

LAND!

GENESIS 8:10-22

(Prepared by Gene Thompson using LifeWay's ETB material.)

1. Can you share a time when you celebrated, because God brought you out of a difficult situation?
(Coming home from Korea after a year separated from my family.)

In today's study we see how God brought Noah and his family out of the difficult time of the Flood and delivered them to dry land again. They had expressed hope that God would carry them through this year-long journey, and He did.

2. What does "hope" mean to you?
3. How does "hope" help you get through painful situations? (In the biblical term "hope" is akin to our faith. Hope is "Confident Assurance" that God will see us through right by our side, and regardless of the outcome it is for our good and His glory.)

We are constantly bombarded with stories of pain and suffering. Likewise, in the Bible there are accounts of pain and suffering, such as the flood account and God's judgment on humanity and the earth as recorded in Genesis 6-7.

4. Why is it essential for people to know that restoration awaits those who put their trust in God? (It gives us HOPE!)

Last week we studied the wickedness that was on the earth, and God's judgment that was coming upon them in the Flood. Chapter 7 ends with verse 24: "The water prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days." It was a somber note of God's judgment upon the earth and all its wickedness.

But then Genesis 8 begins with a great expression that provides the context for today's study: "BUT GOD"! BUT GOD! Many translations read "But God remembered..." When it isn't there, it is implied. How many times have you seen a situation change with "but God"? Let's read some other passages where God changed things!

Genesis 50:20; 1 Sam. 23:14; Psalm 73:26; Acts 3:15; Romans 5:6-8; 1 Cor. 10:13; Eph 2:4-5. (Have members read these verses.)

We were all lost BUT GOD makes the difference for us by sending Christ to save us.

We will see in our text for today how God made a big difference here in this bad situation in Genesis 8. "But God!"

In verses 1-9 God caused a wind to pass over the earth, and the water subsided, and the ark rested on the mountains of Ararat. Noah sent out a raven that did not come back, then a dove that flew about and returned, for there was no place to land.

WAIT! Read Genesis 8:10-14

The covering was apparently a hatch-like opening that allowed Noah and family to finally see the land surrounding the ark. It was also distinct from the door in the side of the ark.

From the time Noah sent out the raven until the last dove was 21 days.

1. How anxious do you think Noah and his family were to get off the ark?
2. When was the last time you had to wait for something that seemed to be a long time?
3. How long had they been on the ark? (Just over one calendar year.)

I'm sure it seemed like forever! Even though the ark had come to rest on the mountains of Ararat they still had to wait for the standing water to dry up.

4. Why does God put us in situations where we have to wait? (It helps us learn to trust Him more and builds patience in us.)
5. On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being "can't do it" and 5 being "no problem," how would you rate your attitude toward waiting?

After the last dove did not return, they had to wait 57 more days before the earth was dry enough for them to walk on.

6. What is the worst part of waiting for you?
 7. When you wait patiently on God, what does that communicate to others? (You are placing your faith in Him.)
 8. What does it communicate to God? (You trust Him to do what is best.)
- Once it was clear that the ground was dry, Noah, and his family, and the animals were free to leave the ark!

OBEY AND EXIT! Read Genesis 8:15-19

We find restoration through a trusting obedience to the Father!

1. How important was it for the people and the animals to spread out and multiply? (First, that is what God commanded them to do. The earth was created to be inhabited.)

There is no record that God spoke to Noah during the year they were on the ark, yet Noah remained faithful to the Lord during the long turbulent year.

When God remains silent, it is good to look at how He communicates with us through what He has done, what He is doing, and what He has promised to do in the future.

2. You have heard people say, "Don't just stand there, do something!" Is that a good rule to go by when waiting for God? (No! Saul was told to wait for Samuel to make a sacrifice to the Lord [see 1 Sam. 13]. He got impatient and made the sacrifice himself and it cost Saul his kingdom. Disobedience has consequences.)

Here God instructed Noah to bring out "all of the living creatures" that were on the ark. Notice the last phrase in verse 19. It seems evident that some of the animals bore offspring during the year they "came out of the ark by their families."

3. Is there something God has told you to do that is still undone?

After Noah and his family left the ark, Noah determined to worship God for all that He had done.

WORSHIP! Read Genesis 8:20-22

1. Why do you think Noah built an altar to the Lord? (Noah had a heart of gratitude and he expressed it through worship! We have no record of God commanding His creation how to worship Him at this point; it came as an expression from the heart!)
2. What did God promise here in these verses? (He would never again strike every living thing down and there would be seasons as long as the earth endures.)
3. Why is worshipping God important? (He is the King of kings and Lord of lords, Creator of all things. It is our opportunity to express our gratitude for all He has done for us and through us.)
4. What helps you focus on God as you worship Him? (Even though we deserve God's judgment because of our sin and rebellion against Him, God promised to provide a way of salvation through Jesus Christ, His Son!)
5. How do you celebrate God's goodness in your life?

Noah made a very costly sacrifice because there were only a few of the animals at the time. This should challenge some of us today, who might tend to look at our circumstances and say: I can't tithe; I don't have enough money. Our church can't reach out or start new ministries; we don't have the resources.

6. Have you ever given to the Lord when it was difficult to do so?

CHALLENGE!

- As believers we can patiently wait, knowing God's redemptive plan is unfolding.
- We find restoration through trusting obedience to the Father.
- We should acknowledge and celebrate God's redemption and restoration.

1. What should you do as you wait on God's plan to unfold? (Stay in the Word; serve where God has placed you right now. Stay connected to God's people.)
2. How does this Bible passage give you hope?

One of the all-time favorite hymns, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" comes from verse 22:

 "Summer and winter, springtime, and harvest,
 Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
 Join with all nature in manifold witness,
 To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness.
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
 Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!"