

The New Beginning

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Genesis 8:1-22.

B. These stories are history, but they are also fore views of the history that man would experience.

C. The flood is a picture of the new beginning in Christ as well as crisis.

II. The action of God and the reaction of Noah.

A. Activity always begins with God.

B. God thought constantly about Noah and the beasts.

1. God thinks constantly about the church and the world.

2. God remembered the beasts for Noah's sake, and He remembers the world based upon what the church does.

3. The Spirit acts as He wills and pleases.

C. The date of the Ark's grounding is the exact date of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

D. God expects Noah to act just as God expects Christians to respond to Him.

1. The raven was an unclean bird that rested in its journey.

2. The dove was a clean bird that did not rest and brought back the olive branch.

3. Though we are redeemed, there are two natures within us.

a. We must contend with the flesh until we are redeemed from it totally by the resurrection of the body. (Romans 7)

b. The new life is symbolized by the dove waiting for the new world to come.

E. Noah spent his 600th year in the ark, symbolizing the work of man. However, the first day of his seventh century marked his freedom from the ark symbolizing the end of his dependence upon man.

F. The Lord's promise.

1. The first thing that Noah does when leaving the ark is to give thanks to God.

2. To give thanks one must recognize reality as it really is.

3. God delights in man's thanksgiving and praise because it recalls to Him Jesus Christ.
4. One must give over his life to God in order to gain it.
5. Only grace revealed in Christ changes a man. (Jon 14:6)

Application questions:

1. How does the Lord respond to the world based on the church according to the speaker? Do you agree? Explain.

2. How does the flesh challenge you? How does the new life give you provision to handle this?

3. How can you show thanks to God this week differently than you have done before? Be specific.
