CHRIST'S FEET

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• Let's look at Genesis 8:6-12

After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth.

Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. But the dove could find no place to set its feet 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.

- He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark.
- 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.
- He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him. (Genesis 8:6-12)

• In verse 6,

"After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark"

- The ark of Noah is a wonderful picture of the security we have in Christ Jesus.
- In the ark the family was safe and secure.
- This is true of the believer in Jesus Christ:

- Our names are recorded in heaven, we have life in Christ, we shall not perish but have eternal, everlasting, abundant life.
- We have a mansion of glory waiting us.
- We are indwelt by Christ, a friend of God, in Jesus' prayers, and a gift to Jesus from God.

- We have been saved by Christ, forgiven of our sins, are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, and made right in God's sight.
- We are reconciled to God, dead to sin and alive to God, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and no longer under condemnation.

- We are an heir of God, a joint-heir with Christ, and nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.
- We are filled with joy and peace and overflow with hope by the Holy Spirit's power.

- We are washed, sanctified and justified.
- Our body is the Holy Spirit's abode.
- We have been given spiritual gifts to build up the Body of Christ.

- God makes us stand firm in Christ, He has anointed us, and set his seal of ownership on us.
- We are a new creation not a fixed up heart but a "new" creation.
- We are blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

- We are holy, and have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.
- We are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God has prepared for us in advance.

• We are servants of the King, we are saints, and have our citizenship in heaven.

- Noah's ark was coated with pitch inside and out.
- Pitch means "atonement" and it was this same pitch that was put on the basket of Moses to protect Him from the waters of the Nile.

- Now, in verse 6 again,
- "After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark"
- After 40 days, Noah was probably getting a little antsy.
- He opened the window.
- It is a beautiful thing to be in Christ but we must still open the window of our heart to the world outside.
- We don't love the world but we live in it.

- In verse 7, "and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth".
- In verse 7, Noah sent out a raven.
- This raven probably went back and forth to the carcasses of the dead animals floating on the water.

- Then it would probably come back and rest on the ark.
- Notice the raven working to find its food. Going to and fro like the devil seeking whom it can devour.
- Also, notice that it fed on the dead.
- But God gives life.

- This raven kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth.
- Then once the ark was of no use to it anymore, he took off.

- The devil feeds on the dead, and rides on the lies he tells the saints, and will never be there for anyone when he's destroyed their life.
- Not so Jesus, He tasted death for us, will carry us to heaven, and will never leave us or forsake us.

• Verse 8 says,

Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground.

• In verse 8, we see that Noah sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. Here Noah is a picture of God sending us out to serve Him. We are "created in Christ Jesus for good works".

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

• Verse 9 says,

But the dove could find no place to set its feet 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.

- The dove signifies a gracious soul.
- It finding no rest for its foot, no solid peace, or satisfaction in this world.
- The world is deluged, defiled, and will never give us satisfaction.
- He returns to Christ and His safety.

- Now, let's talk about "feet". Notice the dove had no place to set its feet.
- I want you to look at your feet now.
- Ask yourself "where have my feet been?"

• In Psalm 73:2 it says, "But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold."

• But the person who returns to God whole heartedly exclaims the following:

My feet have closely followed his steps;

I have kept to his way without turning aside. (Job23:11)

My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not slipped. (Psalm 17:5)

He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to stand on the heights. (Psalms 18:33)

My feet stand on level ground; in the great assembly I will praise the LORD. (Psalm 26:12)

He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

(Psalm 40:2)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105)

The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights. (Habakkuk 3:19)

• What did mankind do with Jesus' feet?

Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them.

Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet, and pleaded earnestly with him, "my little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.

Then the woman, (the one with the condition of bleeding) knowing what had happened to her, came and <u>fell at his feet</u> and trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.

In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet.

and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.

When he saw Jesus, he cried out and <u>fell at his feet</u>, shouting at the top of his voice, (Later) When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, <u>sitting at Jesus' feet</u>, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.

She had a sister called Mary, who <u>sat at the Lord's feet</u> <u>listening</u> to what he said.

He <u>threw himself at Jesus' feet</u> and thanked him--and he was a Samaritan.

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." (Martha went out first, Mary sat still – Mary went to him later)

The dead man came out, his hands and <u>feet wrapped with</u> <u>strips of linen</u>, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.

- And how does God look after our feet?
- During the forty years that I led you through the desert, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet. (Deuteronomy 29:5)
- "But the father said to his servants, `Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. (Luke 15:21-23)

- How did Jesus wash our feet?
- After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.
- (Peter) "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"
- (Peter) "No, you shall never wash my feet."
- (Jesus) "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."
- (Peter) "Then, Lord, not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"
- (Jesus) "Do you understand what I have done for you?" "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet."

• But we, the bride of Christ, in the Song of Songs 5:3 say, "I have taken off my robe -- must I put it on again? I have washed my feet-- must I soil them again?" (Good guilt – repentance; false guilt – condemnation)

- The feet of Jesus came here as a little baby.
- They walked the dusty, hard roads of Galilee.
- They were sore, hurting, cut, and tired at times.
- But they resolutely set out for Jerusalem knowing that they'd be pierced by a Roman spike.

- Those same feet were the last thing the disciples saw as he ascended to heaven promising to send the Holy Spirit and return.
- Those feet will stand on the Mount of Olives at the Second Coming of Christ and take up His heavenly throne on earth for His thousand year reign.
- In Revelation, it says that they will be bronzed feet signifying "judgment". (my judgment at the cross judged for works)

- In Genesis chapter 8, verse 10, He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark.
- In verse 10, He sent forth a dove, which had returned the first time with no good news.
- The dove was probably a little bit tired, disappointed, and discouraged.
- So as Christians we may feel this way.
- But, it says that Noah, a picture of God here, sends out the dove the second time.

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. (Genesis 8:11)

- In verse 11, The dove brought an olive-leaf in her bill.
- As Noah put forth his hand, and took the dove, & pulled her in to him, into the ark, so Christ will graciously preserve, and help, and welcome, those that fly to him for rest. The first time, the dove came back disappointed. The second time bearing fruit that will remain. He is the God of second chance.

• Matthew Henry says, "The olive-branch, which was an emblem of peace, was brought, not by the raven, a bird of prey, nor by a gay and proud peacock, but by a mild, patient, humble dove. It is a dove-like disposition that brings into the world earnests of rest and joy."

• In verse 12, He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him. (Gen.8:12)

- It was time to go out and serve in the world.
- Jesus left heaven to come to the world.
- We must leave our comfort and go into the world.

- Our purpose is this:
- "to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace." (Luke 1:79)

• LET'S PRAY