

GENESIS 8: THE WATERS RECEDE

I. OVERVIEW

- A. The waters recede for a total of 7.5 months
 - i. Noah sends out birds to see if the waters have subsided
- B. Leaves ark 1 year 10 days after rains stop
 - i. Offers sacrifices to God
 - ii. God promises to never flood earth again

II. TIMELINE OF THE FLOOD

- A. Rain falls for 40 days and 40 nights – Genesis 7:12
- B. The waters recede – v. 2-5
 - i. Rain stops, it takes 150 days for waters to recede
 - a. Ark came to rest in 7th month, 17th day
 - b. Mountain tops seen in 10th month, 1st day
- C. Noah sends out birds – v. 6-12
 - i. Noah sends out raven 40 days after the mountain tops are seen
 - a. Goes to and fro
 - ii. Later he sends out dove
 - a. Dove returns
 - iii. 7 days later, sends out dove again
 - a. Dove returned with olive leaf
 - iv. 7 days later, sends out dove again
 - a. Dove does not return
- D. Then, three months after mountain tops seen, water fully receded
- E. 2nd month, 27th day land dried out
 - i. Only then was it dry enough to leave ark

III. REMEMBERED – V. 1

- A. Did God forget Noah?
 - i. Can also mean *be mindful*¹
 - ii. God turned His attention toward Noah²

¹ Bible Hub. (n.d.). 2142. *zakar*. Strong's Hebrew: 2142. זִקָּר (Zakar) -- remember. Retrieved April 17, 2023, from <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/2142.htm>

B. God remembered Israel, Rachel, Hannah

IV. WIND – V. 1

- A. Creation language
- B. Blowing breath or Spirit
 - i. Bringing order to the waters

V. RAVEN – V. 7

- A. Unclean – scavenger
 - i. Would have fed on floating carcasses³
 - ii. “Snake-like surrogate” – Miriam Gedwiser⁴
 - a. Sin is still present in the newly created world

VI. DOVE – V. 8

- A. Clean – non-scavenging
 - i. Needed dry place to land for food⁵
 - ii. Prefers low places and valleys⁶

VII. GO OUT – V. 16

- A. Noah waited for God to speak to leave ark
 - i. Even though it looked dry outside
 - ii. Probably felt cooped up and ready to leave

VIII. BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY – V. 17

- A. Re-creation of earth
- B. Reiteration of original mandate

IX. BUILT AN ALTAR – V. 20

- A. Noah’s first act after leaving ark is to worship God⁷
- B. First altar built
 - i. People could approach Eden where God lived – like a temple
 - a. Now Eden is destroyed

² Guzik, D. (2018). *Study Guide For Genesis 8*. Blue Letter Bible. Retrieved April 15, 2023, from https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-8.cfm

³ Guzik

⁴ Gedwiser, M. (2016, November 4). *He Sent Out The Raven*. The Lehrhaus. Retrieved April 17, 2023, from <https://thelehrhaus.com/scholarship/he-sent-out-the-raven/>

⁵ Guzik

⁶ Armstrong, S. A. (2011, June 20). *Genesis 2011 - Lesson 8*. Verse By Verse Ministry International. Retrieved April 17, 2023, from https://versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_8

⁷ Guzik

X. BURNT OFFERING – V. 20

- A. The entire animal was sacrificed
 - i. Leviticus 1:13 ***And the priest shall offer all of it and burn it on the altar; it is a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the Lord.***
 - ii. This was the most costly offering one could make⁸

XI. PLEASING AROMA – V. 21

- A. Sacrifice is pleasing to God
 - i. Especially costly sacrifice⁹
 - a. Noah sacrificed animals even though there were very few left
 - ii. 2 Samuel 24:24 ***But the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.***
- B. Foreshadows three NT sacrifices:
 - i. Christ's sacrifice on the cross
 - a. Ephesians 5:2 ***And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.***
 - ii. Our sacrifice of ourselves to God
 - a. 2 Corinthians 2:15 ***For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing,***
 - iii. Our sacrifices made for each other
 - a. Philippians 4:18 ***I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.***
- C. Sacrifice averts God's heart from judgment
 - i. It is a form of intercession for mercy on the unjust and wicked

XII. GOD WILL NEVER AGAIN:

- A. Curse the ground because of man
 - i. Work will not get even harder for men
 - a. They are already wicked, it's useless (maybe detrimental) to curse it further
- B. Strike down every living creature

⁸ Mackie, T. (n.d.). *Noah To Abraham: Exploring Genesis 6-12*. Bible Project. Retrieved April 24, 2023, from https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/tbp-web/media/Noah%20to%20Abraham/Noah-Abraham_Session%20Notes.pdf

⁹ Guzik

- i. There will always be a remnant

XIII. POINTS TO JESUS:

- A. He is the sacrifice that intercedes and atones for all creation
- B. Noah makes a sacrifice on a mountain
- i. Jesus will be the sacrifice on the hill of Golgotha

XIV. QUESTIONS:

- A. Will we wait for God to speak when we are in unpleasant and uncertain situations? Or will impatience cause us to leave when God wants us to stay? Does our theology allow us to trust that God sometimes wants us to stay in unpleasant situations?

- B. Is worship our first response to God releasing us from unpleasant situations?

- C. Is our sacrifice a pleasing aroma to God? What does that look like?

- D. What are we willing to sacrifice to God that is very costly?

- E. What can we sacrifice for others that is a pleasing aroma to God?

XV. FURTHER STUDY

A. What is the connection between Genesis 8:1 and Exodus 14:21?

B. How does God use the waters to both deliver and judge in the flood story and in the exodus story?

C. What other words and phrases do you notice that the author uses to connect this chapter to the creation story in Genesis 1?

D. What does Noah's burnt offering foreshadow? See Leviticus chapter 1. If you were a Jew living in Israel after the exodus, what commentary would this provide about Noah's role?
