

TALKS FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS TRANSCRIPT

Talk Genesis 8:13-21: Noah Sacrifices to the Lord

Lesson 19

In the second half of Genesis 8 we see Noah, his wife, his family, and the animals leaving the ark. (By the way, the name of Noah's wife was not Joan of Arc! A question in a national poll was "Who was Joan of Arc?" Believe it or not, a number of people actually said, "Noah's wife"! Can you believe it?!) In these verses we see Noah and his family and the animals leaving the ark, and then we have Noah presenting a sacrifice to the Lord.

"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? At the present, we can't say for sure. There certainly have been a lot of reported sightings over the years, and I wouldn't doubt that some of them may be true, but we know that there have been a number of overzealous exaggerated reports as well. You can take a tour in eastern Turkey today and they will show you a geological formation shaped like a boat. It's about the same size as the ark was, and they'll tell you "That's Noah's ark!" My own opinion is that the Noah's ark does still exist. It is probably located somewhere in the mountains of Ararat, in the region of Armenia. I believe at just the "right time" God will let the snows and glaciers melt back enough to expose the ark. I would 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 most likely say, "That's just an ancient shrine, shaped like a boat to commemorate the legend of Noah and the Flood." I'm sure that's exactly the explanation you'll see in the newspapers if the Noah's ark is uncovered.

Another question: 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 past. The eroded continental shelves and sea mounts, for example, are evidence that the sea level was much lower in the past. The kind of erosion that we see on the continental shelves does not take place under water. 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. There is evidence that, in the past, both the North Pole and the South Pole were exposed, and were actually semitropical – there's definite evidence along that line. There is **so** much more we could say here about the evidence for the worldwide Flood, but let's move on to our doctrinal or teaching points.

Doctrinal Points

1. God has always preserved a "godly remnant."

Back in Genesis 6 we read that God saw the great wickedness of mankind, but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. In Genesis 6:9, we read, "*This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.*" And in Genesis 7:1, we read, "*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 "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 that did not bow their knees to Baal or kiss his image? That was a godly remnant that God preserved. Do you remember the godly remnant of Jews in Babylon – like Ezekiel and Daniel and others who remained faithful to the Lord during the Babylonian captivity of Judah? God has always preserved a godly remnant. Do you remember the godly remnant at the time of our Lord -- Anna and Simeon, Zechariah and Elizabeth and John the Baptist and others? God has always preserved a godly remnant.

There is a godly remnant on this earth today, including a godly remnant of Jewish believers, and 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 the future. In fact, Noah may be a spiritual picture or type of that future remnant. See if you follow this spiritual picture. Enoch, who walked with God and was raptured (caught up to be with the Lord) before the Flood 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 time of tribulation that is to 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 says, "*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. Now look at verse 21. *"And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma."* What does that mean? 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.

In fact, 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 continues on into Genesis 9. Notice that God promised that as long as earth's history continues, there will never again be a worldwide catastrophe such as the Flood of Noah's day. Once again verse 22: *"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease."* What a great promise for Noah, and for us as well! Aren't you glad that you don't have to worry about some huge flood overwhelming the earth and wiping out all life?

As the Lord was pleased with Noah's godly response, so the Lord is pleased with our godly response. God is always pleased with a godly response. How is your response to God? How is my response? How is our response? Is it godly? When you go through a time of testing and trial, do you just breathe a sigh of relief when it is over, or do you also thank the Lord for His faithfulness as Noah did? You know, it wasn't going to be easy for Noah to begin all over again. His home, his barn, his gardens -- they had all been wiped out, right? You have never thought about that before, have you? He had to start all over again, but Noah's first concern was to thank God for His faithfulness. God was pleased with Noah's response. God is always pleased with a godly response.

Practical Application

1. Wait for "God's green light."

In both Genesis 6:22 and Genesis 7:5, we read 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."

Do you know how long Noah stayed on the ark after the ark landed? More than seven months! I think I would have grown impatient and at least removed the roof of the ark in the first month. Maybe I would have built a sightseeing deck up there with the lumber from the roof! But not Noah! Noah waited for God's green light before he made any major decision.

This is a good lesson for all of us: wait for God's green light! How often we rush ahead of God with our plans -- our career plans, our vacation home plans, our children's college plans, even our ministry plans. Recently I talked with a man who was part of a church planting team about fifteen years ago. As he reflected on some of the things that took place, he acknowledged that most likely they did not wait for God's green light. They rushed ahead. They moved quickly because there was a good price on land and building, and so forth. Rather than pray 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. As he looked back, he acknowledged that probably they moved too quickly. Even in the ministry -- even in doing the Lord's work -- wait for **God's** green light!

Of course there's always the "other side of the coin," right? We shouldn't sit back and wait forever. God does expect us to step out in reasonable faith. So there is a balance, but it is very possible that we can 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!