

"The Flood"

Part 3

Genesis 6:8-22

"Noah's Ark"

Introduction: Today we come back to our study of the book of *Genesis* and within that study we come to our 3rd study which pertains to the flood. Last week we looked at Noah the man and we were able to see characteristics of a disciple of Jesus Christ. Today we are going to focus upon the ark which Noah built.

Now last week we looked at some of the dimensions of the ark. It was about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. It was not constructed like the ships which we picture today. It did not have curved sides and it was not tapered in the front and the back. It was a plain rectangle box. It had 1 door and 1 window. It had different levels on the inside to provide room for all of the animals.

Notice Genesis 6:14-16

The ratio used for the ark was 6 to 1 and it has been found to be the best ratio for building ships. The ark would have been impossible to capsize. Because of its shape and dimensions it would have been extremely stable.

Last week I told you that the ark was so large that there was not a ship to compare in size with it until the nineteenth century.

Now the size and the shape of the ark makes for some interesting facts and studies but there is far more to the ark than the physical dimensions. There is a spiritual picture which is found in the ark and that is what *God* desires for us to see.

The ark is a picture of the salvation which *God* has provided for all of mankind. Over the past several weeks I told you of the importance of the flood and why there is a worldwide evidence of it today. The flood speaks of *God's* judgment and the flood is a warning of another judgment which will come upon the earth and all of the ungodly at a future date.

We look back at the ark and think of how devastating it was. There were some 10 billion people on the earth and they all drowned with the exception of 8 souls. Now the tragedy was not that billions of people died. They would have eventually died at a later date. The tragedy was that they died and went to hell.

There is a judgment which is coming in the near future that will be far worse than the flood. It is known as the Great Tribulation.

Notice the words of Jesus concerning the Great Tribulation:

Matthew 24:21

²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Then about 1000 years after the Great Tribulation God will destroy this earth and He will create a new heaven and a new earth.

2 Peter 3:10-13

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

¹¹ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

¹² Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

¹³ Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Now listen; the flood which happened in Noah's day is a real historical event and it is also a warning to the world of a future day of judgment.

The ark was real and it is a picture of the salvation which God has provided for man to be able to escape the judgment.

Today I want you to see how the ark is a picture of the salvation which God offers to you today.

1. The ark was God's grace.

Notice Genesis 6:3, 5, 11

God had been striving with the people of Noah's day and they continued to turn their backs upon Him. He sent preachers who proclaimed the coming judgment. There were signs in the lives of several people. But man continued to walk away from God and to sink deeper and deeper into his sin. It was all self-inflicted and man deserved to die and to suffer in the fires of hell.

But God loved every one of them and so out of grace [unmerited favor] He provided a way of escape through the ark. It was all grace and nothing else because none of them deserved to be saved from the flood.

Application:

In the same way God has provided a way of escape from the coming judgment. He sent His Son Jesus Christ into this world to make a way of escape. Jesus came and died for our sins so that we could be forgiven.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³ *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

⁴ *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

This was all grace because there is not 1 person on the earth who deserves to escape the judgment of God.

Romans 5:6-8

⁶ *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*

⁷ *For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.*

⁸ *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Ephesians 1:7

⁷ *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

2. All were invited to enter the ark.

Notice Genesis 6:6-7

When God looked upon the sinful condition of man God's heart was broken. He was grieved deep down in His heart because man was on a path that was leading him straight into eternal damnation.

2 Peter 3:7-9

⁷ *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

⁸ *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

Peter tells us we have not seen the return of the Lord because God is longsuffering and He desires for all men to be saved. It was no different in Noah's day.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

² *For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*

³ *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;*

⁴ *Who will have all men to be saved,* and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

It is God's will for all men to be saved today and it was no different back in Noah's day. Noah preached while he built the ark and his message was warning people of a coming judgment and the need to repent and to enter the ark to escape the judgment.

Application:

The salvation which God offers today is available for the entire world. Some teach that Jesus Christ died for a chosen few but the Bible teaches His death was for all.

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

² *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

1 Timothy 4:10

For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

3. All who entered came through the same door.

Notice Genesis 6:14-16

I want you to see that there was only one door in the ark and every animal that came had to come through the same door and every person who entered had to enter through the same door.

There were not different doors for different animals or people.

Application:

There is only one way to escape the judgment of God in your life and that is to enter through The Door.

John 10:7-9

⁷ *Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.*

⁸ *All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.*

⁹ *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

John 14:6

⁶ *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Just as there was only one door to enter the ark there is only one DOOR which leads to eternal life and that DOOR is Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:12

¹⁰ *Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.*

¹¹ *This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.*

¹² **Neither is there salvation in any other:** *for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

4. All who entered the ark were kept secure.

There were 8 people who entered the ark and there were 8 people who exited the ark. They were secure in the ark and they were sheltered from the judgment of God.

Application:

The same can be said of all who come to Jesus Christ for salvation. When we are saved we are placed into the body of Christ and in Him we are forever secure.

John 10:27-28

²⁷ *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

²⁸ *And I give unto them eternal life; and **they shall never perish**, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

²⁹ *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

Hebrews 10:10-14

¹⁰ *By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

¹¹ *And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:*

¹² But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

¹³ From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

¹⁴ For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Conclusion:

The people of Noah's day refused to enter the ark and I think I know why. Let me give you 2 reasons:

1. **Many did not believe the message of Noah.**

They just refused to believe the warning of God.

2. **Many were controlled by the lusts of the flesh.**

Matthew 24:38

³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

The history of the flood is a warning. God will judge this world and each person who dies in their sins at a future date.

He has made a way to escape through Jesus Christ and He offers the way of escape to you as a free gift. But you must do 2 things:

1. Repent
2. Believe