

# Thanksgiving Under the Focus

*(Part 1)*

*“Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offering on it. The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in His heart: ‘Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.’ ‘As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” (Genesis 9:20-22)*

What if your prayers are answered by God? What if you are delivered from the hands of the enemies? What if you are rescued from earthquake, fire, flood or hurricane? What if you passed safely a hard time? What if you won a battle? What if the Lord vindicated you? What if the Lord healed you? What if the Lord wiped your tears after a long time of crying? What if the Lord blessed you? What if the Lord honoured you? What if the Lord chose you out of many? What if the Lord saved you? What if you received a better job? A higher salary? A partner in life? A new house? A smart car, etc.? For all the above events and more others, will you not look toward heaven and give thanks and offering to the Lord?

Are you Noah? No. Yes, you are right! But if his story fit to your condition and the situation you are in, bear with me to the last line. Noah and his family were chosen by God among many. The Lord honoured him and protected him from the threat of the flood, and saved him with his family. The Lord blessed him and entrusted under his hands pairs of every kind of animals and birds of the earth. As you know the story, after forty days of continuous raining the flood was all over the earth. After about a year the flood receded gradually from the earth until the land became dry. Noah and the seven members of his family were the only saved population on the earth. And what did Noah do after that?

**1) Then Noah built an Altar to the Lord:** What can we say about an altar? We may call it according to the language of the world, a monument. Monuments always describe big events in the history of a nation, a society, or a country like how they gain freedom, liberation, independence, or victory over the enemy. Usually, the monuments that we see acknowledge the power of the people, the army, the society, the whole nation in accomplishing a particular event, or the unknown soldier and his contribution in a war. Monuments best glorify such figures forgetting the mighty power of the Lord behind. Yet, it is an important point that we should not belittle the hand of the Lord in achieving any great event. *Noah built an altar to the Lord.* He did not build it for his own glory or to adore the natural human power, but to honour the real God who chose him with his family and saved them from the flood.

**2) Taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds he sacrificed burnt offerings on it:** From the animals that God entrusted to Noah he chose the clean ones. From what the Lord had blessed him he chose the best animals to offer back to the Lord as burnt sacrifice. The burnt offering is equal to the thanksgiving act. God wants us to give him back the best of what he has given us as an acknowledgement that whatever we have it came from Him and belonged to Him.

That was what Noah did after he came out from the ark and after he passed the hard times of the flood. We should do the same. The offering of Noah was an act of thanksgiving and it gave rise to the following:

**1) It satisfies and pleases God: (The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma...)** God is a jealous God. But the act of thanksgiving addressed to Him soothes, eases, and pleases God.

**2) It alters God’s wrath and judgement: (...and He said in His heart: never again will I curse the ground because of men...)** the act of Noah offering a sacrifice had impressed God. That simple act made God to review what He had done. Our act of thanksgiving motivates God’s mercy toward the people around us. Through thanksgiving God’s wrath can be averted or cannot be repeated again. It is amazing to hear God saying, **“And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.”** And God is true to His words because the great event did not happen and will not happen again on earth.

**3) It promotes God’s blessing:** In the above passage God declared a promise that necessitates the cycle of time to continue (**day and night**), events to continue (**cold and heat**), seasons to continue (**summer and winter**), and blessing or productive life to continue (**seedtime and harvest**). God’s blessings will continue while an act of thanksgiving is continually being offered.

**My Dear and Beloved:** Always remember to give thanks to the Lord. It is a simple act but of great value because it reflects what is in your heart toward God. When you offer to Him, He is delighted, appeased and pleased. And when He is pleased His blessings **will never cease**. Therefore lift up to the Lord a prayer full of thanks giving as you agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father come I thank you from the depth of my heart for your Son the Lord Jesus Christ to save me and deliver from sin and death and in granting me a new life and life eternal. Lord I thank you for the abundant blessing that continually I am receiving from you and thank you for all the wonderful and the amazing miracles that you are doing in my life every day. I thank you and praise you for the countless blessings that keep giving to me, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*