

A TIME OF REFLECTION

[Max Lucado with edits by Pastor Pier]

Water. All Noah can see is water. Water to the north. Water to the south. Water to the east. Water to the west. Water. For forty days it has rained. For months they have floated. For weeks Noah has been wondering: **How long is this going to last? Can God recreate this world? Is He able to start over? Can He, and we, begin again?**

Finally, the boat bumped, and the rocking stopped. The hull of the ark was resting on ground, but the ground was still surrounded by water. Noah sent a raven on a scouting mission; it never returned. He sent a dove. It came back shivering and spent. Then, he pulled a dove out of the bowels of the ark and ascended the ladder. With a prayer he let it go and watched until the bird was no bigger than a speck. All day he looked for the dove's return but all he sees is water. Water to the north. Water to the south. Water to the east. Water to the ...

You know the feeling. You have stood where Noah stood. You've known your share of floods. Flooded by sorrow at the cemetery, anger at the disability in your body, fear of the uncertainty of a pandemic, to say nothing about being haunted by your past. You've been on Noah's boat. And you've needed what Noah needed: **hope.**

Hope doesn't promise an instant solution but rather the possibility of an eventual one. Sometimes all we need is a little hope. That's all Noah needed. And that's what Noah received.

This is how the Bible describes the moment in Genesis 8:11: **Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth.**

An olive leaf. This leaf was more than foliage; **this was promise.** The bird brought more than a piece of a tree; it brought hope. For isn't that what hope is? Hope is an olive leaf—evidence of dry land after a flood. Proof to the dreamer that dreaming is worth the risk.

To all the Noahs of the world, to all who search the horizon for a glimpse of hope, God proclaims, **"Yes!"** And He comes. He comes as a dove. He comes bearing fruit from a distant land, from our future home. He comes with a leaf of promise that he can make all things new. Jeremiah 29:11:

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Welcome!

January 16, 2022



"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way."

SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM

Unity in Prayer: 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM;

Youth & Kid's Club

Prayer ½ hour before services

THEOLOGICAL SEED

2 Chronicles 19:1-2

- ¹ Then Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned safely to his house in Jerusalem.
- ² And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to King Jehoshaphat, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Therefore, the wrath of the LORD is upon you."

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sunday Evening Prayer – 6 to 7 PM.

Wednesday Bible Study – John 17. Come as we learn how Jesus prays for His own.

Kid's Club & Youth in the basement, learning about the Lord.

3-Day Fasting & Prayer Services - January 23rd at 7 PM – 8 PM through the 25th, at 334 2nd Avenue, Albany, NY 12209; New Hope Assembly.

Special Thanks – our church and all those who gave Christmas gifts to Pastor and Leah Pier.

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SERMON NOTES

GOD STILL CAN!

TEXT: Acts 4:24-31

1. **GOD** _____ **PRAYER** – James 4:2
2. **GOD DOES** _____ **HE** _____

Because God in His Sovereignty has chosen to _____ with praying men and women in _____ out His plans and purposes.

3. **GOD** _____ **His** _____
 - A. God and His Word are _____ terms – John 1:1
 - B. _____ of Prayer

Let's _____ to God's Word regardless of what the _____ tells us.
2 Chronicles 19:2

4. **GOD RULES OVER ALL** _____ – Psalm 33:12; Proverbs 21:1; 1 Samuel 13:13
5. **GOD** _____ **THE** _____ **OF THE ENEMY** – Acts 4:29
 - A. The cross was the ultimate _____ of Satan's plans.
 - B. In Israel He _____ the enemy to _____ on himself.
 - C. God knows and will often _____ what the enemy is up to.

6. **GOD** _____ – 2 Kings 6:16; Psalm 112

7. **GOD RESPONDS TO** _____ – Acts 4:29

When told to _____, they prayed for the power to _____!

8. **GOD CAN BIRTH** _____ **OUT OF** _____

"The _____ of the martyrs is the _____ of the Church."

Through the _____ of the risen Christ, we too can continue the _____ of the works of the devil. Romans 8:31-39; 1 John 3:8