

# **St. Margaret's Zoom Bible Study**

**Dr. Fr. Benjamin Speare-Hardy II**

**Wednesday, April 24, 2024**

**6:30 PM**

**Genesis**

## **Background**

### **Genesis Chapter 7 & 8**

Genesis chapter 7 opens with a testament to Noah's exceptional righteousness in his generation, a truly remarkable feat! The Lord, acknowledging this, directs Noah to gather seven pairs of clean animals, a male and a female, and one pair of the unclean. Why? Because in seven days, God was going to unleash a deluge that would last for forty days and nights, wiping out every living being from the face of the earth. In his unwavering faith and obedience, Noah diligently constructs the ark as commanded. The father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth was 600 years old when the rains began. He went into the ark with his family and all the animals. Keep in mind here, the animals were under a covenant, meaning the lions weren't predators eating meat or flesh. Therefore, Noah and his family had no problems getting the beasts into the ark. The rains began, and everything and one who had the breath of life in their nostrils died (who were not in the ark). Yes, all of the mocking towards Noah ceased. The waters covered the hills and mountains; even if anyone could climb Mount Everest back then, they would be overcome by waterfloods. The waters covered the earth for 150 days.

Genesis chapter 8 tells of God's restoration of Noah's family and his world after God unleashed the Flood. God was faithful in restoring humanity after He removed the evil that had overcome it. Christ also seeks to restore you and give you new life when you believe in Him. From this chapter, God reveals seven lessons on the restoration offered through Christ. First, the Bible states that God "remembered" Noah. This signified His faithfulness to His covenant. From His promise to remember His covenant with Noah, He reveals that He is always ready to remember His covenant with you and others when you repent and petition Him in prayer.

Second, from His restoration of Noah's world through a mighty wind (a symbol of the Holy Spirit), He reveals that His Spirit can restore you from any calamity when you have faith. Third, the Bible symbolizes a raven and a dove searching for life. The raven is an unclean bird that symbolizes the flesh. It was unable to offer any hope of new life to Noah. By contrast, the dove symbolizes the Spirit, and the olive branch symbolizes the new life of the Spirit. The fact that only the dove could find new life symbolizes that God's restoration comes only through the Spirit and not through the flesh. Fourth, God restored Noah's world after a one-year and 11-day Flood. In the Bible, the number 11 symbolizes chaos. Yet, the Flood ended on two dates corresponding to His calendar's new beginnings, Passover and Rosh Hashanah. The eight survivors of the ark also symbolize new beginnings in the Bible.

He reveals that His Spirit can give you a new start from any chaotic situation. Fifth, God blessed Noah and His family with fruitfulness. From this, He reveals that His restoration or new beginning will bless you with the fruits of the Spirit. Sixth, Noah gave thanks for God's deliverance by making animal sacrifices. Christ fulfilled the need to make animal sacrifices. Yet, Paul reveals that you can make your life a living sacrifice when you are grateful. Finally, God promised as a New Covenant that He would never again destroy all of humanity through water. This foreshadowed the hope of Jesus' New Covenant. You can take comfort and have hope in His restoration, even when your world feels like it is falling apart.

### **Topics for Discussion**

Chapter 7:1-24 The Great Flood

Chapter 8:5-19 The Flood Subsides

Chapter 8:20-22 God Promise to Noah