

Genesis 8

“Never Again! Never Again!”

WEEK AGO - gloomy and rainy time in Almaty – MANY COMPLAINTS
 “is this rain ever going to end? – I am so tired! – I want to see the sunshine again!”
 AFTER A GLORIOUS WEEK – CAN HARDLY IMAGE SUCH COMPLAINING!

IF HAD MICROPHONE HIDDEN ON ARK – what would we hear?

7.24 “water flooded earth for a hundred and fifty days”

8.3 “water receded...hundred and fifty days” TOTAL 300 DAYS!!

8.6 “After forty days Noah opened the window” – 340 DAYS WINDOW SHUT!

RIDING IN ALMATY TAXI WITH NO HANDLE FOR UNROLLING WINDOW
 I cannot stand it for 340 seconds – Noah 340 DAYS WINDOW ROLLED UP!!

8.10 “seven more days”

8.12 “he waited seven more days”

8.13 “first day of the month....water had dried up from the earth”

LONGEST PART OF JOURNEY – WHEN WE ARE ALMOST THERE

Little kid – “Dad, when are we going to get there?” – WE’RE ALMOST THERE!!

8.14 ALMOST THERE – 27 more days of WAITING – “earth completely dry”

FINALLY – after 381 DAYS – more than ONE YEAR “God says, Come out!!”

IF THAT SECRET MICROPHONE RECORDED SOME COMPLAINTS
 I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED – NOR COULD I FIND FAULT WITH THEM

1. God Remembers 2. Noah Responds 3. God Restores

1. God Remembers

This was NO CARNIVAL CRUISE for Noah / no dinner shows or live entertainment
 THIS WAS AGONIZING / TRIAL BY WATER / FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY

Tiny Speck on Vast Ocean engulfing Planet Earth / Floating above Condemned Humanity
 NOAH COULD HAVE SHOUTED “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

8.1 “God remembered Noah” – Moses writes from Noah’s Perspective

GOD IS OMNISCIENT – GOD CANNOT FORGET – HE KNOWS ALL THINGS
 BUT NO DOUBT NOAH OFTEN FELT FORGOTTEN – SILENCE FROM HEAVEN

CHILDS “God’s remembering always implies movement toward the objects of His memory”

TIMES OF GREAT DIFFICULTY – GOD’S CHILDREN FEEL FORGOTTEN
 LONGEST DISTANCE – HEAD where you Know something to HEART where you feel it
 God is SYMPATHETIC with our STRUGGLE

AFTER FIRE Poured DOWN ON SODDOM – HOME OF HIS NEPHEW LOT
 Gen 19.29 “God remembered...Abraham”

DESTRUCTION OF SODOM – MAY GIVE INSIGHT TO EXTENT OF FLOOD
 God did not give Lot an ASBESTOS SUIT and say GO THROUGH THE FIRE
 God told them to LEAVE the AREA of Pending DESTRUCTION
 IF ONLY LOCAL FLOOD – More Sensible to TAKE A HIKE – not BUILD ARK
 Noah and Animals – had 100 years to get out of Harm’s Way = VERY LONG HIKE

WHEN HER SISTER LEAH HAD 4 SONS AND SHE WAS CHILDLESS
 Gen 30.22 “Then God remembered Rachel...and opened her womb”

WHEN THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WERE SLAVES IN EGYPT – Exodus 2.24
 “God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Ab, Isaac, & Jacob”

IN THE SAME WAY – GOD REMEMBERED HIS COVENANT WITH NOAH
 God Remembered by WORDS and by SIGNS

a. God Remembered by WORDS – for over one year / HEAVEN WAS SILENT

8.16 GOD BREAKS THE SILENCE “Come out of the ark, you and your wife and sons and their wives...and all the animals...so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful”

NOAH HAD NO BIBLE ON ARK / faint recollection of God’s promises / CLUNG ONTO

Peter to Struggling Believers “God has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world”

THROUGH OUR BIBLE – WE CAN HEAR VOICE OF GOD – EVERY DAY
 READ ALL STORIES OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE / LEARN THEIR LESSONS
 ARE WE REALLY – LIKE THE MUSLIMS CALL US – “People of the Book”
 Do we live by “every word that comes from the mouth of God?”

HOW NOAH MUST HAVE TREASURED THESE WORDS FROM GOD / How about us?
 “Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” Romans 15.4

b. God Remembers by SIGNS – graciously does more than speak / WORDS & DEEDS

8.1 “God...sent a wind over the earth and the waters receded” / 8.2 “rain stopped falling”
ONE OF THE 8 ON THAT ARK MUST HAVE SAID “Finally!! It STOPPED Raining!”

Friend of mine Pastored Church in Hawaii – Church SIGNBOARD facing Main Highway
“If You are Looking for a Sign from God – This is It!”

8.2 “springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens” / LIKELY REFERS TO GEN 1
SECOND DAY OF CREATION 1.6 God said, “Let there be an expanse between the waters
to separate water from water.” So God made the expanse and separated the water under the
expanse from the water above it”

AT THE FLOOD – THIS SEPARATING EXPANSE WAS REMOVED / Great Deluge
GREAT MYSTERY AND WONDER – HOW DID THIS ALL HAPPEN?

Dr. Theodore Schwarze – Spent 30 years studying SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY of the Bible
HYPOTHESIS – Expanse = GREAT CANOPY OF ICE, Encircled Atmosphere of Globe
Adam 1st to tell wife - “Chill Out!” / WINDOWS OF HEAVEN OPEN = Ice Breaking
Idea Accounts for Frozen Animal carcasses found in Siberia and Alaska
LATER Dr. Schwarze invented CRYONICS – NOT REALLY!

8.3 “water receded steadily from earth” / 8.5 “waters continued to recede”
WATER LEVEL Higher than Mt. Everest – Receded at over 30 meters per day

CRITICS SCOFF – WHERE ALL THAT WATER GO? – Don’t know / KNOW GOD CAN

Isaiah asks, “Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of
his hand marked off the heavens?...He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth...To whom
will you compare me? Or who is my equal? says the Holy One.” 40.12-25

Psalmist declares “The seas have lifted up, O Lord, the seas have lifted up their voice; the
seas have lifted up their pounding waves. Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea – the Lord on high is mighty” 93.3,4

HOW DARE WE SAY WHAT GOD CAN AND CANNOT DO!
Our inability to understand does not limit His ability to perform

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine, according
to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations, forever and ever.”

ANOTHER WONDERFUL SIGN FROM GOD TO NOAH

8.11 “the dove returned...in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth”

EVEN UNBELIEVERS TODAY CONSIDER OLIVE BRANCH A SYMBOL OF PEACE
GREAT JOY TO SEE – LIFE HAD BEGUN AGAIN – SYMBOL OF RE-CREATION

TRULY GOD REMEMBERED NOAH – BY WORDS AND SIGNS OF HIS GRACE

2. Noah Responded

a. As a SERVANT 6.9 “Noah was a righteous man, blameless”

6.22 “Noah did everything just as God has commanded him”

7.5 “Noah did all that the Lord commanded him”

ALMOST 100 YEARS BUILDING THE ARK / ONE YEAR TRAPPED INSIDE IT
SURELY HE HAD A RIGHT TO THROW A PITY PARTY

Jesus tells a story we do not like to hear “Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he come in from the field, “Come along now and sit down to eat? (Take another trip to Thailand.) Would he not rather say, “Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink”? Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, “We are unworthy servants, we have only done our duty” Luke 17.7-10

I HATE this STORY / I AM a CHILD of THIS AGE / DEMAND RIGHTS / EXALT SELF
SPIRIT OF JESUS IS TO DIE TO SELF THAT WE MIGHT RISE WITH HIM

CALLED TO WALK BY FAITH NOT BY CIRCUMSTANCES OR FEELINGS
NEVER TOLD HOW NOAH FELT / SIMPLY TOLD WHAT NOAH DID – OBEYED

During a desperate time in Judah – the Prophet Habakkuk could say
“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior” Hab 3.17,18

RECEIVED VERSE FROM FRIENDS IN ZIMBABWE – DISCOURAGED BELIEVERS
ECONOMY IN SHAMBLES – DEVASTED BY DROUGHT – RIGGED ELECTION
MANY BELIEVERS ASK WHERE IS GOD NOW? / Someone stood in Church & Read
GREAT FLOOD OF JOY FROM HEAVEN CAME DOWN in Midst of Terrible Circumst.

b. As a **SCIENTIST** EARLY MAN WAS WISE AND RESOURCEFUL

8.6 “Noah opened the window he had made in the ark” – SKILLED CRAFTSMAN

8.7 “sent out a raven” KNOW IT WAS STRONGER – SURVIVED ON DEAD FLESH

8.8 “then he sent out a dove” KNEW IT NEEDED MORE DELICATE CONDITIONS

8.10 “he waited seven more days” HE KEPT A CALENDAR / SABBATH PRINCIPLE

FULFILLED GOD’S CREATION MANDATE FOR MAN / Dominion over the Earth

c. As a **SOJOURNER** 6.9 “he walked with God” LONG DISTANCE OBEDIENCE

8.18 “So Noah came out” EAGER TO DO SO, BUT WAS IT SAFE TO DO SO?

WASN’T THE ROTTING FLESH A SIGN OF HIS SINS BEFORE A HOLY GOD?
WOULD THERE BE ANOTHER FLOOD? A FUTURE JUDGMENT?

NOAH SOJOURNED BY FAITH “became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith”

ARK LANDED ON MT. ARARAT – today over 5000 meters – Stories of Ark sightings!
PERHAPS MANY HAD RUN UP ITS SLOPES SEEKING REFUGE FROM DELUGE

CENTRAL LOCATION FOR NEW HUMANITY TO BEGIN

Midway between Gibraltar & Caspian Sea / midway Cape of Good Hope & Bering Strait

ARK WAS LEFT THERE SO NOAH WOULD GO FORTH / AND NOT LOOK BACK

Noah was a sojourner fit for service in the Kingdom of God

c. As a **SACRIFICER** No Surprise God rememb. Noah / Surprise – Noah remembered God

8.20 “Then Noah built an altar to the Lord” – FIRST THING UPON HIS RELEASE

NOT like 9 CLEANSSED LEPERS who NEVER CAME to THANK JESUS their HEALER

Must have reflected on unworthiness / Over one year on ark / Millions perished, not him
ALTAR – Symbol of Forgiveness of Sin / Sign of Thanksgiving for Saving Mercy

ROBERT CANDLISH “Why should Noah obtain mercy? What is he, that when all else are taken, he should be left? May he not be righteously suffered to perish after all? Is he not a sinner like the rest? Does he not feel himself to be the “chief of sinners?”

EVEN THERE ON THE SLOPES OF ARARAT, NOAH WAS NEAR GOD

“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence...if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me”
Psalm 139.7-10

Jeremiah said “Remember the Lord in a distant land” 51.50 - JUST WHAT NOAH DID

How about you? Are you conscious of God’s constant nearness? OMNIPRESENT GRACE?

EVEN IN A DISTANT LAND – DO YOU CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD?

NOAH RESPONDED AS A – Servant, Scientist, Sojourner, and a Sacrificer

3. God Restores

a. Pardon 8.21 Noah’s sacrifice was a “pleasing aroma” in the nostrils of God

GOD REALIZES THAT THE FLOOD HAD CHANGED EARTH, BUT NOT MAN
8.21 “every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood”

NOT MUCH SPIRITUAL PROGRESS FROM 6.5 “every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time”

NOAH THE SACRIFICER WILL SOON BECAME THE NAKED DRUNK – chapter 9
BASIS OF GOD’S FAVOR WAS NOT NOAH’S WORKS OR MERITS

6.8 Noah found favor in eyes of the Lord/ NOAH FOUND GRACE/ Undeserved Forgiveness

PARDON OF GOD WAS ACCOMPLISHED NOT BY FLOOD, BUT BY THE CROSS
JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS ONE – ENDURED THE FLOOD OF GOD’S JUST WRATH

“Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love” Lam 3.32

MICAH asks “Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.”
5.18,19

GOD RESTORES BY PARDON AND BY - b. PROMISE

8.21 “Never again will I curse the ground because of man...never again will I destroy all living creatures

9.11 “Never again will all life be cut off...never again will there be a flood to destroy earth”

GOD'S SOLEMN OATH – MAKING A PROMISE TO HIMSELF - SOVEREIGN

UNILATERAL COVENANT – GOD ALONE MAKES TERMS – NOT A BARGAIN

PROMISE BROKEN IF ONLY A LOCAL FLOOD – other floods have occurred
NEVER AGAIN A GLOBAL DELUGE – NEVER AGAIN ALL MANKIND DESTROYED

8.22 “As long as the earth endures...day and night will never cease”

HOPELESS CONDITION IF GOD'S COVENANT PROMISES DEPENDED ON MAN
THE WORD NEVER IS A CRUEL JOKE IN OUR VOCABULARY

“Well, I have learned my lesson, I will never do that again”

WE WATCH SOMEONE FALL “Look at that fool, I would never do something like that”

SHOW FOOLISHNESS “I will never get married, have kids, take that job, go there, eat that”

Peter emphatically said to Jesus “I will never disown you” – Mark 14.31

BUT WHEN GOD SAYS NEVER IT IS NEVER, NEVER, NEVER

Judges 2.1 “I will never break my covenant with you”

Psalmist “He will never let the righteous fall” 55.22

JESUS SAID NEVER AND MEANT NEVER

“I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty” John 6.35

“I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death” John 8.51

“My sheep listen to my voice...I give them eternal life and they shall never perish” 10.27,28

“Whoever lives and believes in me will never die” John 11.26

God says “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you” Hebrews 13.5

NO ONE HAS MADE SUCH PROMISE / NO ONE HOLDS SUCH c. POWER

TODAY IS EASTER SUNDAY FOR MILLIONS OF CHRISTIANS / who knows when?
Not sure of exact date / CERTAIN OF REALITY / JESUS IS ALIVE – Reigning Lord

GOD OF NOAH – GOD AND FATHER OF OUR RISEN LORD JESUS CHRIST

HE PROMISES AND PERFORMS 8.22 “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, will never cease”

JEREMIAH QUOTES “Should you not fear me? declares the Lord. Should you not tremble in my presence? I made a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it” 5.22

PSALMIST “the moon marks off the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down” 104.19

DANIEL “He changes the times and the seasons” 2.21

PAUL SAID IN LYSTRA “God has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their season” Acts 14.17

THIS IS THE RESURRECTION OF NOAH – FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE 1 Pt 3.20-22
 “God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand – with the angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him”

JESUS HAS PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE / HE IS OUR ONLY REFUGE
 HE IS OUR ARK AND SAVIOR FROM THE JUDGMENT OF GOD TO COME

Genesis 8 – Great Lesson on How to Come to God

ONE SENSE WE CAN DO NOTHING – ALL OF GRACE
 ANOTHER SENSE – IF COME TO GOD – WE MUST DO SO ON HIS TERMS

SINNERS – STAND BEFORE GOD // NOAH & FAMILY COMING OUT OF ARK
 RECEIPIENTS OF GRACE – HE HAS KEPT US ALIVE – SUSTAINED US

HOW TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM OF SIN / BIBLE SETS FORTH WAY OF SACRIFICE
 SYMBOLIZED BY NOAH’S ALTAR / FULFILLED IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Jesus is the “lamb slain from the creation of the world” Rev 13.8

Jesus is “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” John 1.29

COME TO GOD THROUGH HIS FINISHED WORK / HIS ONCE FOR ALL SACRIFICE
 When we come thru Christ Crucified and Risen Again – GOD IS PLEASED – w/ us in HIM
 PROMISE – We are His Now, We never perish, Relationship with God – NEVER CEASE