

Daily Reflections



SHATTERED DREAMS

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's First Reading

The LORD saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said: "I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created – people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I made them." But Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD. Then the LORD said to Noah: "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him. And after seven days the waters of the flood came up the earth.

Reflection

As I pondered the above verses of Genesis 6 and 7 in various translations of the Hebrew Scriptures, I was struck by God's grief in the depths of the heart. When God saw the universal sin that tainted everything conceived in the human heart, both intellect and will, all thoughts and actions – God made a judgment *to blot out from the face of the earth* God's own beloved creation. Human beings had been created in God's own likeness and yet the thoughts of their hearts only led to wickedness; they did not reflect the God who birthed them. God's dream was shattered. Despite this divine anguish, God found a way to have mercy and to save a remnant of creation through his servant Noah, a man who was just and who walked with God. This solemn judgement of God ends with a promise of hope in the saving of life; mercy will preserve God's unique gift of creation. With Noah there can be a new beginning and an everlasting covenant between God and all of creation.



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For Prayer

The Glory of God Seen in the Storm

*O give the Lord, you children of God,
give the Lord glory and power.
Give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord, resplendent and holy.*

*The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendor.*

*The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: "Glory!"
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king forever.*

*The Lord will give strength to his people,
the Lord will bless his people with peace. Amen.*

PSALM 29 (GRAIL TRANSLATION FROM THE HEBREW)

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