**Genesis: Back To the Beginning**

**A Promise Given; A Promise Kept**

**Genesis 9:8-17**

**Daily Time With Truth**

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1: Isaiah 49:14-15 (NLT)**

Yet Jerusalem says, “The Lord has deserted us; the Lord has forgotten us.” “Never! Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for the child she has borne? But even if that were possible, I would not forget you!

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**Day 2: Joshua 23:14 (NLT)**

“Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.”

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**Day 3: Isaiah 44:21(NLT)**

“Pay attention, O Jacob, for you are my servant, O Israel. I, the Lord, made you, and I will not forget you.”

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**Day 4: 2 Peter 3:8-9 (NIV)**

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

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**Day 5:** **Lamentations 3:21-26 (NLT)**

Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this:The faithful love of the Lord never ends!
His mercies never cease.Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.
I say to myself, “The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!”The Lord is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him.So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the Lord.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Summarize the key points from Genesis 8:1-14.

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1. What are some major effects from the flood that we see on the earth today?

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1. Summarize the continued faithfulness of God to Noah as seen in Genesis 8:15-22. Discuss the implications for us.

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1. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually, and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

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**Digging Deeper:**

**Three rainbows.** Three men in Scripture saw significant rainbows. Noah saw the rainbow after the storm, just as God’s people see it today. But the prophet Ezekiel saw the rainbow in the midst of the storm when he had that remarkable vision of the wheels and the throne (Ezek. 1:28). Ezekiel also saw living creatures and each one had four faces! One was like a man, one like a lion, one like an ox, and one like an eagle—the same faces John saw (Rev. 4:6-7).

Of course, the apostle John saw the rainbow *before the storm of judgement broke loose* (v.3). In fact, John saw a complete rainbow around the throne of God! On earth, we see “in part,” but one day in heaven, we will see things fully as they really are (1 Cor. 13:12).

The personal lesson for God’s people is simply this: In the storms of life, always look for the rainbow of God’s covenant promise. Like John, you may see the rainbow before the storm; like Ezekiel, you may see it in the midst of the storm; or, like Noah, you may have to wait until after the storm. But you will always see the rainbow of God’s promise if you look by faith. That’s the Old Testament version of Romans 8:28.

God’s covenant with creation affects every living creature on earth. Without it, there would be no assured continuity of nature from day to day and from season to season. We would never know when the next storm was coming and whether it would be our last.

God wants us to enjoy the blessings of natural life and spiritual life, because He “gives us richly all things to enjoy” (1 Tim. 6:17 NKJV). When you know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, the world of nature around you becomes much more wonderful, because the Creator has become your Father.

When in later years the American evangelist D. L. Moody talked about his conversion as a teenager, he said, “I was in a new world. The next morning the sun shone brighter, and the birds sang sweeter…the old elms waved their branches for joy; and all Nature was as peace. [It]was the most delicious joy that I had ever known.”

The God of creation is the God of salvation. Trust Jesus Christ and you can then truly sing, “This is my Father’s world.” *Be Basic (Genesis 1-11): Believing the Simple Truth of God’s Word (The Be Series Commentary)*

1. How have you experienced a rainbow and God’s promise before, during or after a storm in life?

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1. How do you keep looking to God in faith when the storms of life threaten to destroy all that you have known?

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1. Have you experienced the world anew where everything in nature seemed freshly created and it was as though you were looking at it with a new set of eyes that could see every detail clearly, resulting in a deep sense of joy?

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