

2021.01.01 New Year's Midnight Sermon <Noah's New Year Prayer to the Lord>

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Genesis 8:13-22

¹³ *By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry.*

¹⁴ *By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.* ¹⁵ *Then God said to Noah,* ¹⁶ *"Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives.* ¹⁷ *Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."* ¹⁸ *So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives.* ¹⁹ *All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another.* ²⁰ *Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.* ²¹ *The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.* ²² *"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."*

Noah and his family were saved from the flood because the Lord remembered him. We see this in the first verse of Genesis chapter 8. Just as the Lord remembered Noah and his family, we pray that He will remember us as we welcome 2021.

Genesis 8:1

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.

As the flood ended, Noah was able to give his first prayer to the Lord. Let us learn more about this prayer.

1. Take Away Our Fears

- In today's scripture, we learn that after almost being in the ark for one year, the water started to dry. The flood started in January 17th when Noah was 600 years old. The flood ended in January 1st when Noah turned 601 years old.

Genesis 8:13

¹³ *By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry.*

- In February 27th, the earth was completely dried.

Genesis 8:14-15

¹⁴ *By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.* ¹⁵ *Then God said to Noah,*

The situation and timeline of the flood is similar to what we are currently faced with. For Noah, the flood provided great fear. Same for us, the COVID-19 virus provide great fear. Just as Noah and his family were inside the ark, we are all currently staying inside our homes to avoid getting the virus. Just as the Lord remember Noah and his family, He will remember and remove all of our fears.

2. Provide Us with Freedom in Life and Worship

- As we look further into the timeline, in February 27th, we see Noah and his family getting out of the ark. They received true freedom within one year and ten days.

Genesis 8:18 - 19

¹⁸ So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. ¹⁹ All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

- The first thing Noah did once he was out of the ark was to build the altar and provided offering to the Lord. He gave his first worship after the flood ended.

Genesis 8:20

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.

Due to the virus, we have been giving worship to our Lord in our homes. We pray that in 2021, we will receive freedom to worship and be able to move on with our normal lives.

3. Fill Our Hearts with Hope

- As Noah gave worship, the Lord was pleased and gives His promise.

Genesis 8:21

²¹ The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done."

- As we read the next chapter, we see the Lord providing His promise through the rainbow.

Genesis 9:13

¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

- Through His promise, we are given hope for the future. When we are faced with difficulty, having hope provides strength.

Genesis 9:15

¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.

- When you look at a bottle of water, and you mix salt, the water becomes salty. When you mix in sugar, the water becomes sweet. Similarly, if you feel your heart with hope, your life will be brighter. Let us see the rainbow the Lord provided to Noah and hope for brighter 2021.

In Summary - For 2021, let us all pray that Our Father will...

1. Take Away Our Fears
2. Provide Us with Freedom in Life and Worship
3. Fill Our Hearts with Hope

Prayer - (Lyrics from Sun of My Soul Hymn)

*Sun of my soul, Thou Savior dear,
It is not night if Thou be near:
O may no earth-born cloud arise
To hide Thee from Thy servant's eyes.*

*When the soft dews of kindly sleep
My weary eyelids gently steep.
Be my last thought, how sweet to rest
Forever on my Savior's breast.*

*Abide with me from morn till eve,
For without Thee I can-not live
Abide with me when night is nigh,
For without Thee I dare not die.*

*Come near and bless us when we wake,
Ere through the world our way we take
Till, in the ocean of Thy love
We lose ourselves in heaven above. Amen.*