

REALITY LEARNING CENTER

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Volume 003

INTERPRETATION

Section 06

The Noah's Ark Concept The Unification of Scripture Series

It is assumed that the reader has previously read the Tutorial, which includes the Word Picture of Reality, The Seven Days of Creation, and the Garden of Eden Story. Basic concepts are necessary to best recognize the foundation for interpretations discussed in this writing, and understanding Genesis 1-3 is the Spiritual Key to interpreting the Bible.

The story of Noah is one of the more subtle stories using allegory to convey a message to Man. The fact that GOD uses living stories to convey spiritual messages only magnifies HIS Glory. Throughout the Bible, HE has created such living stories--including the nation of Israel as they overcome their enemies or are misled by them.

To understand the underlying message conveyed in the story of Noah, we should consider the meaning of the main character's name--**repose, consolation, rest**. Also the next major element of the story is the Ark. An ark is **a mental sanctuary of quietness built through prayer to deal with an impending problem or trial**. Is it any wonder that the Ark of GOD was put in the most holy place in the tabernacle and Temple--a place of absolute quiet?

The Ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It had three levels, one window high up, and one door. Literally, this ark was suppose to hold 7 pairs (male & female) (14) of all clean animals and 1 pair (male & female) (2) of all unclean animals--not counting pairs of insects and other creeping things and the birds of the air. Now consider the size of the ark and imagine how many living things this would be plus enough food to last all of them for one full year. Most living things eat several times their weight in one year. A contradiction should seem obvious because the ark would have to be many times the size described. Consider the one problem of waste disposal. There was only one door that could not be opened and one window high up. There were only eight individuals to remove the daily waste of thousands of living things.

Yes, GOD could overcome all of the contradictions by miniaturizing all living things and putting them in suspended animation or something--but why? Why use this method to wipe almost all living things from the earth? Why not, just make all disappear into nothingness--cleanly and quickly? Because there is a message for all future generations of Mankind in the story--**repentance and forgiveness and overcoming other spiritual growth problems**. Remember this story occurred many hundreds of years before the coming of Jesus Christ.

Each of us has developed many "**life-styles**" that determine how we respond to changing conditions around us. As we unify our life-styles, we are able to overcome higher order problems we face daily. If a life-style is incorrect, it limits our ability to overcome the higher order problems because it weakens the relationship we are and pollutes any relationship of which it is a part. In the Bible, each of these "life-styles" are living things with animals being the highest order life-style that still does not know the Truth of GOD. Noah represents that life-style in us that has grown to begin knowing the Truth of GOD and recognize many of the false life-styles in us. This recognition is very disturbing to the Noah in us because we have become repentant--desiring to be right with GOD. The person we were must die, and the Noah in us knows this.

Clean animals are those life-styles that are eternal. Unclean animals are those life-styles that have a foundation of good but have been utilized improperly to develop a false life-style. The improper use was not necessarily as a result of the self-serving nature but our higher nature, which attempted to overcome a problem for the right purpose but failed to find the correct way to do so. This could be similar to driving screws with a hammer to fasten two materials together. The correct purpose of the hammer was not found but the tool we created for the purpose is still good. We still need to create nails and a screwdriver for the screws so the hammer and screws can be used properly. In this way unclean

The Noah's Ark Concept *continued*

The Unification of Scripture Series

animals are redeemed. Seven is completeness; therefore, seven clean animal pairs are to enter the ark because they can form higher order relationships. The unclean animal pairs cannot form higher order relationships until they have been redeemed; therefore only one pair enters the ark. All that is brought into the ark belong to the Noah in us. All other life-styles--**created by the self-serving nature**--remain outside the ark.

The problem to overcome comes from a repentant attitude as the seeking life in us represented by Noah attempts to find a solution. The Ark represents the mental sanctuary of quietness we must develop through prayer to overcome the problem. When we become repentant, we must return to the level within us that is void of the work of the self-serving nature. All the work of that nature must be destroyed because it will trouble us as long as it exists. All of us should be familiar with this problem. We feel guilty and very uncomfortable as we have desires that we know are not according to GOD's Will.

Since this story's primary message is spiritual, the water is the beginning of all things--the essence of creation. The work of the self-serving nature must return to that water as words scratched in sand return to sand with a strong wind or water washing over the words. They must become what they were before they were given life through the work of the self-serving nature. Naturally, the things belonging to Noah must be saved from this fate and the ark represents the means this is accomplished.

Now it rained for 40 days. **The number 40 means whatever time is necessary to accomplish the purpose.** In the same way we must enter our mental sanctuary of quietness and prayer to bring in all that is good in the eyes of GOD through our freewill. We will probably have to enter this sanctuary over and over as we work to separate ourselves from the work of our self-serving nature **because all in the ark becomes who we are.** This separation will take considerable time as represented by the 150 days that the waters remained unabated.

Finally, the tops of the mountains could be seen. **A mountain represents a state of high spirituality--a closeness to GOD.** Then Noah took another indefinite period of time (40 days) before checking his ability to rise above the problem (recognize the presence of GOD). He sent out a raven (probably male). **A raven represents negative thoughts.** He also sent out a dove which

returned to him. **A dove represents a sense of peace.** Negative thoughts can be remembering our sins and creating guilt or focusing on the problem instead of the source of the solution. This view must disappear completely. Therefore, Noah waited seven days (see Seven Steps of Spiritual Growth) and sent out the dove again. This time she returned with an olive leaf. **An olive branch (leaf) represents good tidings.** Note that the dove was female. It is the female aspect of our nature that provides the feedback we need to know that a solution satisfies the desires that motivated the search for a resolution to the problem. Noah waited another seven days and sent out the dove again. She didn't return indicating that the problem was resolved.

There was only one small window in the complete ark. This window was located high up. Therefore, Noah could only look up and not see the flood waters. His view could only be on the source of the solution **not the problem.** This view must be singular because the source of the solution is GOD through the Child of GOD in us.

When Noah left the ark, he was on a mountain (**close to GOD**). GOD then set the rainbow in the sky with a promise to not destroy Man with water again. Consider that once we have repented and strive to do the will of GOD, it is only necessary that each of our solutions be tested in life to see if it works as it should. **This testing is the destruction of error by fire.** These kinds of error are not produced by the self-serving nature controlling us **but out of innocence.** Therefore, there is no act of sin because a rebellion against GOD has not occurred.

It is highly unlikely that any one could enter their ark and completely separate themselves from the self-serving nature during one long prayer session. All of us must realize that we are infected with the self-serving nature and must work diligently through the **trial by fire** to destroy that nature in us. The Lord's prayer says, **"Give us this day our daily bread."** (Matt 6:11). This indicates that we can accomplish our goal step by step, but we must never stop taking those steps--prayerfully.

There are probably several other elements of the story of Noah not described above, but the one described above is more likely to be of value to us today than just taking the story literally and ignoring the spiritual message it contains.