

But God, Then Worship

Genesis 8

An Expository Sermon by Dr. Bradley Rushing

Big Idea

God's covenant mercy carries His people through judgment and calls them to respond in worship.

I. God restores creation because He is faithful (vv. 1–5)

- God's mercy covers His whole plan. He is preserving a remnant of creation itself.
- God sends a wind over the waters. The word is ruach.
 - The same Spirit who hovered over the waters in Genesis 1 is moving over the waters again.
 - This is not weather improving. This is God acting to restore order.
- The flood reverses step by step.
 - The fountains and windows that opened in Genesis 7 are now closed.
 - The waters recede continually.
- The ark comes to rest, then later the mountain tops appear.
 - God often stabilizes us before He gives us the full view.
- If God has begun to work, the tide has turned even if the flood is not fully gone yet.

II. God teaches His people to trust His timing, not their feelings (vv. 6–19)

- The pace slows down because the waiting matters.
- Noah does not rush. He watches and tests, but he does not move ahead of God.
- The raven goes to and fro. It proves little.
- The dove returns. Then returns with an olive leaf. Then does not return. Signs of life increase.
- Even when the ground looks dry, Noah waits for God's word.
- Fifty-six days pass between "it looks ready" and "God said go."
- Noah moves only when God speaks.
- Life Truth: Waiting is often not a failure of faith. It is often the evidence of it.
- Life Truth: Waiting is not wasted when God is the one who set the timeline.
- Just because things feel better does not mean God is finished.


- The same voice that told Noah when to enter is the voice Noah waits for before he exits.

III. God calls His people to respond to mercy with worship (vv. 20–22)


- The first act on dry ground is not planning, building, or moving on. It is worship.
- Noah builds the first altar in the Bible.
- He offers a costly sacrifice from clean animals and birds.
 - He gives God the first place before he starts rebuilding life.
- God receives the offering and makes a promise.
 - He promises restraint even while admitting that the human heart is still sinful.
 - The flood judged sin, but it did not cure sin.
- God's promise is not built on man's goodness. It is built on God's mercy.
- God preserves the rhythms of creation, seedtime and harvest, summer and winter, day and night.
 - He is keeping the world steady because His redemptive plan is still unfolding.
- Life Truth: You know you have truly seen grace when your first instinct is worship.
- God carries His people through judgment by covenant mercy, and He calls them to respond with worship.

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