



GENESIS 8

Bible Basics Conference
Session 9
10 November 2012

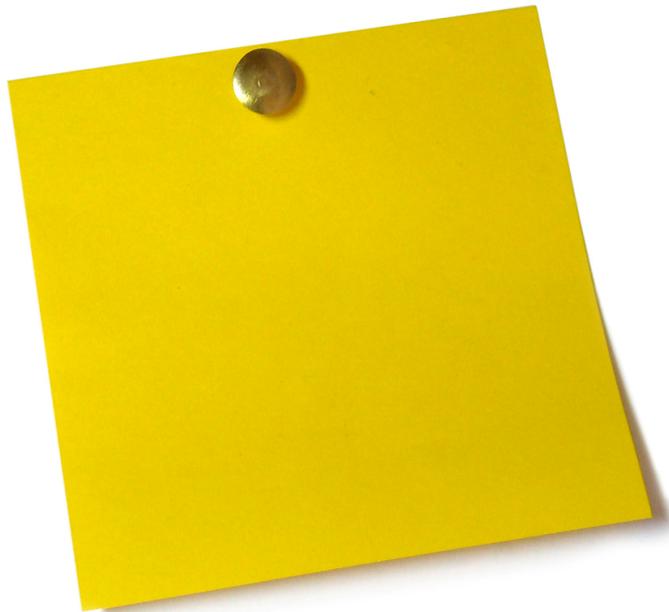
Simon Attwood

Introduction

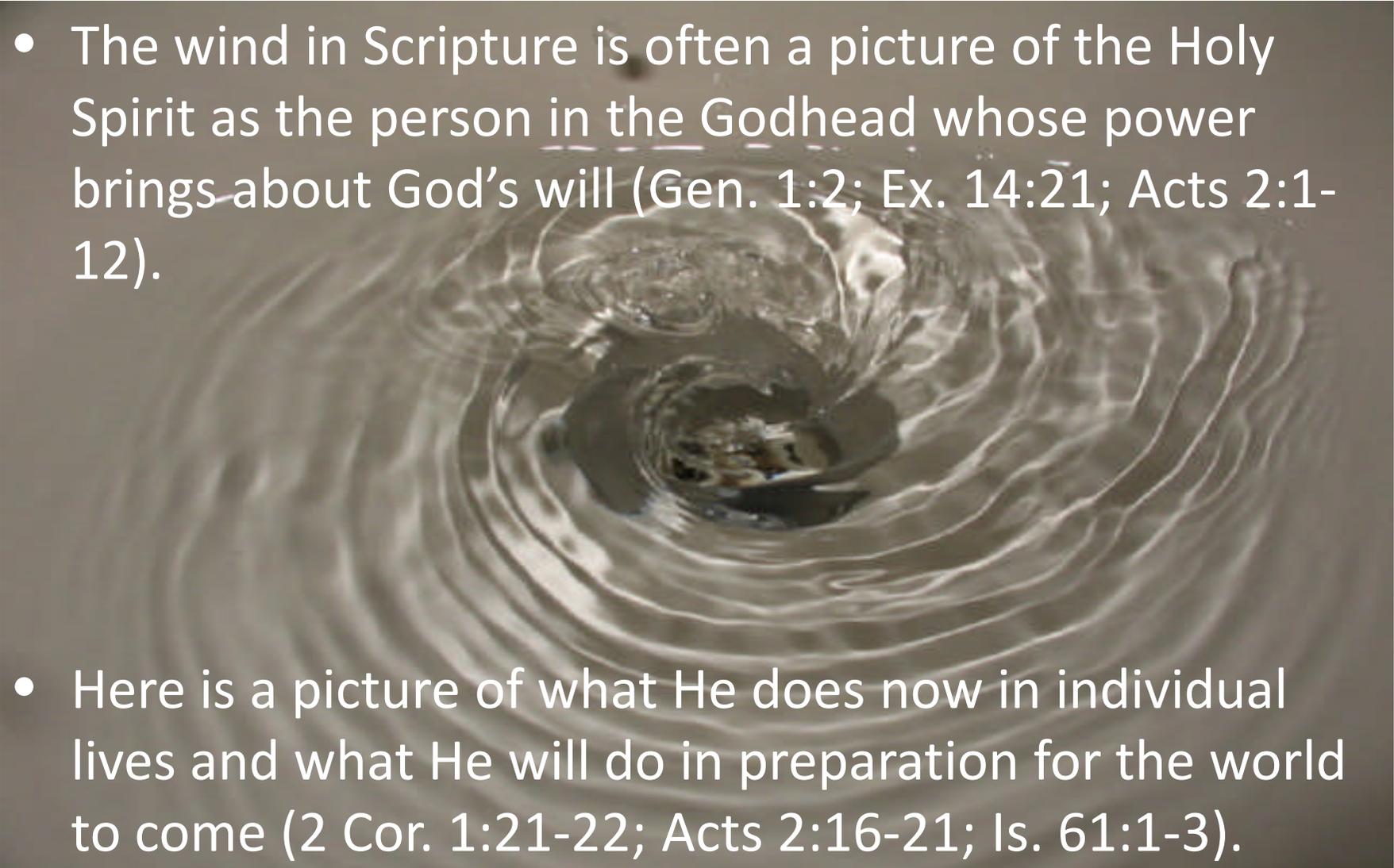
- ‘Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days’ (Gen. 7:23-24).
- ‘The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished’ (2 Pet. 2:9).

God remembers Noah – verse 1

- Whether we look at Noah as a picture of the Jewish remnant in the future, Christians now or even the Lord Jesus Christ, we learn from this verse that God never forgets His own but brings them/us/Him actively to mind for blessing and glory.
- And all creation is going to benefit from this in ‘the world to come’ (Rev. 14:1-5; Is. 11 & 12; Rom. 8:22-39; 1 Cor. 15:20-28).



The waters recede – verses 1-3

- The wind in Scripture is often a picture of the Holy Spirit as the person in the Godhead whose power brings about God's will (Gen. 1:2; Ex. 14:21; Acts 2:1-12).
 - Here is a picture of what He does now in individual lives and what He will do in preparation for the world to come (2 Cor. 1:21-22; Acts 2:16-21; Is. 61:1-3).
- 
- A close-up photograph of water ripples, symbolizing the Holy Spirit's work. The image shows a central point where water has been disturbed, creating concentric ripples that spread outwards. The water is clear, and the ripples are captured in a way that highlights their texture and movement. The background is a dark, muted color, making the water's surface the focal point.

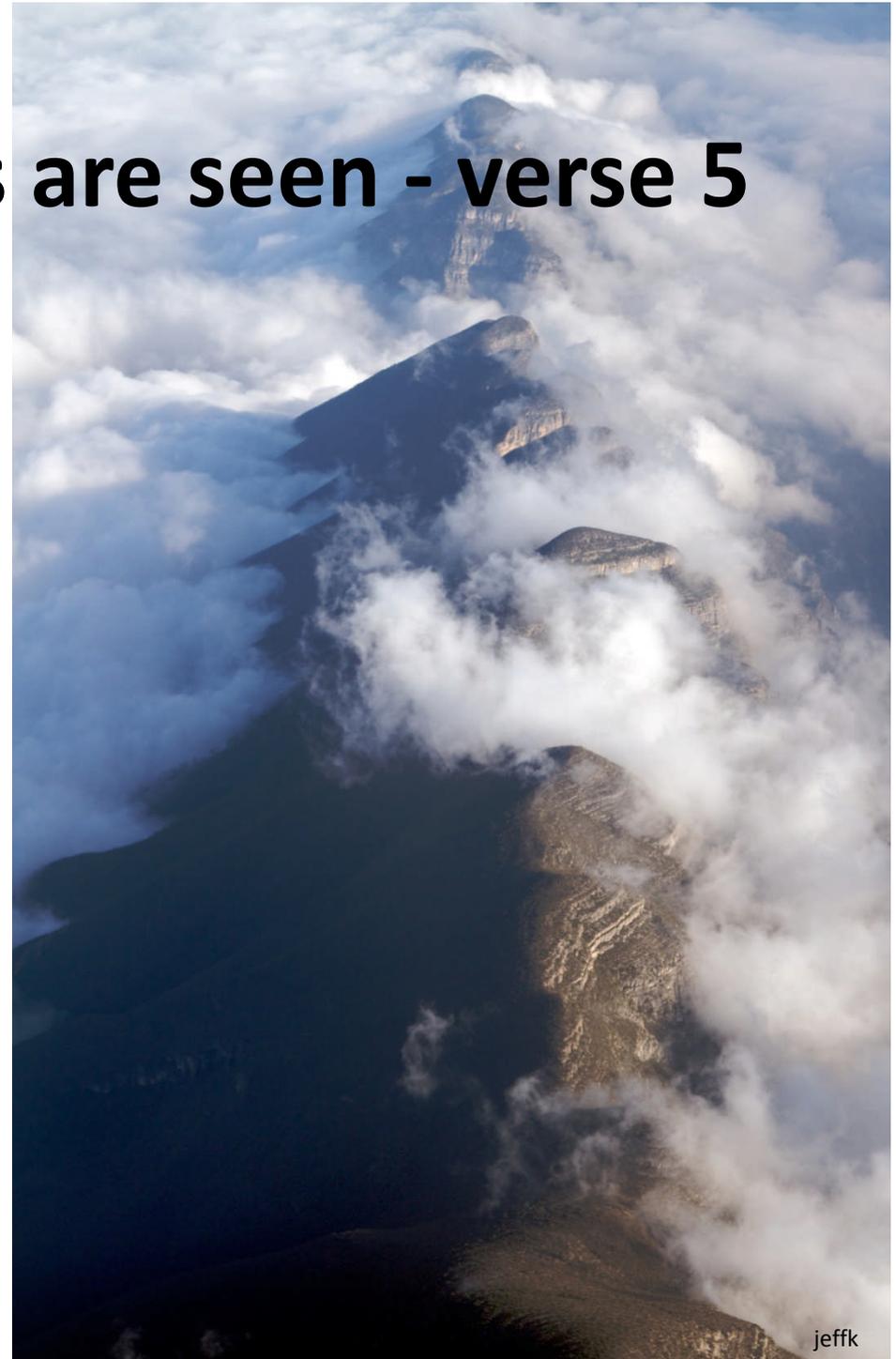
The ark rests – verse 4

- Ararat means ‘holy ground’ in Sanskrit, or ‘the curse reversed’ according to J B Jackson’s dictionary.
- For blessing to be established there must be holiness (Heb. 12:14) and righteousness (Rom. 1:16-17).
- Noah’s name means ‘rest’ which pictures the Lord Jesus – the one in whom God and His people find all (7th month) they desire (Mt. 11:28-30; Heb. 4; Zeph. 3:17).



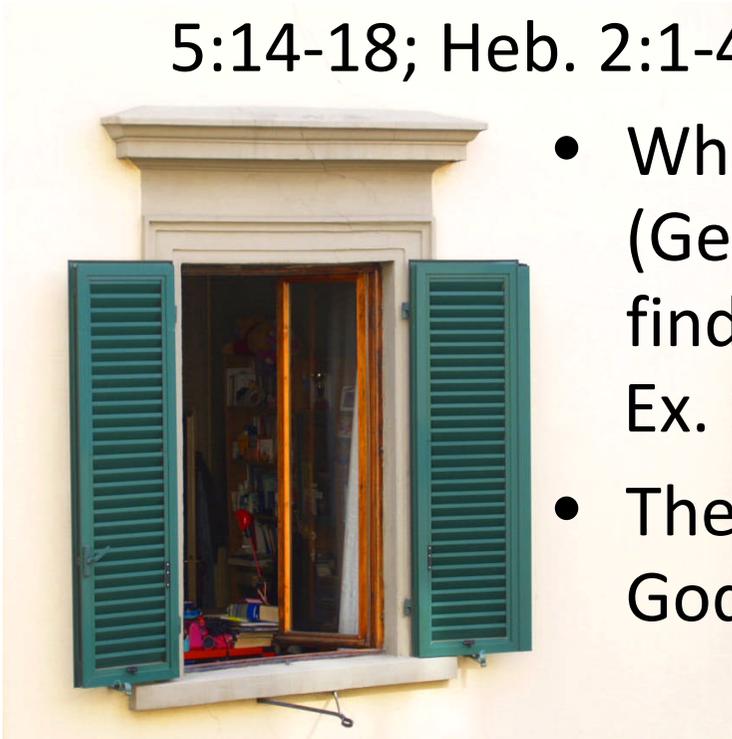
The mountain tops are seen - verse 5

- The Lord Jesus takes control (Acts 2:36) as well as giving rest.
- ‘now we see not yet all things put under him’ (Heb. 2:8b), but we know by faith it will happen soon (1 Pet. 3:22).
- What a fulfilment of man’s responsibility to God (10th month).



Noah opens the window – verse 6

- Noah waits patiently for 40 days before opening the window (Rom. 8:25; Rev. 1:9).
- Noah had made the ark under God's instruction and now he has to leave it under God's direction (Eph. 5:14-18; Heb. 2:1-4; compare Dan. 6:10; 9:2-4).



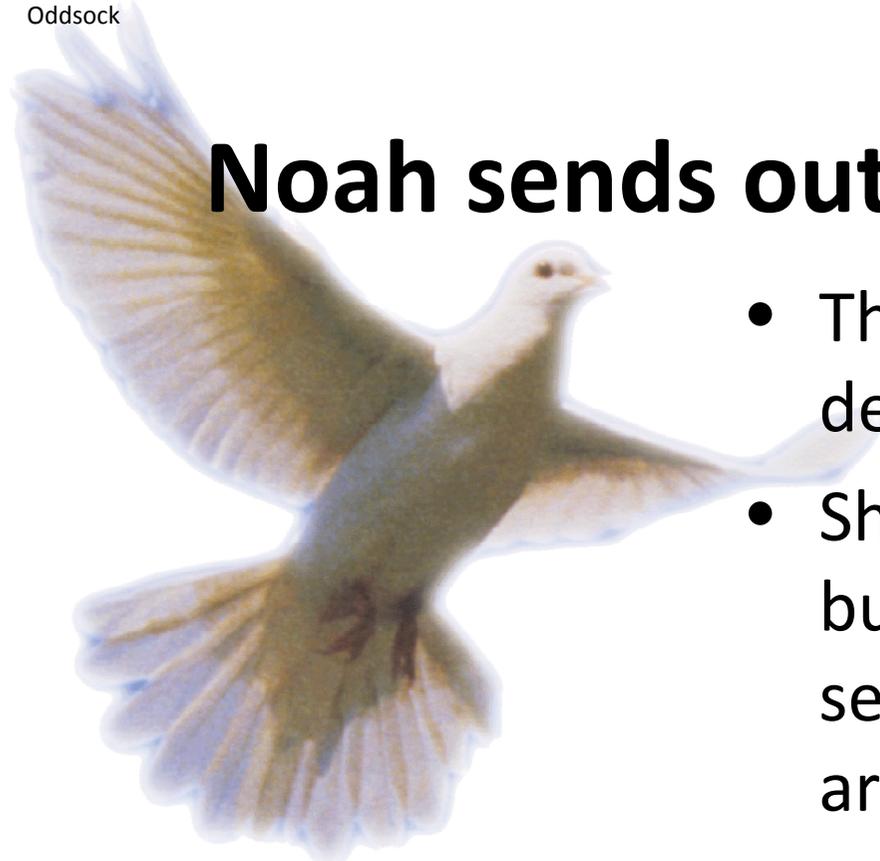
- What had brought light *into* the ark (Gen. 6:16) is now used by Noah to find God's way *out of* it (compare Ex. 10:23 & 13:21; Eph. 5:8).
- The Holy Spirit guides us as we wait on God, and read His Word and pray.

Noah sends out the raven – verse 7

- The raven – an unclean bird (Lev. 11:15) – is able to go ‘to and fro’ in a world under judgment.
- God used the raven’s strength to feed Elijah but this came to an end, and then he was sustained through a widow’s faith and obedience (1 Kgs. 17:1-16).
- Similarly, we cannot find and enjoy God’s blessings according to our natural powers (1 Cor. 2:6-16).



Noah sends out the dove – verse 8



- The dove denotes purity and devotion (Sgs. 5:2).
- She does not act independently but in intimacy with the one who sends her (the words ‘from him’ are not said of the raven).
- The Holy Spirit came upon the Lord Jesus ‘as a dove’ (Mt. 3:16; Is. 11:1-4a), and the Lord Jesus sends ‘the Spirit of truth’ to us ‘from with’ the Father (Jn. 15:26).
- Only such a one as He brings a true report – let us not grieve or quench Him (Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:19).

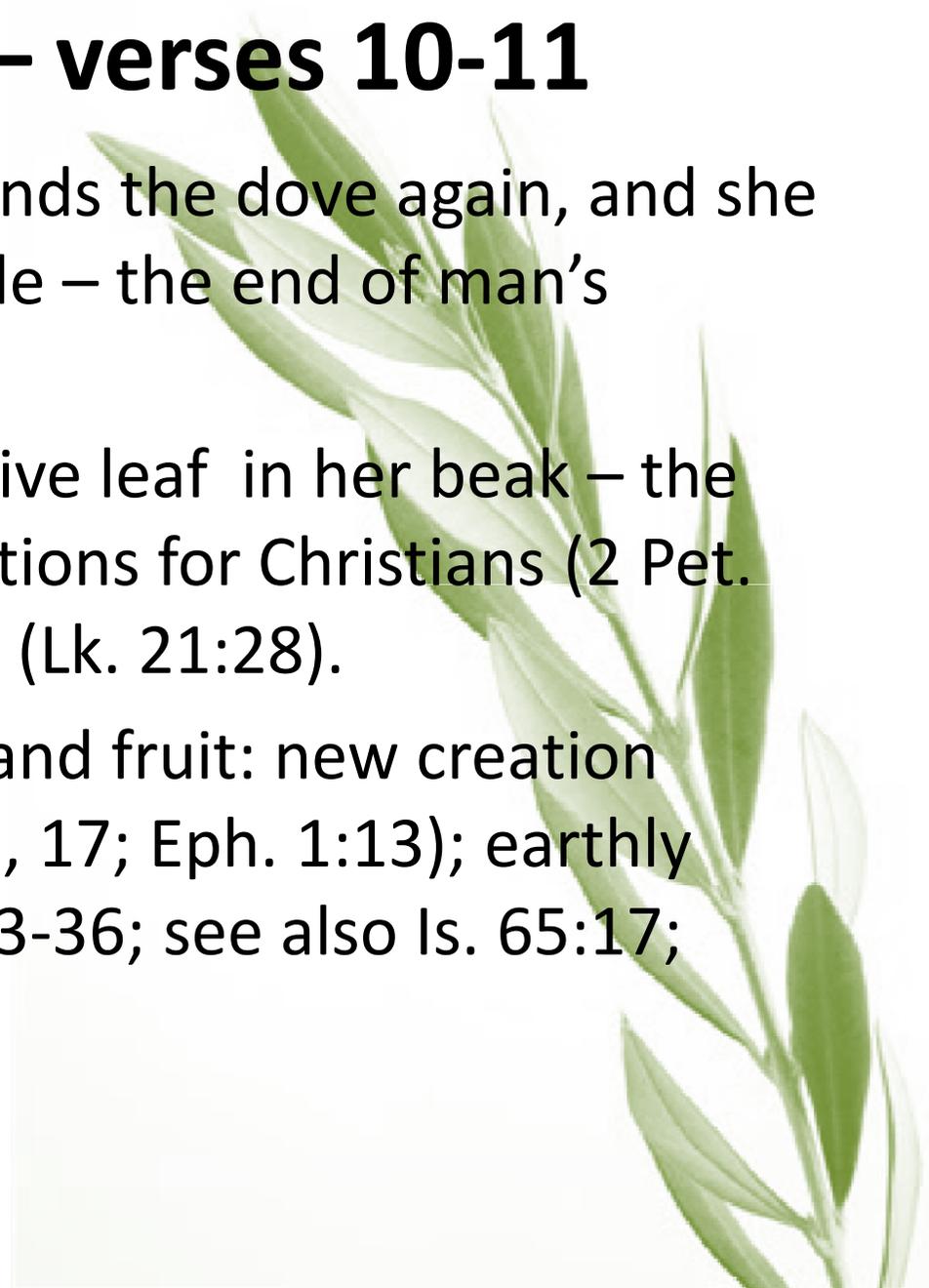
She finds no resting place – verse 9



- Unlike the raven, the dove has her ‘joy’ in rest, but cannot do so in a world under judgment.
- She returns to Noah’s hand because the ark is her only home (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20).
- How wonderful that the Holy Spirit indwells us (Jn. 14:16-17).

An olive leaf – verses 10-11

- After seven days, Noah sends the dove again, and she returns ‘to him’ at eventide – the end of man’s expectations.
- But ‘behold’ there is an olive leaf in her beak – the beginning of God’s realisations for Christians (2 Pet. 1:16-19) and the remnant (Lk. 21:28).
- It was the promise of life and fruit: new creation blessings for us (2 Cor. 5:5, 17; Eph. 1:13); earthly ones for Israel (Rom. 11:23-36; see also Is. 65:17; 66:22).



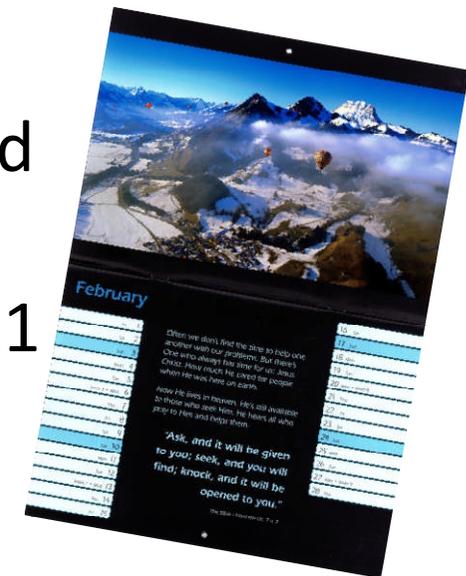
The dove does not return – verse 12

- When Noah sends the dove after another seven days, she does not return. She has found rest at last as the Holy Spirit did in the Lord Jesus, seeks to do in us and will do in the world to come ... and eternity (2 Pet. 3:13).

The earth's surface is dry – verse 13a



- Noah is a picture of Christ: the timing of the drying of the earth (601st year/1st month) is based on his life just as new creation is formed after Christ: 'If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (creation): old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new' (2 Cor. 5:16-18a).
- New creation is not simply fresh and good but of a different order that cannot fail (Gal 6:15; Eph. 2:10, 15; 4:24; Col. 3:10-11 – note the accompanying exhortations).



Noah uncovers the ark – verse 13b

- Noah is typical of believers: he knew by the olive leaf (v. 11) – *faith* – the waters had become low but it was not until he uncovered the ark that he *saw* the earth's surface was dry.
- Faith will give way to sight soon (Jn. 20:29; 1 Cor. 13:12-13; 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 2:8b; 1 Jn. 3:2).



The earth is thoroughly dry – verse 14

- This is a picture of the perfect standing we have in Christ now (Rom. 8:1 – note how much this chapter says about the Holy Spirit indwelling us).
- It is also a picture of the restitution of all things (Acts 3:21) when judgment is over and the Lord Jesus has His rightful place in this world (Rev. 11:15-18).
- His kingdom is ‘righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost’ (Rom. 14:17). The earth will flourish (Ps. 72) when this is in public display.

Replenishing the earth – verses 15-17

- Only those God chose went into the ark (Gen. 7:1-3; 13-16a).
- He preserved them all (Gen. 7:16b, 23; 8:1), and all of them came out to replenish the earth (compare Ez. 8:24-26).
- Nothing was lost – a picture of the eternal security of believers (Jn.10:27-30; 17:12; Phil. 1:6) including those saved in the future (Rom. 11:26; Rev. 7), but also of God securing what is for Himself (Eph. 1:3-6).



Leaving the ark – verses 18-19



- ‘The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom’ (Ps. 111:10).
- Noah’s ‘fear’ bore fruit in the ‘obedience of faith’ (Rom. 1:5; 16:26) which lead him to build the ark and find safety in it and a new life on the cleansed earth with his family (Heb. 11:7).
- It is the only way out of judgment into the blessing of knowing the Father ‘of whom the whole (every) family in heaven and earth is named’ (Eph. 3:15).

Noah offers burnt offerings – verse 20

- The first mention of an altar in Scripture.
- The sacrifices of the clean animals, wholly for God (Lev. 1), are a picture of the death of Christ for God's glory and our acceptance (Jn. 17:4; Eph. 1:6; 5:2b).
- 'Lo, I come to do thy will, O God' (Heb. 10:5-14).



God smells the sweet odour – verse 21

- A continual odour of rest (Ex. 29:38-46).
- Sinful man has gone in the death of *the* man after God's heart (Rom. 8:3; 2 Cor. 5:14-17).
- God says 'in his heart' He will not curse or smite – a picture of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-21).



Verse 22 – God's promise

- Evidence of His grace and power (Gal. 3:18; Col. 1:17).
- For as long as the earth remains in its current form.



- Assures us nature's order will continue to support life.
- A picture of blessing in the world to come (Ps. 72).

Conclusion

God delights in His Son and preserving those who belong to Him – ‘in the ark’ – not in dispensing judgment.

He will bring us into the full blessing of new creation in the value of the person and work of the Lord Jesus.

