

## Genesis 8:1-19 ~ Remember

1. It may seem, at times, that God has forgotten about us
  - a. Imagine being on the ark
    - i. The seemingly endless ocean can be very lonely and intimidating
    - ii. When there is nothing to see but water, nowhere to go, no one to turn to besides those who are with you on the boat
    - iii. Now, include the fact that you know that **everyone and everything** you have ever known is gone
    - iv. It would be easy to think that God had forgotten all about you
2. Remember ~ **Genesis 8:1**
  - a. When we speak about remembering it is usually in the sense of recalling something that we have forgotten
    - i. That is not the case here—the sense of the word is that being kept in mind
      1. In other words, it was now time for God to turn His full attention on Noah and the ark
  - b. When the time was right, God caused a wind to begin to blow across the face of the earth
    - i. As a result, the waters begin to subside
      1. As would be expected, flood waters recede slower than they typically rise
  - c. When the time is right, God intervenes to keep His plan on track
    - i. Noah and the animals were never truly “forgotten”
      1. Just as we are never “forgotten” by the Lord
3. A New World ~ **Genesis 8:2-5**
  - a. The flood waters are eliminated
    - i. The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven are closed
      1. The rain ceases and the introduction of flood waters from underground ceases
      2. The waters can truly begin to subside now—the flood is over
  - b. Remember, the waters **prevailed** for 150 days
    - i. Suddenly, the ark that had been floating freely for five months lurches to a halt
      1. The ark has come to rest upon the mountains called Ararat
        - a. This does not necessarily mean Mt. Ararat itself
          - i. It is simply in the region

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- b. Let's also be clear about something else—the actual resting place of the ark has probably not been discovered—despite claims by some that they have seen it
    - 2. However, when the ark comes to rest, the mountain peaks are still submerged
      - a. It would be another two and a half months before the mountain peaks would become visible
    - c. I can only imagine what Noah and his family must have felt when the ark suddenly came to rest against a solid surface after 150 days afloat
- 4. Testing the Ground ~ **Genesis 8:6-12**
  - a. 40 days after the tops of the mountains become visible, Noah opens the window of the ark
    - i. He takes a raven, a bird that would be comfortable eating almost anything it found, and released it to see if the world was ready for the ark to be opened
      - 1. Since the raven doesn't return it tells Noah nothing about the condition of the land
    - ii. Next, Noah chooses a dove to send forth
      - 1. The dove is far more selective in what it will eat
      - 2. It finds nothing to invite it to land—and so it returns to the ark
    - iii. Noah waits seven days and sends forth a dove again—this one returns but with a fresh olive branch in its mouth
      - 1. Noah now knows that the waters have subsided
    - iv. Noah waits an additional seven days and releases a dove again—this one does not return
      - 1. Noah now knows that the world is ready
        - a. The dove has freely chosen to remain at large—the ark is no longer needed
- 5. Disembark ~ Genesis 8:13-19
  - a. The time has come to prepare to leave the ark
    - i. Noah, in preparation, removes the covering from the ark
      - 1. Now, it is not just a small window that is open
  - b. Finally, after some 370 days onboard the ark—God commands Noah to disembark
    - i. It is time to leave the ark for good
  - c. Once again, God commands that His creation become fruitful and multiply across the earth
    - i. I can only imagine the scene as the animals are released
      - 1. We are told they were released “by family”

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2. In other words, this was not a mad dash from inside the ark
    - a. It was orderly
    - b. It was divinely directed and obediently carried out
  - d. Noah and his family emerge into a world that has been judged, and cleansed, of the rampant sin that had contaminated God's creation
    - i. The animals are freed to begin to "swarm" across the face of the earth once again
6. Remember
- a. When we think that God has forgotten us—He hasn't
  - b. When we think that the situation is hopeless—it isn't
  - c. When we want things to change—be patient and wait for God's timing to make the change
  - d. When the time is right—it will be time to begin again
    - i. It took Noah and his family decades to prepare and build the ark
    - ii. It took more than a year for God to work out His judgment upon the earth
  - e. Hold on—when the time is right—God has not forgotten