

All right. If you guys want to get out your Bibles, we're going to make our way to Genesis chapter 8. As we baby step through Genesis. As you guys are making your way, there, let me remind you that if you need the slides and you can't see them up here, then you can go to the church app. And on the Wednesday nights you can click that. And all of the teaching slides will be there. If you want to follow along or access them later. You guys are making your way to Genesis chapter 8. Then Genesis six is a new section and it describes a world so sin saturated only three chapters after the fall of man, that God determines to destroy it. The picture that's painted couldn't be much more bleak. And yet then we find the eighth verse God intervenes. It says, But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. God sees Noah, and Noah found God's grace. God tells Noah to make yourself an ark because he's going to bring flood on the earth. In fact, it's going to rain for 40 days and for 40 nights. How? You know what one raindrop said to the other two's company? Three's a cloud. Well, it was more than that. It was cataclysmic. And the Ark is to be the ship of salvation for Noah and his family. Once inside the Ark, Noah and his family were safe from the floodwaters of judgment. And it rained for 40 days and 40 nights, and the windows of heaven were opened and the fountains of the great deep were broken up. And the flood waters. Actually, we learned at the end of our last study in chapter seven, verse 24, prevailed on the earth 150 days. So the waters continued to rise and then remained at their peak flood stage level for 150 days. From the start of the flood, and it made me think, as I have here for you, that that's a long time to be shut in. It says in chapter 7, verse 16 that once Noah entered the ark, the Lord shut him in. Probably because Noah couldn't have stood it if he were to have his own door handle to get out. But it also made me think that sometimes being in God's will and experiencing his salvation involves being shut in. In situations that weren't of my choosing necessarily, I inherited situations that God has shut me into, and yet, while lots of times I go inwardly and sometimes outwardly kicking and screaming, the shut in was the vehicle for God's salvation in Noah's life. And so many times in our lives, he puts us in a place where we can actually be saved as he's got us hemmed in. Well, they're in there for 150 days, and then verse 8, chapter 1, God remembered Noah, I want to stop there just for a second, because when the Bible says that God remembered Noah, it doesn't mean that God had temporarily forgotten Noah. He didn't forget Noah and his family and the animals on the ark during the flood. The word in the Hebrew here actually means, as I have here for you. remembering in the sense that God now moves towards Noah and his family, or movement towards an object by God. So when I'm bobbing around, you might say, trapped in an ark of God's making, or one that he's called me to make, maybe God remembers me and he will eventually, much to my chagrin. Normally in his time, that's not my time. He will move towards me. He will remember me actively getting involved where I can see him moving in my situation, he's always there. I just can't always see it or recognize it. So then after 150 days, God remembered Noah and every living thing and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. So God made this wind to pass over the earth, and begin to dissipate. The waters. Now the word wind in Hebrew is ruach, and the word can be actually translated and is in our English Bibles, wind or spirit or breath. So in Genesis one one, the spirit of the Lord. there in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and the spirit of the Lord was hovering, over the face of the deep. And that's the ruach of the Lord. The spirit was hovering there in Genesis chapter 2, and the seventh verse, God forms man and he breathed the breath of life into man. And then in Genesis eight, when we get here, it's translated wind, the wind, the spirit, the breath of God blew. And began to dry up the water. Now when you get to the New Testament, the Greek word for wind is actually pneuma. And it's the same way it can be translated wind or

breath or spirit. And so in John chapter 14, as Jesus is explaining to the disciples that he's got to go away, they're uncomfortable about this whole thing, and he's trying to ease their discomfort. He says in verse 16 of John 14, and I will pray the father, and he will give you another helper, that he may abide with you forever. And that is the spirit, the pneuma of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he dwells with you, and he will be in you. God's spirit, the pneuma in John chapter 20, not too many days later, is Jesus has been crucified and he's now resurrected. He finds ten disciples hiding in a room out of fear. He appears to them and says, peace be with you. And then it says that he breathed on them. That's the word pneuma, and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit. And so they now are reborn spiritually. And then, of course, it's second Corinthians chapter 3, verse 6 that says, the spirit or the pneuma is the one who gives life. And so here we see the third person of the Trinity at work in creating the heavens and the earth, in creating man. And then as mankind has been judged in breathing new life onto the earth by blowing. You might say the judgment away, the wind of God's Spirit drying up the flood waters. So verse 2, the fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained, and the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of 150 days, the waters decreased, and then the ark rested, and the seventh month, the 17th day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat and the waters decreased continually until the 10th month. And in the 10th month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen, and so the fount of the deep, the windows of heaven. As we mentioned, the the rain from heaven was stopped. The wind began to blow. The Spirit of God began to blow, and the waters began to recede, and the ark eventually rests on the mountains of Ararat. This is in modern day Turkey. It's about 17,000ft high. These mountains at their peak. And so they're the ark stopped bobbing around and rested. I would like to point out to you, as I have a note here for you, that the Ark, as we've talked about in detail in previous studies, is a type of salvation. And here, having performed its purpose, it rests from its labors or its mission, just as in Genesis chapter 2, verse 2, when God had finished his labors in six days and creating the earth on the seventh day, he rested. And in John chapter 19, verse 30, as Jesus hung on the cross, he cried out, it is finished! And then he blew out his last breath, or pneuma. He gave up his spirit. And the Bible tells us in Hebrews that having died, he was in the ground three days, and he rose again, and having been resurrected, he sits at the right hand of the father, and that position of sitting indicates rest. So the ark is a type of salvation in so many ways. And so as the ark comes to rest on this highest spot, the waters decrease increasingly until the mountain tops start to be seen. So it came to pass. Verse six says, at the end of 40 days, that is 40 days from the ark coming to rest, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. And then he sent out a raven which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. He also sent out a dove to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground, but the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned in into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand, and he took her, and he drew her into the ark himself. He waited another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark, and then the dove came to him in the evening. And behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth. And Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. So verse 12, he waited yet another seven days and sent the dove out, which did not return again to him anymore. So Noah sends out a raven. Once the ark comes to rest, waiting for the waters to recede, and he sends out this raven, and it kept going. Never came back. Now a raven is a dirty bird. It's unclean. By the way, most birds in the Bible are dirty birds. When you read about birds in the Bible, most birds don't get a good wrap. And ravens are one of these. So unclean by the

law, which is not yet been established, but also wild, untamed, that Raven wanted to get out of there and not return. It's like the cats at my house. These cats lay in wait for the door, and I opened the door and these suckers shoot out from between my legs into our neighborhood. And my neighbor hates the cats. And so as soon as they shoot out my blood pressure rises because he's going to come over and say something to me like, I'm a nice guy and I love animals. Like the next guy. But I'm afraid that cat ear is gonna eat my birds. I saw it near the birdbath, so when the cats shoot out from underneath, my feet immediately ruins my whole evening, sets my countenance in a bad place, sucks the Jesus right out of me. Three headed Jesus sucker. That cat. So to the raven, the raven's gone. And it didn't return. Not just because it was a wild thing, but it didn't return because it could float on and feast on the rotting carcasses of dead creatures. And so it just found itself something nasty to land upon. And it it just stayed gone. At the same time, he set out a dove, and when he sent the dove out, as you know, it returned the dove returned for a few reasons. It's a clean animal, but it's also considered more domesticated. It probably liked the company in the safety of the Ark, but really, she returned because she wasn't going to have anything to do with the rotting corpses. And so she found no refuge. So seven days later, Noah sends out the dove a second time, and this time the dove returns with the plucked olive branch. And so there's all this imagery here that we could unpack further if we had more time, but suffice it to say is I have here for you the dove and the olive branch are both symbols of the Holy Spirit and symbols of peace. So what this says is that as the spirit is drying the land, then what we have is the spirit. Now indicating that there's been peace made with God, and he's getting ready to start afresh, as the spirit is always the one who gives life. So that being said, then Noah waits another seven days and he sent the dove out. He knew that the waters had receded to such a place that they're now trees growing. And so he sends the dove out, and the dove doesn't come back to him anymore. And verse 13 says, it came to pass in the 601st year, in the first month, the first day of the month that the waters were dried up from the earth, and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked and indeed the surface of the ground was dry. And in the second month, on the 27th day of the month, the earth was dried. Now stop here. I'm not going to have you raise your hand or shout out, but let me pose a question to you before I give you the answer. So you just like Jesus, I'm going to give you a question, but I'm going to give you the answer to the question. I'm not going to answer the question with the question, how many days was Noah and his family? How many days were they on the ark? The answer? 371 days. They were shut up in this ark. Little over a year. So they entered the ark on the 17th day of the second month of Noah's 600th year. That same day the rains began, lasting 40 days and 40 nights. After they'd been there, the waters continued to rise and stayed at their peak. As we mentioned, for 150 days. Then the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. On the 17th day of the seventh month, and by the 27th day of the second month of Noah's 601st year, the earth was completely dry. So 371 days in the ark, and then it says, verse 15, God spoke to Noah, saying, go out of the ark. You and your wife and your sons, and your sons wives with you, and bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you, the birds and the cattle, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth so that they may abound on the earth and be fruitful and multiply. So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons wives with him, every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth according to their families, went out of the ark. And so now the Lord tells Noah to go out. Verse 15, go out of the ark. 371 days earlier, God said to him, go in to the ark. And then God shut him in 371 days. Now go out. And so when you think about this, I was thinking about the order here, and it made me consider how in the Bible for the the follower of God go out is always preceded by go in, especially when it pertains to a situation that is

difficult, a tribulation time a testing and the New Testament verse that most highlights what God does in testing is Romans chapter 5. And I'll start reading at verse 1 and read down to verse 5. Therefore, having been justified by faith, Paul writes, we have peace with God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in the hope of glory. And that is the glory of God. And not only that, but we glory. He says also in tribulations, knowing that this tribulation produces perseverance or patience and perseverance or patience produces character, and character produces hope. Now verse 5, hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who was given to us. And so here Noah experiences Romans chapter 5, verses 3 through five. Noah had to go in and get shut in to this ark that he built to survive the tribulation, that God caused, that God allowed. And there are times in our life where God allows tribulation, and then he says, look, this is the way you're going to survive it. You've got to step into it. And I'm actually going to shut you into this season. Well, Noah then gets through this season through patience or perseverance. Noah had the patience to stay put in the ark, you might say, until God had said, go out. And this results in salvation. Now, one sense you might say, well, I thought you said, God shut him in. That is true. So he couldn't get out. As he was bobbing around on the waters and surviving the actual flood. But I'll tell you this, if I'm Noah and I cracked the window open and let a dove out, I'm climbing out that sucker. I mean, can you imagine? Put yourself. I don't know if you like. I have a little seasonal depression. This has to be the worst case of seasonal depression anybody could have ever had. I mean, raining for 40 days and 40 nights stuck in this thing. Imagine the smells. Imagine the claustrophobia. I mean, this is not the Love Boat, folks. This is jam packed full of animals and everybody on top of one another. And so here, Noah, he had patience. He stayed put. In fact, he stayed put while he's sending out the dove. And then he's sending out the dove again in seven days. And then he's sending out the dove. Dove again in seven more days. As soon as that sucker came back with the plucked olive branch, I'd have been gone. So the patience of Noah and what that patience did, it produced in Noah a character. Because we're going to see that that Noah is going to be a worshiper. Before Noah was a preacher of righteousness, Noah was obedient. We talked about that. That's what characterizes his life. He obviously had some influence, at least on his own family. But something happens when he gets off the ark, as we're going to see he's going to become a worshiper. What this tribulation had done is just what Romans five says it. It produced in him this patience. And we've told you before that patience and long suffering are different. I am required to have patience. Those who endure are the ones who attain heaven, long suffering is having patience and a good attitude. But God is so gracious. He doesn't require of us long suffering. We should have long suffering as we grow, but it doesn't require long suffering to get to heaven. It requires patience, perseverance, endurance. And that means he can shut me in and I don't even have to like it. And if he gives me an opportunity, I can be like the son who said, I'm not going. But then he did. God said, which of the sons did the right thing? It was the one who said he wouldn't go, but he did go. He did the right thing. Even with a bad attitude. It doesn't excuse our bad attitude. It just what it does is emphasizes the grace of the Lord. And so what happened is Noah was shut in and then he chose to stay in, that there was this character produced in Noah, and he becomes a worshiper. And the character then produced hope. God's always trying to produce in us character. I will take a shortcut, because there's a lot of things in my life I want more than character, but God knows that. So I'll be ready for heaven. I need character because character is what produces hope, and hope will never disappoint. Hope deferred makes the heart grow sick as what Psalms or Proverbs says. It makes the heart very sick. And so what

happens is God shapes my character through tribulation and perseverance. What he does is he produces in me hope, which brings new life. That's what Noah has when he walks off this boat, new life. And the command here as it's going to be stated in the next chapter, is a redo from Genesis, where Adam and Eve are commanded to be fruitful and multiply. Now, as they get off the ark, here's the command again be fruitful and multiply. And I like this about Noah. That as he's obedient to God. We talked about this before. He led all of those who are going to be saved into the ark. And now being obedient to stay in the ark and be patient there and have his character shaped there. And the hope then produced in his life. He gets to be the first one to lead them all out into new life. And God does that too. When we actually let him do his work in our life as we experience hope, we lead others into that hope. We leave a pathway for them to follow. So I love that section. Go. Go out of the ark. Verse 20. It goes on to say about Noah that he built an altar, then to the Lord, and he took of every clean animal and every clean bird, and he offered burnt offerings on the altar, and the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. And then the Lord said in his heart, I will never again curse the ground for man's sake. Although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth, nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done so while the earth remains seed time and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer and day and night shall not cease. Noah gets off the ark, and it is the first thing he does is to build an altar. I have here for you. This is not actually very practical. If everything has been destroyed and you and the other seven people with you are in charge of reestablishing and repopulating and rebuilding the earth, there is a lot to be done. I'm sure that he was thinking about while he was on that ark. What would need to be done to get started again? I can't even put myself in his situation. It would also seem a little odd to build an altar and make sacrifice, because every animal would seem necessary for repopulation. You know that he did give them seven of each clean animal for sacrifice, but every animal, I'm sure, would seem necessary. I'd think, you know what? If there was some kind of some kind of crazy disease run through the deal, I'd be thinking that way. So it was an act of faith because he had to put aside the things that needed to be done, and probably go against his natural instincts. And yet I was thinking, as I have here for you, what's the first thing I do when God delivers me from trouble or a season that was difficult? Do I work or do I worship? Do I go right to the next thing, or do I stop and build an altar? You might say, and thank the Lord and worship. Am I pragmatic or do I praise? Am I thinking about all the chess pieces and where they need to go, and how this thing might result in this thing? Or do I praise? And I'd say the answer is yes. Yes, unfortunately. And yet here this is what he does. And you're going to find that the greats in Scripture are prone to worship before they work. Abraham is known for living in tents and building altars. I could go on. We're about out of time. So here's what happens. He first thing he does builds an altar, and then he offers a burnt offering of one of every kind of clean animal that he has on the on the ark, both land animal and bird. And I can imagine there could have been hundreds or maybe thousands of these. And so this is a painstaking undertaking, which also leads me to say what I have here for you is a sacrificial worship. Is the proof of a changed heart. It's the proof that God has instilled hope in us. It's a proof that God is doing a deep work in our life that wasn't there before. It's a sacrificial worship experience that proves that God is up to something big. And I think of David, I have both scriptures from this story. When he wanted to buy the threshing floor from Aruna, Aruna said, no man, you just take this threshing floor. You're the king. You can have it. That's the place where the temple would later be built. And David said, I will not give to the Lord that which cost me nothing. Sacrificial worship is proof of someone that's been experiencing the Lord in a deep way. And so sacrificial worship is always the sign, as I have here for you of an altered life. You might say, for a play on

words goes on to tell us that as Noah sacrificed as I mentioned here, Noah's sacrifice, this costly sacrifice, it pleased God. It says here that the Lord smelled it, and it was a soothing aroma. And so what happens is God saw the sacrifice and it made his heart glad. You know that in Revelation we get this picture of the prayers of the saints being at as an altar of incense held before the throne of the Lord. They go up before him in the same manner, a soothing aroma to the Lord. But here, in response to Noah's costly sacrifice, God promises to never again curse the ground or destroy every living thing for the sake of man's evil heart, which leads me to say, look, man's heart is the same after the flood as it was before the flood. Man's heart is evil. It says here from his youth. And so God makes a promise. He says, look, in response to this sacrificial worship, I want you to know there's going to be seasons now, which there weren't before the flood. Presumably, and they're going to continue night and day. The fact that it's chilly right now proves that God's not going to destroy the earth until there's a new heaven and a new earth. The fact that we're entering into new season, he says, I want to put these rhythms in life so that you'll know when you experience them that I'm not going to destroy the Earth until I create a new one. At the end of time. But man's heart hasn't changed. It's just that the Lord is going to act in a different way based upon this sacrifice. Man's heart still sinful man is born with an inherited sin nature. David said in Psalm 51 verse 5, I was conceived in sin, not that his mother was in sin. When she conceived him, but that he was born with a sin. Nature, that he was broken from the beginning. And this didn't change after the flood. It's just that this sacrifice presents a turning point, because now, as Noah sacrifices, it points towards it, prefigures the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. And so God's long suffering and his graciousness is seen in response to Noah's building an altar and sacrificing to God as his first act. Now, when I look at this story, there's a lot of things that we could dial down on, but I love the fact that Noah's story getting off of the Ark, you might say, illustrates the life of a believer in that Noah showed the believers freedom. He leaves the ark and he starts a new life, that he gets to go out into something new. It's not going to be perfect, but it's going to be new. Noah showed the believers faith in that. The first thing he did was, as we just mentioned, sacrifice. There's all kinds of things he could have done. Faith doesn't make any sense to the world. Faith is foolish. The wisdom of the cross is foolishness. And so God uses those of us with faith. Us foolish ones, to confound the wise is what Corinthians tells us. Noah showed the believer's heart also by his sacrifice. In the sacrifice there's faith taking some of the animals, not doing the work that maybe needed done. He chose that one good part, like Mary. But then he also showed the believer's heart in that the first thing he desired to do, the preeminent thing that he wanted to engage in, was sacrifice. Altar building. And then Noah showed the believers mercy. When we consider the sacrifice again, we see the mercy of God. That's found in a new way. After the flood, he's doing a new thing that he's going to be marching directly towards the cross through Noah and his family. And then, as we mentioned, Noah showed the believer's sanctification. You might say, how truly tribulation does produce patience, and patience produces character, and character produces hope. That doesn't disappoint. As Noah endured through the trial. And I think it shows the two sides of God's sovereignty and man's free will. Part of the time Noah was shut in and part of the time he stayed in, and so to God allows us the same opportunities. And so then Noah, his story shows how God's love covers a multitude of sins where sin abounds, grace abounds much more. Also. Heavenly father, we thank you so much for the story of Noah and the ark, and we thank you so much for. How you let us get a glimpse into these things and and ponder a few things and see a few things. But how how the gospel is so embedded in every page of your word. And thank you for allowing us to see it. Lord, I pray that you would give us increased faith. Give us the ability

to embrace even as Romans says, joy in tribulation because of what is produced. If we submit ourselves to it. And so we pray that we would become transformed into your image in Jesus name, Amen. Did you guys stand?