

Read Genesis 8:1-12

**Q (v1):** Did God forget Noah?

**No, this is the same situation as 6:6-7: an anthropomorphism. The author is just applying human behavior to a non-human so we can relate to it better.**

**v2-3** There's symmetry in The Flood's duration. There were 40 days of rain and 150 days for The Flood to reach its 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?

**Well, most of us struggle...especially the control freaks like myself. The clichéd (but true) rule is to trust in God and wait (Ps 27:14, Ps 37:9, Is 30:18). The practical rule is to keep doing what He last asked you to do (Acts 1) (\*) while continuing to spend time in the Bible, in prayer and with other believers. From [repeated, to my shame] personal experience, the wrong thing to do is try to force God's hand!**

**(\*) If you're a new believer or are at a loss as to what God would have you do, try volunteering for a new ministry. Churches always need ushers, janitors, teachers, laborers etc. Experience in these areas (even those you find "aren't for you") can help you with discovering or developing Spiritual gifts, or put you in closer touch with those that have insight on your situation.**

**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?

**It would appear that he was waiting on God's command to go. We've seen up to this point that Noah obediently followed the Lords commands. Further, God had sealed Noah in when this all started. It seems fitting to wait for God to now let him out.**

**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?

**Noah was sacrificing a large portion of the clean animals available to...well, the world. He could have saved those animals to feed his family or kick-start his new flocks and herds. However, he considered God capable of restoring any loss and worthy of his trust. We give God our best, off the top, despite what logic, self-preservation and our society suggest. (cf. Mal 1:8, Mal 3:10, Mk 12:41-43, Lk 6:38)**

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

**While Christ was the only sacrifice we needed to "satisfy" God (Ro 5:8-11), there were such things as freewill offerings (e.g., Ex 35). Does God, the Creator of the universe, need our stuff? No, this sort of offering is actually more for us. It gives Him the glory He deserves (all of it), reminds us of His love and faithfulness and keeps us thankful.**

**It's sort of the equivalent of the strong desire to take your friends or family out to dinner after you get a promotion or win a game of some sort. You want to rejoice. You want to thank those who have supported you. Except, in this case, you're taking God out to dinner...so to speak.**

**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.