

Noah – Lesson 6: The Cruise Is Over

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

Did we learn our lesson? Study Questions from lesson 5 (Testing The Waters)

1. According to Genesis 8:4, Where did the ark come to rest?
Answer: The mountains of Ararat.
2. According to Genesis 8:7, what did Noah first release to examine the earth?
Answer: A raven.
3. According to Genesis 8:8, what did Noah release next to examine the earth?
Answer: A dove.
4. According to Genesis 8:9, how did Noah know the earth was not ready?
Answer: The dove returned (no place to land).
5. Complete the following scripture:
Psalm 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

True / False

- False** Believers should never examine the spirits (if of God) (1 JOHN 4:1 – Try the spirits)
True The spirit that denies Christ is false (antichrist) (1 JOHN 4:1 – Many false prophets in the world)
False With the earth dry, Noah immediately left the ark (GEN 8:12 – Stayed)
False Believers are encouraged to wait for nothing (PSLM 130:5 – Wait on the Lord)

Extra Credit - In your opinion, do you have patience in the Lord, and why or why not?

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‘Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance’ – Bruce Rossi, Missile Technician Chief Pettry Office (1992)

Chief Rossi was my chief onboard the submarine USS Maryland (SSBN 738 Gold) and this was one of his favorite sayings – because it is true. Any time there was a shortcoming in the accomplishment of our mission, the cause could be traced back to a lack of preparation at some point. In getting ready for patrol (70-80 day deployment at sea underwater), both the equipment and the crew required preparation. The ship had to be ready in all respects to successfully operate for the scheduled mission, and have sufficient flexibility to support an extended mission should another submarine/crew fail to meet the patrol commitment. The crew had to have both a ready set of personal items (cloths, personal hygiene supplies, and cash in the event there was a port call), and a ready mind (one had to psychologically prepare to be gone – My wife commented that I was gone a week before we actually left).

The same need for preparation was required prior to returning from sea, as systems had to be readied, weapons systems had to transition to a lower level of alert, and the crew had to maintain composure during this time or mistakes could risk a serious mishap that could endanger the lives of shipmates (we didn’t simply abandon ship upon return). I suspect the saying did not originate with Chief Rossi, but he brought the importance and value of preparation to our team, which not only aided us in the successful accomplishment of our patrol, but became a very effective tool throughout life, recognizing a lack of preparation is often the cause, if not the leading contributor, to failure.

Just as preparation is critical in meeting the challenges of this world, it is no less important in seeking a relationship with the Lord and to meet the expectations the Lord places on each heart:

Psalm 10:17 – Preparation begins with the Lord

(17) LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear.

Humanity can prepare for many things, but spiritual preparation cannot be accomplished without God. It is the heart that seeks God (**MATT 7:7 - Seek and ye shall find**) that can realize the benefits of a ready heart, and be prepared in the day of the Lord's return (**MATT 24:42 - Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come**). Otherwise one will be overcome in judgement when those not prepared will be first cast into hell (**MATT 8:12 – There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth**), and then expelling all evil (**REV 20:15 – Cast into the lake of fire**)

Noah waits on the Lord, and is guided into his next tasks in restoring the earth, preparing for a new beginning.

Where we left off

Genesis 8:12 – The flood is ended

(12) And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which returned not again unto him any more.

Noah uses the raven then the dove – When neither return, he knows the earth is restored to the point where it is close to the time to leave the ark. As with all of his tasks, Noah waits on the Lord and does not determine for himself when it is time (**Psalm 37:9 – Wait upon the LORD**) as all is according to God's plan.

Genesis 8:13-14 – Time to get all in order

(13) And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first *month*, the first *day* of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry.

(14) And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried.

Seeing the ground is now dry, Noah takes time to prepare – Removing the covering of the ark allows light and fresh air into the ark, which has a refreshing property, and begins the mindset of leaving.

Preparation is a key step in any process

Just as Noah had to prepare for the flood (**GEN 6:14 – Make thee and ark / GEN 6:19 – Of every living flesh...Shalt thou bring into the ark / GEN 6:21 – Take unto thee all food**), Noah must prepare to leave the ark.

Scripture is filled with inspiration to make preparations, to guide humanity for the next step in God's plan. Some examples include:

Isaiah 40:3 – Preparing for the Christ

(3) The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Over 700 years before Christ, the Lord reached out to guide humanity to get ready for the arrival of the Christ, examine the heart and prepare.

During Christ's arrival (**MATT 11:10 – For this is he, of whom it is written**), John the Baptist is the herald to announce the Messiah according to Isaiah's prophecy.

1 Peter 3:15 – The believer is to be prepared to witness

(15) But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

The believer must be prepared to offer Christ to anyone seeking the truth. When approach, the expectation is that one can describe what one has faith in, and why. If you cannot describe your faith, you may need to consider what exactly you have faith in.

Luke 12:40 – Believers to be prepared for Christ’s return

(40) Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

Just as humanity was advised of the coming Messiah by Isaiah, humanity has been informed that the Lord will return, and Christ’s return will be unexpected (therefore one must ALWAYS be prepared).

(MARK 13:32 – Of that day knoweth no man, no, not the angels, neither the Son, but the Father only)

John 14:2 – The Lord preparing for His children

(2) In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Not only is humanity to prepare, but the Lord has prepared for each and every one of us!

Without preparation the world is in chaos and that is not the characteristic of God (**1 COR 14:33** – For God is not the author of confusion). To aspire to be Christ-like in following the Lord’s example (**JOHN 13:15**), preparation is essential i.e., study (**2 TIM 2:25**), pray (**EPH 6:18**) and align the heart (**JAMES 1:19-22**).

Genesis 8:15-17 – Time to disembark

(15) And God spake unto Noah, saying,

(16) Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee.

(17) Bring forth with thee every living thing that *is* with thee, of all flesh, *both* of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.

The Lord established the moment of action and issued the direction to depart the ark and begin the restoration of the earth with both humanity and animals – To repopulate throughout the earth.

Noah and his family are now free to move about the earth as they see fit. The Lord has removed all barriers.

Genesis 8:18-19 – Obedience

(18) And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him:

(19) Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, *and* whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark.

Upon receiving direction from the Lord, Noah responds in obedience to bring all out of the ark – To begin the process of recovery and start a new life without the challenges of the old world.

When obedient to the Lord, accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, we experience a change (**2 COR 5:17** – A new creature...Old things passed away) where the spiritual obstacles are removed and now one can live on a whole new level where we can have faith in Christ for eternal life (**JOHN 3:16**) and become inspired to live for our Lord (**ROM 6:4** – Walk in newness of life / **ROM 7:6** – Serve in newness of spirit).

Like Noah, it is a new worldly beginning, where the believer has no boundaries or obstacles to spiritual growth, and is free from the confines of the old life.

Next Lesson: Noah – Worship in thankfulness

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Study Questions

1. According to Genesis 8:13, What did Noah do to be able to see the earth?

2. According to Genesis 8:13, When was the face of the ground dry?

3. According to Genesis 8:15-16, how did Noah know it was time to leave the ark?

4. According to Genesis 8:17, what were the animals to do upon leaving the ark?

5. Complete the following scripture:

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy _____ with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of _____.

True / False

Reference

T F God used Isaiah to prophesize of the Christ.

T F The believer does not need to prepare to witness.

T F Only biblical scholars know when Christ will return.

T F Christ has prepared for each believer.

EXTRA CREDIT – In your opinion, do you have newness of life and spirit, and why or why not?
