

Genesis Chapter 8.

Introduction

In chapter seven, we saw the greatest storm this world has ever known, the deluge fall, the fountains of the deep burst open, and the world of that day submerged beneath a torrent of judgment. Floating above that vast, global sea was one tiny vessel of life—the Ark—housing Noah, his family, and the creatures God brought to him. Inside, it was a season of waiting, surrounded by the physical reality of a dark, turbulent world.

Now, as we turn the page to Genesis chapter eight, we see a beautiful transition. The story shifts from the heavy storm of judgment to the gentle rising of God's mercy, and from waiting inside the Ark to stepping out onto dry ground to walk in a brand-new world.

As we examine this passage together today, we are going to look closely at three major themes that unfold from the text:

First, we will look at **The Memory of God and a Reformed World**, examining what the Scriptures mean when they say that God "remembered" Noah—moving from silent protection to active deliverance—and considering the massive geographical changes that reshaped the earth as the waters receded and the mountains thrust upward.

Second, we will examine **The Raven, the Dove, and the Altar of Consecration**, seeing how the two birds Noah released picture the conflict between our old nature and the new life of the Spirit within us, and observing how Noah's very first act upon stepping onto dry land was to build an altar and yield his life back to the Lord in gratitude.

Finally, we will behold **The Covenant of Seasons and the Invitation to New Life**, considering God's promise to preserve the natural cycles of seedtime and harvest, while recognizing that the ultimate new beginning is found only in Jesus Christ—our true Ark—who bore the storm of judgment so that we might walk in newness of life with Him.

When God brings you through the storm, the only right response is to step out in faith and put Him first.

Bible Study

Look with me at Genesis chapter eight, starting in verse one...

The Memory of God (Genesis 8:1)

The chapter begins with a phrase that should bring comfort to every believer: "Then God remembered Noah" (Genesis 8:1, NKJV).

Now, we have to understand that this is what we call an "anthropomorphism." That's a big theological word for describing God's actions in human terms. It's not that God had a "senior moment" and suddenly realized, "Oh, that's right, Noah is still out there!" God never forgot him. But in the Bible, when it says God "remembered," it means He began to act on someone's behalf. He moved from the period of silent protection to the period of active deliverance.

Practical Application: You may feel today like you are in an "Ark" of sorts—boxed in by circumstances, floating on a sea of uncertainty, and it's been a long time since you heard from Heaven. Let me encourage you: God has not forgotten you. He knows exactly where your "ark" is floating, and at the right time, He will begin to move the waters.

A Changing World (Genesis 8:1-5)

As the waters began to recede, God sent a wind. Before the flood, the earth likely had a "water canopy" that kept the climate like a global greenhouse—lush, tropical, and moderate everywhere. But now, with that canopy collapsed and the "fountains of the deep" broken up, the geography of the earth was being radically reshaped.

As the waters settled into new, deep ocean basins, the pressure caused the earth's crust to buckle and thrust upward. This is likely when the great mountain ranges we see today—the Himalayas, the Andes, the Rockies—were pushed toward the heavens. Noah, sitting in that Ark, would have heard the groaning of the earth as it was being reformed. By the seventh month, the Ark rested on the mountains of Ararat.

The Raven and the Dove (Genesis 8:6-12)

Noah eventually opened the window and sent out a raven, then a dove.

- The Raven: An unclean bird that eats carrion (dead things). It flew back and forth but never really returned to stay. It found plenty to eat in a world that had just been judged.
- The Dove: A clean bird that seeks a clean place to rest. At first, it found no place for the sole of its foot and returned to the Ark. Later, it returned with an olive leaf—a sign of new life. Finally, it didn't return at all.

This is such a picture of the believer's life. We have two natures: the old "raven" nature that is attracted to the things of the world and death, and the new "dove" nature—the Holy Spirit within us—that can only find rest in what is clean and of God.

The Altar of Consecration (Genesis 8:13-20)

After 370 days—just over a year—God finally told Noah to come out. Can you imagine the relief? The first thing Noah did wasn't to build a house or plant a garden. The Bible says, "Then Noah built an altar to the LORD" (Genesis 8:20, NKJV).

He took of the "clean" beasts and offered a burnt offering. In the Hebrew sacrificial system, the burnt offering was the offering of consecration. It wasn't about sin; it was about saying, "Lord, my life is Yours. I am dedicated to You." Noah started his new life by putting God first.

The Promise of the Seasons (Genesis 8:21-22)

The Lord smelled the "soothing aroma" of that sacrifice and made a covenant in His heart. He acknowledged that "the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth" (Genesis 8:21, NKJV). God isn't under any illusions about us. He knows we are "but dust." But He promised that as long as the earth remains, the cycles of life—seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, day and night—would not cease.

A Challenge for Believers: Noah's first act in a new world was worship. Is that your first act when God brings you through a trial? When the "rain" stops and you step out onto dry land, do you build an altar of gratitude, or do you get so busy building your own "house" that you forget the One who kept you safe through the storm?

An Invitation to New Life

The Bible says that Jesus Christ is our Ark. The judgment of God against sin is real, but the provision of God for salvation is just as real.

Jesus saved us when He shed His precious blood on that cross, taking the "flood" of God's wrath in our place. But He didn't stay dead! The resurrection declares that He is God, Savior, and Lord. He is the door to a brand-new life.

The "imagination of your heart" might be far from God today, but He has made a way for you to be "born again"—not of the flesh, but of the Spirit. Don't wait until the "windows of heaven" close. Come to the Savior today.

If you want to step out of the old world and into a new life with Jesus, you can pray this right now: "Lord Jesus, I thank You for bearing my judgment on the cross. I believe You rose again declaring that You are Savior, Lord, and God. I give You my heart today. Wash me, change me, and lead me. I want to live for You from this day forward. Amen."