



12/5/25

In this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished, I had a bit of a brain freeze. In case you're wondering, the word is "Olympic." If you'd like to listen to the podcast, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Genesis 7:11-8:12

In Genesis 7:4, God told Noah the time had come... in 7 days He would send rain that would last 40 days and 40 nights. Then in Genesis 7:10 it says, "After 7 days the waters of the flood came upon the earth." It was a specific day... Noah was 600 years old. It was the second month, on the 17th day of the month. I see that the rain came, but I also see something else... "the fountains of the great deep burst forth AND the windows of the heavens were opened. Water came from everywhere. I can only imagine how catastrophic that flood was... with explosions of water from everywhere AND a rainstorm that lasted 40 days and 40 nights.

What was happening to Noah during this time? He and his family entered the ark along with all the animals that showed up... just as God said it would be. They entered dry. They remained dry. The Lord Himself shut them in... not to imprison them, but to protect them. When the Lord shuts me in, He is never withholding His goodness from me. He is lavishing His goodness on me.

God has all authority over all creation... So when He tells the waters to cover the earth, the waters cover the earth. When He says to let it last 40 days, it lasts 40 days. God is also a God of mercy and grace. He provided for Noah and his family, and He also brought the time in the storm to an end. I can trust that He does the same for me.

Noah is commended for his faith in Hebrews 11:7 because of his reverent fear of the Lord. He worshiped God. He recognized God's glory and power, and his own weakness in His presence. Noah was a humble man. I see this because he didn't question God's commands... he obeyed them. I so want to be that! To be humble before the Lord, obedient to Him even when what

He's commanding me to do doesn't make sense to me... even when it seems like a cataclysmic storm is brewing. Lord, please help me to trust Your word and not question it.

I think it's really interesting that God never spoke of the righteousness or lack of righteousness of Noah's wife, sons, or daughters-in-law. They were brought safely through the water because they were with Noah. They were, in essence, seen through the lens of Noah's righteousness. In the same way, I will be brought safely through the storms of this life, not based on my own righteousness, but based on the righteousness of Jesus... because I am with Him, redeemed by His blood.

From this passage, I can understand and trust that God is actively involved in His plan and purpose for me. He didn't leave Noah to guess when he should enter the ark. He told him when to go and He sent the waters as soon as Noah and the rest were safely inside. He shut the door. He stopped the water after 40 days and nights like He said He would. He made sure Noah and the rest had the provisions they needed to last all the days they'd be on the ark... close to a YEAR from the time they entered the ark until the time they were able to leave. God "remembered Noah and all the beasts and the livestock that were with him." God made a wind blow over the earth to let the water subside. God closed the fountains of the deep, and He restrained the waters of the heavens... WHO HAS THE POWER TO RESTRAIN THE RAIN????? ONLY GOD HIMSELF!!!

I can only imagine the worship and the hope Noah and his family experienced when he sent the dove out of the ark and the dove came back with a freshly plucked olive branch. Not only did God provide for them while they were on the ark, but He provided for them so that they would leave the ark celebrating the beauty and provision of His creation. Then, when the dove didn't come back after another week of waiting, Noah must have been really excited because he knew he was going to walk on dry ground soon. I wonder what those first steps off the ark were like. Did they kiss the ground? What did the animals do? Did any stick around as pets?

God is so good. He allows us to experience the trials. He provides for us in them. He has a plan of hope as we get through them. He thinks of everything. He has the power to do exactly what He promises He will do. The big question I have to ask myself is, "Will I trust Him?" O Lord, I want the answer to that to be yes. I find myself questioning Your presence, Your involvement, and Your goodness when the storms come. Please help me to trust that You ARE with me, You ARE intimately involved and, just like You only let the waters go for so long, You will limit the storms in my life. You will use them to grow me, not to crush me. You ARE good. Even when things blindsides me, they never blindsides You. I pray that more and more, it will be able to be said of me, "She did ALL that the Lord commanded her." Praise Your name. You do ALL that You promise.