

Noah Sacrifices to the Lord

Genesis 8:13-22

Genesis 8:13-22 - *"And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry. ¹⁴ And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.*

¹⁵ Then God spoke to Noah, saying, ¹⁶ "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷ Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." ¹⁸ So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. ¹⁹ Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark."

²⁰ "Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done." ²² "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease."

Background Notes

Does Noah's ark still exist? Answer: at the present, we don't know. There have certainly been a lot of reported sightings over the years, and some of them may be true, but there have been a number of exaggerated and overzealous reports as well. If you take a tour in eastern Turkey today, they will show you a geological formation that's shaped like a boat. It's about the same size as the ark, and they'll tell you "That's Noah's ark!" My opinion is that the Noah's ark still exists, and is probably located in the mountains of Ararat, in the region of Armenia. And at just the "right time" God may let the snows and glaciers melt back enough to expose the ark. I'd love to be part of the expedition that finds the ark!

What do you think the skeptics of the Bible will say if God does allow the snows and the glaciers to melt back, and the ark is exposed? Do you think these skeptics will confess their sin of unbelief and fall down on their knees and become Christians? No way! People who are "convinced against their will are of the same opinion still." The skeptics will likely say, "That's just an ancient shrine that was shaped like a boat to commemorate the legend of Noah and the Flood." That's the explanation you'll see in the news, if the Noah's ark is ever uncovered.

Where did all the water of the worldwide Flood go? Answer: It's still here! We know there's a lot more water on the face of this earth now than there was in the earth's ancient past. Erosion on the continental shelves and sea mounts, for example, are evidence that the sea level was much lower in the past. In addition, the type of erosion that exists on the continental shelves does **not** take place underwater.

The vast amount of water tied up in the polar ice caps is further evidence of the fact that there is much more water on this earth now than in the past. Definite evidence has been found that, in the past, both the North Pole and the South Pole were exposed, and they were actually semitropical! And there's **so** much more we could say about the evidence for the worldwide Flood – but we must move on!

Doctrinal Points

1. God has always preserved a “godly remnant.”

Genesis 6:9 says that God saw the great wickedness of mankind, but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord: *“This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.”* And Genesis 7:1 states, *“Then the LORD said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.”*

God preserved a small “godly remnant” when He preserved Noah and his family. God has always preserved a godly remnant. Do you remember the 7000 believers of Elijah's day who did not bow their knees to Baal or kiss his image? God preserved that godly remnant. Do you remember the godly remnant of Jews in Babylon – like Ezekiel and Daniel - who remained faithful to the Lord during the Babylonian captivity of Judah? God preserved a godly remnant. Do you remember the godly remnant at the time of our Lord – like Anna and Simeon, Zechariah and Elizabeth and John the Baptist? God preserved a godly remnant.

There is a godly remnant on this earth today, including a godly remnant of Jewish believers. In the future, there will be a godly remnant of both Jewish and Gentile believers during the great period of tribulation that is to come on this earth. In fact, Noah may be a spiritual picture (or “*type*”) of that future remnant.

Here's an interesting spiritual picture. Enoch, who walked with God, was “raptured” (or caught up to be with the Lord) before the Flood of judgment on the earth. He is a picture of the Church. Noah, who walked with God and was preserved through the Flood, is a picture of a godly remnant that will be preserved through the great flood of tribulation that will come upon this earth in the future. Do you see the spiritual picture and the doctrinal point? God has always preserved a godly remnant.

2. God is always pleased with a godly response.

As soon as Noah came out of the ark, he built an altar and worshiped the Lord with burnt offerings. Verse 20: *“Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.”* God was pleased with this godly response. *“The LORD smelled a soothing aroma”* is another way of saying that the Lord was pleased with Noah’s godly response. Noah’s first action was to worship God and thank Him for His faithfulness. God used this occasion to initiate His covenant with Noah and Noah’s descendants - and that includes you and me. The **“Noahic Covenant”** starts at the end of chapter 8 and into Genesis 9. God promised that as long as earth’s history continues, never again will there be a worldwide catastrophe such as the Flood of Noah’s day. *“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease”* (v22). What a great promise for Noah and for us! Aren’t you glad that we don’t have to worry about a huge flood that will overwhelm the earth and wipe out all life?

As the Lord was pleased with Noah’s godly response, so the Lord is pleased with our godly response, because God is always pleased with a godly response. How are you responding to God? How am I? When you go through a time of difficulty, problems, testing and trial, do you just breathe a sigh of relief when it is over, and move on? Or do you always remember to thank the Lord for His faithfulness, as Noah did?

It wasn’t going to be easy for Noah to begin all over again. His home, his barn, his gardens - everything had been wiped out. Have you ever thought about that? Even though he had to start all over again, Noah’s first concern was to thank God for His faithfulness, and God was pleased with Noah’s response. God is always pleased with a godly response.

Practical Application

Wait for God’s “green light.”

Genesis 6:22 and Genesis 7:5 say that Noah did all that the Lord commanded him. Noah not only did all that God commanded him to do, he did it **when** God commanded him to do it! Noah went into the ark when God commanded him, and Noah came out of the ark when God commanded him - and not before! Noah waited for “God’s green light.” After the ark landed, Noah stayed on board for more than seven months! I know I would have grown impatient. I think I would have at least removed the roof of the ark in the first month - and maybe I would have built a sightseeing deck with the lumber from the roof! But not Noah! Noah waited for God’s green light before he made any major decision. It’s a good lesson for all of us: **Wait for God’s green light!** How often we rush ahead of God with our own sets of plans - our career plans, our vacation home plans, our children’s college plans, even our ministry plans.

I recently spoke with a man who was part of a church plant. As he reflected on all that had taken place, he acknowledged that most likely they did not wait for God's green light. They rushed ahead, moving quickly because there was a good price on land and a building. Rather than praying a little longer about the decision, and relying on the Lord to preserve that piece of land and building if that was His will, they went ahead quickly, without much prayer. The church plant didn't grow, and eventually the church closed. Looking back, the man acknowledged that they probably moved too quickly. Even when you're doing the Lord's work, be careful. Wait for **God's** green light!

Of course there's always the "other side of the coin." After prayer and asking for His direction, God does expect us to step out in reasonable faith. We shouldn't sit back and wait forever. So there is a balance. But it is very possible that to rush ahead of God. Noah didn't do this.

Don't rush ahead of God. Be like Noah, and wait for **God's** green light!