

WHEN GIANTS WALKED THE EARTH

About the Series: The first 11 chapters of Genesis are foundational to the Christian worldview. But when we read accounts that have similarities to myths and works of fiction, it makes one wonder if the Genesis account is really true or not. This series looks into these chapters to see what the Bible actually says and teaches, and explores the relevancy of its message for us today.

Part 8

A Good, Looong Wait

Genesis 8:1-22 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan | Watch ▶

DISCUSS

To a generation that is always on the go, it seems that anything that makes us wait is considered a waste of time. Sadly, at times this includes God and His plans for us. God is simply too slow for us, and our life needs to move on or else we're going to miss out. What we forget is that God and His purposes and plans are often never in a hurry. The spiritual discipline of waiting on the Lord is a lesson we all need to learn and need to constantly be reminded of. Discuss these principles of waiting in Genesis 8:1-22.

1. In the absence of God's clear leading, we should not move but simply wait, trusting in God's timing (v. 1-9).

- After 7½ months of being in the Ark, why weren't Noah, his family, and the animals with them able to leave the ark right away? What did Noah do to know if it was already okay to go out of the ark?
- How did having conclusive evidence help Noah discern God's plan? What kept him patient in waiting?
- If you were in their shoes, how would you feel about waiting, especially given that there is nothing to entertain you inside the

Ark? While waiting on God's direction, what do you do to discern and confirm His leading?

- Share how you have waited on God until you have discerned His timing or clear instruction on what to do next?
- #### 2. Waiting for God's perfect timing by faith is for our good because blessings and protection come to those who wait (v. 10-13).
- How do you think Noah and his family felt in the process of waiting and seeing signs that they could leave the Ark?
 - What was the go signal that Noah could already leave the Ark? What blessings did Noah and his family receive for waiting so long?
 - Share how God has encouraged you by letting you know that He is in control and has not forgotten you through the waiting process.
 - What are you doing while you are waiting to receive encouragement from God and strengthen your faith? Why is the process of waiting for your own good? How will that yield a result that is for your benefit, blessing, and protection?
- #### 3. Remember to thank God for the waiting we go through as much as we thank Him when the wait is over (v. 20-22).
- What instruction did God give to Noah before they finally left the Ark? What was the first thing Noah did when he left the Ark?
 - What do you do when God finally gives you what you prayed for?
 - How would it help you if you also thanked God for the period of waiting you go through and all of the learnings, lessons, blessings, protections and benefits that the waiting has brought you?
 - What does 2 Peter 3:8-9 say about God's timing and His patience?

REFLECT

What is it that you are waiting for? And as you are waiting, are you waiting well? Does your waiting produce a better and more Christ-like you?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, I must admit that waiting is such a hard thing to do. Thank You for the reminder that in my walk with You, waiting is trusting Your timing. It is for my own good because blessings and protection come to those who wait. Help me to learn to thank You not only when the wait is over but also in the waiting I go through. May You help me to be patient as I wait on You. I pray in Jesus' precious name. Amen.