

# Genesis 8:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged;

## Analysis

**And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: an...** This passage belongs to the primeval history section (Genesis 1-11) which establishes universal truths about God, humanity, sin, and divine purposes before focusing on Abraham and Israel. These chapters answer fundamental questions about human origins, the spread of wickedness, God's judgment, and the preservation of a righteous remnant.

Recurring patterns emerge: human sin escalating from individual disobedience to societal corruption, divine patience followed by judgment, gracious preservation of a remnant, and covenant promises ensuring redemptive purposes continue. The genealogies connect historical persons, demonstrate the fulfillment of divine promises (blessing and multiplication), and trace the line leading to Abraham and ultimately Christ.

Key theological themes in this section include:

1. sin's destructive progression affecting all humanity
2. God's righteous judgment while preserving mercy
3. human pride and autonomy opposing divine sovereignty
4. cultural development as both blessing and potential idolatry
5. God's sovereign plan advancing despite human rebellion.

These narratives provide the necessary context for understanding God's calling of Abraham and the covenant promises through which all nations will be blessed.

## Historical Context

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The primeval history (Genesis 1-11) parallels ancient Near Eastern traditions including Sumerian King Lists (pre-flood longevity), Akkadian flood traditions (Atrahasis, Gilgamesh), and Mesopotamian city foundation myths. However, Genesis demythologizes these traditions, presenting monotheistic history rather than polytheistic mythology. The genealogies connecting Adam to Noah to Abraham provide historical framework absent in pagan myths.

Archaeological evidence confirms ancient urbanization (chapter 4's cities), agricultural development, metallurgy, and musical instruments emerging in Mesopotamia's early history. The Babel account reflects Mesopotamian ziggurat construction (stepped pyramid temples), particularly in Babylon. Linguistic diversity requiring explanation was obvious to ancient peoples, making the Babel narrative culturally relevant.

For Israel in covenant with Yahweh, these chapters explained their relationship to surrounding nations. All peoples descended from Noah, but Israel descended from Shem through Abraham—chosen for blessing all nations. The flood demonstrated God's justice and mercy: judging wickedness while preserving the righteous. This pattern would recur throughout Israel's history, assuring them that God's covenant faithfulness endures despite judgment on the wicked.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse deepen our understanding of God's character and His relationship with creation?
2. What specific changes in thinking or behavior does this verse call us to make?
3. How does understanding Christ as the ultimate fulfillment illuminate this passage's meaning?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים וְיֵמֶנֶת  
remembered And God H853 Noah H853 and every living thing H853  
H2142 H430 H5146 H2416

כָּל אֲתָנָה בְּכָל בְּתַבְّחַת הַכְּלָל  
and all the cattle H834 that was with him in the ark H8392  
H3605 H929 H854 H8392 H5674

וְאֵשׁ כּוֹרֵץ עַל רַקֵּב אֱלֹהִים  
a wind over the earth asswaged and the waters H4325  
H430 H7307 H5921 H776 H7918

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 19:29** (References God): And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.

**Genesis 30:22** (References God): And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb.

**1 Samuel 1:19** (Parallel theme): And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

**Psalms 136:23** (Parallel theme): Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever:

**Exodus 2:24** (References God): And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

**Exodus 14:21** (Creation): And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

**Psalms 106:4** (Parallel theme): Remember me, O LORD, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation;

**Nehemiah 13:22** (References God): And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.

**Amos 8:7** (Parallel theme): The LORD hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works.

**Psalms 132:1** (Parallel theme): LORD, remember David, and all his afflictions: