

Genesis: Chapter 7:11–8:22

Opening Question: What is the “rest” that the story anticipates and what details does this scene supply about this rest?

Key Takeaways:

1. Repetition of details and events is an important literary device being used in this scene.
2. Noah’s name means “rest” and the story is watching to see if Noah would bring comfort to man from the toil of the curse (Genesis 2:15) as Lamech anticipated in Genesis 5:29.
3. Noah’s “soothing aroma” (Genesis 8:21) brings rest to God’s wrath against man but does not bring rest to mankind from the sorrow of the curses on creation.
4. The LORD will no longer carry out His judgment on the earth, and the story anticipates the one coming on the LORD’s behalf to carry out the LORD’s judgment.
5. The “wind passing over the earth” in Genesis 8:1 is the same language as Genesis 1:2, “the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.”
6. The replay of creation with water covering the earth, dry land appearing, the command to be fruitful and multiply, a garden, God’s representative being naked and ashamed, and the designation of the carrier of the promise being identified make the point that this “recreation” does not bring forth the rest that the story anticipates.
7. “No resting place for the sole of her foot” (Genesis 8:9) will be repeated of the nation of Israel later in the story.

Discussion Questions:

1. Reread together Genesis 1 and 2 and Genesis 7:10–8:22 and discuss the similarities and repeated details in these chapters. What is the storyteller telling the audience with these details?
2. Reread together Genesis 2:15;3:17–19;5:28–29 and Genesis 8:20–22 and discuss the “rest” that the story is looking for and how Genesis 8:20–22 answers the question of Noah delivering this rest.

Practical Application:

1. Reread Genesis 1:1 to Genesis 8:22 and identify the single setting, single plot, and single resolution the story is looking for. Retell the story to this point.
2. Does recognizing the Bible as a single story prevent you from stopping to look for principles that apply to your life? Why, or why not? Does looking for the literary elements of narrative literature aid you in understanding the story and recognizing the details the author intentionally chooses to include in the telling of the biblical story?
3. How does reading the Bible as a continuous story, like watching a movie with unfolding scenes, aid your understanding of the Bible, where the point of each scene is made at the scene's end and not necessarily at the chapter break?

Closing Prayer:

Father, Thank You for the details of the Bible that all fit together to tell one unified and compelling story of Your work to bring about Your desire for Your creation. May we learn to read Your Word well to understand what You have revealed about Your plan of redemption through the one true image-bearer, Your Son, Jesus. Amen.