The New Creation (21b-22)
 - 1. God Resolves Never to Destroy Creation By Flood Again (21b)
 - a. Notice God Does not speak this to Noah but "in His heart"
 - i. Noah has not earned God's mercy by his sacrifice
 - ii. God resolves in himself to give mercy to the creation
 - b. Notice God uses the same terms here that he used in (6:5) to declare judgment on the earth

- i. Gen. 6:5 - And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every **imagination** of the thoughts of his **heart** was only **evil** continually.
 - ii. Gen. 8:21 - 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
 - c. Man is still sinful (we will see that) but God has purposed to give creation mercy rather than judgment
 - i. Man has earned nothing before God
 - ii. God has simply given mankind unearned grace
- 2. God Declares Creation Will Continue Until the Judgment (22)
 - a. The earth will never be destroyed until God says
 - b. Until the final judgment, the seasons and the earth's rotations will continue.
 - i. Man will not destroy the planet by pollution or nuclear war (not until God says, "enough")