

Genesis 8:20-22 - The Primary Place of Worship

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Gill, Trapp, Henry, Pulpit, Calvin, Poole, JFB, Geneva, Delitzsch, Barnes, Clarke, Armstrong, Sailhamer, Handfuls, Beloved in the Lord: No one likes the thought of getting a cut and having to get stitches, let alone be cut-up and killed! But that is what you deserved!

(Are you sure, pastor? Yes)

Remember when God told Abram to cut the animals in two?

Abram should have walked between them and said: "If I break the covenant, may I be cut in two like these animals."

But God put Abram in a deep sleep and **Jesus walked for him**. And since Abram broke the covenant, **he deserved to be cut in two**.

The only solution to being cut in two is to have someone better be cut it two for him!

That's what Jesus did. He did that at the cross. Jesus made the promise to obey the covenant for Abram and he promised to be cut in two if Abram broke it. Abram believed that and was saved!

Noah also trusted in Jesus to make the covenant for him and take the punishment for him breaking the covenant.

So how would Noah respond to someone who made the covenant for him and was cut-up for him? Hear about this today.

Our headings are:

Noah Built an Altar

Noah Brought Offerings

Noah Blessed with (more) Promises

Our goals are: That you will **realize the wonderful, eternal covenant promises God gave you, and that you will then keep close to him in radical worship and obedience.**

Noah Built an Altar

20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD...

1. Noah did not have to be reminded by God to worship; as a true believer, worship was in his spiritual bones.

Building an altar to worship was sure confession of his faith and trust in Jehovah. He

trusted in Jesus' life and death!

Hebrews 11:7 **By faith** Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

2. Noah did not run to build a house for himself, which might have seemed to be the logical thing to do.

He might have been tired of seeing the walls of the ark and smelling the smells of the ark, but he didn't rush to lay down the foundation for a new home, or lay in the sunshine and have some fresh fruits.

He knew the importance of worship.

Hezekiah wrote his song the 3rd day after being healed, but Noah was better.

Noah did this immediately after exiting the ark.

3. Contrast Noah's response to when God rescued the Jews from captivity and took them back to Jerusalem to live there.

The Jews put worship far behind their own pleasures and profit, building their own homes and businesses first!

Haggai 1: 4 **"Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?"** 5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways! 6 "You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes." 7 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways! 8 **"Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,"** says the LORD.

4. Lessons:

a. Your most important duty in life is to worship, knowing Jesus was cut-up for you. Ignore this at your peril.

b. Knowing this, you are hereby warned to train your children to love worship. Your best training is by example.

Families do and should worship together – husband, wife, and children.

A Christian home must have Christian worship.

c. *Knowing this, don't let work, study, or recreation take the place of worship.* The Sabbath is the Lord's Day, not yours.

Invest your time and talents in it.

You will never lose investing in worship.

In worship your heart will be refreshed and encouraged.

Which overtime pay can refresh your soul?

Which better grade in your exam can nourish your soul?

Noah Brought Offerings

20 ...and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and **offered burnt offerings on the altar.**

1. Noah made burnt offerings – which were sacrifices of dedication.

He was committed his body and soul to the Lord. He was saying like Joshua: As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.

2. It was an offering of thanksgiving for the miraculous preservation of him and his family, when all others were dead.

3. It was a propitiation offering – a most necessary offering – on the altar he built – to turn away God's wrath.

The whole world saw God's wrath.

Noah's sacrifice was a picture of Christ who would ultimately satisfy God's wrath against all kinds of men.

Noah's propitiatory offering was less about God protecting him from water and more about God protecting him from fire.

Noah cut animals to remember the ultimate cut – the cuts put upon the Lord Jesus on the cross. Hence...

4. It was a proper offering, one that was acceptable to the Lord – a clean, healthy animal.

God could not accept a lame, spotted, or sick animal, even though it was a clean animal.

Why? God wanted man to have the sense of how perfect the eternal sacrifice of Jesus had to be.

Hebrews 9:14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

1Peter 1:19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

And the spotlessness of Jesus was critical for your spotlessness before the Father in heaven

2Peter 3:14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

And when a proper offering is made, it not only makes peace between God and men; it also gives pleasure to the Lord.

5. It was a liberal offering – liberal in the good sense of the word.

It was most likely the 7th of the clean animals. One in 7 Noah gave to God. How generous!

This was the most generous offering ever recorded in the Bible—except for the widow who gave her last 2 coins.

6. It was a family offering; his wife and his sons and their wives were part of this.

7. Lessons:

a. God wants you to remember your freedom from sin and your baptism! (There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.)

Worship is the most important distinguishing mark of a Christian.

Alongside of praising God for his goodness, you also praise God for his greatness.

Psalm 116: 12 What shall I render to the LORD For all His benefits toward me? 13 I will take up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the LORD. 14 I will pay my vows to the LORD Now in the presence of all His people.

b. Don't complain about your time, tithes, or talents you use to worship.

If you do, you don't understand how great your salvation is.

Ask God to show you how great your misery was and how great your salvation is. Then meditate on God's goodness to you. This will improve how you worship.

c. Though you don't have to make bloody sacrifices, you do come with sacrifices – sacrifices of praise!

Hebrews 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Psalm 69: 30 I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving. 31 This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bull, Which has horns and hooves.

Sing the Psalms.

Come prepared. Don't come with sleepy eyes.

Look over the songs and the Scripture.

Noah Blessed with (more) Promises

21 And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will **never again curse the ground** (earth-where people live) for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I **again destroy every living thing as I have done.** 22 "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."

1. This offering of appeasing God, of thankfulness, and of dedication, with Noah's family, pleased the Lord.

This is why it was a "soothing aroma." It was a comfort to God. He was pleased with it.

More, "soothing aroma" is used to teach of God's pleasure in sacrifice for sins.

Ephesians 5: 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Because of Christ, the spotless Lamb of God who shed his blood for Noah, God's anger against him was removed. It had to be. This is assurance.

Notice **“said in his heart”** was anthropomorphic expression. God doesn't have a nose to smell.

2. So God made some more promises of future blessings to Noah and his descendants as they fulfilled their covenant responsibilities and pleased him.

a. God would never again curse the ground for man's sake. The punishment of earth was sufficient for now.

(It is likely the earth was made richer for crops to grow with the silt settling from the mountains, just like the Nile River nourishes the land of Egypt yearly after flooding it.)

So this was grace. There was fresh hope for man.

What God promises he guarantees ...unlike your cell phone company!

b. God would never destroy every living thing on the earth.

2Peter 3:5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

c. God would restore the blessings of the seasons.

Noah and his family suffered many long nights in the dark, but God renewed the assurance of regular days and seasons.

These promises built up Noah's confidence in the Lord...as it would for all future children of God.

3. And to remember these promises and assurances, God gave Noah the rainbow.

4. Lessons:

a. All your gifts, spiritual and material, are given by God to make your life easier to live for his glory.

b. The greatest gift God has given to you is his presence – present by his Holy Spirit to teach, encourage, correct, and pray for you!

Do Christ's work without fear.

c. God always uses signs to help his children remember their covenant promises and responsibilities. And these signs always **come after the sacrifice!**

Conclusion:

Promises made; promises kept! God promised to save Noah **from water and from wickedness** – from physical and spiritual dangers.

Noah responded with worship.

And as if it weren't enough, seeing Noah's faithfulness, God gave him more blessings and signs so Noah and his family could continue to serve him.

Brothers and sisters:

1. You too were saved by the one who obeyed and was cut-up on the cross for you – that perfect Lamb of God. You could not keep the covenant.

When asked who would go to keep the covenant for you, Jesus replied: "Here I am, send me."

You were just the onlooker.

You salvation is your greatest gift!

2. So worship God and make worship a priority in your life. Get your heart and body ready to continually **sing songs of praise** to him – the sacrifice of your lips.

Pay attention to God's Word when it is preached.

Bring your **tithes to support worship.**

Pray, **pray for the maturity of the kingdom.**

All of life is not worship, as Moslems argue.

Corporate worship is your greatest duty in this life.

3. Receive the covenant signs for you and your children as reminders of God's love and as sources of nourishment so you can worship as you should.

4. Evangelize the lost so they can join God's family and worship him too. He delights in and desires worship.

5. Finally, while Christians will get the fullness of God's covenant blessing in heaven, what will you get if you don't believe in him? Hell. Hellfire.

That is the covenant payment for those in covenant with their father the Devil.

Don't go to hell, friend.

Ask God for help!

The covenant is open to you and your children.