



THE BEGINNINGS!

The Book of Genesis

Remembered by God!

Genesis 8:1-22

Message #9 of 50 – S906

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@ Hawk Ranch, Murrieta, CA



Sunday Morning Service

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Remembered by God!

Genesis 8:1-22

Opening Comments

- Good morning – turn to **Genesis 8**
- Today we continue our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- Since Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden, man and women have been something less than perfect
- We all have flaws, weaknesses – imperfections that make living with us harder than it ought to be
- In our marriages or other close relationships, it is our imperfections that lead to conflicts, frustration, bitterness, resentment, apathy, and other things
- Some of our imperfections are not easy to fix
- One of my imperfections is in the area of empathy – I don't feel things the way I imagine a pastor ought to feel
- This is something God is going to have to work out in me

Philippians 1:6

...He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ...

- Kelly is a big help to me in this area – she is very empathetic and helps me to see things I can't
- Another area of imperfection in my life is remembering things that I ought to remember
- If you have ever asked me on a Sunday morning to do something for you, you have probably heard me say, 'Send me an email!'
- So many important things come across my mind on Sunday mornings, that I struggle to retain a lot of them
- Not because I do not discern the importance – my mind just doesn't retain them in a way that I can easily remember
- If I don't write it down or you don't remind me, there is a fairly high chance that I won't remember
- As we mature in our faith, we become better able to identify our own imperfections and then we seek the help we need from God, His Word, His Spirit, or His people to mitigate those imperfections

- God, our Heavenly Father has no imperfections!
- He is perfect in every way, including His memory – perfect memory!
- As Christians, this is an attribute of God that we should rejoice in
- God remembers you – source of comfort, strength, and hope
- Let's pray and ask the Spirit to strengthen our hearts this morning
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Remembered by God!**
- In the last chapter, after 100 years, Noah finished building the ark
- Then God, told Noah to go into the ark and God brought the animals in to save them from the Flood
- And then the Flood came – God cleansed the world of the wickedness
- It took forty days to completely cover the earth with water
- The only safe place was inside the ark – outside was devastation unlike anything we can imagine
- It may have been safe inside the ark, but it probably wasn't comfortable
- The sounds of the devastation outside must have been deafening
- And it went on for forty days without relenting, even for a moment
- And then it stopped
- And then for 150 days the ark drifted silently upon the waters – that's five months
- There is no indication that God told Noah how long the Flood would last – How hard would that be
- Is it possible that Noah, or his wife, or his sons, or their wives started to wonder – Has God forgotten about us? Will this ever end?
- **Genesis 8:1**
- There are some attributes of God that are difficult for the human mind to comprehend
- God is omniscient – He knows everything about everything all the time
- He is omnipresent – He is everywhere present at all times
- God is eternal – He has existed forever and will continue forever
- So, when we read God remembered Noah – not a senior moment

- God didn't look down from heaven, see the ark floating on the water and say, 'Oops!'
- God is always thinking about His people **Psalm 139:17-18**
How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with You.
- As humans, our minds are quickly overcrowded or distracted
- Not so with God, He can think about me and you constantly – and everything else in the universe at the same time
- God is sovereign over all of creation – He sustains it – but that doesn't mean that He is always controlling every little detail
- For example – God created man and woman – gave them free will
- God allowed them to choose the life they wanted – Adam and Eve sinned – God intervened – kicked them out of the Garden
- Mankind multiplied – but God looked and saw that they were very wicked – intervened with a Flood
- But God doesn't just intervene for judgment
- God put Noah and his family into the ark with the animals to save them
- They couldn't stay in the ark forever – God promised to save them, and to do that He was going to have to get them out of the ark
- When God remembers it means He is about to intervene in the affairs of man
- When God planned to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham interceded to God on behalf of the righteous people there **Genesis 19:29**
And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.
- God intervened and saved Lot and his two daughters
- In 1 Samuel God remembered Hannah who was barren, intervened and gave her a son – Samuel
- This world is operating based upon the natural laws that God put into place and is influenced by mankind's freewill
- God remembered Noah = He is about to intervene supernaturally within the natural world

- If God had not intervened, the ark would have floated on the water until every living thing died
- **Genesis 8:1b-4**
- After months of floating silently, the ark comes to rest on the mountains of Ararat – modern Turkey – actual location unknown
- **Genesis 8:5-7**
- The raven was one of the unclean birds
- It would have found plenty to eat with everything that had died in the flood
- **Genesis 8:8-12**
- The dove is one of the clean animals and is seen as a symbol of the Holy Spirit
- **Genesis 8:13-14**
- Noah is an amazing picture of faith and patience
- Noah can see that the earth is dry
- The olive branch means there is life once again on the earth
- And still he waits inside the ark for almost two more months
- I am guessing everyone was getting anxious about getting out of the ark
- But Noah was waiting for something
- **Genesis 8:15-17**
- The last thing that was recorded as having been said to Noah was to get into the ark
- And because that was the last thing he heard, he waited there inside the ark until he heard something different
- Most of us would get along much better in life if we would just do what Noah did here – he waited on the Lord **Psalm 27:14**
Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD!
- When you are not sure what to do – do the last thing you believe God told you to do until He tells you to do something else!
- It had been a year since Noah heard the Lord tell him to go into the ark
- It might not be hard for us to imagine his wife, or his sons or their wives – somebody questioning why they were waiting to leave

- I can imagine Noah telling his family to be patient – trust the Lord who carried us through the Flood and saved us
- Wait on Him who will not forget us
- Noah had faith and he used his faith to carry him through the difficult times, the silent times, the times when things didn't make sense
- And just as Noah obeyed God and went into the ark – he obeyed God and left the ark
- Noah was a man of faith – look at the first thing he does after leaving the ark
- **Genesis 8:18-20**
- Noah's first act after leaving the ark was to set up an altar and worship God
- This wasn't a sacrifice for sin, but a offering of thanksgiving and praise
- God had saved him and his family
- And we are told what God thought of Noah's offering
- **Genesis 8:21a**
- Soothing aroma = was pleasing to God
- One thing we need to keep in mind – what Noah sacrificed and how he did it was important – but not most important **Psalm 51:16-17**
For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it*; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise.
- It is the state of the heart that God most cares about
- God closes this chapter with a promise to Noah, all his descendants, and to the whole world
- **Genesis 8:21b-22**
- God promised to never destroy the earth again like He had just done
- In the next chapter we will see this promise ratified as a covenant that comes with a visible sign – next week
- God remembered Noah – He intervened on his behalf
- God never forgets His people
- Though sometimes He sends them into terrible storms like He did with Noah and his family
- Even though it was terror outside – they were safe inside

- Sometimes God will send His people through times of stillness, isolation, silence – where they feel like they are drifting aimlessly
- And sometimes He will make them wait during times when it seems like they ought to be doing something different
- Noah stayed where God put Him, doing all that He commanded and waited patiently for God to intervene
- You may feel like God has forgotten you or is ignoring you – that is your heart and flesh lying to you
- Wait patiently for the Lord to intervene **Isaiah 40:31**
...those who wait on the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.
- Lets keep busy waiting on the Lord!
- **Pray!**