



# Climbing Your Personal Mountains

## Lesson 3: Mount Ararat, Mountain of Renewal

Covington church of Christ

Family Bible Week 2012

### A. Geography.

*"Then the ark rested... on the mountains of Ararat." Genesis 8:4*

So where is this mountain that became the final resting place for the ark?

The mountains of Ararat are located near the eastern border of modern day Turkey. The same word is translated elsewhere in the King James Version as Armenia. A number of rivers flow from this mountainous plateau, most notably the Tigris and Euphrates. Near the center of this region is Lake Van which, like the Dead Sea, has no outlet. The mountain pictured to the right is modern day Mount Ararat, a mountain of volcanic origin just north of the region of Armenia.



### B. Scriptures Concerning Mount Ararat

The most notable Biblical account of the mountains of Ararat is the landing of the ark in Genesis 8-9. The area is also mentioned in 2 Kings 19:37 and Isaiah 37:38.

### C. Events at Mount Ararat

The events of Genesis 8 all appear to have happened at the mountains of Ararat. The ark ran aground on the mountains of Ararat in Gen. 8:4, but the eight people on board, as well as all of the animals did not yet disembark. The waters receded for several months before Noah sent out the raven and two doves. Several more months passed, *"the waters were dried up... and indeed the surface of the land was dry"* (8:13), then God spoke to Noah. Having been on board for approximately 377 days, God commanded Noah to go out of the ark, with all the animals *"so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."* (8:17). Thus from the mountains of Ararat God's new creation began.

Having left the ark, Noah built an altar and offered burnt sacrifices of every clean animal and clean bird. The sacrifices were *"a soothing aroma"* to God (8:21). *"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."*



*While the earth remains,  
Seedtime and harvest,  
Cold and heat,  
Winter and summer,  
And day and night  
Shall not cease.” (8:21-22)*

#### D. The Covenant of Ararat

God made a promise at Mount Ararat never to destroy the earth with water again. But the promise encompassed far more than that. God will not again interrupt the regular flow of seasons or break into the orderly actions of the natural law He created in order to judge the race. Consider Peter’s teaching, “...*Scoffers will come in the last days, walking in their own lusts, (4) and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.’ (5) For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, (6) by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. (7) But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” (2 Peter 3: 3-7)*



What type of destruction will come about at the Day of the Lord (2 Peter 3:10)? Peter references the promise God made in Genesis 8. The earth is preserved and continues to function as designed because God said it would. The post-flood earth was much different than the pre-flood creation. Among other world altering changes, there is now a water cycle that sustains all living things.

In Genesis 9:8-17 God gives Noah a sign of the covenant that He has made with every living thing. *“I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.” (Gen. 9: 13).* This sign persists today as a reminder to us that we do not have to fear destruction from God through water.

#### E. Lessons from Mount Ararat

##### God’s Saving Grace

There are many things Christians today can learn from the events of Mount Ararat that will help us as we climb our personal mountains. Perhaps the most important lesson is that God provides a way for salvation. God’s decision to destroy man, and the rest of creation, was because *“all flesh has corrupted their way on the earth.” (Gen. 6:12), “but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” (Gen 6:8). “Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.” (Gen 6:9).* God was sorry He had created man and was going to destroy them, but He extended His grace to the one just man left in creation and his family. Similarly we are saved by

grace: *"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)." (Eph. 2:4-5)*. It was God's grace that saved Noah and his family, God's grace saves us today. Noah's salvation was conditional. He had to follow God's specific instructions in building the ark and gathering the animals. Would Noah have been saved if he chose to build the ark according to his own specifications? Likewise God requires us to follow his instructions and commands if we are to be like Paul, *"partakers with me of grace."* (Phil. 1:7).

### **Salvation through Water**

There is a commonality between our salvation and Noah's **water**. *"...Once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls were saved through water. (21) There is also an antitype which now saves us- baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 3: 20-21)*. Inasmuch as God used water to destroy the filth of flesh on the earth, he also used it to save



Noah, Water also saves us today. Jesus taught *"that unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."* (John 3:5). Baptism is symbolic of Jesus' death and resurrection according to Romans 6: *"Therefore we were buried with Him though baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in newness of life."* (Romans 6:4). As Noah emerged from the ark he is sure to have felt the newness of life God had created through him. He was a new creation physically, just as we can be spiritually. *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new."* (2 Cor. 5:17). Through water God both destroyed and created in the days of Noah. Through water God now destroys the old man of sin and bring forth the *"new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."* (Eph. 4:24). What did Peter say was necessary for the people guilty of Jesus' death in Acts 2:38?

### **God's Sure Promises**

One final lesson we want to take away with us from Mount Ararat is that God's promises are sure. God promised Noah that he would not interrupt the natural order He created. God has kept this promise for millennia upon millennia. What has God promised Christians? Paul addressed his letter to Titus *"in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began."* (Titus 1:2) (cf. 1 John 2:25). Christians have to believe that the promise of eternal life is as certain as the promise of rain, seasons, and harvests. We do not doubt that morning will come. We do not doubt that the seasons will change. And we cannot doubt that there is eternal life with God available to those who, like Noah, walk with God in this life. *"For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."* (Acts 2:39)

## Lesson 3: Mount Ararat, Mountain of Renewal

### Review Questions:

1. Where is Mount Ararat?
2. Where in the Bible are we told about Mount Ararat?
3. What event occurred at Mount Ararat?
4. What did God do at this mountain?
5. What saved Noah and his family that saves us today?

