



And the LORD Shut Noah In [Part 3]

Noah Removed The Covering Of The Ark

*“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” (*Genesis 8:13*).*

*“And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations” (*Isaiah 25:7*).*

The Waters Began To Abate

It is very significant to note that the very first thing that Noah did after the long process of waiting for the water to abate and for the face of the ground to dry was to remove the covering of the ark. After removing the covering of the ark Noah could look and see that the face of the ground was dry. It took about a whole year for the water to completely abate and for the dry ground to appear. After the first 150 days after the rains stopped and the waters began to abate, the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month upon the mountains of Ararat. As the waters continue to abate in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the top of the mountains were seen (*Genesis 8:3-5*). But the process of getting to the dry ground was still far off.

Sometimes in our walk with God we need to patiently hold on to his word, and patiently endure so that we can obtain the promise (*Hebrews 6:15*). The waters may begin to abate, and we may actually feel the waters abating all around us, but the ground is not dry yet. We cannot step out now, we must wait for the dry ground to appear. It may be too dangerous to do so. We need to patiently wait for the dry ground to appear. The husband man waits for the precious fruit of the earth, and sometimes he may need to have long patience for it, so that he can receive the early and later rain (*James 5:7*). He that believeth must not make haste (*Isaiah 28:16*). We must learn to wait for the perfect timing in God and not just rush out in zeal or enthusiasm. If anyone was tired of staying in the ark it was Noah but he knew he couldn't get out until he has spotted the dry ground.

In the tenth month Noah actually saw the top of the mountains. This is a very good sign. It is a very good thing when God allows us to see the top of the mountains. It is a sign that victory is close by. Sometimes God allows us to see the top of the mountains to encourage us, to let us

know that we are making progress and that our victory is just by the corner. We may not be at the dry ground yet but we should be thankful to God that he allows us to see the top of the mountains. He is working in us both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Noah Sent Out The Birds

At the end of forty days after the tops of the mountain were seen Noah opened the window of the ark, and he sent out a Raven. The reason he sent out the raven was to see if the waters have further abated and if the land was dry at any point (**Genesis 8: 6-7**). We had no evidence that the raven returned to Noah in the ark to give him any feedback whatsoever. Ravens are dark birds, they symbolize something pretty negative and are classified as an unclean bird, and in this instance it behaved true to nature it never returned to Noah to give any feedback.

We must not be distracted by the ravens that we might come across in our lives. In our bid to find our way to the dry ground the ravens might come our way attempting to help us find our way to victory but we must not be distracted. We must keep focus; we must wait patiently on the Lord. The Lord will send the right signals to us if we are sincere in our hearts and we will not be distracted. The Lord will send the dove to us and the dove will guide us aright. The dove represents peace of the deepest kind. It soothes and quiets our worried or troubled thoughts. It depicts the presence of the holy spirit. Doves are usually white in color and are used as symbols of love, peace and messengers.

Noah also sent out the Dove. After he sent the Raven out, he also sent out the Dove. “Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters abated from the face of the earth” (**Genesis 8:8**). The mission of the Raven and the Dove were the same to check and see if the waters have abated from the face of the earth but they acted and behaved differently. But we were told after the dove was sent out, she returned to the ark because she found no resting place for her foot because the waters were still covering the face of the earth (**Genesis 8:9**). The raven never returned but the dove did. This is very reassuring. It knew to return to Noah when she found no resting place. The Lord will always reassure our hearts no matter how challenging the situations we might find ourselves in, he will never leave us nor forsake us. Imagine how confused Noah would have been if the dove refused to return to the ark. The holy spirit is kind, gentle, and reassuring at all times. We need to know this in our hearts.

Noah waited another seven days and he sent the Dove out again (**Genesis 8:10**). And this time around the dove came back in the evening, and in her mouth was an olive leaf plucked off, and this became a sign to Noah that the waters have abated from off the earth (**Genesis 8:11**). The Dove brought direction to Noah, it brought life as it were to Noah. It is also significant that the dove came back at evening time. In the evening time there shall be light. The Lord will send the dove to us in the midst of the storm. The Lord will not leave us alone. Though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death we shall fear no evil. His rod and his staff will comfort us.

Noah waited another seven days and he sent this same Dove out again and we were told that the dove never returned to the ark again (**Genesis 8:12**). Victory is here. The waters of the earth have completely abated and the Dove can now live freely in the earth without having to come back into the ark. No matter how much the storm may be, no matter how great the flood may be if we hold on to the Lord and wait on him, the waters of the flood will abate and the dry ground will appear again.

Noah Removed The Covering Of The Ark

*“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 the earth: and **Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry**” (**Genesis 8:13**).*

After almost a year the waters dried from the face of the ground. Noah took an important first step by removing the covering of the ark. He did this so that he could see for himself that the face of the ground was dry. In order for him to move forward in this apparent new dispensation the covering over the ark needed to be removed. This step has an important prophetic significance. The veil must be removed from our eyes that we may see him clearly. It is important that we deal with this issue of the covering over eyes that we may see clearly.

There are many things that could act as a covering over our eyes and over our vision. Sometimes our vision is blurred. We do not see clearly as we should and this can affect our walk with the Lord. Sometimes our traditions, our attitude, our doctrines could stand in our way of really seeing the Lord as we should. Our vision can be tainted by some aspects of our character or our perception of people and situations around us. We need to submit to the Lord to take such covering away from our lives so that we can see him as he is. For when we truly see him as he is we shall be like him. Sometimes our vision of him is colored and we may not even be aware of this unless we truly and sincerely submit ourselves to the Lord. We all must with open face (all covering removed) behold the glory of the Lord as in a glass. When we do this we are changed into the image of our Lord from glory to glory by the spirit of the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:18).

“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: and not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: but their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this today, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless, when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that spirit: and where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Corinthians 3: 12-17). One single experience of Moses putting a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to see the end of that glory on the face of Moses blinded the minds of the people of God. Until this day that veil remains untaken away in the minds of the Jews when reading the scriptures. It is only as men turn to the Lord that the veil over their minds are removed.

This shows how our minds can be blinded to the truths of God’s word. Many are in bondage in the church today because there is a veil cast over their minds through the doctrines and traditions they have been taught in their different denominations and churches. Many of us have rejected the commandments of God so that we can keep the traditions of men. We have made the word of God of none effect through our doctrines and traditions and many are completely blinded and are being led astray almost on a daily basis in the church (Mark 7: 8-10). We need to be beware lest any spoil us through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ (Colossians 2:8).

This covering over our eyes are sometimes very subtle and we may not even be aware of it but as we turn to the Lord and seek him sincerely with all our heart the veil will be removed from off our eyes. We shall know the truth and the truth will set us free. “And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined. And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from all the earth: for the Lord has spoken it” (Isaiah 25: 6-8).

And Noah Built An Altar Unto The Lord

*“And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his son’s wives with him: every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark. **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. 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 everything living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease” (Genesis 8: 18-22).*

After removing the covering, the next thing Noah did was that he proceeded with his sons, and his wife, and his son’s wife, and all the living things that were with him in the ark to build an altar unto the Lord. It is significant that the first major thing Noah did was build an altar unto the Lord. After all the experiences they went through in the ark, after all the shut down in the ark, it’s time to start afresh with the Lord by building an altar to the Lord by consecrating their lives unto the Lord. It’s a new day. It’s a new beginning. In coming out of our different lockdowns as a result of the pandemic we need to consecrate our lives to the Lord afresh by building a new personal altar unto the Lord.

An altar serves as a visual focus of your spiritual intentions, affirmations, prayers, and energy. It also serves as a place and symbol of renewed dedication and commitment. It’s a place where we re-calibrate our minds, refocus, and re-dedicate our lives to the Almighty God afresh and continually. The altar is also a place of worship. It’s a place where we raise a prayer lifestyle where we draw the presence of God and push back spiritual darkness to see transformations in our lives, the lives of others, and in our land. The Altar is a place of adoring, listening, turning, and revival. The Altar is a place of sacrifice, it’s a place where we literally die to self, it’s no longer about us but about Christ. That Altar can be right where you are. You can begin now to build a new altar of your own unto the Lord.

It is also important to note the quality of sacrifice that Noah offered unto the Lord on the altar that he built for the Lord. The scriptures say that Noah took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. We can see that Noah offered the best to God on the altar as sacrifice. He offered only the clean beast unto the Lord. He gave of his best to the Lord. He did not hold back anything precious from the Lord. It was a time of total dedication unto the Lord. God is requiring no less from us. We need to dedicate our all to Him at this time. We must not hold back anything from the Lord. We must lay everything on the altar in this evening time. Our strengths and our weaknesses must all be laid on the altar.

Our gifts and our calling must be laid down on the altar. Whatever successes we might have recorded in ministry must be laid on the altar as well. The image we have built for ourselves must be handed over to God. The men and women that God brought to us in the course of our ministry must be handed over to God, our entire set-up must be handed over to God. God must be all-in-all in our lives going forward. Its only then that God will be pleased with us like he was pleased with Noah. 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 everything living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease” (Genesis 8: 18-22).

God was pleased with Noah because his commitment was total, his dedication was total, he gave his all without reservation. The eye of the Lord is running throughout all the earth and God is looking for men and women whose heart are perfect towards him like Noah. “For the eyes of

the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him..." (2 Chronicles 16:9). God indeed is looking for Men and women who will give their all to God and for him to show himself strong on their behalf.

God made a promise to Noah that he will not curse the ground anymore for man's sake, nor will he will smite everything that is living anymore because Noah built an altar of total commitment and dedication to God. The Lord said to Noah as a result of this that you have done, while the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest time will never cease. What we sow is what we will reap.

We stand at the threshold of a mighty outpouring of the spirit of the Almighty God and we need to sow to him in righteousness. He which soweth sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully (2 Corinthians 9:6). Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap (Galatians 6:7). For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting (Galatians 6:8).

May we all receive grace from the Lord to raise a personal altar to the Lord and to offer to God our best on that altar. Anything less will not be acceptable to God at this time. We need to repent and turn from our old ways and raise new altars to the Lord. We need to raise new corporate altars as well as personal altars at this time unto the Lord. May we find grace to do so.

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