

**The Book of Genesis**  
**Genesis 8:1-19: The Flood Subsides**  
**1/15/2019 Wednesday PM**

**Introduction**

- Last time we discussed **The Flood Begins and Rises**.
- We were able to see how the animals, Noah, and his family entered the Ark and how the flood waters came upon the earth.
- It didn't just rain, water burst forth from the ground and it also rained for 40 days and 40 nights.
- We were also able to see how the flood waters killed all people and land animals that were not on the Ark and that the waters remained for 150 total days. That brings us to where we are today in **The Flood Subsides**.

**Genesis 8:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. <sup>2</sup>Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. <sup>3</sup>The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, <sup>4</sup>and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. <sup>5</sup>The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.

- **Vv.1-2** – Notice here that it says, “God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark.” This isn't implying that God ‘forgot’ about them, it means that ‘God began to act on their behalf.’
- God sent a “wind over the earth, and the waters receded.” The wind didn't cause the waters to recede alone.
- As we stated before, there is enough water on the planet to cover the entire earth to a great depth, if everything was flat.
- What took place when the waters were receding, was that the topography of the earth began to change and mountains were created, the continents shifted, the sea floor sank, and things like that where the waters were displaced into what we know see as the oceans and seas.
- This would have taken some time as we see in the verses as well as in the chart we looked at last time.
- **V.3** – We see here that after the 150 days, the water had gone down.
- **V.4** – Specifically tells us that “on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.”
- On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of Noah's 600<sup>th</sup> year, the flood waters began to come as **7:6 and 11** tells us. Here in **v.4**, we can see that Noah is in the 7<sup>th</sup> month of his 600<sup>th</sup> year.
- Today, Mount Ararat is located in Turkey and has long been site that people thought the Ark rested on.
- However, we cannot be sure it was that mountain and we also cannot be sure that any piece of the Ark would have been left, because it could have been recycled and the wood used for other means.

- With all that being said, there is a lot of historical tradition that supports the current Mount Ararat as at least in the vicinity of where the Ark could have rested on.
- **V.5** – Tells us that the waters continued to recede for another 3 months, and “on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.”
- Remember that **7:20** told us that the mountains were covered with over 20 feet of water.
- It took until the 10<sup>th</sup> month for the mountain tops to be visible!

Year (Noah)	Month	Day	Event	Duration (Days)	Genesis Reference
600	2	10	Noah entered the ark		7:7,10,11
600	2	17	Heavens and earth opened	7?	7:11
600	3	27	Rain stopped	40	7:12
600	7	17	Ark rested on Ararat	110	8:3,4
600	10	1	Tops of mountains seen	74	8:5
600	11	10	Raven - did not return	40	8:6,7
600	11	18	Dove - returned	7	8:8
600	11	25	Dove - returned with leaf	7	8:10,11
600	12	2	Dove - did not return	7	8:12
601	1	1	Covering removed - ground dry	29	8:13
601	2	27	Everyone disembarked	56	8:14-16
			<b>Total Duration of the Flood</b>	<b>370</b>	

### Genesis 8:6-12

<sup>6</sup>After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark <sup>7</sup>and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. <sup>9</sup>But the dove could find no place to set its feet because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. <sup>10</sup>He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. <sup>11</sup>When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. <sup>12</sup>He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

- **Vv.6 – 12** – Here we see Noah sending out the birds.
- The raven was the first bird that Noah sent out and we see in **v. 7** that is “kept flying back and forth.” The raven did not return back to the Ark. It simply kept flying until the water finally all dried up. The raven would have eaten off of the dead carcasses in the water as well as rested on the mountain tops and other land that began to become visible.
- Noah knew that the waters had receded a good bit when the raven didn’t return, however it did not seem safe for everyone to disembark off of the Ark yet.
- So he sends out the dove in **v.9**. The dove returns because there was no place for it to place its feet since “there was water over all the surface of the earth.”
- Remember that Noah sent the dove **v.8** “to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground.” We know the waters have receded and that some mountain tops were visible, however the ground itself was still covered with water.
- Doves do not usually eat dead animals, so the dove would have had a hard time finding food. Thus it returned.
- Noah waited a week and sent the dove out again and this time it returned to him after being gone all day with an olive leaf.
- This showed Noah that the waters had receded from the ground and that vegetation had started to grow again.
- After waiting another week, and sent the dove out again. This time it did not return, which meant it found a suitable habitat and food source.

### Genesis 8:13-19

<sup>13</sup>By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. <sup>14</sup>By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. <sup>15</sup>Then God said to Noah, <sup>16</sup>“Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. <sup>17</sup>Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number upon it.”<sup>18</sup>So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. <sup>19</sup>All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on the earth—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

- We are now in Noah’s 601<sup>st</sup> year and the water is now “dried up from the earth.”
- Noah removes the “covering from the ark” and saw that the ground was dry. The covering was the roof of the ark.
- **V.14** – tells us that by the 27<sup>th</sup> day of the second month of Noah’s 601<sup>st</sup> year, the “earth was completely dry.”
- **Vv.15-19** – So after 370 days on the Ark, God finally tells Noah, his family, and the animals to come off of the Ark.
- Now the earth had to be repopulated again, and that was the mandate that was given to them all.
  
- What kind of logical problems arise when you think about what took place in chapters 7-8 and how logical it all seems?
- What are the arguments that can be made to overcome objections to this being a true account of a historical event?
- Why do you think God was so precise in the recording of this event with the dates?
- The details matter, and if you miss the details, many things within the Bible do not make sense.
- However, when you study the details and think critically, you can plainly see that the Bible makes total sense and can be trusted with everything that it says!

**Next Week’s Study:** Genesis 8:20-9:17