

**GOD REMEMBERS YOU!**  
**GENESIS CH8:1-19**

**ILLUSTRATION**

Robert S. Candfish, a nineteenth century expositor of Genesis, puts Noah's possible train of thought like this, "Far down in the unfathomable depths below lies a dead and buried world. Noah shut up in this narrow prison, seems to be abandoned to his fate. He cannot help himself. And in this universal visitation of sin--this terrible reckoning with sinners--why should he obtain mercy? May he not be righteously suffered to perish after all? Is he not a sinner, like the rest? Does he not feel himself to be the chief of sinners?" (Cited in James Montgomery Boice, Genesis Volume 1, pg369).

**GOD REMEMBERED NOAH! V1-5**

At this point, God has not spoken to Noah, a new Word, for over a year, God last spoke to Noah before the flood, Ch7:1! Without God communicating to us, there is no hope!

Where can the hope come from? James Montgomery Boice says "The hope is in knowing that although God has not acted in your life for what is perhaps a long time, nevertheless he will act again. And in the meantime, your job is to go on in faithful obedience to what he has already shown you-however long ago that was" (Cited in James Montgomery Boice, Genesis Volume 1, pg369).

***"God's remembering is more than a recollection because when God remembers, he acts. When God remembered Abraham, he saved Lot (Genesis Ch19:29). When he remembered Rachel, she conceived (Genesis Ch30:22). As Brevard Childs said 'God's remembering always implies his movement toward the object... The essence of God's remembering lies in his acting toward someone because of a previous commitment.'***

So now God acted to bring restoration and recreation to the flooded world: 'But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided' (Ch8:1). This wind echoed 'the Spirit' ("wind" and "Spirit" are the same Hebrew Word) in Genesis Ch1 hovering over the waters at creation" (Cited in Kent Hughes, Genesis, pg142).

"God does not always spare us the distress, because he has a purpose in such things both for ourselves and others. But he has a way of reassuring us that he has not forgotten, that he remembers our distress, and that he is still working all things for good to those who love him" (Cited in James Montgomery Boice, Genesis Volume 1, pg370-371).

**GOD DELIVERED NOAH! V6-12**

Because "the fountains of the great deep burst fourth and the windows of the heavens were opened", along with God sending rain for 40 days and forty nights, the flood waters prevailed (triumphed) for 150 days (Ch7:24)! It then took a further 150 days until the waters abated (became less intense), 300 days in total.

Noah opened the window of the ark and let a raven (mentioned 11 times in the Bible) fly out, for the purpose of ascertaining the drying up of the waters. The raven went out and returned until the earth was dry, but without being taken back into the ark, as the mountain tops and the carcasses floating upon the water afforded both resting-places and food.

After that, Noah let a dove (mentioned 25 times in the Bible) fly out three times, at intervals

of seven days. It is not distinctly stated that he sent it out the first time seven days after the raven, but this is implied in the statement that he stayed yet other seven days before sending it out the second time, and the same again before sending it the third time (Genesis Ch8:10) and (Genesis Ch8:12). The dove, when **first sent out, "found no rest for the sole of its foot;"** for a dove will only settle upon such places and objects as are dry and clean. It returned to the ark and let Noah take it in again (Genesis Ch8:8-9). **The second time it returned in the evening, having remained out longer than before, and brought a freshly plucked olive-leaf in its mouth.** Noah perceived from this that the water must be almost gone, had "abated from off the earth," though the ground might not be perfectly dry, as the olive-tree will put out leaves even under water. The fresh olive-leaf was the first sign of the resurrection of the earth to new life after the flood, and the dove with the olive-leaf a herald of salvation. **The third time it did not return; a sign that the waters had completely receded from the earth.**

### **GOD SPOKE AGAIN TO NOAH! V13-19**

Now God speaks again, notice how God didn't tell Noah exactly how long he would be in the ark, being tossed around, for days on end! Here God speaks and tells Noah "Go out from the ark.....", after a staggering 370 days (Gen Ch7:11 – Ch8:14) of looking after thousands of creatures, went out by families (v19), suggesting that "new birth" had taken place during their year long voyage!

The earth has now been cleansed from all its corruption and violence! But how long will this last!

For now, the only humans on earth are the 8! It is believed from, the dates provided that the rains came on a Sunday and Noah exited the ark on a Wednesday, the 4<sup>th</sup> day in relation to creation, as there was no need for the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> day, because of the humans and creatures in the ark. However, the blessing from the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> day are still needed, so our gracious Lord God, blesses – **be fruitful and multiply on the earth!**

### **APPLICATION**

"And he said 'Jesus, **remember me when you come into your kingdom.**' and he said to him '**Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise**'" Luke Ch23:42-43

