

Read Genesis 8:1-12

Q (v1): Did God forget Noah?

v2-3 There's symmetry in The Flood's duration. There were 40 days of rain and 150 days for The Flood to reach it's peak. Now we have 150 days for The Flood to recede. Bet there's another 40 days coming to wrap things up?

v4 Speaking of repetition, the day the ark came to rest on Ararat appears to be the same as:

1. Israel's entry into Egypt during the famine
2. The Red Sea crossing
3. The Feast of Firstfruits
4. Entry into the Promised Land
5. Temple cleansing under Hezekiah
6. Esther's exposure of Haman, which reversed the Jews' impending slaughter
7. Jesus' resurrection

v6 Well, there's our closing 40 days of symmetry.

v7-10 Noah sent out two birds to scout for land: one unclean (the raven) but hardy, one clean (the dove) but delicate. From what we see in v13, it doesn't look like Noah could see the ground outside. He was entirely trusting in the birds (and God).

Q (v7-10): How do you handle situations where God only provides you with information on the beginning or end of His plan, but not all of the events or timing in between?

v11 If you ever wondered where the picture of an olive branch (often with dove) indicating peace came from, look no further. The humble, harmless dove offers hope for mankind.

Read Genesis 8:13-19

v14 So Noah was on the ark for somewhere around 1 year and 10 days...a bit longer than the 40 days we initially expected.

Q (v13, 15): Why didn't Noah get off the ark as soon as he saw the ground was dry in v13?
Who would want to wait nearly two more months to get off that smelly thing?

v17 Just as at the original creation, man and animal are given the command to multiply and fill the earth.

Read Genesis 8:20-22

v20 This is the second mention of sacrificial worship in the Bible (the first being Cain and Abel in 1:3-4). However, it's probably safe to assume that it was commonplace among the faithful up to this point. It looks like he made it before getting about to his own housing etc.

Q (v20): Considering the number of animals now alive, what was the cost of Noah's sacrifice?

Q (v20): Have you ever made an offering to God after a great trial or success in your life?

v21a Last time I'll bring anthropomorphism up in Genesis: God doesn't actually have a nose. The "pleasing scent" is a metaphor for God's approval of Noah's offering (of physical goods, or obedience or time, etc). We just reference a nose to make His reaction more relatable to us humans.

v21b The plus side is that God promised not to reboot the Earth again. The down sides are that He points out that the problem of sin remains, and that He can...no, will still destroy it by means other than a flood at the end times.

v22 This is another passage that's poetry in the original language. We lose some of the impact in English, unfortunately.