

Genesis 8

1 If there is a verse for our animals going to heaven this would be it. Quite a stretch though. The word here for remember could be translated "was thinking about". Certainly God did not forget the one man He found to be righteous, a man that walked with God.

2,3 The canopy had come down. So where did all that water go? Did that raise the level of the seas? Or did the plates lift up creating deeper seas? The source of the springs of the deep may have expanded again to hold the water underground.

4 A five month voyage - 5 is the number of grace - it was the grace of God that life was preserved and kept through the judgement.

5 Two and a half months later other mountain tops are visible like islands.

6,7 A soaring black bird that is a carrion eater. It found no place to rest. A picture of evil still present in the hearts of men, and like the evil One goes up and down in the earth, restless.

8 A white bird that soars little and needs to flap. It is a picture of the Holy Spirit looking for the hearts that are willing to hear.

9 Notice he takes the dove back in but does not say the same about the raven.

10,11 The earth is at peace (the symbol of the olive branch) and violence has ceased.

12-14 A new world lay before Noah and family. Plants were beginning to spring up from seeds. They had been in that boat over a year!

15-17 All animals became domesticated for survival and now had to return to their natural life style.

18-22 Is this an introduction of seasons? Until this point the canopy may have had the earth so even in temperature that there was not much of a seasonal change. The promise here seems to include no more changes in the normal cycles that would destroy man. God watches over the earth. Many fear some cataclysmic event that would wipe out life as we know it. Not until Armageddon and that is not a change of earth cycles but a battle of evil and good.

Chapter 9

1 He renews the command given to Adam. Notice the sons are also blessed.

2 The animals now start to fear man because they are his food. He is the master of creatures not merely another like them. Sorry animal rights activists. We should not abuse our role but we should not ignore the position given us either.

3 Sounds like they were vegetarians before. 1:29 I wonder if the lack of the canopy made nutrients found in meat necessary. The clean animals were not designated as clean because they were edible for all were edible until the Law.

4 Because of blood born diseases God had man drain the blood from the animal. Does this have some spiritual significance of Christ's blood being poured out for us so that we can partake of Him?

5 If man or animal kills a man God will demand justice.

6 Because man was made in the image of God - his life is not to be taken. The act would be punishable by death. It may have been important to clarify this since man can now kill animals for food. It may be that in taking the life of an animal man may ignore the value of life in man. But man is more than an animal. He has a body and mind, but the spirit added to him makes him a living soul, a contemplating being capable of considering his past, present, and future. He has been given the option of choosing to commune with God. He was made to worship his Creator and to be clothed in his glory.

7 Man was to repopulate the earth with people. He has done that pretty well. I wonder why God wanted so many people when so few come to Him and so many are going the broad road?

8-10 The first covenant mentioned in Scripture. 6:18 When they entered the ark God told them He was going to make a covenant with them. Here He establishes it. Not only with Noah but with all the animals that were with him.

11-13 The rainbow is a reminder of that covenant. If the sun never shone through the clouds directly before that this would be the first rainbow they had seen. It is placed in the heavens between us and God.

14-16 I think God has no problem with memory but man needs to be reminded that God remembers his promise. Imagine the trauma they would experience the next time they had a good rain if God had not made this covenant.

17,18 That kind of rules out the Negro theory because the Canaanites were not black. Why does the author single out Ham here? Perhaps because of the later link with Canaan and its wickedness.

19 He must have brought seeds with him or in the waste in the ark he might have already had a sprout.

20,21 The consumption of the alcohol was not called a sin and remember God sees Noah as righteous. The excess caused Noah to be in a situation that invited the sin of another.

22 Is this an excessive case of modesty or did Ham do something? vs 24

23 Walking backward so as not to be tempted to do the same? Or was this a carry over from Eden when God covered the first couple's nakedness.

24 He cursed his son and his descendents. There must have already been slaves in the old world.

25-27 So God blessed the two sons through Noah but this one action caused the sons of Ham to carry a curse. Because of the promise of slavery many see Ham as the father of the black people. It is possible, but again, I don't think the Canaanites were blacks. Certainly all races have been slaves in different time periods. It was common for a victorious nation to make the conquered slaves regardless of ethnicity. Historically there may have been more blacks made slaves than any other race but that would be hard to verify.

Comment: The end of the canopy did not end the length of life but we do see each succeeding generation shortened. This would also disprove any theory about length of days before the flood.