

## January 8-Genesis 8

One of the lessons we can learn from the flood account in Genesis 6-8 is that our God is incredibly powerful and sovereign. He is the sustainer of life and nothing happens without His consent. It was His plan to flood the earth and it was by His power that Noah was saved to continue the human race. We also see that God is personal and cares for His own. The Bible shows this truth very powerfully in the flood as we reflect on the truth that God was the initiator of the flood and the force that prohibited it from continuing any longer.

Genesis 8:1 tells us that “God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him.” We see in this text a reminder that God is intimately acquainted with the situations of each and every person. Certainly Genesis 6-8 teaches us that God is a God of wrath and justice, but in the account of Noah we also read that He is a God that loves and provides for His own.

This personal God is also responsible for controlling and sustaining the world. In verses 1-2 we see that God in His mercy and power begins the process of drying out the earth by stopping the water falling from the sky and spewing forth from the ground while simultaneously causing a fresh wind to begin to blow to dry out the soaked ground. Our God is Sovereign and He is totally in control.

Today, we would be wise to remember that God is the one who controls the destiny of man and this earth. Many would have us believe that we somehow are in control of our own fate and our environment. We hear politicians and others fret that if we don't change our ways the world that we know will be destroyed. Some say that climate change will cause massive flooding or destructive weather unlike the world has ever seen. Others think we need to explore life on alternate planets with the belief that we will one day outgrow our current home causing massive crisis and food shortage. While it is true that we are to be good stewards of the creation God has given us, we must also remember God's promise in verse 22 “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease.” God is promising humanity that until His final judgment the world will continue as we know it today. There will always be seasons, there will always be food, there will always be day and night, because there will always be God.

God is the one who is the sustainer of life. Interestingly enough, the author of Hebrews shares with us about how God sustains this universe, “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Hebrews 1:3). It is Jesus Christ who upholds the universe that we now enjoy. And He does so in grace and mercy.

Let us rest today in knowing that the God who was intimately aware of Noah's needs and powerful enough to change nature to meet those necessities is the God who shows us grace and mercy by personally saving us and upholding the world we live in until He returns to call us to meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).