### Genesis

## Chapter 8

1But God didn’t forget Noah or any of the wild animals, cattle, winged creatures, or crawling, slithering animals that were inside the chest. So God sent a wind to the earth that stopped the water… 2For the springs that were under the ground closed and the floodgates of the skies and the rain from the skies were held back.  
  
3Then the water level started to drop, flowing off the ground. And after 150 days, the water lowered, and the chest came to rest on Mount Ararat on the 27th day of the 7th month.  
  
4Well, the water levels kept dropping through the 10th month, 5and on the 1st day of the 10th month, they could see the mountaintops.  
  
6Then, after 40 days, Noah opened the window that he had made in the chest, and he sent out a crow, which left and didn’t return until the water had abated.  
  
7So it left and it didn’t return (until [later, when] the water had dried off the ground).  
  
8And after that, he sent out a dove to see if the earth was still flooded. 9But the dove couldn’t find a place to rest its feet, because the water was still covering all the ground, and it returned to the chest. So [Noah] stuck out his hand to take [the dove], and brought it to himself inside the chest.  
  
10Well, a week later, he sent the dove out from the chest once again. 11And that evening, the dove returned to him with a stem and leaf from an olive tree in its beak. That’s when Noah knew [for sure] that the water had left the ground.  
  
12However, he continued to wait another week before he released the dove once more. And this time, it didn’t return at all.  
  
13So by the 601st year of Noah’s life, on the 1st day of the 1st month, the water had poured off the ground.  
  
Then Noah opened the roof that he had made for the chest, and he could finally see that the water had drained from the ground… 14And by the 22nd day of the 2nd month, the ground was dry.  
  
  
15Then Jehovah God spoke to Noah and said:  
  
 16‘Come out of the chest… You, your wife, your sons, their wives who are with you, 17and all the wild animals that are with you.  
  
 ‘Bring out all the flesh that’s with you – the winged creatures, the cattle, and the slithering animals that move on the ground – [so that they can] reproduce and multiply on the earth.’  
  
18So Noah, his wife, his sons, and his son’s wives that were with him, came out. 19And all the wild animals, all the cattle, all the winged creatures, and all the slithering animals that crawl on the ground (according to their kinds) came out of the chest.  
  
20Then Noah built an altar to Jehovah, and he took some of the clean animals, as well as some from among all the clean winged creatures, and offered them whole… Burning them on the altar.  
  
21And as Jehovah noticed the sweet smell, He thought about it and said:  
  
 ‘Never again will I curse the ground for the bad things that men do, because the imagination of men is totally bent towards doing bad things from the time they’re young. Also, will I never again [destroy] all living flesh as I have just done. 22Then, during all the days of the earth, the seed [planting] time and harvesting, the heat and the cold, the spring and the summer, and the days and nights won’t ever be brought to an end.’