



## THE FLOOD PART XII-THE TERMINATION OF THE FLOOD : THE DECREASE OF THE WATERS;

Instead of covering chapter 8 in detail, let me point out that much of what is in this chapter is the antithesis of chapter 7. For example:

*The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained.* (8:2) is the antithesis of *the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.* (7:11b)

*Then God spoke to Noah, saying, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you"* (8:15-16) is the antithesis of *Then the LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household"* (7:1)

Note that the grammar here would indicate that the Lord preceded Noah into the ark and the Lord was the last to leave it.

Some of the chapter is only a general contrast of chapter 7. The blotting out of life is replaced by the newness of life as depicted in the notes to follow.

Some things in chapter 8 have no counterpart in chapter 7. I commented previously on verse 7:16, *and the LORD shut him in.* This showed the eternal security of the believer. Once we make the move to accept God's salvation, no one can take it away, not even us! Now, when you get to chapter 8, there is no notice of the door at all. Why not? God sealed it - it was forever to be closed.

How did Noah and the rest get out of the ark? The only way you and I will get out of our present situation. *and Noah removed the covering of the ark* (8:13). Noah took the TOP off the ark. The only way out was UP. Some day the Lord will take us UP to be with Him. In between our salvation and our home

going, we are kept save by the presence of God in the person of the Holy Spirit.

Instead of the judgement, chapter 8 deals with two birds. The first is the raven:

*'And these you shall regard as an abomination among the birds; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard, . . . every raven after its kind,* Leviticus 11:15

The raven is unclean, yet God takes care of it, - *Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds?* Luke 12:24

*Yes, you are more valuable than the birds! Then there is the dove. It is used as a picture of the Holy Spirit - And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.* John 1:32

*He considers us as doves when He says, "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*

Matthew 10:16

Noah sent the raven out once - it never returned. As an unclean animal (bird) it could eat the carrion that might be found floating upon the waters. The dove, on the other hand, would not. So it returned to Noah as an indication that the environment was not yet "friendly." He sent the dove a second time, returning with an olive leaf. The olive tree and its leaf are symbols of fruitfulness and prosperity (as well as of peace). *Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table.* Psalm 128:3

If you read chapter 8, you will find Noah sent the dove out a third time - why? Again we have the antithesis of Chapter 7. Noah and his family entered the ark seven days before the flood (7:10). Now Noah and his family are to wait seven days after the flood waters were gone. Next week we will complete the flood!

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