

UNDERSTANDING THE “ONE STORY” OF SCRIPTURE

Week 9 – The God of Shem

November 4, 2025

Gen. 8:1, 3-4 - *Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. God remembered Noah:* This is an anthropomorphism – the attributing of human characteristic to God. We need to know that God never forgot Noah. God sustained Noah and his family every day on the ark. God was going to continue Plan A with Noah and his family. ³ *And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased.* ⁴ *Then the ark **rested** in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat.* Last week we spoke of the ark as a type of Jesus – His work, His character.

What is significant about resting?

Gen. 2:1-2 - *Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.* ² *And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He **rested** on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.* In Hebrew “rested” means to cease from work. Gen. 2:1-2 speaks of the creation as completed!

Gen. 8:4 - *Then the ark **rested**.* The work of the ark was finished and it **rested**. Whom does the ark represent? Jesus (see the Week 8 handout).

John 17:4 - *I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.*

Gen. 8:4 - the ark **rested** on the mountains of Ararat on the 17th day of the 7th month – which points to Jesus’ resurrection, circa 30 AD. The Apostle Peter, in I Pet. 3:20-22, connects the ark with JESUS’ RESURRECTION!

Gen. 8:2-5 - *The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. And the waters receded continually from the earth. ...Then the ark rested ...on 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, the tops of the mountains were seen.*

Why did God allow the ark to rest ON THE MOUNTAINS of Ararat (in eastern Turkey, overlooking the point at which the frontiers of Turkey, Iran, and Armenia converge). ...in such high altitudes and mountainous terrain! A difficult departure for everyone and everything in the ark! Might God’s purpose have been to place the ark where it might be preserved for thousands of years – and not seen?

A worldwide flood? ...*the waters receded continually from the earth* – AND, after the months of receding and decreasing – *the tops of the mountains were seen!!!!*

Noah and his family were carried in the ark 370 days...from month 2, day 17 until month 2 day 27 of the NEXT YEAR: a total of 1 year and 10 days (370 days)!

The dimensions for the ark given in Genesis are 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide and 30 cubits high (Gen. 6:15). The ark could have been up to 550 feet long, 91.7 feet wide and 55 feet high. The ark had three levels (Gen. 6:16) and lot of rooms (Gen. 6:14).

Gen. 8:16-17 - Then God spoke to Noah, saying, ¹⁶ *Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you.* ¹⁷ *Bring out with you every living thing of*

all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.

HOW did they climb out of the ark? HOW did they get all the animals out of the ark?

Very cold climate! No other people in the entire world!! AND, think of the earth settling following a catastrophic flood!!

BUT we read of Noah building an altar to the LORD!

Gen. 8:20 - Noah's first act after leaving the ark was to worship God through sacrifice. His gratitude and admiration of God's greatness led him to worship God. Noah took some of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. How costly this was...Noah was not assured of the future source of animals. BUT, he was assured of God!

(Gen. 6:8-9)

Heb. 11:7 - By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. II Pet. 2:5 - Noah is noted as a preacher of righteousness. Check out Eze. 14:14 as well!

Gen. 8:21-22 - The Lord smelled the soothing aroma, and the Lord said to Himself, 'I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the imagination (the intent) of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. ...EVEN with all the earth's changes, alterations due to the MASSIVE WORLDWIDE FLOOD! God's grace!

Gen. 9:1-7 - So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. ² And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. ³ Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you... ⁴ But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. ⁵ Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. ⁶ Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man (a life for a life) ⁷ And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth and multiply in it.

Gen. 9:8-10 - Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: ⁹ 'And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. Through this unconditional covenant, God made promises to Noah, to all Noah's descendants as well as every living creature and the earth in general. Unconditional covenant - NOT depending upon anything Noah or his descendants had to do to fulfill the covenant. God obligated Himself. The FULFILLMENT of God's promise is based upon God ALONE! And, it was sealed with a sign - the rainbow! God will never again destroy the earth in this manner. The earth, however, will be destroyed by fire (II Pet. 3:10-11)...as He will not allow sin to go unpunished forever. AND, He will restore the earth to...Plan A!

Noah and his family were saved from the wrath of God that came upon the world in the flood, just as those who are “in Christ” will be saved from the “wrath to come” which will occur in the tribulation. (I Thess. 1:10 – we who are believers in Jesus are waiting *for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.* [Rev. 3:10; Rev. 6:16]))

Gen. 9:18-19 - Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham *was* the father of Canaan. ¹⁹ These three *were* the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

Gen. 9:20-25 - The account of Noah becoming drunk and the sin of Ham. What Noah’s son, Ham, carried out in connection with viewing the nakedness of his drunken father we are not told. It was enough, however, for Scripture to tell us that Noah cursed Ham’s son, Canaan. WHY? Moses wrote Genesis through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, as the children of Israel were journeying to the Promised Land and were told to destroy the Canaanites. It’s been suggested that in this cursing of Canaan in Gen. 9 we have the justification for taking that action – the killing of the Canaanites - which is also supported by Deut. 9:1ff. (Cross referenced Gen. 15:16)

Gen. 9:26 - *And he (Noah) said: ‘Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem, Shem alone? What about Japheth and Ham? We have a narrowing re: the people of the earth!? ...and may Canaan be his servant.* Canaan was the son of Ham!? This appears to be establishing the historical legitimacy of Israel’s conquest of the Canaanites and supporting why God told Abram in Gen. 15:16 that Abram would return to the land of promise when the iniquity of the Amorites (the Canaanites) would be complete – and ready for judgment!

BUT WHY did Noah specifically bless Shem? We observe that God is proclaimed to be the God specifically of Shem. Shem’s lineage was destined to have a special relationship with God. Shem is recognized as the ancestor of the Semitic peoples including Abraham and eventually the Israelites through whom the Messiah, “the Seed of the woman,” was prophesied to come.

Gen. 9:27 - *May God enlarge Japheth, and may he dwell in the tents of Shem....’ and may Canaan be his servant.”* Japheth, the ancestor of many Gentile nations, is observed dwelling in the tents of Shem...being blessed through the line of Shem!

QUESTIONS

How did the flood fit into the “one story”?

How does Gen. 9:26-27 fit into the “one story”?!

What was new to you? What impacted you?

Do you have questions?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 9 w/ Bible references.

Continue noting “one story” threads in your Journal.

Share this lesson with someone.

Read Week 10 when you receive it.