

A New Day on Dry Land | Genesis 8:1-19

from the series, Worldview Matters: Studies in Genesis 1-11

Noah and his family have experienced some dark days. They have been spared the destruction sweeping across the earth, but now they are adrift on the waters.

MAIN IDEA: There is hope on the horizon for every Christian.

1. Two minds. (v. 1-5)

This passage presents the perspectives of two minds: Noah's and God's. Noah has been on the ark for the better part of a year. It would be easy to feel like he had been abandoned by God, alone and floating on the water. The Bible tells us that "God remembered Noah." However, we can acknowledge that God does not actually come to remember anything because he never forgets anything. From God's perspective, everything is occurring at the right time and place and is going according to plan. When God puts us in a waiting room, he comes through on time and on purpose. The God who told you to get on the ark is the same God who sees you on the ark. We don't have to count the days; we just have to be faithful.

2. Two birds. (v. 6-13)

Noah first releases the raven. A meat-eating bird, the raven is a kind of reverse lighthouse—not a symbol of hope on the waters, but an emblem of death as it feeds on the carrion afloat there. The second bird, the dove, is different. Returning with the olive branch, it functions as a little evangelist, bringing good news—there is dry land out there.

3. Two lives. (v. 14-19)

From the time God told Noah to go into the ark in Genesis 7:1, God has been active but silent. Noah has passively waited for God to speak again. He does so in 8:16—telling him now to leave the ark. While it took an act of faith for Noah to enter the ark, it was likely an even bigger act of faith to leave it—to leave the safety and security of the vessel that had been his home for more than a year. Now God was telling him to get off the ark and to get to work. Noah's spiritual leadership of his family meant that where he went, they would follow—including into the world revealed by the abating flood waters. What God wants from us is a life of obedience—on the front end and on the back end. Many of us can remember life before we came to Christ. We have been provided a new life, and God means for us to get on with our life and to get on with the gospel. For the nonbeliever, God wants to drown your old life and your sins and offer you a new life. He asks you to step out with nothing but the promise of God. There is hope on the horizon.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When have you experienced a time of waiting for God to speak again? How did God use that time to develop your faith?

2. How would Noah's life post-flood differ from his life pre-flood? How does your life differ after salvation?

3. What does it mean to "get on with life and get on with the gospel"?



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