

## The Imagination of Man's Heart

### Genesis 8:1 – 22



~ A quick check of the calendar will reveal we have now floated with Noah and his family – and the animals – for five months; and that was just in our last report. So, if it seems like all we did was turn a page and our safari has turned into an unexpected world cruise – that would be because it has! Of course, we haven't been hanging our head out of the windows every single day looking for land; but, rather, we have been helping keep this traveling conservation program alive; and those five months sure did fly by - and thank God that we will be out of the ark by the end of this chapter....

***1 And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged;***

~ Praise God that He remembered Noah because, if not, then Noah probably would have forgotten God! I have a suspicion that floating around out there aimlessly in uncertainty combined with the realization of all the suffering, death and misery throughout the world, coupled with the further uncertainty of his immediate surroundings, was just a wee bit stressful for Noah. In fact, I know it was! Well, either way, we can not hang on to God – God must hang on to us – and, friends, if God didn't so graciously hold on to you when you forget about Him then you would be lost before you finish reading this report. God hung on to Noah because Noah believed Him.

We need to be clear that this flood was a world-wide catastrophe. I am not going to take up a whole lot of space or time to go into a topic that has been adequately and scholarly approached; and which is a well-established scientific fact. A book entitled *The Genesis Flood* by Henry M. Morris and John C Whitcombe, Jr., who are both thoroughly competent to write on such subjects, can answer many questions that this safari is just going to

ignore completely. Their book also comprehensively addresses and debunks uniformitarianism, which means one takes the philosophical position that the flood never happened at all. Peter tells us we can expect there will be scoffers. Further, these people will question where Jesus is today, saying all things are the same since the beginning of creation. The scoffer has always been the uniformitarian. See, "uniformitarian" is really just a sophisticated word for "simple-minded, rank unbeliever."

Myriad books that are passed off as scholarly publications have been produced by men who are simply pseudo-intellectuals and pseudo-theologians; men who take the position that if there was a flood then the flood was a local event – likely confined to the Tigris-Euphrates River Valley - and that it formed some sort of swimming pool, or something like that. Well, the book I have recommended absolutely demolishes that theory. God said every living creature on the earth was going to be destroyed - not just those in Noah's neighborhood. The waters covered the whole earth above the mountains, friends; and, if you don't think so, then you might want to explain to me why there are seashells in the dirt on the highest mountaintop of every continent on earth. The Andes in South America and the High Sierras of North America were just as covered as that of Mounts Ararat in Turkey, Everest in Nepal bordering Tibet in China, St. Helen's in Washington and the Swiss Alps in Switzerland – and you can just write that down.

There are other indicators of a universal flood as opposed to a regional flood. I'm going to paraphrase but one significant statement regarding this topic and then we must move on. This comes from Dr J E Shelley who states. "...the most striking example of the flood can be found in the case of the mammoths. These animals were found buried in the frozen silt of the tundra of Siberia. Running the length of the Asian continent north of the parallel of Alaska and Canada, these mammoths were found buried in herds on higher ground. They weren't bogged down in marshes, where they would have simply starved by the hundreds of thousands in number. They have been examined properly; and it is clear that they drowned. The farther north one goes, the more mammoths are found. This progression continues and increases until the soil of the islands of the White Sea inside the Arctic Circle consist mainly of mammoth bones mingled with the bones

of the Saber Tooth Tiger, Giant Elk, Cave Bear and Musk Ox; and there are trunks of trees that are rooted in the same soil. Today, there are no trees for nearly one thousand miles. The mammoths could not have sustained themselves on the stunted vegetation that currently grows in this region, except for, perhaps, a few months annually. A hundred square miles could not sustain one mammoth for a consecutive month; so the possibility of survival becomes impossibility. The food in their frozen and well-preserved stomachs is Pine and Hawthorne branches. These animals were buried alive in the silt when the silt was soft. They and the silt were then both suddenly flash frozen and have never thawed, for they show no sign of decomposition whatsoever. Mammoth Ivory has been sold on the London docks for more than one thousand years. The Natural History Museum purchased a mammoth's head and tusks from the Ivory Store, located on the London docks, which had been shipped absolutely fresh and was covered with its original fur. Moreover, explorers have saved their lives by eating the flesh of these animals, which have been in cold storage for thousands of years."

Man had spread out across the entire world by this time in which we are studying and, if the flood weren't worldwide, then not all of mankind would have died. That would leave someone other than Noah starting the human family all over again. That's just not the way God's record has been revealed and verified. If you do not accept the Biblical account, don't make excuses for it – just close it and walk away! There is an abundance of evidence for those who are willing to accept the flood for what it was! This also leaves us on the horns of a dilemma as I see it; because here, you will either accept it or you will have to reject it wholesale - and I will make that challenge again and again until we reach the end of our Spiritual Safari. If you feel like you cannot handle this extensive safari world tour then you need to drop out now, close the book, and let's part ways. You simply cannot accept the strange, non-Biblical positions and maintain a profession of faith in the Word of God; and while I realize not everyone will make it past here, I do hope that *YOU* will press on with me....

***2 The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained;***

***3 And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated.***

***4 And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon 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, were the tops of the mountains seen.***

***6 And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made:***

***7 And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth.***

***8 Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground;***

***9 But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark.***

***10 And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark;***

***11 And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf pluckt off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth.***

***12 And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which returned not again unto him any more.***

***13 And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the***

***earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry.***

~ Now, the assuaging took an additional two hundred sixty-one days. Combine that with the one hundred fifty days of the prevailing waters and we have well over a year; and this chapter can easily become a mathematical exercise, but we won't turn it into that. Okay, the old crow – the raven – that was put out never came back to Noah; but the dove kept returning and brought some greenery with it the second time. I don't know why the olive branch has always been the picture of peace, but this wasn't a branch – it was just a leaf - and I don't think *peace* was the message of the dove on that second visit, either. When the dove didn't return then THAT was the sign that the judgment was over. Peace may have returned to the earth in some way at that moment; but man is going to be the same type of man after the flood as he ever was. We're going to pick back up after the flood with man's attitude being the same as Adam and his son's was and in the same nature that provoked the flood and the judgment of God in the first place! You might say we're starting over! But just because we have a new lease on life doesn't mean we will see any improvement; because, in fact, there will be none whatsoever.

So, Noah is bird watching near the bow and he has seen the dove return - but the raven didn't come back. Where did the raven go? – Well, let's start with the diet of the raven. A Raven will eat anything it can swallow; and there was a whole lot of dead and bloated flesh floating around from the rotting animals and people, and that's what this old crow ate. It's not a pretty picture. See, the raven didn't need to come back to Noah because he was going to a feast. That raven was having a wonderful time amongst the dead. The raven is an unclean bird, and the dove is a clean bird. Of course, Noah had been instructed to take in both kinds of animals. Now, the dove brought back information, like a regular homing pigeon, but the raven took off and never looked back.

All great Bible truths are germane right here in Genesis. I've stated that before; and the Bible teaches that the believer has two natures – the old and the new. Any man that is in Christ is a NEW creation; but the clean and the unclean are still together in one vessel, if you will. That which is born of

the flesh is flesh, said Jesus; but that which is born of the spirit is of the Spirit. Paul stated that he knew that in his flesh dwelt no good thing. The will is present with me but how to perform it I find not, said Paul. There is a constant struggle between the two natures of a believer. The raven went out into a judged world and found a feast in death and tragedy. The dove doesn't eat that sort of thing. Our old nature is just like the old black crow - the raven! The old nature loves the things of the world – and it feasts on those things, by the way. Some people feast on television and the internet. Other people feast on a very long list of very rotten things, indeed.

The dove found no rest when he went into the judged world. Having found no satisfaction, he returned to the ark. Right and wrong really *are* relevant - and it really *is* all a matter of your perspective. What God says is always right and what man says is ALWAYS wrong! That is a simplicity that may be very hard, even impossible, for many to accept; but it works out exactly that way every single time. The raven went into the world and loved it, but the believer is told *not* to love the world or the things thereof. You and I live in a judged world; of which we are to use but not abuse. We are not to fall in love with this world's things. We, as Christians, are to attempt to win the lost for Christ while we are here on this earth by getting out the Word of God. We are to go into the entire world and preach the Gospel. Let's take care of our jobs down here and focus on our lives for Christ, shall we? Those are personal questions that you need to talk to God about today. You have both natures, my beloved, that's for sure. Which one are you living in today? – Do you love the things of God or the things of the world? ~

***14 And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried.***

***15 And God spake unto Noah, saying,***

***16 Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee.***

***17 Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that***

***creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.***

***18 And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him:***

***19 Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark.***

***20 And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.***

***21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.***

~ The imagination of EVERY man and woman's heart is evil from their youth. That's something else you can just write down as absolute truth. Just ask yourself – but be honest – what about your youth? – Was your imagination evil, or not? The rebellion of youth is nothing new today, but the level of contempt for all things moral has decayed and, literally, turned to dust. Man is evil from his youth and it never improves. God said so – not me. That just happens to be an accurate statement; one which was made a LONG time ago, too, by the way. Setting this axiom forth and accepting it means we can also trust in another accurate statement from God that was, likewise, made at precisely the same time...

***22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.***

~ Some have suggested that the flood was so catastrophic that it tilted the earth. As we know, the earth is not on its axis. We're a little bit "off-center," if you will. The magnetic center of the earth is different from the center that we are revolving on. Something happened somewhere along the time-line – and we now know what that something was. Naturally, this wobbling motion is what gives us the seasons. Alright, we're going to close

this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God having said all we are going to say about times and seasons; because we must move on chapter nine. Chapter nine will be an extension of the covenant that began two verses ago. We will be saying good-bye to Noah in chapter nine also. We have spent a great deal of time with Noah and his family; but before he leaves us, we shall see God establish a tremendous covenant with Noah and give to him some very wonderful things ~

