

DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

The Life of Noah (Part 3) ... by Gareth

He sent forth a raven... Also he sent forth a dove - Genesis 8:7-8

- **G**n the eighth chapter of Genesis we are told that, as the waters decreased, Noah opened the window of the ark and sent forth a raven and then a dove. The raven "went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth." What a picture we have here of the old nature in the life of the believer. Like the raven, the carnal nature is restless, always unsettled and unstable in its attitudes and actions. It is always on the move, going "to and fro". The raven during those days must have fed upon the carcasses of the dead animals. How typical is this of the old nature, feeding on that which is not glorifying to the Lord. Paul reminds us in *Romans 8:7*, "*The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*"
- When the dove was sent forth from the ark, she "*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*" (*Gen. 8:9*). In the sending forth of the dove, we have a lovely picture of the person and work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer who is led by the Spirit of God. The true believer cannot be satisfied with worldly things but feeds upon that which is clean and pure and is found in the Word of God, *which liveth and abideth forever*. May it be our desire today to put off the old man-the raven-and put on the new man-the dove-which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness (*Eph. 4:22, 24*).
- **Go forth of the ark Genesis 8:16**
- The first word that God spoke to Noah after the flood was "Go." it was not an appeal, but a command that called for obedience.
- This command to Noah also reminds us of the great commission that was given by Christ to the church in *Matthew 28:19*. "*Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father.*"
- There the great King and Head of the church makes it clear that the most urgent task before the church is to reach the lost with the gospel. The Saviour shows us how we are to do this. We are to go with the Saviour's power. "*All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth*" (*Matt. 28:18*). The Lord Jesus has "*all power*" both as to His authority and His ability, and He makes His power available to us by the Holy Spirit (*Acts 1:8*).
- We are to go with the Saviour's program. "*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you*" (*Matt. 28:19-20*). How uncomplicated the Saviour's program is for the church: 1) Teach (or, make disciples of) all nations; 2) Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; 3) Teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. One of the main reasons for so many worldly activities in the church today is that the church has departed from the Lord's simple program for the church.

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WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Issue 15

● **Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee. Genesis 8:17**

- In the study of Noah's ark, we have a wonderful type of the believer's security in Christ. Noah and his family were all saved from the water of God's judgment as a result of being in the ark. Every living creature that went into the ark with Noah also came out with him. In His great high-priestly prayer in *John 17*, our Lord declares, "*While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled*" (*John 17:12*). How comforting it is to know that "*we are kept by the power of God through faith*," like Noah and his family within the ark, and that nothing can "*separate us from the love of God*" which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

● **Noah builded an altar unto the Lord. Genesis 8:20**

- It is very significant that Noah's first recorded act on leaving the ark was to build an altar. The soul who has experienced God's grace in saving him from judgment will have a desire to hold sweet fellowship with Him. Two things are recorded about Noah's offering.
- First, it was clean. He "took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl." This is the kind of offering the Lord desires from each one of us. *Isaiah 52:11* "*Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord*" is His divine command. D. L. Moody said, "While God is not looking for vessels of gold or silver, He is looking for clean vessels."
- The second thing to notice about Noah's offering was its completeness. Noah took of every clean beast and of every clean fowl and offered burnt offerings on the altar. The burnt offering is the oldest of offerings. It was offered by Abel, Noah, and Abraham. The burnt offering is called '*olah*' in the Hebrew, meaning "that *which ascends*." It was wholly consumed on the altar. Nothing remained but ashes. This offering speaks of Christ in death as our substitute upon the cross.
- What should be our response to this great once-for-all sacrifice of Christ for us? We can never repay the debt we owe to our Saviour, but in the light of such infinite mercy we should long to comply with *Romans 12:1-2* and yield our bodies as living sacrifices.

Events /Notices

- ▶ **Next bible study** will take place on Friday the 20th of April at 7pm in 110
- ▶ **Christian Assembly, on behalf of the Mc Dermott family**, would like to invite you to our Remembrance Evening for Sean Mc Dermott. It will take place in Third Space, Smithfield (thirdspace.ie) at 7pm on *Sunday 15th April*. For those who wish, there will be an opportunity to share a short memory of Sean. RSVP to Jean or Gareth if you would like to attend. Please give your name to Jean if you would like to share a memory of Sean.
- ▶ **Week of prayer** beginning *Sunday 22nd @7pm* each evening until *Wednesday 25th April*
- ▶ **Church weekend in Castledaly Manor** will take place from *Friday the 8th to Sunday the 10th of June*. This weekend will be a time to strengthen your faith and an opportunity to go deeper with God.