

Genesis 8:20

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

I think we all know the story of Noah and the ark; and we are less than a week away from the New Year, and many will be reading this very story in a week or two as you start a new bible reading plan of reading through the bible in 2025.

Now when we read the story of Noah and the ark, what are some things we think about? Some may say the animals were brought into the ark two by two. Some will think of the building of this massive boat to house all the animals, and some think of how it rained for forty days and nights, flooding the entire earth. And when we think of that, we only think that it was all a forty-day ordeal. But as you are reading the story in Genesis, starting in chapter seven where God tells Noah that it's time for him and his family as well as all the animals to enter the ark. Then we read of how:

† ***Genesis 7:17-19 Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered.***

But once we read the forty-day account, we find out that Noah, his family and the animals were in the ark for a year. And as we read, we read of different time frames throughout the year. But let's focus on the end where it says that.

† ***Genesis 8:13-14 And it came to pass in the six hundred and first 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 twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.***

So, here we read that after a year that the rain had stopped, and "***Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry.***" with the key word being that Noah "***looked***", which also means that Noah remained in the ark for almost two more months. Then after that two-month period, it says that:

† ***Genesis 8:15 Then God spoke to Noah, saying,***

Reading that, I read one word, which is not mentioned here but is implied; and that is the word "***wait***". Noah did not jump the gun and remove the cover of the ark and say to everyone at that

time, “All right, I am done with this ark and all these animals. I did what God wanted, so everyone get off the boat.” No, Noah “waited” for the Lord to tell him when it was time for him, his family and all the animals to leave the ark, and we read that in:

† **Genesis 8:15-16** *Then God spoke to Noah, saying, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you.*

So, Noah waited and the results of that waiting we read in verse 20.

† **Genesis 8:20** *Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.*

Today we would call it worshipping the Lord, which is what Noah was doing. But what if Noah had left the ark two months earlier, when read that he removed the cover of the ark? Would Noah had still worshipped God? Or would he had worshipped God the same way, with all his heart? I don't think so. But the result of Noah waiting was worship!

Stop and think about that for a moment. How many times has God given us things to do or has told us to wait, and in our impatience we jump the gun and stop waiting too early or even think, “I am done with what God has called me to do.” Yet God has not told us that we are done, or that it's time to stop waiting. And when we do, the results are usually that we fall flat on our faces and mess up God's perfect timing and plan for us. But, on the other hand, how many times have we waited until God says that it's okay, now it's time, and the results are that we worshipped God for what He has done for us, and through us.

2025 is around the corner and we have all these new plans for the coming year of what we want to accomplish. We think things will be great, because 2024 was not all that great with the things we saw happen in 2024 in our own lives, and throughout the world.

Our plans may be good... but let me encourage us all to “*wait on the Lord*”, because when we do, the results will be us worshipping the Lord. If we don't wait, the result is we will be on our knees and faces, calling out to God to fix what we messed up because we didn't wait on Him. Which do you want to happen in 2025? For me, I choose to worship the Lord by waiting on Him! What about you?

† **Psalm 27:14** *Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!*

† **Joshua 24:15** *And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*