

JANUARY 4

Genesis 8-10

This is another day of big beginnings in Genesis. Remember to write out observations and questions and mark up your Bible when you find things that are interesting to you. The important thing that happens is that your natural interest becomes engaged so you begin to see connections and seek answers.

One resource you might want to check out if you have a question is the [Bible Knowledge Commentary](#) online at Google books. It is free and this commentary is easy reading and more in depth than these notes. The following chart is found at the end of this document.

[Chronology of the Flood](#), [Bible Knowledge Commentary-OT](#), p. 39.

Genesis 8

Vs. 1-12 Noah and his family have taken a long cruise. The chart above shows you how long all of this lasted.

V. 2 It is supposed by some that conditions before and after the flood were incredibly different. There are questions as to where all that water came from and where it went. It is thought that the earth was surrounded by a wall of water vapor that filtered the rays of the sun and gave the earth a greenhouse climate. In the flood then, that water vapor layer was dissolved (windows of heaven). After the flood, with this layer missing, the earth had extreme temperatures allowing for the ice caps at the north and south and the freezing of that water. With a huge change in climate came clouds and rain, making a rainbow possible, and certain animals became extinct because of the harsher climate. Also, it is suggested, that because the sun was no longer filtered, it led to the drastic reduction in the span of life for everything, mankind included.

Regardless of how God did it, through natural or supernatural means, God changed things significantly.

V. 10 Since this was a new beginning for everything, I think it is safe to assume that God allowed everything to grow quickly, supernaturally. To have an olive tree with a leaf, after all plant life on land had been destroyed, would be a miracle. This same thing is true when we read of the resurrection of someone in the Bible. It seems easy to believe the spirit could just go back to the body, but the body first had to be totally re-created. In this case God was again creating plant life. And who knows what else He was doing during that time.

Vs. 13-19 I think that God's blessing was supernaturally on everything that left the ark. One interesting thought is wondering where Moses got all of these month and day references. The detail is very exact. It may be that Noah kept records, but these never would have made their way into Moses' hands. It must be that Moses wrote all of this during the 40 years in the wilderness, as he spent time with the Lord. That means that as God gave Moses all of this information to write down, all of the days would have been according to the calendar God had just given to His people. On that calendar, their first month was our March-April. Later that would be the Passover and the death and resurrection of the child of promise, Jesus.

Vs. 20-22 I wonder if 8:20 wouldn't have been a better place to begin chapter 9.

V. 20 It is interesting to think that Noah knew which animals were clean or unclean. Even if Moses was writing this with his understanding of God's requirements, how would Noah, back then, have known which animals were acceptable for worship? Apparently God told him.

V. 21 The sacrifice had more to do with God being pleased with devotion, obedience and man's understanding of his need to have his sin forgiven. That was pleasing to God. It was not that God likes the smell of brisket. I mean, He probably does. Who doesn't? But in other places God says

that sacrifices will not please Him if the understanding and heart behind the sacrifices is false. You can see this in Isaiah 1.

God is pleased with the sacrifice and devotion of Noah and promises not to repeat the flood, though He states that the sickness of sin is still present. Noah & Co. brought it with them.

This is a new beginning of the human race, from scratch.

Genesis 9

Vs. 1-7 This is God's blessing of Man and the earth with a couple of interesting additions.

Along with the fear of man given to the animals, it seems that Noah & Co. could *now* eat meat. Here God gives them the prohibition against eating raw, un-drained meat, that is, with the blood still in it. This command is repeated in the Law of Moses and again in Acts. Since this command is given before the law, it is suggested that it is still in force. The reason for this command is given and becomes a very interesting statement both literally and figuratively looking toward the future and redemption, *its life, that is, its blood*. Again, the intent here is not to forbid eating uncooked meat, but not to drink or eat blood.

V. 5 Were you wondering where the command for capital punishment came from? Then comes the reasoning for the command against murder. Man is created in the image of God. It seems to me this is mentioned here because a year earlier the world had been ruled not by justice, but by who could kill whom. I think this law reflects back to life before the flood.

V. 7 This almost sounds like God sending all the animals into the world.

Vs. 8-17 This is a big section and shows that God is doing something very important.

Since this is the first rainbow, it means that this is the first time there were conditions that would make a rainbow possible. It should be noted that the word for *bow* means "bow" as in weapon. When we see a rainbow I guess it should remind us that God has promised to show mercy and to withhold total judgment.

Notice that although this is a covenant between God, man and all creation, God is the only responsible party. This then is an unconditional covenant or promise. Also, underline every instance of God saying "I." Think about the implications of what He is saying.

This promise to preserve or save is interesting when you see the rainbows in Revelation. Even there, as judgment is coming on the earth, God promises to preserve.

Vs. 18-19 These men and their wives were used to repopulate the earth. Notice that it was all one man and one woman. None of these men had multiple wives.

Notice that Ham is already being identified as *the father of Canaan* in v. 18 and again in v. 22 when he does what he does. So what did he do? Did he just look at his father, or something more? Part of this might be linked to the respect his other sons show Noah. It might also be displayed later in what was found in the religious worship of the land of Canaan.

Vs. 20-27 God never punishes Noah for getting drunk. Noah was a very righteous man. Some people who know more about fermentation than I do suggest that Noah might have been surprised by the change in the way the process worked after the flood. I don't know.

The real damage came as a result of Ham. When we get to heaven we'll have to find out what happened, but it was an attitude of disrespect and it must have had some element of perverted thought.

The curse is not toward Ham or his other children in general. The curse is fully on Canaan. Notice that other kids of Ham became notable people with notable cities. This curse was misused to support African slave trade. The curse is not on Ham nor was it on any of his descendants who

may have populated Africa. The curse is only on one son, Canaan, who later becomes the people and land of Canaan, where Israel is today.

The land of Canaan has special interest because it was given to Abraham. That's why God and Moses are mentioning it here. As the children of Israel are hearing this read, God is supplying them with the explanation for why He used Israel to judge the land of Canaan. When Israel got there, they found that Canaanite worship was very sexually saturated. Most of what archeologists find from religious worship in that area is "X-rated."

Something was seen in Ham and became intensified in his son Canaan, and God promised judgment for it. It is enough to say that as disciples, we need to be careful to keep our lives open and cleanable before the Lord, so we don't spread unnecessary stuff to our families or to those we are trying to lead as disciples.

Vs. 25-27 Do you notice anything interesting about the curse and the blessings? Shem and Japheth, Noah's sons, are blessed. But Ham isn't blessed. He isn't even mentioned. But Noah's grandson, Canaan, was cursed.

Vs. 28-29 This is just some more trivia, right? Not at all. It may be that Abraham was alive the last 60 years of Noah's life. Depending on the dating either Noah and Abe overlapped, or Noah died just before Abraham was born. In any event, Shem would have been alive to give a firsthand accounting of life before and after the flood. You wonder if Noah or Shem influenced the faith of Abraham.

Genesis 10

V. 1 This is the new beginning of the human race and sounds like Genesis 5:1.

Vs. 2-5 These are the descendants of Japheth. Remember that Moses and God are writing this many years later for the Israelites. These peoples had spread out after Babel. Notable are Magog, a people associated with aggression toward Jerusalem in the end times. Also, the name Kittim sounds like a people associated with the Romans.

Vs. 6-20 These are the descendants of Ham. Notice that Nimrod, from his son Cush, was the founder of Babel and Assyria. He was the first great king. It's always interesting to see the little commentaries given to certain people.

Vs. 15-20 This is a special mention for Israel. The people who came from Canaan, the son of the curse, would be the people God would remove from the land, through Israel. Although, if you look at Sidon, you realize that this is the influence of Tyre and Sidon and also the influence of Jezebel on Ahab and the northern kingdom of Israel.

Baal worship would become a snare to Israel. The worship of Baal and his female counterpart, Ashtoreth, were associated with fertility and sexual worship, using prostitutes to aid the worshipers in their "worship experience." Along with this worship was Moloch worship where the unwanted babies were offered in worship/sacrifice. This sexual worship was deeply seated in Canaan. Although God warned Israel not to copy the Canaanites, Israel followed the attraction of Baal worship almost immediately. Samuel, Saul, and David did away with it, but it was reintroduced by Solomon as he and his wives participated in the worship of Ashtoreth. Then Baal-Ashtoreth-Moloch worship became institutionalized in the northern kingdom when King Ahab married Jezebel, the princess of Sidon. And to think, this all began with Canaan, the son of Ham.

Vs. 21-32 This is the line of Shem, the line of faith. Jesus will be one of Shem's descendants.

V. 25 Notice the comment given to Peleg. It is thought that it was during the time of his birth that the continents began to drift. This would mean that the languages had already been confused, and the peoples drifted apart from one another finding those of like language. Then the land masses

began to move. If that's how it worked, that would have been a cheaper solution than taking a cruise or renting a kayak to get to South or North America.

From here God will direct Moses to follow the line of those people who were led by faith in the promise of a child who would deliver mankind. It is pretty amazing that as disciples of Jesus, we continue that line of faith as we work in the harvest following our Lord. His commission to us is to make disciples, who make disciples until He comes. That's a cool privilege. But first, tomorrow, we'll have to read about the invention of that awful German language (Mark Twain's opinion).

Matthew 4:12-25

Now, you have seen that Matthew has a very specific purpose in mind, showing that Jesus is the promised Messiah. You've noticed that he didn't include the announcements of John the Baptist or Jesus, but we did get the wise men.

V. 12 Jesus' public ministry began at the arrest of John the Baptist, although Jesus had already been involved in ministry since His baptism. The arrest of John was an official starting point.

Now, just for your information, between vs. 12 and 13 there is a gap of time. It is here that you have John 1:35-4:54 and Luke 5:1-11. If you are interested, scan those portions to get a feel for how much Matthew is leaving out.

Vs. 13-17 After Jesus' rejection in Nazareth, Jesus chose Capernaum as His hometown. There were several reasons for this, but the reason Matthew wants us to see is that it fulfilled prophecy of Isaiah 9:1-2.

Vs. 18-22 This is the official calling of Peter, Andrew, James and John. I remember reading this and being stunned by the fact that Jesus just walked up to these guys He had never met or barely knew and said, "follow me," and they immediately left everything. That seems so unbelievable because it was. The calling of Peter & Co. was a process. Matthew is being very selective about the information he is giving. He's driving home a point about Jesus as the Jewish Messiah so he has to leave some stuff out. Before Matthew 4:18 comes John 1:35-chapter 4 and then Luke 5:1-11. If you just lightly skim those portions, you'll see that Peter & Co. had spent lots of time with Jesus. So if we were making some principles, we might say we have to get to know people first, and they need to get to know us, before we call them as disciples. We need to give them time before we ask someone to commit.

V. 21 John was probably one of the two disciples of John mentioned in John 1:37. Poor Zebedee is left alone, and it would get worse. Not only do his sons leave here, but later we find that his wife, Salome (Mary's sister), becomes a follower of Jesus and also accompanies Him on His journeys. I'm guessing that Zeb became a believer too.

Matthew's point here is the one we need to heed. When Jesus, the Messiah, called, they left everything and followed Him.

Vs. 23-25 This is the growth of Jesus' public ministry. Jesus will now begin to experience increased popularity and opposition. The group of "disciples" will grow into a great crowd. It will still be several months before Jesus selects the Twelve. Discipleship with Jesus was a process.

Psalm 4

Like in the psalm yesterday, David is crying out to God. This will be a constant situation with David. God had Samuel anoint David to be king of Israel when David was a young teen. Now, years later, the promise hadn't been fulfilled and David will run and hide from King Saul for about 10 years. David learned to cry out, but he also learned that God's love, faithfulness and love were steadfast. He only learned that in hardship. That's how we learn as disciples in the

harvest. There is no easy way to need the Lord desperately and to receive His saving help unless we are desperate and need to be saved.

V. 1 David was a pro at crying out to God. Notice what he asks for.

V. 2 I don't know how this sounded sung in worship, but the reality was that David had enemies in high places in Saul's palace.

V. 3 David knew this from his own anointing, but also from all of the history he knew from Genesis-Ruth. God was with those who walked in faith and trusted in His promises.

V. 4 Doesn't that sound like Paul in Ephesians 4:26, *be angry and do not sin?*

V. 5 In spite of persecution and hard times, David insisted that his men honor God and put their trust in Him and His provision. We'll see this in action in 1 Samuel.

V. 6 What do we really need? The light of God's face upon us.

V. 7 Even in his hardship David had joy, and it was probably a unique joy, because it was found in hardship.

Vs. 8 What do we need, to have peace and feel secure when everything is falling apart? David had peace and security, though humanly speaking, he was living in danger and uncertainty. God made the difference. That's why we're reading and soaking daily in His Word.

Proverbs 1:20-23

Notice how urgently God has *Wisdom* crying out to us.

As disciples, our growth has ups and downs. There is our love for Christ and our desire to make Him known and make disciples, but something that also has to grow is our willingness to be more and more submitted to Christ and to following the Spirit.

As Wisdom cries out in this proverb she says in v. 22, *How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?*

Even as a disciple, I could say, "Hey, I've loved being stupid for years and I've still got a couple of areas I enjoy."

Jesus, as a very gentle "disciple-maker," works with us, waits for us, probably saying, "If you'd really give yourself totally to me and quit doing the stuff that you and I both know is unwise, you'd have more joy in your walk with me and see real fruit."

V. 23 What an awesome promise. This isn't just the baptism of the Spirit when we are saved. Paul often spoke of being filled as a command and exhortation. Jesus promised that if we would seek God and yield ourselves to Him, the Spirit would lead and strengthen us in joy. I need that more and more.