

A serene sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon and its light reflecting on the water. The sky is filled with soft, golden light, and the foreground is framed by dark silhouettes of trees and rocks.

A New Day Dawning

Genesis 8

Genesis 8

¹Then 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.

² The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. ³ And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased.



⁴ Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat.

⁵ And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

150 days after the Flood came upon the earth the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.



God remembered ...



Noah in ark for 150 days.

No control: neither to propel nor steer it.

**Saw nothing but water,
nor whether level increasing or decreasing.**

¹Then God remembered Noah,...

**When God remembers → He is about to focus
His action on the object of His remembrance.**

Noah did not have to do anything to move God.

God remembered ...



**God's memory does not work
in response to our attempts to prod it.
It works in accordance with His own character
and purposes.**

**God calls us to trust in Him, in His character,
in His faithfulness to His promises and purposes.**

God remembered ...

What did God do then?



God caused his *ruah* to pass over the earth.

***ruah* = wind = Spirit (also Gen 1:1)**

Result: the waters subside

**Not because nature has run its course,
nor because enough time has passed.**

**They subsided specifically because God caused
His Spirit-wind to pass over the waters.**

God remembered ...



**Nothing that we can do for God to remember us.
Not because right sacrifices or prayers offered.**

**He has placed us into Christ.
He caused His Spirit to pass over us,
giving us life, made us His children.**

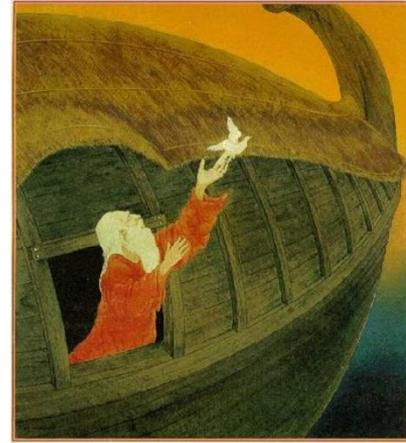
**Our Father will never forget us.
Let us remember that
God remembers us always.**



⁶ So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. ⁷ Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth.

Noah sends the birds ...

After 40 days, Noah sent a raven out.



Raven –

largest of the crow family.
Opportunistic scavengers,
carrion birds.

Raven didn't return – feeding on the carcasses.

Raven = death still reigned on earth
– except for those in the ark

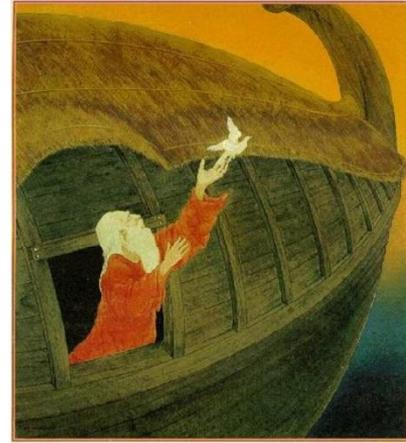


⁸ He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground.

⁹ But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself.

Noah sends the birds ...

Dove: clean; ok for sacrifice to God.
Dove flew to and fro over the waters
but found nowhere to perch.



Raven happy perching on the dead bodies;
dove would not be contaminated by death.

Dove found no *manoah* (resting place) for
sole of her feet and returned to Noah (rest).

Noah sends the birds ...

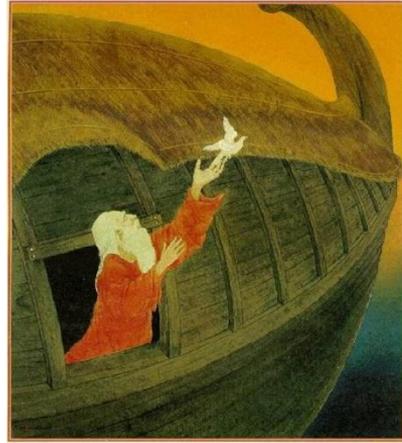
raven → death; **dove** → life

Outside the ark: death and destruction

The ark had found its resting place on the mountains of Ararat.

But no any resting place outside the ark for living creatures.

Life still confined to inside ark.





*¹⁰ And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark.
¹¹ 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.
¹² So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.*

Noah sends the birds ...

2nd time:

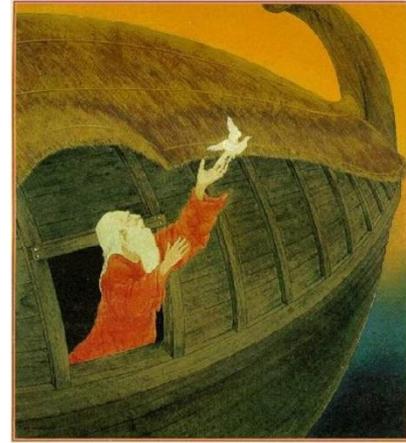
dove returned with olive leaf.

Noah: knew the waters had receded.

**Olive leaf: life had returned to the
devastated earth outside the ark.**

**Vegetation had returned; earth was
once again habitable, ready for life.**

**The olive branch has been symbolic
of life and peace ever since.**



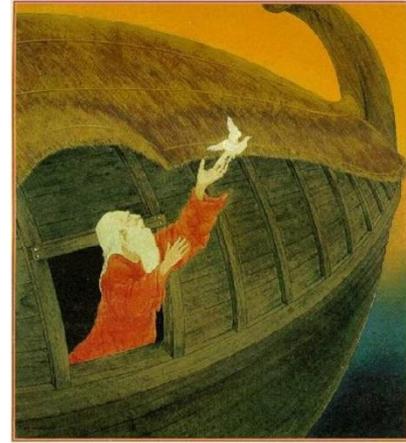
Noah sends the birds ...

3rd time: dove did not return

**Dove found a resting place
for the sole of her foot.**

**Dove led the way in the re-inhabitation
of earth; an earth scrubbed clean.**

**Raven: heard no more, duty done.
Herald of death replaced by herald of life.**





13 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.

14 And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.

A New beginning

Dove: shown the earth fit for life.

Noah: removed covering of ark.

Behold, the surface of the ground was dry.

Date: 27th day 2nd month

- 6 months, 10 days after ark rested on Ararat.**
- 1 year, 10 days after the start of the Flood.**

The Flood was over. Death was over.

A New Day for life has begun.





15 Then God spoke to Noah, saying,

16 “Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you.

17 Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.”



*18 So Noah went out, and his sons
and his wife and his sons' wives with him.
19 Every animal, every creeping thing, every
bird, and whatever creeps on the earth,
according to their families, went out of the ark.*

A New beginning

The Lord commanded Noah to disembark just as He commanded him to enter the ark.

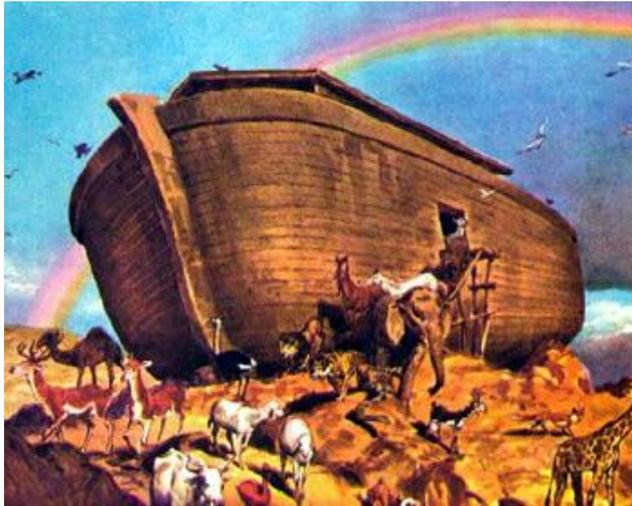
Noah always acted in response to God's word.

He doesn't speak; he listens and acts!



A New beginning

The ark had served its purpose:
kept life alive through the flood.



Life ready to re-inhabit the earth.
Noah was to bring the animals
out of the ark so that they would
be fruitful and multiply.
It's a new creation all over again!

A New beginning

Raven's flight:

death still ruled upon the earth.

Life confined to the ark; not God's purpose that life be kept alive only in this box.

1st : found no resting place; returned.

Dove's Flights **2nd**: brought back token of life-
freshly plucked olive leaf.

3rd: found resting place outside the ark.

Dove's 3 flights document the return of life to the earth, the triumph of life over death.



A New beginning

Baptized into Jesus: baptized into His death, buried, then raised with Him into new life (Rom 6:1-14).

**Yes, kept safe in Christ our ark,
but beyond that refuge: new life.**

**Died to the old nature, now risen to new life.
Repopulating earth with people with new life
- be fruitful and multiply and fill it.**





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.

21 And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. 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.

Noah's burnt offerings



Noah offered up the “clean” animals as the 1st burnt offerings ever.

Burnt offering : *'olah* – something that goes up; entirety of sacrifice goes up to the Lord.

Why burnt offerings? Noah understood that animal had to die in his place, and that it had to be wholly given over to the Lord.

God's response to burnt offerings

Smell: most powerful of our 5 senses, a rather individual matter; we respond differently and with different intensity.



**The Lord smelled Noah's sacrifice as it ascended.
His response: a pleasing aroma.**



God's response to burnt offerings

A choice: God could have interpreted it as a stench or soothing.

“A smell that puts at rest.”

Noah's sacrifice puts the Lord at rest (*nuah*).

In accepting the burnt offering as a pleasing aroma, God was also accepting the one making the offering.

He was pleased with both.



God's response to burnt offerings



2nd response: internal resolution:

*Never again will I curse the ground
because of human beings,
And never again will I destroy all living
creatures, as I have done.*

Line 1: *I will not curse the ground any further.*

The Lord was promising not to intensify the curse.

Line 2: **God placed upon Himself a limitation
never again destroy all life.**

God's response to burnt offerings

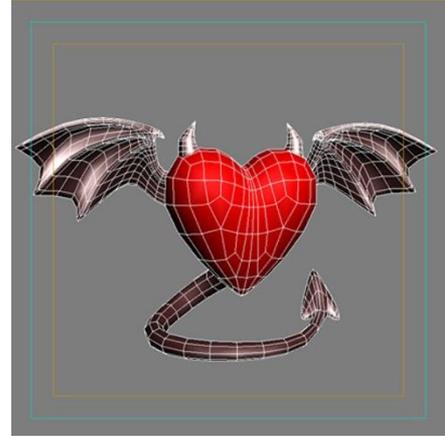
*22 "While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
Cold and heat, Winter and summer,
And day and night Shall not cease."*

**His promise: the cycles in the world will not stop.
He will later confirm this promise to Noah
by placing his rainbow in the sky.**



God's response to burnt offerings

although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth



**Problem of the evil human heart is still there,
but God won't address it with periodic floods.
There's a far better way.**

God's response to burnt offerings

God solved this in two stages, both of which involve a fragrant aroma.

a) He has accepted another sacrifice as a fragrant aroma:

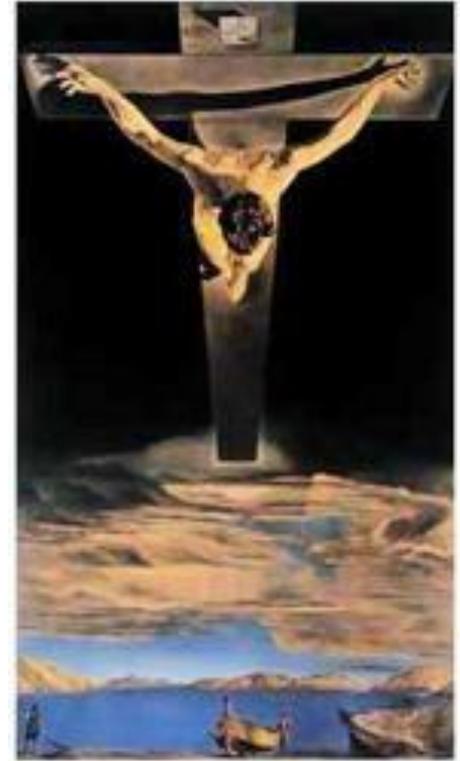
as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. (Eph 5:2)



God's response to burnt offerings

**God accepted his Son's sacrifice.
This put Him at rest in a far deeper
way than Noah's burnt offerings.
It puts Him at rest once and for all,
no further sacrifice needed.**

**God was pleased to accept
Jesus and His offering.
When we are in Him
we are accepted too.**

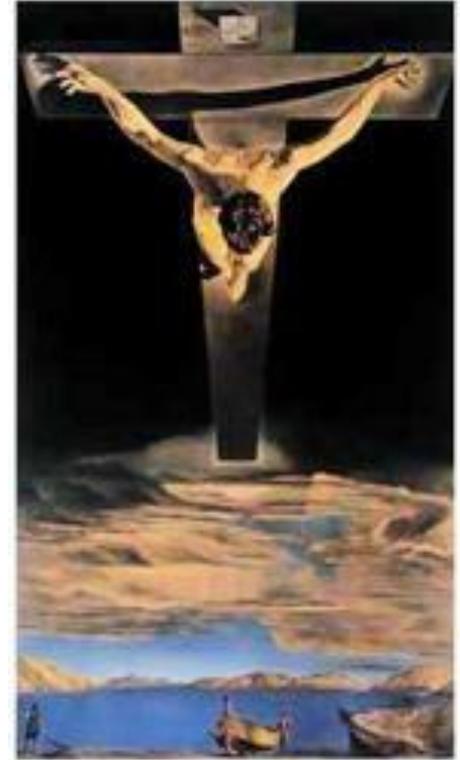


God's response to burnt offerings

The aroma of Christ's sacrifice puts God at rest.

But how will others know that Christ has done it all?

b) God causes Jesus' fragrant aroma to flow through us so that we become to Him the pleasing aroma of Christ to others.

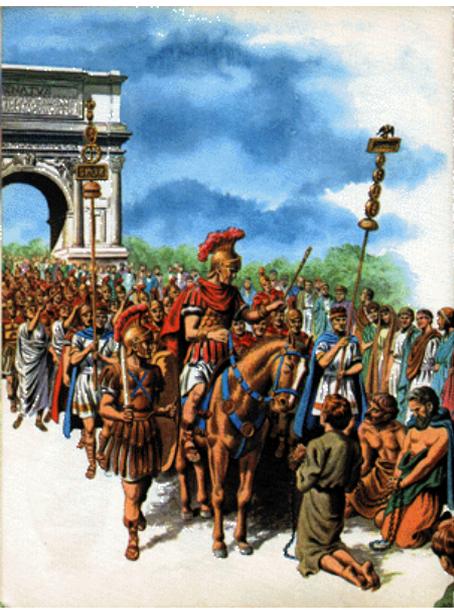


2 Cor 2:14-16 ¹⁴ Now thanks be to God who always *leads us in triumph* in Christ, and through us *diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge* in every place.

¹⁵ For *we are to God the fragrance of Christ* among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

¹⁶ *To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life.*





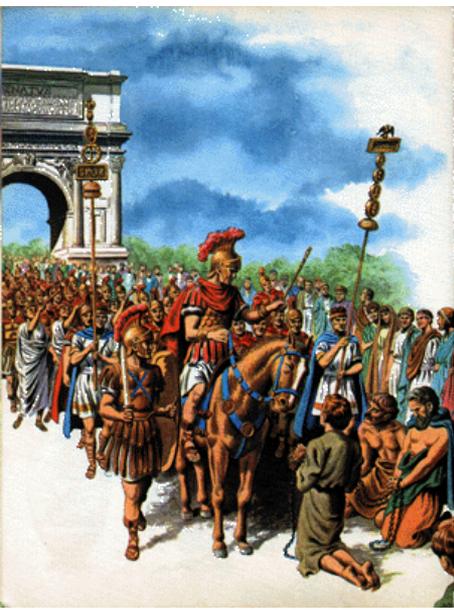
God's response to burnt offerings

Procession of triumphal warlord has:

a) Captives in tow as evidence of his victory

b) Those who carry vessels of incense in celebration

The diffusion of the fragrance announces the knowledge of the victor all around.



God's response to burnt offerings

To mark the day, two groups of captives:

- a) Those that will be slain
- b) Those that will be released

Hence, the fragrant incense made known to one that death was near and to the other the hour of liberation was near.

The same incense proclaimed death and life.

God's response to burnt offerings

we are to God the fragrance of Christ

**But not just the bearer of incense,
but that sweet savour itself.**

**The fragrance that goes forth is
our knowledge of Christ.**

**Everywhere, not just by us, but because of us,
men are coming to a knowledge of Christ.**

**The very object of our being is that
Christ should be known because of us.**



A New Day Dawning

God remembers us always.



**In the midst of death and destruction,
He led Noah to a new day, a new beginning!**

**Thanks be to God that He accepted Christ's
self-offering as a fragrant aroma.
Now through us He spreads abroad the aroma
of Christ, the knowledge of Christ.**

A New Day Dawning

And God remembered ...

His plans and purposes are sovereign.

2 Chron 20:17: *You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!*

Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you."

A New Day is Dawning for Malaysia!