

Noah – Lesson 7: Worship in Thankfulness

Hebrews 13:16

But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Did we learn our lesson? Study questions from Lesson 6 (The Cruise is Over)

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

Answer: Removed the cover of the ark.

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

Answer: In Noah's 601st year.

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

Answer: And God spake, Go forth (God gave instruction)

4. Complete the following scripture:

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

True / False

True God used Isaiah to prophesy of the Christ (ISA 40:30 – Prepare ye the way of the Lord)

False The believer does not need to prepare to witness (1 PTR 3:15 – Be ready always to give an answer)

False Only biblical scholars know when Christ will return (MARK 13:32 – **The Father only**)

True Christ has prepared for each believer (JOHN 14:2 – **I go to prepare a place for you**)

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

Lesson 7: Worship in Thankfulness

‘Whoever is of little faith is also of little love.’ – Erich Fromm, German-American psychologist (1900-1980)

Erich Fromm, a German Jew in WWII Germany, had a great deal of insight to offer on the topic of love, as he had witnessed both ends of the spectrum – complete love and absolute absence of love in the social evolution of NAZlism. He also noted:

“Love is a decision, it is a judgment, it is a promise. If love were only a feeling, there would be no basis for the promise to love each other forever.”

Many view love as a mystical conditional that has no explanation – one simply loves something or not. From the perspective of preferences, this is true, as an individual's desires are often something that defies definition, such as favorite color, meal, entertainment, and even companionship. Then there is a different kind of love – a love of choice, where one makes a decision to love something or someone, and this is the love of which Mr. Fromm refers to: a love that is not a reaction, but a commitment that endures, and it is representative of the love which God requests of the believer:

I John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

The love that the Lord is seeking is a choice – a decision to seek God, to put God first, and to have a commitment for the Lord (**MATT 22:37** – **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, all thy soul, and all thy mind**). It is only when one decides to love God that God's love is applied to the heart (**JOHN 3:16** – **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life**), and one becomes a child of God (**GAL 3:26** – For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus).

Love of the Lord demonstrates faith, and to quote Mr. Fromm – ‘Whoever is of little faith is also of little love.’

We will see Noah demonstrate his faith and love, as the voyage has concluded and the future awaits.

Where we left off

Genesis 8:18-19 – Obedience to the command of God

(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.

After about a year of turmoil with over a month of torrential rain (**GEN 7:12**), global flooding (**GEN 7:18-20**), and the extinguishing of all life that draws breath (**GEN 7:21-23**), Noah, his family and the animals disembark to fulfill the will of God and replenish the earth (**GEN 8:17**).

Genesis 8:20 – Worship (above and beyond obedience)

(20) And Noah built an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

Up to this point, all that Noah accomplished was at the direction of the Lord, and Noah faithfully executed.

With the direction to release the animals to return to their wild habitats and restore the balance of nature, Noah pauses to take note of a subtle difference in the animals:

Genesis 7:2 – God prepared abundance

(2) Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.

The animals of the field were gathered in pairs. The clean animals are later explained in **LEV 10:10** (holy and unholy....clean and unclean) with direction in **LEV 20:25** (put a difference between clean and unclean). In this definition, God ensured Noah and his family would have sufficient resources to manage their recovery.

With an abundance provided by God, Noah considered all that the Lord had accomplished and how he was selected to be the new representative of God's creation, as Noah's family were chosen to survive. This prompted Noah to demonstrate his love of God in sacrifice – offering of his substance to glorify God.

King David was once in a position where sacrifice was appropriate and he offered this comment:

1 Chronicles 21:24 – Sacrifice = Cost

(24) And king David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take *that* which is thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost.

To offer something that is not yours to give is worse than negligent – it is theft. King David knew that for any sacrifice to have credibility with the Lord, it must be of his to give.

It is important to note that there is more than one kind of sacrifice:

- Sin offering – (LEV 4 – Animal sacrifice) Atonement of sin
- Trespass offering - (LEV 5 – Monetary sacrifice) Atonement for violation of God's law (related to property, often unintentional infractions)
- Grain offering – (LEV 2 – typically wheat / barley sacrifice) Demonstration of appreciation

- Peace offering – (LEV 3 – Animal sacrifice) Restoration of relationship with God
- Burnt offering – (LEV 1 – Animal sacrifice) Expression of devotion

As Noah engaged in the process of releasing the animals, the unclean (those that are wild and not fit for sustenance or sacrifice per the ordinance of God) were released in pairs to return to the wild. The clean (those approved of by God to both sustain and serve as sacrifice) were controlled to ensure they were not hurt or lost, as they were the property of Noah.

It was then that Noah appreciated all the Lord had accomplished in him, and he willingly took out of his substance, and made a decision to offer an expression of love in the form of praise and thanksgiving.

In a way, one could say this was the first Thanksgiving in the history of humanity as Noah dedicated time and effort to offer praise to the Lord.

Genesis 8:21-22 – God reacts to Noah’s love

(21) And the LORD smelled a sweet savor; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake; for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

(22) While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

The Lord responds to Noah’s love – God reaffirms that in spite of the evil of humanity, a special place is reserved in the Lord’s heart for each person, and there will not be a repeat of this judgment upon the earth, and each season is a reminder of God’s enduring mercy.

Note: There is a special relationship of the animal sacrifice to sin:

Hebrews 9:22 – The importance of blood

(22) And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is *no* remission.

Leviticus 17:11 – The relevance of blood

(11) For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul.

It is in this requirement that God willingly sacrificed His only begotten Son, whereby humanity could have remission of sin, and life:

Matthew 26:28 – The new testament in blood

(27) And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

(28) For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

This is the spirit of God’s love that filled Paul to offer guidance to each believer:

Romans 12:1-2 – A fitting sacrifice of love to the Lord

(1) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

(2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Love for the Lord has to be a choice, a decision each heart must make of free will. Once that love is established, it is demonstrated in giving of one's self (**HEB 13:15** – Offer the sacrifice of praise) where there is no malice or hate (**1 COR 13:4-8** – Suffereth long, is kind, envieth not) and represents the true Spirit of God (**JOHN 13:34** – A new command I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another).

Next Lesson: Noah – God's covenant with Noah

Noah – Lesson 7: Worship in Thankfulness

Study Questions

1. According to Genesis 8:20, what did Noah build upon leaving the ark?

2. According to Genesis 8:20, how did Noah demonstrate his commitment to the Lord?

3. According to Genesis 8:21, how did the Lord notice Noah's act?

4. According to Genesis 8:21, what promise did the Lord make to Noah?

05. Complete the following scripture:

Hebrews 13:16 But to do _____ and to _____ forget not: for with such _____ God is well pleased.

True / False

Reference

T F Our love for God is a random emotional reaction

T F Sacrifice comes at a cost.

T F Sin offering is of grains or money.

T F Christ commanded us to love one another.

EXTRA CREDIT – In your opinion, sacrifice part of your testimony, and if so, how?
