



# BEGINNINGS

## A Study of the Book of Genesis

Sanctuary Bible Studies – Woodbury Lutheran Church

### Session 7, “A New Beginning” (Genesis 8-9)

#### 1. GOD REMEMBERS NOAH (8:1-2)

- From below and above the earth had been deluged with water for 40 days and nights. During that time the Bible records no contact between God and Noah. Noah and family (in an ark full of animal pairs) rode the waves and waited, trusting God, who does not forget His faithful people. The world’s entire population perished because they had forgotten God. Noah was saved on the ark because God had remembered him. God sent a wind, and the waters began to recede.

#### 2. THE LANDING (8:3-5)

- After 150 days, the water had receded enough for the ark to come to rest on solid ground in the area of “the mountains of Ararat.” Mountains in this area range from 9000 to 17000 feet. In time, the tops of the mountains became visible to Noah.
- The height to which the ark rose indicates much more than a local flood, which would likely have driven the ark out to sea.

#### 3. BIRD-WATCHING CALLS FOR PATIENCE (8:6-14)

- Noah first sends a raven to see if it was safe to come off the ark. The raven, an old crow fond of carrion, probably found plenty to eat off the carcasses of floating animals. Noah could watch the bird flitting about without returning to the ark as the waters continued to dry up.
- Next Noah sent a dove from the ark, which returned because it could find no place to rest and no vegetation to eat.
- A week later he sent out the dove again, which returned this time with an olive leaf in its beak. The dove had found fresh vegetation.
- A week later, the dove was released again, and this time it didn’t return. It has found dry ground as a resting place.
- Noah’s patience is impressive here especially since he had not heard directly from God since he entered the ark.
- The timeline for events recorded in Chapters 6-8 (totaling just over a year) looks like this:

○ Ark built	6:2, 14	
○ Animals enter ark	7:10	10 May
○ Flood begins	7:11	17 May
○ Waters increase	7:12	26 June
○ Waters prevail over earth	7:24	
○ Ark touches ground in mountains	8:4	13 October
○ Waters recede, mountaintops seen	8:4	1 January
○ Windows open, raven sent	8:6	10 February
○ Dove sent	8:10	17 February
○ Dove sent again	8:13	24 February
○ Ark door opened, Noah sees land	8:13	1 April
○ Exit the ark, land completely dry	8:14	27 May

**4. DE-ARKING ON COMMAND (8:15-22)**

- Vss. 15-19: God speaks to Noah for the first time in a year and 17 days. This is the only time Noah hears God speak aboard the ark, telling him to come out of the ark with his family and all the animals. God has breeding and multiplying on His mind, and the time to start as immediately.
- Vs. 20: The first act of Noah as he entered an empty new world was an act of worship. He builds an altar of stones and offers “clean animals” as blood sacrifices. These clean animals honor the holiness of God. In Noah’s heart was an overwhelming spirit of praise. In seeing God’s greatness, Noah was poised for a blessed life.
- Vss. 21-22: God was pleased with Noah’s sacrifices and with his heart of trust, obedience, and praise. God responded with a promise never again to curse the ground because of man’s sins. God also knew that things had not changed, that every inclination of the human heart is “evil from childhood.” Yet in grace God promised not to repeat his judgment-by-worldwide-flood move. As a sign of His faithfulness God put the seasons in place.

**5. NEW MANDATES FOR A NEW BEGINNING (9:1-7)**

- The command to multiply, as at the first beginning, is given.
- Eating meat is now allowed with animals fearing man and their numbers being limited by their becoming hunter’s prey.
- Forbidden is the eating of animals with their lifeblood still in them.
- Man could kill animals but not fellow human beings created in God’s image. Murder would be punished capitally.

**6. THE NOAHIC COVENANT (9:8-17)**

- God promises unconditionally never again to destroy the earth by flood. The earth’s final destruction will come by fire (2 Peter 3).
- God “signs” his covenant by hanging up his bow in the sky. The rainbow is a sign of God’s covenant of disarmament – that judgment by worldwide flood will not happen again.
- In addition to the Noahic Covenant are these Old Testament covenants: Abrahamic Covenant; Mosaic Covenant; Davidic Covenant; and the New Covenant in Jesus Christ.

**7. SHAME RETURNS SO SOON (9:18-28)**

- Noah drinks too much from his new vineyard products and is seen naked by his son, Ham. Ham tells his brothers, perhaps in a mocking way. Shem and Japheth cover their dad with the appropriate respect.
- The result is a curse and blessings. Ham’s son, Canaan, is cursed in advance. The people of the land of Canaan would be godless and idolatrous. Shem would be an ancestor of Abraham. Japheth would become a great nation, actually from which the Gentiles would come, who would in turn be saved from the Messiah of Shem’s line.

**BEGINNINGS**

1. Real trust in the Lord is forged in times of the Lord’s silence.
2. All truly good things are worth waiting for.
3. New beginnings begin best with worship and praise.
4. Even the righteous never live far from shame.
5. God knows how bad our hearts can get and yet savors any sign of goodness.