

Lesson 7 - OUR ARK IS CHRIST *Genesis 6–7*

(Gen. 6:11-12) - God looked over creation and pronounced it evil. God in justice planned to destroy all mankind from the face of the earth (*Gen. 6:7*). But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (*Gen. 6:8*). Though He would destroy all people (and justly so, for their evil), God made a covenant to preserve Noah and his family. Noah was not saved because of goodness and merit found in himself, but God was gracious to him in Christ. The judgment of the world was an act of God's wrath upon sin, and the salvation of Noah was an act of God's mercy and justice through Christ. *Genesis 6:9* says that Noah was a just man, upright, and walked with God; but his standing, his state and character was a result of the grace of God in Christ for him and the grace of God in Christ working in him (*1 Cor. 15:10; Eph. 2:8-10*). God was pleased to show mercy to Noah and pass by all the others (*Rom. 9:11-16*).

(Gen. 6:13-21) - God commanded Noah to prepare an ark for him and his family. God's Word tells us that "*by faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith*" (*Heb. 11:7*). This shows us several things about Noah. Noah acted upon God's Word and not his own view of things. Noah obeyed God, not simply out of fear of death, but out of a reverent respect for God as He was revealed to Noah in Christ. Noah sought and found righteousness in and by the promised Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, which he received by God-given faith.

(Gen. 7:1-5) - The Apostle Peter tells us that as Noah prepared the ark, he preached to his generation (*1 Peter 3:18-22*). Peter also described Noah as "*a preacher of righteousness*" (*2 Peter. 2:5*), which means Noah preached the Gospel wherein the righteousness of God (Christ's righteousness imputed) is revealed. The people refused to believe and repent. They refused to enter the ark. Yet, by God's grace, Noah believed God. When the ark was completed (before one drop of water fell), Noah willingly entered the ark. There is a decree of God and an everlasting covenant of mercy in Christ ordaining the salvation of a number which no man can number. Christ calls them his "sheep," given to Him by the Father. They are redeemed by His sacrifice, washed in His blood, clothed in His righteousness, and born again by the Spirit of God. They are convinced by the Spirit that there is nothing but the flood of God's wrath outside of Christ, the eternal ark of safety, the sinner's only refuge from sin and eternal death (*cf. Rom. 5:20-21*). By faith Noah built the ark, preached to his generation, and by faith Noah entered the ark. It is by faith that sinners come to Christ, and they are made willing to do so in the day of God's power. The rest of fallen humanity, though warned, preached to, commanded to believe and repent will not enter into Christ. They shall perish. Let's consider some particular points that show how Noah's ark was a type of Christ.

I. THE ARK WAS THE ONLY WAY OF DELIVERANCE - The water rose above the mountains (*Gen. 7:17-21*), so that nothing else could serve as a refuge. Christ is the only way of eternal salvation and safety from the wrath of God (*John 14:6; Acts 4:10-12*). The way of salvation is the way of righteousness, and Christ is the only way of righteousness (*Rom. 10:4*). The way of salvation is the way of holiness, and Christ is our holiness. Sinners who seek salvation based on anything but Christ and His righteousness will drown under the flood of God's wrath against their sins. The popular belief that there are many ways to God is not true. There is only one ark of safety, and that ark is Christ.

II. THE ARK WAS PLANNED AND PREPARED BY GOD - God foreordained and purposed to provide this ark for the safety of those whom He had chosen, Noah and his family, and God

gave Noah specific instructions on how the ark was to be built. Long before the flood came, the Lord provided for the salvation of His chosen people. The Lord planned and purposed the salvation of His people by Christ in His eternal purpose of grace (*2 Tim. 1:9; Rev. 13:8*). This is the redemptive purpose of God revealed in the everlasting covenant of grace which centers around and is conditioned on the Lord Jesus Christ.

God told Noah the kinds of material to use and the measurements for building the ark. It was God's ark, and it was actually the power of God that built the ark. Noah was the instrument God used. In the same way Christ, the second Person of the Trinity, had a human body prepared for Him by God (*Heb. 10:4-5*). Christ is both God and man in one Person, and, in His humanity, He was sustained by the Father and the Holy Spirit for the work He had to accomplish.

III. THE ARK WAS SUFFICIENT FOR ALL WHO WOULD ENTER - There was room enough for Noah and his family, and for two of every animal. It was about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, 45 feet high. Even so, Christ is the all-sufficient Savior for all who will come to God by Him, pleading His righteousness alone. Unbelievers prefer their own way because it exalts the flesh. God has never turned sinners away who came to Him seeking mercy in Christ, because God is the one who draws them to Christ (*John 6:37-45*).

IV. THE ARK WAS A PLACE OF ASSURED SAFETY - All who entered the ark were safe from the flood. Christ is the assured place of safety, the certain refuge, for all who are in Him. They are all forever safe from the wrath of God against sin because God cannot and will not charge them with sin (*Rom. 8:1; 33-39*). All who are in Him are washed in His blood, clothed in His righteousness, and there is no way they can be harmed by the guilt of sin or condemnation. In Christ we have the payment for all our sins, and He is our advocate to plead our case before the court of God's justice.

Again, the ark by which Noah and his family beautifully represents our salvation from sin by Christ. First, Noah was commanded to pitch the ark inside and out with pitch (*Gen. 6:14*). The word translated "*pitch*" means "to cover," or to "take away." At least 70 times in the OT it is translated "to make atonement." The pitch was a covering which sheltered Noah, and all who were in the ark, from the water outside. It kept the ship from leaking. Just as under the law of Moses the blood covered the mercy-seat, and the mercy-seat covered the broken law of God on the day of atonement, so the pitch covered the ark. This is a picture of satisfaction by Christ's blood. As long as we are legally covered by the blood of Christ, not one drop of God's wrath can come upon us due to our sins (*Psa. 32:1-2*).

Secondly, another way that the ark pictured Christ's redemptive work for our sins is that the storm and all its punishment fell upon the ark, not upon those inside. When Christ was made to be sin for us, He took the full measure of God's wrath against our sins. God's justice was brought forth upon Him without mercy (*Isa. 53*). There is absolutely no possibility of anyone perishing who is in Christ Jesus. God would be unjust to punish our sins when He has already punished them in Christ, our Ark. All who are in Christ are righteous in Him, and God shuts them in to keep them safe and secure (*Gen. 7:1, 16*).

There are other things we could say - The ark only had one door. Christ is the one and only door to eternal life, the only way of salvation (*John 10:9*). The ark only had one window for light to shine in, and Christ is our light, the light of the world, the light of the knowledge of the glory of God shines in His face, and this is the revelation of salvation by God's grace in Him (*2 Cor. 4:6*). The main lesson here is that as sinners in need of salvation by God's grace, we need to know that if we are found IN CHRIST, we are safe from God's wrath (*Matt. 24:35-39, 44-46; Rom. 8:1; 33-34; Php. 3:7-9*).