

TALKS FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS TRANSCRIPT

Talk Genesis 8:1-12: The Ark Rests on Mt. Ararat

Lesson 18

"Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. 2 The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. 3 And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. 4 Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. 5 And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. 6 So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. 7 Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. 8 He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. 9 But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. 10 And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. 11 Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. 12 So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore."

Background Notes

If we compare the date given here in Genesis 9:4 with the date given in chapter 7:11, we see that the Flood lasted for five months before the ark came to rest. Then it was another seven months before the waters would recede enough for Noah and his family to exit the ark. Certainly this was a worldwide flood! This was not just a small local flood that lasted for a few days, but a worldwide flood.

All during this time, and even after Noah came out of the ark, a lot of geologic activity would have been taking place on the face of the earth. Verse 3 says that the waters receded continually from the earth. These great volumes of moving waters would rapidly cut the soft sediments that had been laid down during the Flood. Huge canyons, like the Grand Canyon in Arizona, would not have taken millions of years to carve. They would have been carved in a relatively short period of time as the run-off of the floodwaters carved out the still-soft sediments that had been laid down during the Flood. Even a small catastrophe like the eruption of Mount Saint Helens in 1980 proved that soft sediments could build up and then be carved out by water and mudflows in a matter of **days**, before hardening into rock.

Along with the runoff of the Flood's waters, there would have been a lot of tectonic activity going on around the globe. Sea floors sank. Landmasses rose as the earth came to isostatic equilibrium, or equal pressure. So there would have been a lot of deformation and folding and faulting and up lift of the soft sedimentary rock layers. We can see the results all around the world today. Sedimentary layers tilted and then folded over (with the layers

all folded together in "soft" folds, like a layers of blankets folded together) shows that the layers had to be laid down in a short period of time and were folded over together while still in a "soft" state. You cannot lay down a layer of sediment, have it harden into rock over thousands of years, then lay another layer down and harden-- and then bend or fold it all together without cracking the hardened rocks. The layers all have to be soft together, at the same time, indicating a rather rapid, continuous build-up of sediments and carving and tectonic activity while the sedimentary layers were still soft.

There would have been a lot of mountain building going on all over the earth during these post-Flood years. For example, Mount Everest and the high Himalayan mountains wouldn't have been around before the Flood. -- they are the result of the Flood. There was no need for enough water to cover Mount Everest during the Flood, because Mt. Everest would have been thrust up by tectonic activity during and following the Flood. In fact, the Himalayan Mountains are still active and getting higher as the tectonic plate on which India sits pushes north and subsides (or slides) under the tectonic plate on which the Himalayan Mountains rest.

The fact that there are marine fossils near the tops of all the high mountain ranges around the world is evidence of the worldwide Flood, and the catastrophic events immediately following the Flood. Needless to say, with the collapse of the subterranean reservoirs ("fountains of the deep"), there would have been a lot of volcanic activity during the Flood and following the Flood. There is a lot more we could say here, but we need to move now to our doctrinal or teaching points.

Doctrinal Points

1. God remembers His people.

We read in verse 1, *"Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark.."* What does this mean, "God remembered Noah"? I thought that God was omniscient, and that he knew everything. Does God forget and have to recall things to His mind? Of course not! The phrase, "God remembered Noah" means that God intervened and acted on Noah's behalf. He acted on behalf of Noah. That is what Hannah meant when she prayed in 1 Samuel 1:11, "Oh, Lord remember me" -- intervene for me and act on my behalf. And the Lord did intervene and act on Hannah's behalf, and gave her a son, Samuel. That is what the thief on the cross meant when he prayed in Luke 23:42 *"Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."* Intervene for me. Act on my behalf. The Lord did intervene and act on behalf of that repentant thief when He said, "Today, you will be with me in paradise."

How did the Lord intervene and act on behalf of Noah? Verse 1 says, *"And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. 2 The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained."* God had the ark rest on a nice level area in the mountains of Ararat. We all know it's not easy to find a level area one and a half football fields in length in rugged mountains. It's hard enough to find a level place to pitch a small tent, let alone a huge boat! But God remembered Noah. Can you imagine what would have happened to the ark and the animals and Noah's family if the ark had landed on the edge of a cliff or precipice? God remembered Noah and his family and the animals. He intervened and acted on Noah's behalf, and guided the ark to a level resting-place.

God remembers His people, and that includes you. If you're one of God's people, as you trust the Lord, He will intervene for you and act on your behalf. God remembers His people.

I have seen God intervene on my behalf. A few years ago we faced a major decision about Growing Christian Ministries, the ministry that the Lord has placed under my direction. We faced a major decision on which direction to go, and the Lord intervened and acted on our behalf in an amazing way. He gave us specific direction and even made financial provision for this move! God remembered us, and God will intervene and act on your behalf as you trust Him. God remembers His people.

2. Christ rests from His finished work.

Where do we see that doctrinal point taught? Do you recall that we said the ark is a wonderful picture of Christ? As the ark suffered the flood of God's judgment and rode out the storm, so Christ suffered the judgment of God against sin when He was on the cross. He rode out the storm of God's judgment, and He finished the work. Now look at Genesis 8:4, *"Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat."* As the ark rested, having finished its work, so Christ rests from His finished work.

In John 19:30 the Lord cried out, *"It is finished!"* The work of atonement for our sins was complete. In Hebrews 10:12 we read that Christ is now seated at the right hand of the Father. Christ rests from His finished work. As Noah and his family were brought into a whole new world, so we who are in Christ are brought into a whole new realm. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* This has taken place because the work of Christ is complete. Christ rests from His finished work.

Practical Application: Are you a raven or a dove?

Notice I didn't say, "Are you a hawk or a dove?" I'm not talking politics here, right? Are you a raven or a dove? In verses 6-12 we read that Noah sent out a raven and a dove from the ark to see if the waters had receded. The raven didn't return to the ark (v7). The raven found floating debris and dead matter on which to rest and feed. However, the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot (v9). A week later the dove was sent out again, and returned with a fresh olive leaf -- life from the new world! Do you see the spiritual picture here? The picture is quite clear: the raven resting on debris and feeding on dead matter pictures life in the realm of the world or the flesh. The dove with the fresh olive leaf pictures life in the realm of the spirit and the new creation.

Are you a raven or a dove? Where are you "resting"? What are you "feeding" on? Listen to the words of Romans 8:5-6, *"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."*

If you're renewing your mind by constantly feeding on the Word of God and the things of God, than you are a dove, spiritually speaking. However, if you are constantly filling your mind with things that appeal to the flesh, and feeding on the "stuff" of this spiritually dead world, then you're a raven. Do you spend more time watching TV than you spend reading and studying Scripture? Are you a raven or a dove?