

A New Beginning

Genesis 8:1-9:17

“THE BIBLICAL PICTURE OF NOAH AND HIS FAMILY standing resplendent in the sunlight of the new world as the ark’s animal life emerged by families was given in the slow-motion style of Hebrew epic repetition so that it would impress our imaginations. It represented a new beginning, with magnificent Noah as the human centerpiece.

And Noah was magnificent indeed. The first thing he did was build an altar to the lord and sacrifice burnt offerings, signifying the complete giving of his life to God. The aroma of Noah’s total commitment pleased God. God then blessed Noah, calling for him to multiply so that his offspring would again fill the earth. The sacredness of human life was affirmed. Lastly, God established a covenant with Noah, promising that he would never again destroy the earth with a flood. The sign of the covenant was a shimmering rainbow, ‘my bow’ as God literally termed it.

Noah stood resplendent, arched by the splendor of the spectrumed glory of God’s bow. The sign of the covenant stood incandescent over Noah and his three sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their wives, from whom the whole earth would be repopulated. We can see the backlit by the pink and turquoise and gold of God’s bow as the day fades.” Hughes

- I. Noah knew that God would not forget him as he drifted upon the waters of God’s judgment on a sinful world that wanted nothing to do with Him. Afterall, it was God Himself who had closed the massive door on the Ark before the flood waters came. He knew that God spared him and his family for a reason, so he remained hopeful of better days to come. Salvation does that, it puts hope in the one who has placed their trust in Jesus to save them from His judgment against sin. Like Noah, He saves each one of us for a reason, and it’s to glorify Him by how we live as we wait for *“the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who believed (2 Thess. 1:10).*

Gen. 8:1

Psalm 27:13-14

Heb. 11:6-7

2 Cor. 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

- II. Noah knew that sooner or later God would dry up the flood waters of uncertainty and put him back on the security of dry ground. As he waited for the Lord to act, he noticed a wind blowing over the waters, the waters receding, the ark coming to rest on dry ground, and the top of the mountains sticking up out of the waters. God was showing him that he was about to change his circumstances. Noah's faith, his total trust in God, kept him on the ark until God said it was safe for him leave. He gives us a perfect illustration of what it means to let the Lord God stay in charge of our lives, which is seen in how he and his family worshipped Him out of gratitude and thanksgiving for His loving kindness toward them.

Gen. 8:2-20

2 Cor. 5:17

"The modern symbol of peace represented by a dove carrying an olive branch in its beak has its origin in this story." NIV ft. notes

"Instead of merely bursting from the ark and kicking up his heels with happiness to at last be free again, which we could well understand, he built an altar, offered sacrifices, and gathered his family to thank the God who had delivered them from the great flood." Boice

Psalm 27:13-14 *I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong in heart and wait for the Lord.*

- III. God rewards those who put their complete trust in Him with promises that obligate Himself to bless and honor their faithfulness. His covenant promises are eternal, unilateral (one-sided), and based on grace. Mankind has providentially benefitted from Noah's faithfulness with God's promise to never again curse the ground and never again destroy all living creatures through a worldwide flood. The rainbow, "**His bow**," was given as a sign to show mankind that He is not only true to His Word, but that He is also sovereign over the affairs of the world.

Gen 8:21-22

Jn. 10:27-28

Heb. 13:5

Gen. 9:1-17

Lev 17:14

2 Peter 3:9-11

Deuteronomy 32:4 *The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.*