

This is a good place in our journey together to take a few minutes to review our previous devotional thoughts and the text. Read them again. *Living in the Beginning. Living in His Image. Living in His Destiny. Living in His eyes of favor. Living under His rainbow.*

The book of Genesis describes for us the beginning of the world – the beginning of life – the beginning of the human race - the beginning of sin in the world - the beginning of the promise of redemption - the beginning of family life - the beginning of man-made civilization - and – beyond the flood - the beginning of the nations of the world – of which we are all descendants.

It seems to me that in these records of the first years of the world, a striking effort is consistently made by our Father-God to provide for His creation - a solid connection to and a lasting awareness of the “true meaning of life”. (*Living in the Beginning. Living in His Image. Living in His Destiny. Living in His eyes of favor. Living under His rainbow.*) Life without meaning is hardly worth living and the questions: “Where did I come from, and why am I here?” “How did it all begin and where does it all end?” are the common quest of all mankind. The answer lies in the understanding that our creator - God, is Father and Lord of us all. The answer lies in the Presence of our Father.

Living Beyond The Flood

***“Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”* Gen. 11:4 NIV Translation**

Beyond the flood, and a new beginning, the stories that were surely passed down of what had happened and of what it all meant, unfortunately, began to lose their meaning. Even worse, the stories were being re-invented and included less and less about God and more and more about man. The human condition of the hearts of men led them to wander again from the presence of the Father. Moses included for us this record of how quickly God’s children had once again begun to create for themselves a destiny of their own making.

When beyond the flood – living day to day - moment to moment, and step by step - becomes more and more about self and less and less about God - we ultimately find ourselves alone. What we don’t realize is that as we are drawn away from the presence of God – and the loving arms of our Father – loneliness begins immediately to take hold of our souls.

In a human effort to resist the feeling of loneliness – we grasp for worldly recognition and we begin to create for ourselves “a city”, so that others will “notice us” and so we might see ourselves in a better light. It is and has always been - the nature of mankind to strive to achieve for oneself that which ultimately belongs to God. As God’s Creation – we are so talented. There-in, lies both a problem and a solution. We are wonderfully made - we are not makers of our own wonder.

I find it humbling that the Father – looking down on His children, time and time again, has the loving patience to remind us of His presence.

How are you living – beyond the flood?

Dear Father,

Help us to live, beyond the flood, day by day, moment by moment, step by step, in view of the flood and its significance for our future. Help us to remain steadfastly bound to your rainbow covenant. Help us to seek the meaning for our lives - in your presence and in your life. Help us Lord to do all that we do – in the light of your presence and to the glory of your precious name. Help us Lord to respect the historical record provided in your word, as a reminder of our position in your world. Help us as we continue to read through your word to become intimately aware of the nature of man so that we can avoid falling away from your presence and so that we can help others find meaning for living in your presence. In your mercy, find our worship and our service genuine and worthy in your sight.

In Jesus' name, Amen