

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

[www.twojourneys.org](http://www.twojourneys.org)

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at [twojourneys.org](http://twojourneys.org)

## **A New Beginning: Noah Exits the Ark Genesis 8:1-22**

### **Introduction: Water**

Every day we are surrounded by a very ordinary substance which is extraordinary in its properties... WATER!!! It is everywhere. In the vast expanse of salty oceans, in the shimmering purity of mountain lakes, in the gurgle of bubbling brooks, water covers nearly three-quarters of the surface of the earth. Added altogether, there are over 324 million cubic miles of water on this planet. If all the water on earth were gathered onto the United States, it would cover our country to a depth of 90 miles!! Because of water's strange properties—it's ability to absorb vast amounts of heat before boiling, it's ability to climb by capillary action so that it defies gravity, it's remarkable ability to float when it becomes solid, it's ability to dissolve almost anything put into it, and it's almost indestructable stability... all of these make water one of God's central achievements in creation.

Water has literally shaped the surface of the earth... frozen into immense and slowly creeping glaciers, it has chiseled out of granite the landscape which surrounds us. Deep ravines and canyons have been carved by water's force. Rivers have flowed over softer areas carrying topsoil and even boulders over hundreds of miles. Through gentle rainfall or mighty storms, water continues to change the shape of the shoreline and the contour of mountaintops. Water provides the power of restless ocean waves, the gentle mist from a marsh, the explosion of five billion tons of moisture in a hurricane, and the soft wisps of a high cloud.

Water has also been a constant force in the development of human civilization. Life itself is impossible without water... life can exist in some places without light, but in no place can it exist without water. Our very bodies themselves are over 2/3rds water by weight... this very moment your blood is flowing like a watery river through your bodies, carrying nutrients and oxygen to every cell, carrying away waste products from every cell. So also water has been indispensable in the formation of all the great civilizations of human history. From the very beginnings of time, water has provided man with food through irrigation, with transportation, with power for industry, and with refreshment and health every day.

This remarkable substance unites all of life and all of history. The water the next glass you drink at some point may have flowed through the Nile, or been used for experiments by Archimedes, or been used to cool the head of a dying emperor in China. And as it was water that God used to make the world in Genesis 1, so it was water he used to cleanse and recreate the world in Genesis 8.

## I. A God of New Beginnings

- A. Judgment measured out carefully... duration & scope
- B. God's grace takes over
- C. What must the air have smelled like to Noah?

Illus. *A Brave New World*

## II. The Prevailing Flood (7:24)

**7:24** *"The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days."*

- A. Totally submerged

### The blessing & curse of water

- B. Catastrophic circumstances
  1. 7:11 "Springs of the great deep burst forth..."
  2. Rupturing of earth's crust
  3. Earthquakes added to cataclysm
- C. Fossil record

1. Fossils MUST come through catastrophe
  2. Fossils seem to argue for evolution
  3. HOWEVER: good testimony for the flood
- D. Noah's experience on the ark
1. 371 days total... exactly 53 weeks
  2. Small openings for air & sunlight
    - a. 6:16 "finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top"
    - b. 8:13 "Noah removed the covering from the ark"

Illus. The aroma of a zoo... the sounds of the animals, the incessant work feeding them and caring for them

3. The most punished man on earth??

### III. God Remembers Noah (8:1-5)

- A. "But God..." God's grace changes everything
- B. How God "remembered" Noah and the animals
- C. The healing wind
- D. The restructured earth, the receding waters

***Psalm 104:6-9 "You covered the earth with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them. You set a boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth."***

1. BUT where did all the water go?
  2. Some hypothesize that God caused great changes on surface... mountains rising, valleys lowering
  3. Ocean basin seven miles deep in places
- E. Mount Ararat

1. Can the ark be found?

Illus. Many stories, even in 20<sup>th</sup> century, of discovery of Noah's Ark in Mt. Ararat... Czar of Russia sent a team & they photographed a wooden boat covered with boulders

2. Real issue here: God caused the ark to rest... God's care, providential guidance... ark had no navigation system!

#### IV. Noah's Test of Patience (8:6-14)

##### A. Lingering trials

Trials come quickly but linger a long time... an illness suddenly comes, or a loved one is stricken, or a natural disaster destroys your farm... it comes on you suddenly, but like Noah's floodwaters, the effects linger for a long time

All this calls for patience!!

##### B. Noah's patient hopefulness

1. "After forty days..."
  - a. Noah's patience... forty more days
  - b. another good reason why no children on the ark

Illus. "Daddy, are we almost there?"

- c. seriously... God's providence that Noah's grandchildren to be born in new world

Now,,, see Noah's ingenuity... using birds to do his research for him!!

2. The Raven... scavenger bird, unclean, symbol of evil

Illus. Edgar Allen Poe, "The Raven"

- a. raven moves back and forth... unable at first to find a place
  - b. ultimately raven leaves for good
3. The Dove: clean bird, sacrifice
    - a. unlike raven, unwilling to land on some fouled surface

- b. initial reports disappointing
- c. seven more days in the belly of the ark

#### 4. The Olive Branch

- a. symbols of peace

**Illus. Dove a bird of peace, olive branch a symbols of end of God's judgment...  
"REST" "COMFORT"**

- b. also, a precursor of later symbols

**Christ's baptism... water, olive oil = anointing of King David**

#### 5. The Dove's hopeful departure (vs. 12)

- a. again, Noah's patience... seven more days
- b. this time, dove disappears forever
- c. soon all other animals will join that happy bird!

#### C. Noah's final preparations (vs. 13-14)

##### 1. Noah's age... careful measuring of time on ark

- a. 7:11 Noah was 600 years, 2 months, 17 years old when entered ark
- b. 8:13 Noah was 601 years, first day of first month
- c. only 57 more days to go!!

##### 2. The covering of the ark

- a. protection from downpour
- b. Noah's fear of the Lord... nothing except by command!
- c. covering also consistent picture of atonement, protection from God's wrath

**Illus. Fig leaves, animal skins, "yom kippur" = day of covering,**

**Ultimate security from the wrath of God... the protective covering of Christ's blood**

##### 3. Ground completely dry

- a. water receded to God's place
- b. Noah's first real glimpse of God's new world

#### D. God's New World

1. "World that then was" completely wiped clean
2. Sky looked different... no water vapor canopy
3. Terrain looked different... far less vegetation, more deserts
4. Weather patterns strange... rain, wind, seasons, temperature
5. Our future: new heavens & new earth
  - a. after judgment, new creation

***2 Peter 3:13 "In keeping with his promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness."***

***Hebrews 1:10-12 "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed."***

***Revelation 21:1 "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea."***

- b. like this, continuity but difference
- c. unlike this, heaven affected as well
  - Sun, moon, stars will fall from sky

#### V. God's Command, Noah's Freedom (8:15-19)

- A. God's command: go out of the ark
  1. Place of safety and protection... no longer needed
  2. World has been cleansed & is ready for you

- B. Patience & hope rewarded
- C. Noah's moment-by-moment obedience
  - 1. Consistent pattern of Noah's life
  - 2. Christ's teaching:

***Matthew 4:4 "Man does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."***

- 3. Christ's example:

***John 5:19 "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can only do what He sees the Father doing, because whatever the Father does, the Son also does."***

- 4. Noah's obedience:
  - a. Noah did NOTHING without God telling him to do it
  - b. Noah did EVERYTHING God told him to do

So often, we just do whatever we want to... we never even think to ask God, "What do you want me to do now?"

- 5. Noah's freedom: not just getting off the ark
  - a. modern view of freedom... lawlessness, freedom to do whatever you want
  - b. Noah's freedom: freedom of total obedience to God

***Psalm 119:32 "I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free."***

## VI. Noah's Grateful Sacrifice, God's Gracious Promise (8:20-22)

- A. Noah's Joyful Gratitude
  - 1. Salvation should prompt thankfulness

***Psalm 107:29-31 "He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men."***

2. Noah's sacrifice came first from a heart of gratitude
3. Thankfulness central part of true worship

***Hebrews 12:28 "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful and so worship God acceptably..."***

**B. Noah's Heart Sacrifice**

1. The first mention of an altar in the Bible
2. Simple table, no iron tools, just a stack of stones
3. Lavish, generous & faith-filled
  - a. God had designated the clean animals for sacrifice
  - b. Noah was a priest as well as a prophet
  - c. By faith he offered these animals, knowing God would accept
  - d. By faith he knew God would bless his flocks

**C. God's Heart Pleasure**

1. Did the aroma please God? The smell of burning flesh?
2. NO!! It was Noah's gratitude, obedience & faith that was pleasing
3. So also with our prayer life

***Revelation 8:3-4 "Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer with the prayers of the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand."***

4. So also with our financial offerings

***Philippians 4:18 "They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God."***

Our faith and our gratitude leads to a life of sacrifice to God... and that sacrifice pleases Him very much

**BUT MORE...**



5. The animal sacrifice: a picture of Christ

- a. Noah admitting his own sinfulness
- b. Despite Noah's obedience & faith, still needs a savior

D. God's Gracious Promise (vs. 21-22)

1. God speaks "in His heart"

- a. solemn commitment
- b. oath & promise
- c. BUT how do we know if He said it in His heart? HE TOLD US!!

2. "Never again..."

- a. the "curse on the ground" happened twice
- b. original curse from Adam still stands
- c. second curse of flood is mentioned
- d. CONNECTION BETWEEN MAN & EARTH, MAN & BEASTS
- e. no new judgments

3. WHY this promise? Our sin & God's grace

- a. promise necessary for sin remained in man's heart... Noah, Shem, Ham & Japheth all sinners
- b. God's patience now will last till the end
- c. incredible wickedness of sin... still rooted in our hearts from birth
- d. incredible grace of God!!!

4. Security in God's unfailing goodness

- a. tremendous fear of elements
- b. nature would now seem capricious
- c. God says, "Not so... I will uphold natural order"

5. New Earth, cycle of seasons

- a. under old canopy, no seasons like this
- b. “nature” is really God’s constant faithfulness
- c. regular rhythms come from Him

BUT only “AS LONG AS THE EARTH ENDURES”... someday these seasons and days will end, when He makes the new heaven and the new earth

## VII. Applications

### 1) Lessons from considering Noah:

- Patience in a trial
- Hopefulness (raven & dove)
- Step by step obedience... NOAH’S TRUE FREEDOM!!
- Gratefulness
- Sacrifice
- Faith
- YET, still sin in his heart

### 2) Lessons from considering God

- God’s faithfulness: “God remembered Noah”, God will “remember” us
- God’s power: the waters recede and stay at His command
- God’s pleasure: He LOVES a heart of gratitude and faith
- God’s gracious promises:  
Flood: “NEVER AGAIN”; Cycles of nature: “NEVER CEASE”