

Bible Basics Conference 2012: “Genesis 1-12”

Part 10

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[00:00:01] Good evening everyone. I was hoping I would be able to speak until half past seven when I saw the program, but from your faces I can see you're happy that that liberty has been taken away from me. Okay, Genesis chapter 8. Nor only remained alive and they that were with him in the ark, and the waters prevailed upon the earth and hundred and fifty days. That's where we get to at the end of Genesis chapter 7 and it's a bleak, a bleak presentation, isn't it? And it just shows us how serious a matter sin is and the effects of sin in terms of God's judgment. So perhaps we should all just reflect on that, that sin is something that's very serious. We live in a world [00:01:04] where sin's regarded as a joke, but one day God is going to judge this world and he's going to judge those who are sinners. And this portrayal of the earth under the waters of this flood is a very solemn picture of the matter of sin and judgment. It's appointed unto men once to die and after this judgment. But the believer on the Lord Jesus, the one who's trusted in him as their Savior, can rest upon this verse, this second verse, which may not be the verse that you would immediately think of, but which I've chosen because it shows salvation in its fullest extent, not simply the matter of salvation from the penalty for our sins, but salvation from the power of sin and salvation [00:02:06] from the presence of sin eventually when we go to be with the Lord Jesus. The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished. God remembers Noah. Judgment is God's strange work, his unwanted act. God doesn't delight in judgment. Now this is expressed in this verse which we've already had before us. So whether we look at Noah as a picture of the Jewish remnant, as we had from our last presentation or the presentation by Brother Derek, or whether we look at it as a picture of Christians, those of us who trust in the Lord Jesus now, who are in the ark, if you like, if you want to think of it in that way, the ark as a wonderful type of the Lord Jesus, or even the Lord Jesus Christ himself, and [00:03:06] I'm going to suggest to you that in Noah we see some aspects of the Lord Jesus. We learn from this verse that God never forgets his own. He never forgets his own, but brings them, us, him, actively to mind for blessing and glory. You say to me, how can you apply that to the Lord Jesus? I say this to you, that this world has forgotten the Lord Jesus. This world cast him out, but God's not going to allow that to remain the case for very much longer. The one who's been rejected by the world he made is going to be brought into the place of supremacy, and that will be a wonderful time of blessing for this world. All creation is going to benefit from this in the world to come. This phrase, the world to come, which we find in Hebrews

chapter 2, doesn't refer to eternity, as some people think. It refers to the time when the Lord Jesus is going to reign for a thousand years, and this world in which sin [00:04:08] has wreaked so much havoc is going to be the place where the glory of the Lord is going to cover this world as the waters currently cover the sea. It's going to fill this world as the waters currently cover the sea. God is going to work out his purpose as far as this present creation is concerned, and he's going to get the glory, and man is going to benefit from it in that day. But of course anyone here who doesn't trust on the Lord Jesus as their Savior will never know that wonderful time of bliss in this world. You will be dead. You will be in the grave until after that thousand years is completed, and then you will face God as your judge. You will face the Lord Jesus as your judge at the great white throne. No, those who trust the Lord Jesus now are not going to be part of this world [00:05:07] to come. They're going to be with the Lord Jesus reigning over this world to come. That's the special blessing that God has given to those who make up the assembly. I'm going to go through this chapter. Perhaps you like to keep it in front of you. Keep your Bibles in front of you. We'll just have a look at each of the verses, or maybe two or three verses together in some cases. The first three verses speak about the waters receding, the waters that covered the earth receding, and it says to us that God brought this about by the wind. The wind in Scripture is often the picture of the Holy Spirit as the person in the Godhead whose power brings about God's will. We saw that already, didn't we, in Genesis chapter 1 verse 2. You see it in relation to the deliverance [00:06:03] of the people of Israel from Egypt. A strong wind divided the Red Sea so they could go over. And of course, in regard to spiritual blessing in this current dispensation, it began with the descent of the Holy Spirit upon those in the upper room when there was a rushing mighty wind or the sound of it, and the Holy Spirit came upon those that were there. Here is a picture of what he does now in individual lives. I'm talking about these verses in Genesis and what he will do in preparation for that world to come. If you look at these verses, they speak of the work of the Holy Spirit in believers today who trust on the Lord Jesus. The Spirit works in their hearts as we've noticed already in our presentations, and God is going to pour out his Spirit on all flesh. We're told that in that prophecy in Joel, which Peter quotes on the day of Pentecost in preparation for the [00:07:06] world to come. That scene on the day of Pentecost was simply, if I can say that simply isn't the right word, was a kind of portrayal of what would happen in a day that's yet to come. And the ark rests. The ark rests, we're told, in verse four. Here's a man who's resting. A Frenchman, actually, says on the photograph when I took it off the website. But there he is. He's resting with his dog in his lap. Maybe I'll say a little bit more about that in a moment. Ararat. Ararat. Ararat. The mountain in the picture, in Jeff's 3D presentation, and at the start of his slides, and the start of my slides. It means holy ground, or the curse reversed. What a beautiful reflection of the way in which God is going to change this world from where sin has reigned [00:08:06] to one where he reigns, the Lord Jesus himself, in righteousness. But for blessing to be established, there must be holiness. You can look up that verse later on. I haven't got enough time to go into these verses in detail. And righteousness. Often people connect love with the gospel. They're quite right to do that, of course. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life. But when we turn to Romans 1, verses 16 and 17, the apostle Paul says that righteousness is revealed in the gospel.

There has to be a righteous basis for there to be blessing to mankind because of sin. And that was also emphasised by our brother Derek. Noah's name means rest. And it's in that sense that we can take him as a picture of the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus is the one who alone gives rest. [00:09:04] Michael mentioned that in his presentation this morning. The one in whom God and his people find rest. God finds rest in the Lord Jesus. We can find rest in the Lord Jesus. Rest for our conscience. Rest in our circumstances. Rest completely in a day to come when we go to be with the Lord Jesus in the Father's house. But rest will mark this world during that thousand years I mentioned. Because

that's the Sabbath to which God is working when there will be rest in this world as there has never been rest since sin first came into it. In verse 5 of this chapter, we're told that the tops of the mountains were seen. And you may think this is a little bit fanciful. But for me, I like the thought that in the tops of the mountains we see a hint of what's [00:10:04] going to characterise this world when the waters have fully subsided. The mountains speak of the place of power, of elevation. The tops of the mountains are seen. And if you like, this is an anticipation if we apply it spiritually to the fact that the time when the Lord Jesus is going to have the preeminence in this world is fast approaching. And we by faith can see it. We see not all things put under his feet. We're told that in Hebrews chapter 2 verse 8. But we know by faith that it's going to happen one day. And it's the eye of faith, if you like, that can see the tops of the mountains even today in a world that's full of chaos. I refer you to 1 Peter chapter 3 verse 22 about the Lord Jesus. He has gone into heaven and he's on the right hand of God. Angels and [00:11:05] authorities and powers be made subject unto him. That's going to be realised in fullness in that coming day of glory. And this is going to be the fulfilment of all man's responsibility to God. Where man has failed, everything is going to be found to be perfectly fulfilled as far as man's responsibility is concerned in the person of the Lord Jesus. He's glorified God in his death and he's going to glorify God in that wonderful thousand year reign that's going to come in this world. Now in verse 6, let me just go back to our chapter, Genesis chapter 8.

In verse 6, it came to pass at the end of 40 days that Noah opened the window of the ark [00:12:01] which he had made. He waited patiently for 40 days. And you know in these verses that I've quoted there, we see that patience should mark believers. 40 days. Brother Hans Rudy has mentioned this in connection with marriage. Waiting on the Lord. Patience. Patience characterises Noah. So when we see him as an example for ourselves, one of the things we should think about in connection with him is his patience. 40 days is a figure of testing and Noah waited.

He didn't just act on his own impulses. He was led by the Lord. He waited before he did things. And this should characterise saints as we see in Romans chapter 8 verse 25. It certainly characterises the present time of waiting where we're told even the Lord Jesus currently is patient while he waits to receive his kingdom. Now Noah made the ark under God's instruction. [00:13:01] Now he had to leave it under God's direction. You know this shows us that our lives should be marked by dependence upon the Lord. Listening to his will. So often we do things just as we think we should do. But Noah, he built the ark according to God's instruction. He left it under God's direction. And I've left a few examples of cases where people are exalted to walk wisely, to understand the will of the Lord, to listen to what God is saying to them. That was the instruction of the writer to the Hebrews, to the Jewish believers in the days when he wrote them in that letter, that they should pay attention to what the Lord had said and what the apostles had said, what God had witnessed to in signs and wonders. Daniel is a wonderful example of this, isn't he? He prayed to the Lord three times a day and he paid attention to the word of God. It's in both [00:14:07] those references. And what had brought light into the ark, that window above, was now to be the way out of it. I don't mean that he physically got out of the ark through the window. What I mean is that through the window he let out the raven and the dove that we're just going to come on to. In fact, the word for that window changes. In chapter six, it's a light. When we come to it in this chapter, we find it's a perforation. It's something which you make a hole through. And it speaks of faith acting on God's direction. And the Holy Spirit guides us as we wait on God and read his word and pray. Noah sends out the raven in verse seven, an unclean bird. We know that from Leviticus chapter 11 verse 15, able to go to and fro in a world under judgment. People around us are like [00:15:04] ravens. They're going to and fro, enjoying themselves in this world that's under judgment. Are we like them? Or are we like the dove? We'll come on to the dove in a moment. God used the raven's strength to feed Elijah. The raven is marked by an ability to fly long

distances. But Elijah had to learn that he needed to be sustained through a widow's faith and obedience. That's the lesson of 1 Kings chapter 17. Similarly, we cannot find and enjoy God's blessings according to our own natural powers. And that's brought before us in 1 Corinthians chapter 2, where we're told of the wonderful things that God has prepared for those that love him. But we cannot enter into them with our natural minds, but only with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit. So, in that story of the raven, as you know, the raven, he went off, he never came back.

[00:16:07] He must have found something to feed upon that was in the waters of the flood. But then Noah sent out the dove. And the dove denotes purity and devotion. You'll find that in Psalms chapter 5 verse 2. Love undefined. She does not act independently, but in intimacy with the one who sent her. You don't find it said that he sent the raven from him. It's only said of the dove that he sent the dove from him. And it's a little reminder, isn't it, of the way in which the Holy Spirit came upon the Lord Jesus. At the river Jordan, the Holy Spirit could come upon the Lord Jesus in the form of a dove. It wasn't an actual dove. But in the form of a dove, marking the complacency the Holy Spirit could have in one who was marked by purity and devotion in perfection. [00:17:07] And the Lord Jesus sends the spirit of truth to us from with the Father. These are all wonderful expressions of the character of the Holy Spirit and what he delights in. And when we remember that, the fact that the Holy Spirit indwells us, we're going to come on to that in a moment. Let's take notice of these injunctions in the New Testament, which tell us as believers that we should not grieve the Holy Spirit and we're not to quench him as he seeks to direct us in God's service either. The dove found no resting place. She had no joy in resting. That's some of the thoughts behind the dove. She finds joy in resting. I think that the meaning of the word dove is very much related to the word for wine. But there was no workplace to rest for the dove [00:18:06] in that scene. It was a world that was still marked by God's judgment. And so she returns to Noah's hand. See that personal connection between Noah and the dove? It's not there with the raven, it's there with the dove. She comes back to the ark. It's her only home. And I think we come back to some scriptures that we've already been mentioning in connection with this subject, that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. That's in 1 Corinthians chapter 6, verses 19 to 20. Each of us is indwelt by the Holy Spirit if we've believed on the Lord Jesus. And also the church as a whole is the habitation of the Holy Spirit. That comes before us in 1 Corinthians chapter 3, verses 16 and 17. How wonderful that the Holy Spirit indwells us. [00:19:03] The Lord Jesus says, he is with you and shall be in you forever. And then she comes back the next time. I can't really go into the detail of these seven day intervals, but Noah sends the dove again and she returns to him at eventide. The end of men's expectations. There are many examples of eventide, when the darkness is coming on and one feels the hopes one has are going to fade. And yet then the Lord brings in his blessing. And that's what happened here. It happened actually with Isaac. We were talking about Isaac. He was out in the fields at eventide, looking for his wife to be brought to him. Perhaps he felt, no, she's not going to come today after all. And then she appears with a servant on the camels. Read about it in Luke 24. Here, the dove has an olive leaf [00:20:03] in her beak. And Noah sees the evidence of God's blessing of this earth. And we are meant to have the day dawning in our hearts. The morning star rising in our hearts, I should say. The anticipation of the day when the Lord Jesus is going to come for us. And the remnant, the Lord Jesus encourages them, when they see these things happening, to look up. To look up. That expectation of God's blessing, even perhaps in the darkest hour. And for Noah, this was it. When he saw the olive leaf there, the promise of life and fruit. New creation blessings for us. We'll come on to those in a moment. Earthly blessings for Israel. They're all in those verses that I've quoted here.

And then the next time the dove doesn't return, verse 12, Noah sends the dove out after another seven days. She does not return. She's found her rest at last. [00:21:06] As the Holy Spirit did in the

Lord Jesus perfectly. As he seeks to do in us. Yes, he indwells us. But is he there ungrieved? Not always, sadly. As he will do in the world to come. And perfectly in eternity. 2 Peter chapter 3, verse 13. The earth's surface is drying. Verse 13.

Says the waters were dried up from off the earth. And what struck me about this is that it says at the beginning of this verse, in the 601st year, it doesn't say of Noah's life. It says just the 601st year. I mean, I sometimes think, I thought, well, you know, it's almost as if Noah's life is being timed from Noah's birth. And maybe it's a little picture, if we take Noah as a picture of [00:22:06] the Lord Jesus, just a little, that this blessing is characterized by the one who is the one who is the one who is the one who is the one who is the one who is that this blessing is characterized by the one who's going to take preeminence over it. Because Noah is going to be governor over this cleansed earth. We're going to see that tomorrow in Genesis chapter 9 in the Lord's will. And everything about that wonderful world to come, which I was talking about earlier in Hebrews chapter 2, is going to take character from the one who reigns over this earth. And so it should be with us, we who have come into the blessings of new creation already. If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature or creation. Old things are passed away.

[00:23:06] Behold, all things are become new. Mr. Hole says in his book, The Great Salvation, that many of the topics he takes up, like forgiveness and justification, reconciliation, are all things that you can put against the effects of sin in our life. Guilt, condemnation, enmity against God. But with new creation, it's a positive thought, an entirely positive thought. God brings us into conformity with himself so that we can enjoy him and he can enjoy us. That's the thought behind new creation. And it's already something that we can enjoy.

It's not simply fresh, a recent thing, something that has been brought about subsequent to sin [00:24:02] and good, but it's of a different order that cannot fail. The word you often in the Bible means something of a completely different order that cannot fail. Sometimes people worry. They say, well, couldn't sin come in a game when we get to heaven? Couldn't it spoil everything all over again? Somebody will do something wrong and we'll all follow them. But no, the point is that we have been given an incorruptible nature through the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. And we cannot sin in heaven. And as a result, that perfect future that we have will never fail.

And I've just given you some references where the apostle is already saying that we are the products of new creation work. But of course, we still have an old nature in us at the moment. [00:25:04] And so we can't do wrong things and therefore we're exhorted not to live according to the old nature, but according to the new nature, to produce works that give evidence of the fact that God has done this wonderful work in us. By the way, the 601st year shows the importance of looking at the timings in God's word. And it's good to have calendars as well. And there are calendars on the back of this. It's a very good calendar, I can assure you, especially for use in gospel work. Noah uncovers the ark. Noah is typical of believers. He knew by the olive leaf, faith, the waters had become low. But it was not until he uncovered the ark that he saw the earth's surface was dry. That window was in the top. He couldn't see what was around. [00:26:01] It wasn't until he uncovered the ark, acted on the basis of what he knew from that olive leaf, that he actually saw for himself that the earth was dry. Faith will give way to sight one day.

And these verses are just another indication of that in God's word. The earth is thoroughly dry in verse 14, the perfect standing of the believer. We already had firm ground, high ground, emphasized as a picture of our solid foundation as believers. That comes across here too in this verse. And

perhaps it makes us think of Romans chapter eight, verse one. Well, it made me think of Romans chapter eight, verse one, which is true of every believer on the Lord Jesus. But do we really enter into the joy of it? There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.

[00:27:06] And of course, later on in that chapter, we see how much the Holy Spirit is mentioned compared with chapter seven, where it's all me, I, struggling to work out what it means to be a Christian. The Holy Spirit is the one who enables us to do that, not in a legal way, but he simply brings about in us a desire to please the Lord because we love him.

And then there's fruit in our lives. It's also a picture of what Peter speaks about in Acts chapter three, verse 21, the restitution of all things when this world is brought into a position where it brings forth the fruit. Remember what we read about in Genesis chapter one, the idea of the earth marked by fruitfulness. That's going to be what happens. Think of today, so many people are hungry in this world when others have got plenty to eat. There's such an [00:28:03] unequal distribution of the world's bounty. It's not going to be like that when the Lord Jesus reigns over this world. His kingdom is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. That's a moral thought today, but it's going to be an actual physical thing in that coming day. The earth will flourish. Read about it in Psalm 72, the Psalm related to King Solomon when this wonderful kingdom is in public display. Only a couple more. I think I'm allowed a little five minutes longer because I started a bit later. Replenishing the earth.

That's a beautiful word, replenishing, isn't it? Only those God chose went into the ark. We saw that, but he preserved them all. What was precious to God was what was in that ark. That's what he had his eye upon. Those are the ones he remembered and all of them came out. [00:29:02] And you know, it's a wonderful thought to me. Nothing was lost. It's a picture of eternal security. Nothing's going to fail as far as God's salvation is concerned. If we take that ark as a picture of the Lord Jesus, we can be assured that everyone who has entered in will come out into blessing. Everything also is going to be brought about for God's blessing. Sometimes we don't emphasize this enough, but if you read Ephesians 1, verses 3 to 6, you'll realize how much in those verses is for God's own pleasure, for him, because he wants it, because he desires it. And this wonderful bringing of everything through the floods that God particularly put his signal hand of blessing upon, the bringing through of it, and then filling the new earth, if I can put it that way, with those people, with those animals, is a picture of the way in which God is bringing everything about for his own glory and pleasure.

[00:30:10] Noah, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Noah's fear bore fruit in the obedience of faith, which led him to build the ark and to find safety in it and a new life on the cleansed earth with his family. It's the only way out of judgment into the blessing of knowing the father of whom the whole family or every family in heaven and earth is named. Noah and his family going forth from the ark onto that dry earth, that cleansed earth, is a wonderful picture of the blessings which result from the fear of the Lord and the obedience of faith. He offers a burnt offering, burnt offerings, plural. The first mention of an altar in scripture, by the way, here. The sacrifices of the clean animals, holy for God, that's the burnt offering, we've already had that brought before us, are a picture of the death of Christ for God's glory, [00:31:05] for God's glory, and they result in our acceptance. Acceptance is a wonderful truth, to know that we're accepted before God, to know him as our father because we are before him in his son.

And the Lord Jesus, of course, he came to do the will of God. He is the one who perfectly did everything holy for the glory of God. God smells from that, that sacrifice, those sacrifices, an odor, a sweet odor, an odor of rest, reminds us of the continual burnt offering of exodus. Morning and

evening there was an offering to God, a picture of the way in which the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus upon the cross will ever cause God delight throughout eternity. Sinful man has gone in the death of the man who was after God's own heart. God says in his heart, he will not curse [00:32:05] or smite. That's a picture of reconciliation. If you look at Ephesians chapter 2 and 2 Corinthians chapter 5, you will find that reconciliation and new creation are thoughts that go together. Then God's promise. Yes, verse 22 of Genesis chapter 8.

Well, what can you say about this verse? While the earth remaineth, this is not the new heavens and the new earth. This is the current earth and this will be fully realized during the thousand year reign of Christ. Seed time and harvest and cold and heat and summer and winter and day and night shall not cease. You know, we do experience this promise even today in a world which has been so affected by man's mismanagement of it. But you know, it's a remarkable thing that this earth that [00:33:06] could support two people at the beginning is now able to support eight billion people. Isn't that remarkable that God brought into being a world capable of supporting us in this current day when there's eight billion of us on the planet just as well as it supported Adam and Eve when they were just two. That's God's wisdom and assures us nature's order will continue to support life. Don't worry about global warming. Really, don't worry about it. We needn't have any angst about global warming. I'm not saying we shouldn't care about looking after the earth, but we needn't worry about it because you know, the Lord Jesus is coming and he's going to put it all right. [00:34:02] We need to worry about more important things than global warming. Now somebody who heard that, they would be horrified outside the four walls of this hall, but there are more important things to be worried about than global warming and that's people coming to know the Lord Jesus as their saviour and us, us being faithful to the Lord while we wait for him to come. So God delights in his son and preserving those who belong to him in the ark, not in dispensing judgment. He will bring us into the full blessing of new creation in the value of the person and the work of the Lord Jesus. May these things encourage us.