

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

Genesis 8 – The Prerogative of God

He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark.
Genesis 7:23 (ESV)

God Remembers:

8 God remembered Noah, as well as all the wildlife and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. God caused a wind to pass over the earth, and the water began to subside. ²The sources of the watery depths and the floodgates of the sky were closed, and the rain from the sky stopped. ³The water steadily receded from the earth, and by the end of 150 days the water had decreased significantly. ⁴The ark came to rest in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵The water continued to recede until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were visible. (Genesis 8:1-5)

The phrase "God remembered" does not simply mean that God "_____". It means that God honored his _____ with Noah (and the world).

And when God "remembers", God _____. He is a _____ God.

Brevard Childs said, "God's remembering always implies his movement toward the object.... The essence of God's remembering lies in his acting toward someone because of a previous commitment."

Note: There are _____ Covenants of God in Scripture:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1) ADAMIC - | 5) LEVITIC - |
| 2) NOAHIC - | 6) DAVIDIC - |
| 3) ABRAHAMIC - | 7) MESSIANIC - |
| 4) MOSAIC - | |

The end of the flood's decimation is not merely a "natural" occurrence, but is clearly _____. (Akin to _____). The result is a _____ for creation. With the exception of Noah's family and those animals aboard, creation has been destroyed. God has judged human wickedness with catastrophic effect in order to begin anew with a _____.

An essential message of the Flood narrative is this: It is God's _____ to purge the world of evil! (And one day, He will again.)

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; ⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly ... (2 Peter 2:4-6)

The **chronology** of the Flood:

³The water steadily receded from the earth, and by the end of 150 days the water had decreased significantly. ⁴The ark came to rest in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵The water continued to recede until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were visible. ⁶After forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made, ⁷and he sent out a raven. It went back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. ⁸Then he sent out a dove to see whether the water on the earth's surface had gone down, ⁹but the dove found no resting place for its foot. It returned to him in the ark because water covered the surface of the whole earth. He reached out and brought it into the ark to himself. ¹⁰So Noah waited seven more days and sent out the dove from the ark again. ¹¹When the dove came to him at evening, there was a plucked olive leaf in its beak. So Noah knew that the water on the earth's surface had gone down. ¹²After he had waited another seven days, he sent out the dove, but it did not return to him again. ¹³In the six hundred first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the water that had covered the earth was dried up. Then Noah removed the ark's cover and saw that the surface of the ground was drying. ¹⁴By the twenty-seventh day of the second month, the earth was dry.

For about 5 months (150 days), the water levels are falling, so that the ark comes to rest on a mountain peak "on the mountains of Ararat".

The _____ conditions of those 5 months are actually accomplishing Noah's _____!

"The water continued to recede" is exactly the same language used of _____ in Exodus 14:26,28, and of the _____ in Joshua 4:18, the other two great _____ of the Old Testament.

Now, the ark (and those in it) _____ on the mountains of Ararat*.

²⁸ When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son ²⁹ and called his name Noah, saying, "Out of the ground that the Lord has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands." (Genesis 5:29)

Noah (Noakh) → "Nuach"

The imagery of rest is the picture of _____ and _____. God is _____ and we can find our rest in Him. In tumult, uncertainty, and even chaos, we can be _____ in God.

"Rest" also connotes our _____. As the ark was God's salvation for Noah and his family, so now is Jesus our perfect "rest". (Hebrews 4:9-11)

**"On the mountains of Ararat" does not mean on a mountain called Ararat, but on the mountains in the area CALLED Ararat. Ararat is the Hebrew term for Urartu, a kingdom north of Assyria (2 Kings 19:37; Isaiah 37:38; Jeremiah 51:27) later called Armenia, now part of eastern Turkey, southern Russia, and northwestern Iran. Various mountains in Armenia have been identified with the one on which the ark landed. Early Jewish tradition called them the mountains of Qardu, apparently Jebel Judi, south of Lake Van. Other suggestions include Great Ararat, called by locals the mountain of Noah, and Little Ararat. The biblical text does not give a precise location.*

Re-Genesis – God’s **Redemption** and **Restoration**:

¹⁵ Then God spoke to Noah, ¹⁶ “Come out of the ark, you, your wife, your sons, and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁷ Bring out all the living creatures that are with you—birds, livestock, those that crawl on the earth—and they will spread over the earth and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” ¹⁸ So Noah, along with his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives, came out. ¹⁹ All the animals, all the creatures that crawl, and all the flying creatures—everything that moves on the earth—came out of the ark by their families. (Genesis 8:15-19)

“Come out of the ark” is a counterpart to “Go into the ark” in the parallel second section (7:1). The imagery evokes _____ and _____.

In the New Testament, the correlation is made to _____ (1 Peter 3:18-22), i.e. a provision of _____ instead of _____.

Noah’s **Worship**:

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the Lord. He took some of every kind of clean animal and every kind of clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. (Genesis 8:20)

The first thought of Noah upon the realization of his salvation was _____ – “he built an altar”. His worship was grounded in _____ for God’s gracious salvation.

“The true worshiper, who by God’s grace escaped the catastrophe, thus confessed his submission to and dependence on God through sacrificial worship. The foundation of this sacrifice is laid in God’s fixed purpose to assert righteousness in the world, to bring men and women out of a wrong state and to establish them in a true state. In a word, God restored human dependence on him by making people aware of their impotence. By his sacrifice Noah expressed his submission to the gracious government of God in his life and in his world; by it he confessed the evil in himself and his fellows, which had brought ruin upon the world; and by it he acknowledged the wonder of the wisdom of God in redeeming and restoring life. God would say again and again that the human heart was only evil continually. But when people expressed their faith and submission through sacrifice, God would smell the sweet aroma and say again and again that he was well pleased and that he would dwell with them and be their God. Accordingly, the Lord promised that such a judgment would never again come on the human race, even though they were filled with evil. The order of creation with its seasons and times would continue. (Ross, *Creation and Blessing*)

God’s Response of **Grace**:

²¹ When the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, he said to himself, “I will never again curse the ground because of human beings, even though the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth onward. And I will never again strike down every living thing as I have done. ²² As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will not cease.” (Genesis 8:21-22)

In spite of man’s sin, God responds with _____ (for reasons totally within himself). Today we all live under this grace, though the world’s sin seems to compound.