

GENESIS : Behind The Curtain
Episode 6 : THE RAVEN AND THE DOVE
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

Gen 8:6-12

After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark ⁷ and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. ⁹ But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. ¹⁰ He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. ¹¹ When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. ¹² He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him. 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."

Core Truth: In this passage, Noah offers a model of rebuilding after disaster.

Keys from the passage:

1. Building a life that brings abundance begins by abandoning our old ways for the new.
2. Building a life of meaning is not a one step process.

1. Building a life that produces abundance begins by abandoning our old ways for the new.

Ravens and Doves: Vs. 6-8 *After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark ⁷ and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground.*

- **The Raven:** The raven illustrates the old way of living and what had not passed. It was sent out, but found no place to rest, no signs of peace and no sustenance to survive.
 - very eager or greedy for food, satisfaction, or gratification
- **The Dove:** The dove illustrated the new way of life, not one that lives according to the flesh (Raven's are carnivorous and doves are not). The dove returns with a symbol of peace as well as proof of life sustaining food.

If we are to build a life that sustains and brings contentment, we must leave our "ravenous" ways for those that offer restoration and peace.

2. Building a life of meaning is not a one step process: Noah's reclamation of the earth was not a microwave moment, but an intentional process of faith and courage.

Man had gone from having dominion over creation to having to be protected from it, but God does not intend us to live in protective shelters forever.

A process of reclamation:

1. **An open window: Vs. 6** *After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark.*
2. **Scouting out the land: Vs. 8** *Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground.*
3. **Patience: Vs. 11-12** *Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. ¹²He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.*
4. **A time to act: Vs. 15** *Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶“Come out of the ark”*
5. **Live the abundant life: Vs. 17b** *“Multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it.”*

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. What did you find most interesting about this story or sermon?
2. Noah had to rebuild after destruction. Have you ever had to rebuild your life? What was the key turning point?
3. Pastor Adam said that the raven in vs. 7 speaks to the old ways of fleshly living while the dove speaks to the new. What are some of the ways of the raven or ravenous living and how do they differ from that of the dove?
4. Noah came out of the ark eventually, leaving a place of God's specific protection for a difficult season. Is it possible that we sometimes chose to stay in protected places rather than strike out in faith to find a new place of God's calling?
5. Noah's new life came through a process. What are some of the steps to renewal that you have employed to claim a more abundant life?
6. Man went from having dominion over creation to hiding from it. How do we put ourselves in a place of dominion over our lives rather than constantly living in survival or reaction mode?