

## The Flood

### Part 6

#### "The Sacrifice of Noah"

#### Genesis 7-8

**Introduction:** Today we shall continue our study in the book of Genesis and as we do we will look at the first thing Noah will do as he steps from the ark.

Now before we look at Noah we need to back up in Genesis 7-8 and get some details of the flood which will help us to understand more about Noah's actions.

There is a debate today about the flood in many ways but one of the ways it is questioned is in its severity. You see many do not believe the flood was a global flood. They do everything they can to prove the flood was a local flood. But the Bible is very clear that the flood was a global/universal flood. Let me show you a few of the Biblical evidences that the flood was universal.

#### 1. All the hills and the mountains were covered.

##### Genesis 7:19-20

<sup>19</sup> And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and **all** the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered.

<sup>20</sup> Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; **and the mountains were covered.**

#### 2. All life on the earth died.

##### Genesis 7:21-23

<sup>21</sup> And **all** flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

<sup>22</sup> **All** in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of **all** that was in the dry land, died.

<sup>23</sup> And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were

*destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.*

If the flood was just a local flood then some of the animal life and some of the people would have survived.

### **3. All vegetation died.**

#### **Genesis 7:23**

*<sup>23</sup> And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.*

The words "living substance" refers to everything which was living including all plant life.

#### **Genesis 6:13**

*<sup>13</sup> And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

God told Noah He would destroy all flesh and along with all flesh He would destroy everything on the face of the earth.

That makes people wonder where the dove got the olive leaf. There would have been seeds from the previous vegetation which began to grow when they settled on dry ground. Olive trees grow very rapidly when they first begin to grow, so there was time for the olive tree to begin to grow.

### **4. God's promise.**

#### **Genesis 9:11**

*<sup>11</sup> And I will establish my covenant with you, neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.*

God made a promise to Noah that He would never again bring a flood like the flood of Noah's day. If this was just a local flood then God has broken that promise because there have been many floods since that promise was made.

There are many other Scriptures which support a universal flood but there is one more thought which we need to look at concerning those who believe the flood was not universal.

Two questions for those who teach the flood was not global would be this, "Why did Noah need to build an ark if the flood was local? Why did he not just move to higher ground?"

### **Romans 1:18**

*<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

To deny the global flood is to be guilty of suppressing the Truth of God's Word.

With all of this said let us now consider the conditions when Noah stepped from the ark. Much of the land would have been barren. Some of the ground would have signs of life but there would be no large trees. There was not people walking about and there were not animals grazing in the meadows. It was just Noah and his family and the animals from the ark. There were no birds singing in the distance. It would have been lonely and quiet.

### **I. The Offering of Noah.**

#### **Notice Genesis 8:20**

At first glance we really do not see much meaning in the sacrifice which Noah offered to God. But a closer look at this along with the exercise of our minds will help us to see the heart of Noah.

Noah sacrificed one of every clean beast and one of every clean fowl. These would have been the domestic animals. These were the animals which Noah and his family would have been very fond of. They were the animals of the flocks and the herds.

Noah had been commanded to take 7 of each of these animals.

#### **Genesis 7:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> *Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.*

<sup>3</sup> *Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female: to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.*

So when Noah sacrificed the clean animals he was giving 1/7<sup>th</sup> of all he had.

Now I want you to understand 2 points about this offering of Noah's:

1. It was not something which God had commanded Noah to do.
2. It was not a sin offering.

The sin offering would come later but this was not a sin offering. This offering was given out of the fullness of Noah's heart. He was so thankful for the salvation of God that Noah's soul was exercised to the point that he just wanted to show his love for God. This was the result of Noah having close fellowship with the Lord.

### Lessons from Noah's sacrifice:

- 1. True joy comes from being close to God.**

Noah had just spent over a year in the ark with God. When he stepped from the ark his heart was overflowing with joy and thanksgiving. This joy did not come from his circumstances because the world would have looked very barren. His joy did not come from possessions for he took only his family upon the ark. Noah's joy came from being close to God.

#### **Application:**

This is what our world is searching for today. They are looking for a joy that reaches way down deep inside but it is not to be found in this world. Remember Solomon's search for happiness and joy?

#### **Ecclesiastes 2:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> *And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.*

<sup>11</sup> *Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.*

<sup>12</sup> *And I turned myself to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly: for what can the man do that cometh after the king? even that which hath been already done.*

### **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> **Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:** *Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

<sup>14</sup> *For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

Let me remind you of the words of our Lord.

### **John 15:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

<sup>11</sup> *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, **and that your joy might be full.***

### **2. Others will not always understand our devotion to God.**

If we had been there with Noah we may have questioned his offering. You see he gave 1/7<sup>th</sup> of all he had and all he had was all there was. The world was empty but it was what he was moved to give.

#### **Application:**

There are going to be times when you are walking close to God and you will just feel compelled to give liberally maybe to the church or to someone in need or whatever it may be. It may be almost all you have or it may be all you have but you just know it is right to give it up.

Please know that someone will most likely question why you would do that when you don't have abundance yourself.

### **Mark 14:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> *And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.*

<sup>4</sup> And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made?

<sup>5</sup> For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her.

**3. When we are living in close fellowship with God we will never hesitate to give the best we have.**

For Noah to give 1/7<sup>th</sup> of his possessions was a great demonstration of his love for God. To you and I 1/7<sup>th</sup> may have seemed as though it was a bit much but not to Noah. His love for God needed to be demonstrated and so he gave something which was very valuable to him.

I want you to notice something which David had said at a time when he needed to offer a sacrifice following a sin which he had committed.

**2 Samuel 24:19-24**

<sup>19</sup> And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded.

<sup>20</sup> And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground.

<sup>21</sup> And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people.

<sup>22</sup> And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood.

<sup>23</sup> All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee.

<sup>24</sup> And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

**4. The absence of worry is found in walking close with God.**

If anyone would have a reason to worry it would have been Noah. He only had 7 of each clean animal and then 6 following the sacrifice. The earth was empty and there could have

been the fear of another flood but he never worried about provisions. When I look at Noah I see that there was no worry about tomorrow. He would rejoice in the day he was in and he would allow God to take care of tomorrow.

**5. God's power is not limited by our surroundings.**

Noah and his family would survive and from his family the promise of Jesus Christ would be carried on. Noah's surroundings looked rather discouraging but the surroundings did not limit God's power.

**Application:**

Your surroundings may look rather discouraging but please know that God's power is not limited by what surrounds us.

**Conclusion:**

When I look at Noah I am reminded of a principle which James teaches in his letter.

**James 1:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

<sup>3</sup> *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

<sup>4</sup> *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*