

TRUSTING GOD'S PLAN, PURPOSE, AND DESIGN

"God Remembered" Genesis 7:17-8:6

July 13, 2025

INTRO.: This morning we're going to continue looking at how God worked through the flood of Noah's time. Pastor John did an excellent job last week speaking of *The Great Rescue* detailed in the first part of Genesis 7. This morning we're going to spend some time looking at what this account tells us about the character of God. It is important for us to be reminded of who God is as we face the challenges, difficulties, and trials of life. The God of the Bible is the same God that we serve. The God of the Old Testament is the same as the God of the New Testament. In Genesis 7:17-8:5 we're going to look at how this account displays not only the judgment of God but also His grace and mercy. God Remembered. Let's read this passage together.

Genesis 7:17–8:5 For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. **18** The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. **19** They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. **20** The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet. **21** Every living thing that moved on the earth perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. **22** Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. **23** Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. **24** The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

Genesis 8:1 But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. **2** Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. **3** The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, **4** and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. **5** The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible

I have divided this up into three sections: Genesis 7:17-20; 21-23; and 7:24-8:5. So, beginning in Genesis 7:17-20 we see:

GENESIS 7:17-20

God's Judgment:

v. 17 *"for forty days the flood kept coming on the earth."* The beginning of this section speaks only of what is going on outside the ark. It highlights awfulness of sin which brings the judgment of God.

v. 18 *"the waters rose and increased greatly on the earth."* what God had said would happen is coming to pass. What God says in His Word can be counted on to be truth. God always fulfills what He says He will do.

Hebrews 6:18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.

Noah had preached about this as he was building the ark. He is described in 2 Peter 2:5 as *"a preacher of righteousness."*

v. 19 *"rose greatly:"* this is actually the Hebrew word meaning "very" repeated twice. Other translations have it "prevailed exceedingly." This describes an immense amount of water.

"all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered:" all of this points to a universal flood.

"covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet:" this would allow the ark to float over the top of the mountains.

Nobody was escaping this flood! Apart from having a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, nobody will escape the judgment of God.

Hebrews 9:27 (NASB95) — 27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

Philippians 2:9–11 (NASB95) — **9** For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

God's Grace and mercy

v. 17 *"as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth:"* The ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high, and they coated it with pitch. The ark floated! God's directions on how to build it were totally accurate! God's directions on whom to build our life and how to build our life are totally accurate.

1 Corinthians 3:10–11 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. **11** For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

v. 18 As the waters rose: *"the ark floated on the surface of the water"*

Victor P. Hamilton: "Note about the ark and Noah: In spite of the savagery of the storm, the ark neither sinks or capsizes. Noah does not have navigational personnel aboard with him. Nor is there any explicit reference to navigational apparatus on the ark. If Noah is to emerge alive from the ark, it will be because of the grace and protecting presence of Yahweh – divine mercy rather than human skill will be the determining factor."

GENESIS 7:21-23

God's Judgment:

v. 21 *"Every living thing that moved on the earth perished"*
"and all mankind"

v. 22 *"everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died"*

Interesting thought from Victor Hamilton: Verses 21 & 22 begin and end with synonymous verbs, the point being made is the total loss of life brought about by the flood. Nowhere does it say "they drowned," although it was obviously death by drowning. I would suggest that the use of "they died," instead of "they drowned," reinforces the idea that the loss of life is a divine penalty, rather than death due to natural catastrophe.

v. 23 *Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth.*

"wiped out:" literally means "erased"

It is also interesting to note that when the passage speaks of every living thing perishing the animals are mentioned first and mankind last, but when the passage speaks of every living thing on the face of the earth being "erased" mankind is mentioned first and the animals last.

All of creation experienced death when sin entered the world but with mankind it brought both separation from God and death.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—

Those who refused to enter the ark experienced death and those who refuse to come to the cross will experience eternal death, judgment, and separation from God.

God's Grace and Mercy:

v. 23 *Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.*

God told Noah judgment was coming and that he was to build the ark and that He would deliver Noah and his family.

Genesis 6:18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you.

Noah communicated God's means of deliverance to his family and to all the others, but it was only his family that entered the ark. We are called to present the gospel to others. Yet we are also told the majority will not accept God's rescue plan.

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Matthew 7:13–14 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. **14** But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

GENESIS 7:24-8:5

Gen. 7:24 – 8:1 The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days. **8:1** But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.

God's Judgment

v. 24 *The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.*

This lasted five months! There was no way anyone could have escaped this judgment. This would have been a constant reminder to Noah and his family on how God had truly rescued them from certain death. I'm thinking there might not have been much complaining within the ark.

God's Grace and Mercy

v. 1 *“But God remembered Noah”*

This is described by some as the turning point. When we hear that phrase it can cause us to wonder if God forgot. I write things down so I will remember them and then I forget where I put the paper, I had written them on. They tell me that it isn't going to get better as I age. I like to tell people, “I can't remember the last time I forgot.” So, what does this phrase mean?

A few thoughts from some commentators:

Arnold Fruchtenbaum: The word *remember* does not mean remember in the sense that God temporarily forgot about the ark and its inhabitants; rather it means remembering in the sense of movement toward the object. For example:

Gen 19:29 God remembered Abraham with a view to saving Lot

Ex 2:24 God remembered His covenant with the patriarchs with a view to saving Israel

Jer 2:2 God remembered Israel with a view toward her restoration

Jer 31:20 God remembered Ephraim with a view toward extending mercy to him

Lk 1:54-55 God remembered Israel with a view toward sending the Messiah to Israel

Derek Kidner: “When the Old Testament says that *God remembered*, it combines the ideas of faithful love (cf. Jer. 2:2; 31:20) and timely intervention.”

Allen P. Ross: “The turning point in this drama comes with the key word “remember.” The verb “to remember” (*zakar*) most often means far more than a mental recollection. It signifies action based on what is remembered. This is certainly what one would mean in praying, “Lord, remember me” (cp. Luke 23:42). Here the point is that God began to act on what he had promised Noah. Everything up to this point is the increase of the Flood on the earth; everything after this will trace its cessation and the return to the dry land.”

What was one of the signs that God showed His movement toward Noah and his family?

v. 1 *“he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded”*

As each day passed, and the water continued to recede Noah, and his family had an ongoing picture of God's grace and mercy in saving them.

Genesis 8:2-3 Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. **3** The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down,

v. 2 *“now the springs of the deep and floodgates of the heavens had been closed:”* water from below and above had ceased

"and the rain had stopped falling from the sky"
v. 3 *"the water receded steadily from the earth"*

Genesis 8:4-5 and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. **5** The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible

v. 4 *"the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat:"* this refers to the mountain range of Ararat, not necessarily to a specific mountain. This would be in what is modern day Turkey.

v. 5 *"the waters continued to recede until the tenth month:"* from the beginning of the flood until this time there had been a lapse of 7 ½ months.

"on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible:"

During this time of waiting Noah had to continue to trust that God would deliver them. It was a continual walk of faith. I think we can make a comparison to the believer today. We are stuck in the not yet part of our walk with the Lord. That is, we know where we will either be raptured when the Lord returns or we will pass from this life and go to be with the Lord. It is a walk of faith, trusting in God's promises.

As Paul was in a Roman prison, knowing that he would be executed soon, listen to what he writes to young Timothy, encouraging him to continue to preach the truth, endure hardship, and discharge the duties of his ministry.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8** Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

As we walk this life of "not yet" let us keep on keeping on. Noah and his family were on the ark for over 7 months before they saw evidence of land. God has not promised that this life will be easy for the believer, but we know where we're headed.

SO WHAT???

*There were only two options in Noah's time. Either you were in the ark, or you weren't. Either you were facing God's judgment through the flood, or you were being rescued in the ark. There are only two options today when it comes to God.

John 3:16-18 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Have you come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? It is all through God's grace.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast.

*Noah and his family not only had to enter the ark, they also had to continue to trust that God knew what He was doing. It is not any different for those who know Jesus.

The following verses are Brenda's favorite.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV) — **5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; **6** In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

*We are saved by grace, and we live by grace. None of us can walk the Christian life on our own.

2 Peter 1:3-4 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. **4** Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.