**‘The Wait is Over!’**

***15Then God spoke to Noah, saying, 16“Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. 17Bring 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.” 18So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him. 19Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.***

***20Then 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. 21And 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.***

***22 “While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.”***Genesis 8:15-22

***“Go out of the ark…”*** God had finally given the word. It was time to leave the ark. It had been a safe place throughout the storm but was probably noisy and stinky. Surely everyone, humans and animals alike, were ready to leave the confined space.

What we notice in this section of chapter 8 is that the animals went into the ark two by two, a male and his mate, but as the animals come out of the ark we are told that they are coming out by families! The Hebrew word, ***mishpachah***, translated here as ‘families,’ could have been translated at “species or kind.” However, it is not the same Hebrew word translated as ‘kind’ in Genesis 7:14[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/02/" \l "_ftn1). That Hebrew word is ***miyn***. Could it be that the numbers of animals which came out of the ark was greater than that which entered the ark? We do not know if any of the animals reproduced and multiplied while on the ark. But the smaller animals, those with short gestation periods, could have.

Another detail that is often missed is the fact that Noah took one of every clean animal and one of every clean bird and offered them up to the Lord as burnt offerings. How many would this have been? We don’t know. We do know that had Noah only taken two of every clean animal and two of every clean bird, Noah’s offering would have been an E.L.E. (an Extinction Level Event) for these animals and birds. But this did not happen. The Lord had instructed Noah to take seven pairs of every clean animal and seven pairs of every bird into the ark. No E.L.E.!

Also notice that there is nothing in the text to lead us to conclude that the Lord told Noah to build an altar and offer up burnt offerings on it. This was Noah’s idea, and it pleased the Lord. The aroma of Noah’s offering is described as soothing. Not only was the aroma “soothing,” but it provoked a beautiful response from the Lord, who 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. 22 “While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.”*** Is this a reversal of the curse of Genesis 3:17? There we read, ***17Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’:“Cursed is the ground for your sake.”*** No, it is not a reversal of Genesis 3:17. There are two different Hebrew words that are both translated with the word ‘curse.’ In Genesis 3:17, the Hebrew word is ***arar***, which means to ‘bitterly curse.’ In Genesis 8:21, the Hebrew word it is ***qalal***. ***Qalal*** means to ‘bring into contempt, or despise.’ Had the Lord purposed to reverse the curse of Genesis 3:17, the Hebrew word used in Genesis 8:21 would have been ***arar*** not ***qalal***. The curse of Genesis 3:17 was not removed after the flood. It remains to this day.

In the process of bringing a flood upon the earth, the earth and everything growing upon it was affected. The plants hadn’t sinned and grieved the Lord’s heart, but they could not and did not escape the flood. To the words ***“I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake”*** God adds that He is not going to destroy every living thing as He had done in the flood. This does not mean that the earth will never be destroyed. It means that the earth will not be destroyed through a global flood. Someday this earth will be destroyed. Until then, God’s promise is ***“Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease”*** (verse 22).

God is so very good.

*Kathleen*

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/02/" \l "_ftnref1) Genesis 7:14 “- they [Noah’s family] and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort.”