

# The God Of Promise

Genesis 8:1 – 9:17

## I. God Remembers His People (8:1a)

*8:1a But **God remembered** Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark.*

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1. The Participants Of The Covenant (8-10)

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*11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."*

3. The Sign Of The Covenant (12-17; cf. Isa 54:9)

## Conclusion:

1. God saves the \_\_\_\_\_. Are we sharing this with others?
2. God preserves \_\_\_\_\_. Are we protecting life and the defenseless?
3. God keeps His \_\_\_\_\_. Are we eternally secure in His promise?

# The God Of Promise

Genesis 8:1 – 9:17

## Introduction:

- 60 Minutes (CBS tv show) and *Vanity Fair* magazine asked which archaeological discovery they would want to see. The response:
  - Noah's Ark (43%)
  - Atlantis (18%)
  - Amelia Earhart's plane (16%)
  - Nixon's lost tapes (13%)
  - Cleopatra's barge (5%)

(60 Minutes, "The 60 Minutes/Vanity Fair Poll: Which one of these lost artifacts would you like to be the first one to find?" November 29, 2009)

1. Should we go out to look for Noah's Ark?
  - No – unless you have a lot of money with nothing better to do with it
  - No – unless some foundation with a lot of money pays for you to go because they have nothing better to do with it
2. What happened to Noah's Ark?
  - Ancient Roman historian Josephus believes it remained in his time in the mountains of Armenia (*Antiquities*, 1(3):5-6)
  - Mostly likely dismantled to build housing and barns
  - Some of the timber was probably burned for warmth
  - There were probably not a lot of usable trees yet on the earth
  - Even if it was not dismantled, how many wood structures still exist over 6,000 years
  - Jonathan Safarti: "From an apologetics perspective, finding the Ark is unnecessary, especially since the biblical and geological evidence for the Flood is so plain (2 Pet 3:3-8). Also, would God really want a relic that might become a substitute for Him? ... Finally, the absence of the Ark proves nothing about the reality of the Flood. For example, if we never find the *Mayflower*, would it prove that the Pilgrim voyage to America never happened in 1620?" (*The Genesis Account*, p. 572)
  - Ken Ham: "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if Noah's Ark is found." (<https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/noahs-ark-found/where-is-noahs-ark/>)

## I. God Remembers His People (8:1a)

8:1a But **God remembered** Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark.

- "God" = *YHWH* – the Covenant keeping God
- God remembers us to save us

- He also cared about the animals that He created
- Arthur Fruchtenbaum shares how God remembers His people: "In Genesis 19:29, *God remembered Abraham* with a view to saving Lot; in Exodus 2:24, *God remembered his covenant* with the patriarchs with a view to rescuing Israel; in Jeremiah 2:2, God remembered Israel with a view toward her restoration; in Jeremiah 31:20, God remembered Ephraim with a view toward extending mercy to him; and in Luke 1:54-55, God remembered Israel with a view toward sending the Messiah to Israel. Furthermore, the sense here in Genesis is that of God remembering a covenant; though in this case the covenant itself had not yet been made. (God said earlier in Genesis 6 that He *would* establish His covenant with Noah.) Furthermore, in 7:4 God *remembered* that the rain would last only forty days. All these usages fit into the word 'remember.'" (*The Book Of Genesis*, Ariel Ministries, 2009, p. 175)
- Sometimes when the world is cruel and trashes us in the garbage pit, or freezes us in carbonite like Han Solo ...
  - C3PO: "Oh, they've encased him in carbonite. He should be quite well protected. If he survived the freezing process, that is."
- ... God remembers us
- When we feel alone because someone divorced us, broke up with us, laid us off, fired us, told us we're not good enough ... God remembers us!
- Noah's family felt all alone. The world ridiculed them.
- "Majorities mean nothing; during the Flood; only one man knew enough to get out of the rain." (*Gangel, Kenneth; Bramer, Stephen J. (2003-04-01). Holman Old Testament Commentary – Genesis: 1 (p. 86). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.*)
- God used the Ark to protect Noah and His family. He saved them from judgment of sin.
- Christ is our Ark from Judgment today.
  - There is a judgment coming
  - God saves the righteous
  - We become righteous by faith
  - God "remembered" or protected all that are in the Ark
- Will you be in under Christ's protection/salvation?

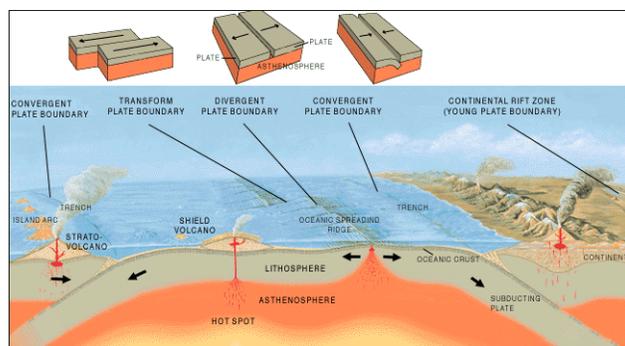
## **II. God Restarts After Judgment (8:1b-20a)**

### **A. God's People Watch And Wait While (1b-14)**

1b And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. 2 The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, 3 and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, 4 and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. 5 And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. 6 At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made 7 and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. 8 Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. 9 But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. 10 He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. 11 And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. 12 Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore. 13 In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. 14 In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out.

- 40 days of rain
- another 110 afloat before landing (v. 3 waters abated after 150 days)
- another 74 days before mountain tops exposed
- another 40 days before Noah sent out the scout raven and dove
- 370 days after boarding the family and animals left the Ark

- God subsided the waters with winds to calm the storm (when they usually aggravate a storm) – with God all things are possible – He could counteract natural forces with His supernatural force



- The waters also subsided with the earth becoming less round – the mountains rose higher, the trenches went deeper.
- During the time after the rain and the settling on land, God used shifting tectonic plates to raise mountains and lower valleys
- See Dr. Steve Austin on Plate Tectonics <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vy18kRqWEeI>
- Grand Canyon & Receding Flood Waters <http://creation.com/grand-canyon-origin-flood>

- V. 4 the Ark landed on Ararat

- **Q:** Is it the same Mt. Ararat in Turkey today?
  - The current Ararat is a dormant volcano with 2 peaks – the Greater is 16,854 ft high and the Lesser is 12,782 ft.
  - But v. 4 talks about “the mountains of Ararat” – not one mountain, but a region in a country called Ararat (2 Kings 19:37; Isa 37:38; Jer 51:27)
  - The modern Ararat is most likely a post-flood volcano
  - One alternative is the Zagros Mountains which is a range of mountains along Iran’s western border. Dena is the highest peak (14,465’ elevation).
  - But no one really knows.

- Dr. John Morris:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The name “Ararat,” for the Turkish name “Agri Dagi,” is probably based on the Hebrew “rrt” in Genesis.</li> <li>• Its location is high, allowing the Ark to land before the “tops of the mountains were seen” (<a href="#">Genesis 8:5</a>).</li> <li>• Based on eyewitness reports, few other places could hide the Ark in ice for 4,300 years—if such preservation were even possible.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ararat is a volcanic cone with little evidence that it was ever under water during the Flood, indicating that it may have formed after the Flood.</li> <li>• As they left the Ark, the animals would have had to make their way down a 16,950 ft (5,165 m) volcano.</li> <li>• Noah reported distant ranges without mentioning the closer Lesser Ararat.</li> </ul> |
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<https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/noahs-ark-found/has-noahs-ark-been-found/>

- V. 7 – Noah opens a window (probably at the top of the ship) and sends a raven which flew back and forth
- The raven is a scavenger bird and may have found a nice carcass for dinner
- V. 8 – Noah sends a dove a week after the raven. Noah demonstrated patience
- V. 11 – a dove returns an olive leaf (olive trees can grow from a 5 cm shoot) as well as tolerate salty waters
- Vv. 13-14 – the new earth is ready for its occupants
  - 29 days after sending out the dove, they’re ready
  - There may have been a lot of “C’mon dad, why can’t we go out now?”
  - But they waited for God’s instructions

## **B. God’s People Submit And Step Out (15-19)**

*15 Then God said to Noah, 16 "Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. 17 Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm 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 beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark.*

- The occupants of the Ark now get the go ahead from God
- E.g. I like a cruise ship, but not for a year
- From Noah and his family would come all the nations of the earth
- From the limited amount of animals on the Ark would come all the animals on our planet
- “Speciation” is an amazing study – new species emerged from the different “Kinds” that were on the ark (Kind is higher than species)
- Most of our modern dogs are traced to a pair of wolf-like dogs
- John Wilkins (d. 1672), an Anglican Bishop and founder of the metric system, argued that all of our cattle varieties, including the American buffalo, came from 2-14 cattle ancestors on the ark

## **C. God’s People Work And Worship (20)**

*20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.*

- What is the most appropriate response after being saved from death and judgment? Worship!
- V. 20 is the first mention of an altar in the Bible
- Public worship (or with the whole family at this point) thanks the Lord for their salvation
- Clean animals were sacrificed as burnt offerings – the reason why there were 7 pairs
- V. 21 – sweet smelling aroma brought God pleasure

### III. God Reassures With His Promise (8:21 – 9:17)

#### A. God's Promise (8:21-22)

*21 And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. 22 While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."*

- **The Definition Of Old Testament Covenants**

- Hebrew: בְּרִית = *berit*
- "the standing contract between two partners" (F. C. Fensham, "Covenant," *New Bible Dictionary*)
- OT covenants were contracts that governed a relationship between two parties

**Genesis 26:28** But they said, "We have certainly seen that the Lord is with you. So we said, 'Let there now be an oath between us, between you and us; and let us make a **covenant** with you'"

- "Covenants in the Old Testament have certain components that are uniform among the various types. There was a solemn promise made binding by an oath. This oath could be a verbal formula or a symbolic action. The parties making the oath were obligated to the contract. The covenant had legal force and became the basis for relationship between parties and defined the nature of ethical standards between them." (Richard Mayhue & Thomas Ice, "Covenants," *The Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy*, p. 63-64)
- "Covenant in the OT essentially incorporates a legally binding obligation. It is employed primarily in two ways. Frequently, the covenant represents an agreement between two parties in which there is basic parity. Both sides enter into the treaty voluntarily, resulting in a partnership relationship." (Irvin A. Busenitz, "Introduction To The Biblical Covenants: The Noahic Covenant And The Priestly Covenant," *Master's Seminary Journal*, Volume 10:2, Fall, 1999, p. 175)

#### B. God Blesses (9:1-7)

##### 1. Fill With Life (1,7)

*9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth... 7 And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it."*

- Be fertile and replenish the earth

## 2. Lead The Living (2)

*2 The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered.*

- There is a sense of man's dominion
- But instead of man and beast in harmony, beasts now fear man
- Partly because now we can eat them (v.3)

## 3. Eat Meat (3-4)

*3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. 4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.*

- Men were vegetarians before this time
- Gen 1:29 – affirmed the vegetarian diet
- Now man can eat the meat before them
- The Levitical restrictions of unclean animals have not yet been imposed
- Just don't eat its blood because blood is a picture of life (v. 4)
- Blood had a special role of covering sins in the OT and Christ's blood removed sin in the NT

## 4. Protect The Living (5-6)

*5 And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. 6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.*

- The death penalty is imposed here because life is precious

**Romans 13:4** "For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil."

- "Sword" – Gr. *machaira* – not a dagger worn by the Roman emperors (a symbol of office), but the sword worn by provincial magistrates – who exercised capital punishment
- the government is given authority to exercise force for the purpose of justice
- it is an instrument of execution and defense
- William Baker: "The sword is not so much a symbol of capital punishment as it is the *instrument* of capital punishment...Therefore, it symbolizes the right of government to use force." (*Capital Punishment*, p. 69)

**Revelation 13:10** "If anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed."

- man is not to personally carry out revenge, that's the role of the government
- personal vengeance or vigilante justice is forbidden
- God said vengeance is His
- one of His instruments in the government who is given the right to bear the sword

- “minister” = *diakonos* – through dust - servant
  - “avenger” = *edikos* – vengeance, justice
  - God’s justice uses the government as an instrument of vengeance
- Biblical punishment was 3 fold depending on the crime: restitution, corporeal punishment (eg/ flogging), capital punishment
- punishment was also swift – not delayed for years in the court system
- **Ecclesiastes 8:11** “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”
- our society dilly dallies – so more crime exists
- interesting that the Bible never endorsed a prison system
- not in OT law, though Pagan and Roman cultures had them
- Puritans used corporeal punishments – people put in stocks and bonds
- Quakers introduced prisons to the US – first prison called the “Walnut Street Jail
- Latin *Lex Talionis* – a life for a life
- God stated that any person that murders another person is to be put to death
- The purpose of capital punishment is not merely to deter crime, but primarily to administer justice.
- **Exodus 21** – God commands capital punishment for murderers who premeditate murder, involved with the occult, rape, incest and homosexuality
- God took the lives of the wicked in Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen 18-19)
- 1<sup>st</sup> born sons in Egypt (Ex 11) and the army at the Red Sea (Ex 14)
- rebellion of Korah (Num 16)
- **John 19:10-11** Pilate therefore said to Him, “You do not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?” Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me up to you has the greater sin.”
- Jesus acknowledged Pilate’s authority to execute, but reminded him that Pilate’s governmental authority and the right to the sword was given to him from heaven – from the Lord whom Pilate was about to crucify
- **Q:** Doesn’t the 10 Commandments tell us that we should not kill – then why is Capital Punishment permissible?
  - Exodus 20:13 - “kill” is lit. “murder”
  - used 29x in OT to describe premeditated murder
  - we are prohibited from murder – premeditated criminal act of taking someone’s life
  - yet not all killing is wrong – God ordered individuals and nations killed for their disobedience
  - God instituted the death penalty as the responsibility of the government for the purpose of justice

## C. God's Covenant (9:8-17)

### 1. The Participants Of The Covenant (8-10)

*8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth.*

- Noah, sons and animals
- The Classification Of The Noahic Covenant – Unconditional
- The Covenant with Noah is eternal and unconditional. God promised that there would be no more worldwide cataclysmic judgment. Nothing is based on any act of obedience of Noah or his descendants.

### 2. The Establishment Of The Covenant (11)

*11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."*

- "In the Noahic Covenant, God showed His gracious mercy toward all mankind, both redeemed and unredeemed, causing it to rain on the just and the unjust and assuring the ongoing, uninterrupted cycle of seasons. In it He demonstrated His unwillingness to allow the sinfulness of man to derail His plan set forth in Genesis 3:15, His unwillingness to allow the sinfulness of man to abrogate the pre-fall command to 'be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth,' a command reiterated after the flood to Noah." (Busenitz, p. 182)

#### a. In Light Of God's Flood Judgment, God Promises To Preserve Noah's Family And Every Animal Species

**Genesis 6:17-22** <sup>17</sup>And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. <sup>18</sup>But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. <sup>19</sup>And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. <sup>20</sup>Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. <sup>21</sup>And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them." <sup>22</sup>Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

#### b. God's Covenant To Noah Promises That God Would Not Repeat This Universal Destruction

**Genesis 8:20-22** <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, And day and night shall not cease.”

### 3. The Sign Of The Covenant (12-17)

*12 And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." 17 God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."*

- **The Fulfillment Of The Noahic Covenant** (Isa 54:9)

- God has continued to keep His promise.
- Isaiah reaffirms God's promise of the Noahic Covenant.

**Isaiah 54:9** For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn That the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, So have I sworn That I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you.

### Conclusion:

- All I Really Need to Know I Learned from Noah's Ark
  - Don't miss the boat.
  - Don't forget that we're all in the same boat.
  - Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
  - Stay fit. When you're six hundred years old, someone might ask you to do something REALLY big.
  - Don't listen to critics; just get on with what has to be done.
  - Build your future on high ground.
  - For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
  - Two heads are better than one.
  - Speed isn't always an advantage; the snails were on board with the cheetahs.
  - When you're stressed, float a while.
  - Remember that the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic was built by professionals.
  - Remember that woodpeckers inside are a larger threat than the storm outside. No matter the storm, when God is with you there's a rainbow waiting.

*(Gangel, Kenneth; Bramer, Stephen J. (2003-04-01). Holman Old Testament Commentary - Genesis: 1 (p. 87). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.)*

1. **God saves the righteous. Are we sharing this with others?**
2. **God preserves life. Are we protecting life and the defenseless?**
3. **God keeps His promise. Are we eternally secure in His promise?**