

“And the Lord was pleased with the aroma of the sacrifice and said to himself, “I will never again curse the ground because of the human race, even though everything they think or imagine is bent toward evil from childhood. I will never again destroy all living things.” Genesis 8:21 NLT

[lectio] // GENESIS 8:1-19

What a commentary about the end of a year-long “natural” disaster. A full year from drip drop to dry land again. Noah was 601 years old when he stepped off the boat! Eight people (family) living an extraordinary adventure, now responsible to repopulate the earth. But this verse (21) caught my attention. Moses records God speaking to Moses, “I will never again curse the ground because of the human race.” Our sin, our selfishness resulted in the total destruction of the flora & fauna that God so meticulously designed for us. God did a reboot of humanity to disrupt the rapid deployment of our wickedness to the point that it had corrupted every other human on the planet at the time. And now, it starts over with a small family. This also caught my eye, “even though everything they think or IMAGINE is bent toward evil from childhood.” At that point in the story there were no children, but there would be soon - and their thinking and fantasies would be bent from the beginning. 😬 that’s depressing! God spins up a whole new cycle, but the seeds of sin would grow a brand new crop of dissenters. This sin stuff runs deep! God makes another environmental promise - “As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.” We worry about global warming, but God promises that’s not the disaster to fear at all. If anything we should be MORE concerned about global evil and the coldness of the human heart.

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

This fight, this struggle within has been raging for eons! I need not to look for enemies abroad, the terrorist is within our human hearts. The best thing I can do for myself, my family, my friends and my planet is to constantly submit my human sin to you, to have faith that the global redemption plan is in Jesus’ payment for us. That the Spirit of God would transform my thinking and imagination to conform to the image of Christ and not the evil bent from childhood. I approach this week remembering that I am a sinner saved by grace, a broken human remade by the work of Jesus on the cross.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root