

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 8: November 1-8

Genesis 8

Can you imagine what it was like for Noah and his family during the flood? It rained for 40 days and 40 nights but that was not the end of the storm. The flood kept rising for 150 days with no land in sight. Noah and his family must have been worried. However, the first verse of chapter 8, says, “But God remembered Noah...”

Read Genesis 8:1-22

1. What does the Bible mean when it says that “God remembered” in verse 1?

When the Bible says that “God remembered,” it does not mean that God had forgotten something. God is omniscient. He knows all things all the time. The phrase “God remembered” is an expression that refers to God taking action at a certain time.

“But God remembered Noah” is the most important phrase in the entire flood narrative of Genesis 6:9 – 9:19. This story is in the form of a literary structure called a *chiasm*. A *chiasm* is a series of parallels in a piece of literature organized to draw our attention to the middle. Here are just six of the 15 parallels in the flood narrative.

- A. Noah Waiting 7 Days (7:10)
- B. Birds Enter the Ark (7:14)
- C. God Shuts the Door (7:16)
- D. Waters Increase 40 Days (7:17)
- E. Mountains Covered (7:20)
- F. Water Prevails 150 Days (7:24)
- X: GOD REMEMBERED NOAH (8:1)**
- F. Water Recedes 150 Days (8:3)
- E. Mountains Visible (8:5)
- D. Waters Decrease 40 Days (8:6a)
- C. Noah Opens the Window (8:6b)
- B. Birds Exit the Ark (8:7-9)
- A. Noah Waiting 7 Days (8:10)

The point of the chiasm is that God remembers His people. When you are following God’s word, but it seems like your world is falling apart and the flood keeps rising around you, remember that God is with you. It is better to be in the storm with God, than anywhere else without God.

2. What happened when God sent a wind over the earth? (8:1)
3. What happened to the sources of the flood waters in verse 2?

There is scientific evidence that supports the theory that God used rapid plate tectonics (the movement of sections of the earth’s crust) to open and close the fountains of the deep in 7:11 and 8:2. Andrew Snelling writes,

Only the... catastrophic plate tectonics model for the Flood event can explain how the ocean waters rose to flood the continents, how and where the fossil-bearing sedimentary layers were rapidly deposited, and how and when the mountains formed due to plate collisions, The catastrophic rifting of the pre-Flood ocean floor and supercontinent occurred when the “fountains of the great deep” were broken up.¹

4. How does verse 3 describe receding flood waters?
5. When did the Ark come to rest on the mountains of Ararat? (8:4)
6. When could the tops of the mountains be seen? (8:5)
7. When did Noah open the window? (8:6)
8. What kind of bird did Noah send out from the ark in verse 7?
9. What kind of bird did Noah send out from the ark in verse 8?
10. What did the dove do in verse 9?
11. When did Noah send out the dove a second time? (8:10)
12. What did the dove do in verse 11?

¹ Steven Boyd and Andrew Snelling, eds., *Grappling with the Chronology of the Genesis Flood* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2014), 141.

13. When did Noah send out the dove a third time? (8:12)
14. When did Noah remove the covering from the ark? (8:13)
15. When did God finally tell Noah to come out of the ark? (8:14-19)

James Smith observes,

The covering of the ark was removed 163 days after the grounding of the vessel. The face of the ground was now *charabh*, i.e., dry (8:13)...Fifty-seven days later the earth was dry (*yabheshah*). After some 370 days on board, the eight humans and their animal cargo departed from the ark (8:14-19). The departure was divinely directed, obediently executed and orderly conducted. Noah emerged into a world cleansed from sin by judgment. God was giving the human race a second chance.²

16. What did Noah do in verse 20?

Smith notes,

Worship was Noah's first concern after exiting the ark. He built an altar, the first altar mentioned in the Bible. Noah, functioning as a priest to his family, offered on his new altar burnt offerings of every clean animal (8:20). The burnt offering was the symbol of complete consecration and gratitude.³

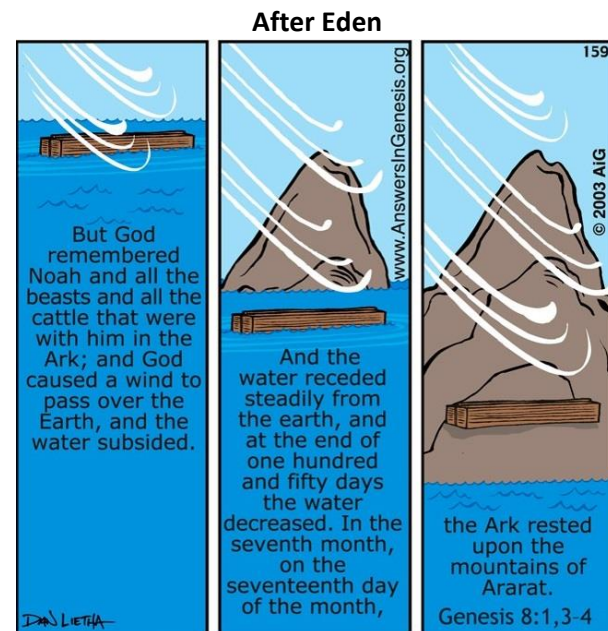
17. What promises did God make in verse 21?
18. What promise did God make in verse 22?
19. Why do you think God promised never to destroy the earth with a flood again?
20. What character traits of Noah do you see in this chapter?
21. In what area of your life do you need to be more patient and trust in God's timing?
22. What motivates you to worship God through giving?

² James Smith, *The Pentateuch* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996), 94.

Noah's Ark (part 3)

How should we respond to Genesis chapter 8?

1. Remember, God remembers _____.
Genesis 8:1
1 Peter 2:9
2. Watch and wait for _____.
Genesis 8:10-11
James 5:7-8
3. Give God _____.
Genesis 8:20
Hebrews 13:15-16



The world's first recorded blow dryer was also the largest!

³ Smith, 94.