

Genesis 8:1-19 – You Can Count on God!

TSK, Calvin, Whytock, Henry, Poole, Gill, HebrewLexicon, Pulpit, Armstrong, Geneva, Barnes, Clarke, Handfuls, Delitzsch, Trapp, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **A husband often forgets** to do what he has promised to do for his wife. And even if he remembers, **often he doesn't now how to do what he promised**. Maybe you have seen shows like “How I destroyed my home.” The man is willing, but he doesn't know how! **But not your God!** He always **remembers what he promised** and **he always has the ability to do** what he promised. This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

Covenant Promise Fulfilled

Covenant Sign Given

Covenant Duty Commanded

Our goals are: That you will **rejoice and face the world knowing your Covenant God will fulfill every promise he has made to you, so you can work to bring glory to him.**

Covenant Promise Fulfilled

1 Then **God remembered Noah**, and every **living thing**, and **all the animals that were with him in the ark**. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided.

1. When the Bible teaches that God “remembered Noah” you must not think that he had forgotten man.

God's child **can never** slip out of his mind. God never forsakes his covenant child. The term “remembered” meant that he **remembered to do what he had promised for Noah: save him from the flood and give him new hope.**

For example: **God remembered Rachel** – and she had a child. **God remembered Abraham** –and freed the Jews from Egyptian slavery. **We use similar expressions: Remember me when you go to Canada.** (Help me, send some money for me. **Remember me when you get famous** and give me a job or some money.)

This was an **anthropomorphic expression**.

2. God also remembered Noah needed animals for work, food, and sacrifices, and God even remembered the animals.

“You're in my thoughts” was not good enough.

Moreover, **life was not good for the animals in the ark either.** They had limited food and little freedom to run or fly!

2 The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. 3 And the waters receded continually from the earth. **At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased.**

3. So God ordered the wind and the waves to stop and caused the waters to dry up so the land appeared.

Likely the land moved up and waters moved down, but God could have miraculously removed the water. Either way, what amazing power. **What great love!** Look at another example of love.

Isaiah 55:10 “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, **But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,**

God removed Noah's fears and concerns by blowing the threat away. This is a good spiritual picture. The Holy Spirit is literally translated “holy wind.” **When God's Spirit blows, sins are removed and new life comes.**

Ezekiel 37:9 Also He said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Come from the four winds, O breath, **and breathe on these slain, that they may live.**”” 10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

4 Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. 5 And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

4. The ark then rested on one of the mountains of Ararat...not the mountain...a mountain...in Ararat... after the waters receded.

This was most likely in Turkey, the bridge of the continents. **It was the perfect place to start the spread of the nations again.**

6 So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. 7 **Then he sent out a raven,** which **kept going to and fro** until the waters had dried up from the earth.

5. After many days, Noah started to daily use a raven to tell when the dead bodies (carrion) were visible on the ground.

The dead bodies showed **God's protection of believing Noah** and his family.

6. Lessons:

a. The promise of saving Noah and his family was not just about physical salvation, but he saved them from the flood waters to save them from hell.

b. God knows every circumstance of your life. Nothing escapes him. Not ever! Find comfort in this (or consternation if you are not God's child).

c. God will blow away any of your trouble he wishes. He has that power. He has that love for you. And you will land where he leads, just as he controlled the perfect place for the ark to rest. This is his covenant promise.

John 17: 15 "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

God uses even the judgment of the wicked to show his love for his people.

d. Human responsibility does not go out the window with the great works of Jehovah. Noah had to send the raven. So work!

Covenant Sign Given

8 He also **sent out from himself a dove**, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. 9 But the **dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot**, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. 10 And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. 11 Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, **a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth**; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. 12 So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, **which did not return again to him anymore.**

1. God then used a dove as a sign to show new life was present for his redeemed children.

The raven was used to picture death and judgment, but the dove pictured new life and good news. Noah sent the dove (again, human responsibility) until it confirmed the land was ready for them. Noah knew when the land was drying out because the dove returned with an olive branch in her beak. **Olive did not grow high in the mountains but closer to the sea.** So the twig in the mouth was **evidence the water has receded much lower!**

2. Doves have often been used in the Bible as a symbol of new life, like when Jesus was born and baptized.

Luke 2:24 - and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Luke 3:22 And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

3. And what about that olive twig?

Olive branches were symbols of peace and promise in many societies in the world. It was wise to use this sign as olive trees can live 4000 years and are extremely pest resistant. They can multiply and take over an area.

13 And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the **first month, the first day of the month**, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry. 14 And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.

4. And then God opened up their view to a whole new world- and he did so on New Year's Day.

5. Lessons:

a. The dove and the olive twig were not just pictures of physical hope, they pointed to salvation and peace with God.

b. You now have the True Dove, God's Holy Spirit, in you who gives you the assurance of peace in your soul (true comfort) and helps you to pray. He makes peace with God for you and makes sure you know it.

c. God gave 2 signs and seals for new spiritual life: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Learn from them. Don't avoid them.

Covenant Duty Commanded

15 Then God spoke to Noah, saying, 16 "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. 17 "**Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you**: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and **be fruitful and multiply on the earth.**" 18 So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. 19 Every

animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.

1. Noah had to sail around in the ark with no real freedom and smelly animals for more than 1 year.

Tempers must have flared with only his family there. Complaints from spouses! You remember the increase in domestic violence during the forced lockdowns—cabin fever. That was not good for families. But because of his faith in God’s promises, Noah endured his hardships, surviving spouse and squabbles.

2. In order to enjoy the fullness of the promises of God, Noah and his family, had to come out of the ark in obedience to God, and fulfill their terms of the covenant.

God promised they would multiply and fill the earth, but they **had to step out in faith**, believing that God would maintain and multiply them. Before they took one step out of the ark, they had to take that step of faith, believing God’s promises. They had to work the land.

3. More, Noah had to come out to enjoy God’s blessings...make sacrifices to God and expand his worship around the world.

Lighting sacrifices on a big altar on a wooden boat was not a safe prospect.

4. God ordered the animals to come out also so Noah could enjoy the blessings they brought.

Yes, he needed many crocodiles if they were going to have good shoes. They needed many bears to have good winter coats. They needed many chickens to get tasty drumsticks. They needed many young cows for the tasty veal. Most of all, **they needed clean animal to be a symbolic sacrifice of Christ for sins.**

5. Lessons:

a. God does not bribe his children. He rewards you, but he doesn’t bribe you. The more you step out in faithful obedience, the more blessings will follow you. He wants your worship.

b. Don’t treat worship lightly. Don’t miss it. Don’t rob your children of it. If you do, you are robbing God and you will regret robbing God, especially when your children walk away from him.

c. Evangelism is necessary because worship is lacking. Do it. Support those who do it.

Conclusion:

God kept his promise to save Noah from the flood so he could save him from hell. He fulfilled his end of the promise to Adam. And to remind him of his physical and spiritual salvation, God gave him the dove and the olive branch. Noah then had to step out in faith, worship God and make sure his descendants did also.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. God’s words: I will never leave you nor forsake you. Though you go through the valley of the shadow of death, I am with you. When you fall, I will pick you up. When you sin, I will forgive you. If you are widow, I’ll be your husband. If you are afraid, I will comfort you. I will always hear your prayers. I will enable you to do all things I tell you do. Everything I tell you to do will be for your good. I will never forget you, but will come to take you to be with me forever – while the rest of the world I will send to eternal damnation in hell. These words bring temporal and eternal benefits. **These benefits came to you, not because you were good, but through the love of Jesus** who lived, died, and rose again for you. Yes, he’ll protect you from physical dangers and from hell.

2. God then gave you two wonderful signs to remember his work. Use them.

3. So serve him. One man said it well: When God remembers, he saves. When man remembers, he serves.

Finally, for non-Christians: Satan and all his children will be destroyed, not with water, but with eternal fire and mental torment. (And if you are not a child of Christ you are a child of the Devil.) You will never be able to enter that new world...free of sin, darkness, and pain. If you desire to enter into covenant with him, ask to count the suffering and death of Jesus as yours!