

Genesis 8:1-14
The Earth Gradually Dries Out

- 1) God intervenes on behalf of the survivors because of a previous commitment—8:1a
 - a) God remembered [*zakar*] Noah
 - b) Cf. Hebrews 13:5-6

- 2) How does God cause the earth to dry out after the Flood?—8:1b-2
 - a) God caused a wind to begin the drying process
 - i) Cf. Exodus 2:24; 14:21-22
 - b) The sources of water are stopped—8:2
 - i) After 150 days (cf. 7:24)

- 3) The water begins to recede—8:3-5
 - a) The water's initial decline (150 days/5 months)—8:3
 - i) Seepage and evaporation (cf. Psalm 104:6-9)
 - b) The ark rests on a mountain in the 7th month—8:4
 - i) In modern day eastern Turkey
 - ii) The concept of "rest" (cf. 8:4, 9) as well as Noah's name (cf. 5:29)
 - c) The water's secondary decline (73 more days)—8:5
 - i) Mountain tops become visible

- 4) Noah evaluates the apparent dryness by sending out different birds—8:6-12
 - a) The timing—8:6
 - i) An additional forty days later
 - b) Unclean and wild—a male raven/crow is sent—8:7
 - i) Does the raven/crow return? Probably rests on the hilltops after eating carcasses.
 - c) Clean and domesticated—a female dove/pigeon is sent—8:8-12
 - i) The first test; she returns—8:8-9
 - ii) The second test, 1 week later; she returns—8:10-11
 - (1) Waiting is noted in 8:10, 12. These are not cardboard cutouts of people.
 - (a) There is some debate over the exact word for "wait" in 8:10, perhaps meaning "to writhe as in labor"
 - (b) cf. Job 13:15; 14:14; Psalm 42:6, 12; 43:5; 119:81, 114, 147; Lamentations 3:21, 24
 - (2) The leaf indicates the restoration of plant life
 - (a) Still used universally as a symbol for peace
 - iii) The third test, 1 week later; she does not return—8:12
 - (1) The dove/pigeon will only rest where it is dry and clean, preferring valleys to hilltops

- 5) The earth is finally dry—8:13-14
 - a) The ground near the mountains of Ararat is dry after nearly 1 full year—8:13
 - i) Cf. 7:11 and the beginning of the Flood
 - ii) Cf. 7:16 and God shutting Noah in; Noah can remove the covering in God's time
 - b) The earth is completely dry 57 days later—8:14
 - i) A total of 378 days in the ark (371 since the Flood began)