

## GENESIS CAPTER 8

There are parallels between Noah's family hidden away in the ark and our own sheltering -at -home situation. Families have been forced to spend time together, maybe even communicate!

They were on that ark 378 days. Let's hope God allows us to get back into normal mode much sooner.

One year, seventeen days in Jewish calendar years, with no sun on his face, no earth under his feet, no fresh food. Just the smells of thousands of animals a weariness with the whole thing, and, trepidation of the future; the unknown.

That, too, is something we can understand. The future ahead for us is uncertain, at most, but, like Noah we put our complete trust in God, Who loves us and cares for us.

He is the God Who knows when a sparrow fall. He counts the hairs on our heads-though, in some cases that's not a big chore!

The Bible says He

knows every tear that falls.

### PSALM 56:8

"You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book." NLT

What a comfort to have a Father we can trust.

### 1 John 4:18

Perfect love casteth out all fear."

I'm reminded of a pastor's story. The plane he on hit a terrible turbulence. Those on board became frightened, some panicked, but a small girl sat the entire time quietly reading; seemingly unaware of what was happening. After things calmed down, the pastor curious, asked her why she was so peaceful. "My Daddy is the pilot," she answered.

Our "Daddy," Abba Father, is our pilot. So, why are we fretting?

### Read chapter 8:1-4

Remember, God uses numbers to teach and to emphasize His word.

The number "8" represents 'New Beginnings,' which makes chapter 8 the appropriate number for Noah's departure from the ark.

After 150 days the ark rested on a mountain top of the Ararats. Theses are located on the borders of Turkey, Iran, and Armenia.

The world, however, wasn't ready. Water had to recede; land had to dry out; plants that have floated on the water needed to take root and seeds needed to sprout.

Patience.

### Verse 4

The ark rested on the seventh month, on the seventeenth day. Go back to chapter 7:11.

The deluge began on the second month, on the seventeenth day; exactly 5 months to the day from chapter 8:4.

So what?

Well, the Jews have two calendars. One is the traditional, which begins in the fall with Rosh Hashanah., meaning the Head of the Year, and usually comes sometime in what would be our September.

The other calendar is a religious one given by God to Moses in Exodus, which begins in the spring.

Now, is everyone confused yet?

The traditional calendar is the original and that is the one we apply to Genesis. It is based on twelve , with 30-day months. Actually, most all ancients calendars were based a 360 day year.

If we understand the second month is in October, counting forward 5 months brings us to the springtime for Passover which comes on the 14<sup>th</sup> day. The seventeenth day is the Fest of First Fruits.

First Fruits is the day Jesus was resurrected! The day of New Beginnings!

How like the Creator of the universe to “hide” His day of our salvation within the timing of Noah's new beginning!

Let me hear a Hallelujah!

Read verses 5-12

Imagine thoughts of Noah at this time. Soon, the door would open and he would see the world outside again. Maybe, he was concerned about the unknown. Surely, he was anxious to jump back into a normal life.

He opened the “window” and sent out a raven. Ravens, doves, and a few other birds were actually used by ancient mariners to detect land and its general direction. Perhaps they read Genesis?

The raven is described as “flying to and fro.” In Jewish understanding the raven went out and upon returning, did not enter the ark, but landed on the top of the ark.

Raven, in Hebrew is “oreb.” Its meaning is is connected to “bleakness, darkness.” An unclean bird, an eater of carion, some have suggested that there is an ominous point to verse 7 by comparing it to Job 1:7

And the Lord said to Satan, “whence comest thou?” The n Satan answered the Lord, and said, “From going to and fro in the earth...”

Verse 10

Noah “stayed” -the Hebrew word means “to tremble, to twirl or twist.” Sounds like Noah was so excited, maybe anxious to see the end of the saga and ready to begin the new life.

Verse 12

Here, we have translation “stayed,” again, but another word in Hebrew. This word means “to wait, hope, to trust.” “to be patient,” by its implication. That olive leaf brought back by thew dove the 2<sup>nd</sup> time seems to have made a difference in Noah's attitude. He finally was seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

Let's consider, now the dove. As the raven did not finish his mission, (just as Satan left his mission) the dove was faithful, returning each time and third time finishing her work.

The olive branch, too, is always connected with peace as is the dove. The olive tree is also representative of the nation of Israel.

And, of course,

John 1:32

“And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it was upon Him (Jesus.)”

Thus, the dove is representing the Holy Spirit.

Noah sent the dove out 3 times.

1. The first, she returned, probably wet
2. The second time, seven days later, she came back with the olive leaf
3. The third, another seven days, when sent out, she did not return. The time had arrived!

Verses 13-14

After almost one year, on the first day of the first month, Noah opened the ark's covering and took a look! That day landed on New Year's Day! Rosh Hashanah. Perfect.

Noah waited another 48 days for God to open the door. Something for us to remember. Don't make a move without checking with the Lord. Of course, in Noah's case, he had to wait for the door to be opened by the Lord.

Read verses 15-19

Notice that in chapter 7:1 God said, "Come..." which showed that God had been in the ark with Noah the whole time of trouble, just as we can count on Him being with us when we go through trouble.

I love to think of the Lord holding my hand as I look up to Him, just as a small child looks to her father and trusts him completely.

The day had arrived and what a day for every person and every animal on board; the day they left that big box. Can't you visualize all the excitement of the animals and birds sensing freedom!

What were they about to discover? No more protection from sun, extremes of heat and cold; wind, rain, hail snow storms. Earthquakes, volcanic activity, and that was only the start.

Homes had to be built; eventually, communities were established, but they would soon find many new conditions with which to deal.

"Go forth and multiply."

Jewish tradition: No human or animal births on the ark. In later chapter we find the first child was born two years after the flood.

Though men's lives began to shorten dramatically, they still lived long enough to produce many, many children.

What was the first thing Noah did after leaving the ark?

Read verses 20-22

Noah built an altar and thanked God for bringing them through the flood, providing them with everything they needed, giving them a clean new world.

One person described the whole event as God saying, "I've had enough. I'm doing some housecleaning!" Indeed, He did. He cleaned the whole earth, readied for a fresh start and no evil men to trouble them. However.....that didn't last long, for God knew man's imagination is evil from a baby.

God loved the sweet smell of the sacrifice and promised to keep the world running in manner he designed; summer, winter, seed and harvest.

This should comfort those who are concerned about climate change destroying the earth.

Finally, follow my thinking for what I call THE THREAD OF MESSIAH IN GENESIS.

Genesis 1:1

Yeshua Hamashiach, Jesus Christ created the universe

Genesis 3:15

Because of sin entering the world, the prophesy of Messiah was given that He would come in the form of a Man.

Genesis 3:21

The Lord taught Adam and Eve that sin brings death; that one needs a covering, a Savior to have forgiveness and salvation.

("pitch" means covering, same word)

Genesis 4:1

Eve believes with birth of Cain she has gotten that God-Man promised in 3:15.

Genesis 6:14

The ark is a picture of God and Jesus the door. The only way to be saved ' Again, the pitch is the covering for sin.

Genesis 8:4

The ark rested on the very day Messiah would be resurrected.

Genesis 8:20

Altar sacrifice is a picture of Messiah's sacrifice for us.

Don't let anyone tell you Jesus is not in the Old Testament! Before we close the door of the ark account, I want you to think about that door and all the people who were left standing outside that door when it closed with a thud! The panic, the terror they must have felt when it was too late.

We all have family and friends who don't know the Lord and we don't want them to "miss the boat." Who is God calling to witness to them?

Some say, "I don;t know what to say." Simply tell them your own story of how you were rescued from eternal living death.

Remember the simple child's ABC's of Salvation.

- A. admit you are a sinner
- B. believe that Jesus is Son of God
- C. confess this and call on His Name

Simply Trust and obey.

Shalom