

Genesis 8: God Remembers

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The Flood began in the 600th year of Noah's life, in the 2nd month on the 17th day. (Gen 7:11)

Noah left the ark in the 601st year of his life, in the 2nd month on the 27th day. (Gen 8:14)

Chapter 8 starts at what point after the Flood begins? In what sense does God "remember" Noah? (8:1)

God made a wind (*ruwach*) blow over the earth. This is the same Hebrew word used in Genesis 1:2 and translated Spirit.

Recall that Noah's name (*Noach*) means rest. (Gen 5:29)

As the floodwater subsides, the ark comes to rest (*nuwach*) on the mountains of Ararat. (Gen 8:4)

The Hebrew word for ark (*tebah*) means box. It is used of Noah's ark as well as the smaller version used by Moses. (Ex 2:3)

The Hebrew word used for the ark of the covenant (*arown*) is also used to refer to Joseph's coffin. (Gen 50:26)

If the ark was just a big box, there was no means for steering or propulsion. After five months adrift, it just happened to run aground on perhaps the highest point on earth. While not stated explicitly, this historical detail points to God's miraculous intervention.

After a year of silence, God speaks. (Gen 8:16)

God is pleased with Noah's burnt offerings and makes what promise? (Gen 8:21-22)

What has changed about man's basic disposition after the Flood? (Gen 8:21)

Flood Chronology

- windows of heaven and fountains of the deep burst open (2nd month, 17th day) (7:11)
- rained 40 days and nights (7:12)
- flood "continued" 40 days (7:17)
- waters "prevailed" 150 days (7:24)
- waters subsided (8:2)
- rain restrained and fountains closed (8:2)
- waters receded (8:3)
- after 150 days waters had abated and ark ran aground (17th day, 7th month) (8:3-4)
- waters continued to abate (8:5)
- mountaintops became visible (1st day, 10th month) (8:5)
- Noah waited 40 days, sent out a raven (10th day, 11th month) (8:7)
- Noah waited 7 days, sent out a dove (she returned to the ark) (17th day, 11th month) (8:8)
- Noah waited 7 days, sent the dove again (brought back olive branch) (24th day, 11th month) (8:10)
- Noah waited 7 days, sent the dove again (did not return) (1st day, 12th month) (8:12)
- Cover of the ark removed after the ground was dry (1st day, 1st month) (8:13)
- God instructed Noah to come out (27th day, 2nd month) (8:14)

How do localized floods provide evidence in support of the Noahic flood?

Genesis 8 covers a period of about 331 days.