



1/2/26

As I consider the story of Noah and the flood, I see that Noah and his family had to be extremely patient. They were in the ark for over a year! Then I think about Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." PATIENCE! God is always training us to be more patient! And THEN I think about how patient GOD is! He had His plan in place from before the beginning of time. He never gets impatient and jumps the gun. He does everything in His perfect timing. How is He so able to WAIT for His plan to unfold? Because His patience is filled with love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. They all go hand in hand. Patience without love and peace and kindness and all the rest is not patience... it's delayed gratification filled with frustration. God is never frustrated because He is always in control. And His plan is always good.

I will paraphrase a quote I read in a book called IF by Amy Carmichael (she wrote it in the late 1800's), "If (as the prophet Elijah did in 1 Kings 18:41-45 when it had not rained for 3 1/2 YEARS) I cannot trust that rain is coming when God says it will long before the rain actually begins to fall... and if going as near to my God as I can, I don't have enough faith to wait there for Him to answer for as long as it takes until the rain begins to fall, then I know nothing of Calvary love." Noah knew Calvary love. I want to know the kind of love for God that is so willing to wait in full obedience that nothing derails my resolve. I pray this for you and me.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Genesis 8:13-9:7

Noah, his family, and the animals had been in the ark for close to a YEAR. Everything started drying out, and God had him wait another 57 DAYS! Noah was not told when he would be released from the ark, he was only told to wait. And he did.

I imagine when he removed the covering from the ark and felt the sunshine on his face, it must have both excited him and made him crave for that call of God that said he could step onto this new ground that looked so different than anything he had seen in all his 600 years of life.

"In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. Then God said to Noah, 'Go out from the ark.' Oh my goodness! I'm sure that was music to his ears! God told him to take his family and all the birds and animals and creeping things off the ark to never live on it again. The ark had served its purpose, but now it was time to "be fruitful and multiply on the earth." That was God's command. God loves a big family!

What was the first thing Noah did when he and all who were with him left the ark? He worshiped God. He built an altar to YAHWEH who had promised new life and protected him and his family every step of the way. Noah took some of every clean animal and bird and made a burnt offering to the Lord on the altar. I only know of one other animal offering to the Lord at this point in time. It was Abel. Both Abel and Noah had great faith in the Lord, and it showed in their actions. In both cases, God was pleased. It was a sweet aroma to Him.

When the Lord smelled this sweet aroma offered in faith, He said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." God made a promise that He would never wipe out the earth or all the people in it again. Did He say this because now He had a righteous man on the earth and He thought He had wiped out sin? No. He said right there in His promise, "The intention of man's heart is evil from his youth." He knew the purposes of my heart and all hearts ever to be born after Noah would naturally default to sin.

Romans 14:23 says, "For whatever does not proceed from FAITH is sin." This blows my mind. I don't think I have any clue how badly I sin against God on a daily basis... on a minute by minute basis because my motivation even in doing good things is often NOT based in my confidence or commitment to the Lord. God has not made and kept His promise because of any man's goodness, but because of HIS.

Not only did God make this promise for all mankind and the earth, but He blessed Noah and his family and said for the second time, "Be fruitful and multiply" and He added, "and fill the earth." God loves a big family. He loves blessing us. He loves seeing us thrive.

His blessing went farther FOR Noah and his family, and it went farther THAN Noah and his family. He told Noah that he would have authority over every beast and bird and creeping thing and fish. Contrary to what some say, man IS superior to the animals, not because we're awesome, but because God is awesome... and because He made us in His image.

God also expanded their diet... Praise His name! I love vegetables, but I feel that a meal that doesn't include meat is not a meal. Hahaha. Before the flood, everyone was a vegetarian. Now, they could eat meat as well. I wonder if the needs of the body changed with the removal of the expanse that crashed in when God brought the flood.

The only thing God said they couldn't eat was the blood of flesh. I wonder if this is because Jesus would someday pour His blood out for us.

God made it clear that blood is precious and to be protected. The shedding of the blood of man would require a "reckoning" from God. Whether or not our justice system requires payment for taking a life, God absolutely requires it. Why? We are made in His own image.

This is why it's so important that we care for each other and pursue unity in the Spirit with each other. Being made in the image of God is a privilege and a blessing. For me to think I'm superior to anyone else, or to treat them as less than someone made in the likeness of God should be is to rebel against God. Jesus said in Matthew 25:40, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me." God takes how I treat others personally. O Lord, please help me to treat others as YOU deserve.

Finally, God said to Noah for the third time, "Be fruitful and multiply." The first time He just said, "Be fruitful and multiply on the earth." The second time, He added, "and fill the earth." This time He took it a step further and said, "Increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it." God loves a big family. God values life. God wants us to thrive in life.

As I look at this story, I see it's also a picture of the gospel. God wants His church to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and increase greatly and multiply in it... not just for this life, but even more importantly, for the life to come. God wants heaven to be crowded. O Lord, please help me to be faithful to You and worship You with my life. Help me to be faithful to use every opportunity to share the love of Christ with whoever You place in my path. Please help me to trust You when You call me to wait but never use the waiting as an excuse to do nothing. There is still a lot to be done in the waiting. Help me to trust that all promises are Yes and Amen, and all Your promises are good. Let me not forget that the promise You made to Noah thousands of years ago is still being kept today. We still have seed time and harvest, we still have cold and heat, and we still have day and night. Praise Your name.