

Chapter 8

The waters diminishing by litle and litle, 6. Noe fendeth forth a crow, 8. after him a doue, thrife: 18. laftly goeth forth with al that were with him in the arke, 20. erecteth an Altar, and offereth Sacrifice.

The fecond age of the world.

And God remembered Noe, and al the beafts, and al the cattle, which were with him in the arke, and brought a winde vpon the earth, and the waters decreafed. ² And the fountaines of the depth, and the floud gates of heauen, were fhut vp: and the rayne from heauen was ftayed. ³ And the waters returned from the earth going & comming: and they begane to decreafe after a hundred fiftie dayes. ⁴ And the arke refted the feauenth moneth, the feauen & twentieth day of the moneth vpon the mountaines of Armenia. ⁵ But the waters for al that were going and decreafing vntil the tenth moneth: for in the tenth moneth, the firft day of the moneth, the topps of the mountaines appeared. ⁶ And after that fourtie dayes were paffed, Noe opening the windowe of the arke, which he had made, let forth a crowe: ⁷ which went forth, and did ^a)not returne, til the waters were dried vpon the earth. ⁸ He fent forth alfo a doue after him, to fee if the waters were ceafed yet vpon the face of the earth. ⁹ Which finding not where her foote might reft, returned to him into the arke: for the waters were vpon the whole earth: and he ftretched forth his hand, and caught her and brought her into the arke. ¹⁰ And hauing expected yet feauen moe dayes, againe he let forth a doue out of the arke. ¹¹ But fhe came to him at euentide, carrying a bough of an oliue tree, that had greene leaues in her mouth. Noe therefore vnderftood that the waters were ceafed vpon the earth. ¹² And he expected yet neuertheles other feauen dayes: and he fent forth a doue, which returned not any more vnto him. ¹³ Therefore in the fixt hundred and one yeare,

The third part of this booke. Of the new increafe & multiplication of the world.

^a The crowe returned not into the arke, but (as appeareth by the Hebrew text) going and returning refted vpon the arke.

the first moneth, the first day of the moneth the waters were cleane diminished vpon the earth: and Noe opening the rooffe of the arke, looked, and sawe that the face of the earth was dried. ¹⁴ In ^a)the second moneth, the feuen & twentyth day of the moneth the earth was dried. ¹⁵ And God spake to Noe, saying: Goe forth of the arke, thou & thy wife, thy fannes and the wiues of thy fannes with thee. ¹⁶ Al cattle, that are with thee of al flesh, as wel in foules, as in beastes, & al creepers, that creepe vpon the earth, bring out with thee, & goe yee vpon the earth: increafe and multiplie vpon it. ¹⁷ Noe therefore went forth, and his fannes: his wife, and the wiues of his fannes with him. ¹⁸ Yea and al cattle, beastes, and creepers that crepe vpon the earth, according to their kinde, went forth out of the arke. ¹⁹ And Noe ^b)built an Altar to our Lord: and taking of al cattle and foules that were cleane, offered Holocaufts vpon the Altar. ²⁰ And our Lord smelled a sweete fauour, and said: I wil no more curse the earth for men: for the fenfe and cogitation of mans hart are prone to euil from their youth: I wil no more therefore strike euerie liuing foule as I haue done. ²¹ Al the dayes of the earth, ^b)feedtime and haruest, cold and heate, sommer and winter, night and day shal not rest.

ANNOTATIONS

- Li. de Noe & Arca. c. 22.
- 19 Built an Altar.) Noe without expresse commandment, and without delay, offereth Sacrifice to God, for the benefite receiued, in his, and his families conseruation, with the other liuing creatures, in that general deluge of the world, *VVel knovving* (faith S. Ambrose) *that to be true thanksgiving, vvhich is presented, not commanded: therefore he made no delay. For the vertue of a grateful mind excludeth doubtful deliberation, and he that expecteth, til the debt of thanks be exacted, is an vngrateful person.*
- Noes sacrifice manie wayes comendable.
1. Voluntarie.
 2. Speedie.

^a They entred into the arke the 17. day, the fecōd moneth of the other yeare: so they remained there 12. monethes and tenne dayes.

^b In the whole yeare of the floud was no sowing nor reaping, nor pleafant varietie of times, but al defolate & miserable: henceforth God promifeth more seafonable times. *S. Amb. li. de Noe & Arca. c. 23.*

Heb. 13. 10.	<p>For more folemnitie, he dedicated an apt and permanent place, for this peculiar diuine seruice, <i>Building an Altar to our Lord</i>. The Hebrew word <i>Mizbeach</i> (of the verbe <i>Zabach</i>, to kil, or make facrifice) and the Greeke <i>Thyfialterion</i>, fignifie an Altar to facrifice on, not a common table for meate. He offered of the cleane and beft things becaufe pure and deuout Sacrifice is due to God.</p>	3. Solemne.
Leuit. 1.	<p>Moreouer it was large and bountiful, for he offered of al the kindes of cleane beaftes and foules. Finally he offered them in <i>Holocaustes</i>, where al was burned and confumed in the honour of God. How grateful al this was to God, Moyfes fignifieth faying:</p>	4. Pure.
Pfal. 50. Ifaie. 1.	<p><i>Our Lord fmelled a fvveete fauour</i>. Not that either anie fweete corporal fauour could of it felfe delight God, who is the moft fpiritual fubftance, or that the burning of flefh, bones, and bowels of beaftes could yeld fweete fauour; but the deuout mind declared by fuch external dutie greatly pleafed God. For God requireth both, but fpecially a fincere hart. As not only diuine Scriptures,</p>	5. Bountiful.
Amos. 5. Mal. 1.	<p>and holie Fathers, but alfo moral Philofophers teach vs. <i>It vvere a greuous thing</i> (faith Plate writing of facrifices) <i>if God had respect rather to the giftes, and facrifices of men, then to their mind. lib. peri tes profeuches.</i></p>	6. Holocaust.
Iuft. Mar. li. 3. q. 4. S. Hi- ero. Q. Heb.		Sacrifice is pleafant to God: not for the exter- nal things but for the fincere mind.