

9 Keys to Dynamic Bible Study
Lookin' Good
Read Genesis 1 and 7-8

The sudden tranquility of the water beneath the boat was even more jarring than the storm of the last months. The ceasing of the storm had actually aroused Noah and his family from sleep. Surprisingly, the family's sleep had been induced by the high winds and pelting rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning. The rain had lasted so long that they had learned to sleep through it, like babes rocked in a cradle. Shem, always first to meet an emergency, pulled off his woven blanket and stood up carefully from his straw bed. His legs bowed like the old sailors' legs from his former life—before the flood. He wobbled on the now-calm deck toward the rope ladder that led to an upper deck with a window. He was anxious to observe what was happening in the world outside the ark, and the others followed.

For the first few days aboard the boat, they had been both mesmerized and horrified by the chaotic scene outside the window. Bleakness had soon covered the horizon. Clouds, in shades of ebony, poured out sheets of rain upon an earth that could not fully absorb it. The view now, however, was one of brilliant sunlight and serenity, giving them hope. "Like the first day," Noah said, speaking of the creation week. "There had been darkness and waters everywhere, but on that day our God Elohim said, 'Let there be light!' So there was light! And it was good...like this day."

Retelling the details of the past deeds of their God and their forefathers, was a favorite pastime for Noah. These were carefully handed down from generation to generation. None seemed to mind on this day; it seemed appropriate to recall the creation account amidst a world that appeared to have gone through a de-creation. Noah continued: "All of God's creation was good, of course; He had acknowledged this on the sixth day: 'God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.' There was, however, one day, that the ancients had proclaimed that God did not see as good." There was a stir among the family members—they all knew from experience that Noah would not give the answer to this riddle until he had gone through each day of the week where the words "And God saw that it was good" were repeated. The family chroniclers had a penchant for repeating words and phrases that were noteworthy. The family waited for Noah to begin again.

"Land was essential for man's survival," Noah said. "That is why God saw it as good when the vast seas covering the earth were separated, and land became visible on the third day. The vegetation that appeared on the same day called for another acknowledgement from God—He also saw that as good." Turning his head toward the listeners, Noah nodded with his chin, prompting them to take part.

"The luminaries and stars appear on the fourth day," spoke up one voice. Another called out, "And the fish that swam in swarms in the seas came on the same day as the birds in the sky--on the fifth day." Noah nodded in approval. "And on the sixth day...", he prodded.

"First came the animals." Japheth had been waiting for his chance to contribute. "Then God desired that one of His created beings be made in His own image and likeness--He made Adam. Placing man at the end of His creation inevitably made man the climax of God's plan, and the reason for the previous creative acts. Now, Papa, tell us the answer to the riddle."

“It was the second day,” Noah replied, though they had already heard the answer on numerous occasions. “On that day, God divided the waters that had been everywhere so that the waters above were separated from the waters below. One problem, however, remained.” Noah hesitated in order to play up his next words. “Waters, the world wide seas, continued to envelop the land.”

“And as we can see from our boat drifting through the water, man cannot live on the seas--unless he wants to live out his life on a boat,” said Shem with a touch of mirth in his voice.

“And since the sea covering the earth was *not* good for man,” Noah said, “It was *not* good to God. That is why we are **not** told on the second day that God saw that it was good.”

“Perhaps soon,” Ham sighed, continuing to look out at the ever-present seas, “things will be lookin’ good...again.”