

**The 1689 Confession; Chapter 8 – “Of Christ the Mediator”, Message # 14 –
“Noah’s Sacrifice & Christ”, Presented in the Adult Sunday School Class,
by Pastor Paul Rendall on March 29th, 2020.**

Paragraph 6 – Although the price of redemption was not actually paid by Christ till after his incarnation, *yet the virtue, efficacy, and benefit thereof were communicated to the elect in all ages, successively from the beginning of the world, in and by those promises, types, and sacrifices wherein he was revealed, and signified to be the seed which should bruise the serpent’s head; (h)and the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, (i) being the same yesterday, and today and for ever.

*2nd Corinthians 4: 10; Hebrews 4: 2; 1st Peter 1: 10-11; h) Revelation 13: 8; i) Hebrews 13: 8)

I have been taking you through a study of those men who prefigured Christ our Mediator in terms of the sacrifices which they made or brought, which show us that they had regard to the promise of the Christ who was certain to come. By their actions in sacrifice, they were saying that He would come to bring the ultimate sacrifice as our Great High Priest and Mediator. It is true, as our Confession says, that the price of the redemption of all the elect was not actually paid by Christ until after His incarnation, and yet the virtue, the efficacy, and the benefit of it were communicated to the elect in all generations. The spiritual blessings of salvation were communicated to them really and actually, not metaphorically or typically, on the basis of their faith in God and His promise of Christ. This grace was communicated to the elect as they believed in Christ, and so, in a successive way, through all generations from the beginning of the world until Christ came into the world, His redemption was still applied. We have looked at the sacrifice made for Adam and Abel’s offering of his sacrifice of the first of his flocks, and now today we want to see Noah’s faith, and the sacrifice which he made after he got out of the ark.

1. Noah’s Building of the Ark prefigures Christ and His Ministry.

Hebrews 11: 7 – “By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness of faith.”

Now, in terms of seeing this typically, of Christ our Mediator, we must understand that the ark is a type of Christ. It says here that it was by faith that Noah was warned by God Himself of the wrath coming upon the world of that day, and he was moved with godly fear, and so he prepared an ark. He prepared this ark at God’s specific command and instructions. For this ark was to preserve, not only Noah’s family but also 2 of every living thing of the animals and birds and creeping things. All of this was a type of what Christ’s sacrifice would accomplish. The redemption of men has been, from the beginning of the world, particular and definite for it is according to the plan and purpose of God. It was God who warned Noah, of things which were as yet, unseen, but this flood would most certainly come at the very time that God purposed that it would come.

By the way, in relation to this present crisis that we are passing through of the Coronavirus, the truth is the same. All viruses, all diseases are something which God has sovereign control over, and when they come, and the extent to which they prevail, and when they depart, is all in God’s hands. This should be recognized, and difficulties which God has said will come to people should be prepared for. The greatest calamity of mankind is not coronavirus, but sin, and the judgment which is most certainly coming; when we die, and when Christ returns. It is imperative that you prepare for the coming judgment, not by building an ark, but by repenting of your sins and believing in Christ. If you believe in Christ, you will spiritually enter the ark of God’s salvation. You will be found at the Day of judgment prepared, for you believed in Him and you lived your life as Noah did, in the fear of God.

2. God does have real grief and anger over men’s sins and He will judge all men and nations.

Genesis 6: 5-22 – “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” “And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.” “So the LORD said, ‘I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.’ “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.” “This is the genealogy of Noah.” “Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations.” “Noah walked with God.” “And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.” “The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.” “So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.” “And God said to Noah, ‘The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.’ “Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.” “And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.” “You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side.” “You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.” “And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die.” “But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark – you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.” “And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.” “Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive.” “And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.” “Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.”

Now, there are several things that we need to understand from these verses in relation to Christ the Mediator and His sacrifice. First, the Lord has always been able to see exactly the extent of every and all people’s wickedness, and to evaluate it in a perfectly righteous fashion. In this case, He had a purpose which may not at all be apparent to us. He looked, it says in verse 5, and He saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. How could it have gotten to that place? It was because man was in these days before the flood, increasingly left to himself to do whatever he wanted to do. If you look up at verse 3 it says – “And the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years. God’s Spirit strove with all the people of that time period for 120 years, and yet, left to himself, even with common grace, he corrupted his own way more and more until the whole earth was filled with violence and immorality. Mankind misused and misspent the common grace given to them. What a glorious world they lived in, no doubt. But they let 120 years go by with no real thoughts of repentance. And so God decided to make them an everlasting monument to His justice.

He purposed to destroy the whole world of mankind and every living thing except for Noah and the animals representative of each species, male and female, two of every kind. This was to show all mankind both then and now, how patient, kind, and loving in a human sense God was to those people, and how much they deserved His judgment in this way. He was grieved over their sins, and it says that He was sorry, He repented, that He made man. Was He really grieved in His great Being? Yes, I believe that we must say that He really was. You will say to me – Isn’t God impassible; without passions? Yes, He most certainly is, in the human sense that we know and understand. But even though God is unchangeable in His Being, He nevertheless does have affections. They are not like a man’s which ebb and flow, and He is not sitting up in heaven weeping that He cannot do anything to judge or to save men.

It is true that He is so exalted in His Being that nothing can affect Him, nothing can move Him, or harm Him. We must remove all imperfection from our conception of Him in His exalted affections. He is infinitely above all of that. But yet, He as the Divine Being, does have real affections of love and wrath, pity and grief in Himself, when He beholds the children of men. These affections are actually far and away above and beyond our comprehension; how God holds these affections within Himself in perfect equipoise, with absolutely perfectly calm resolve, and the most intense anger and indignation over sin,

and yet He is not ruffled or swayed by anything like human emotions. His purposes were, and they are, unchangeable and He is impassible.

Did God really repent, was He really sorry that He made man? No, not in the sense of His decreed purpose, but in the sense of what He beheld mankind becoming in His sin, He truly was grieved. His destruction of the whole world of Mankind at that time shows that He really was “sorry” in that sense. Couldn’t He have stretched forth His hand and given more of them saving grace? He most certainly could have, but it was not possible in accordance with His eternal purposes in Christ. He wanted to demonstrate His wrath upon vessels of wrath who were prepared beforehand for destruction. (Romans 9: 22) And further, He wanted to make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, even Noah and certain of his family, as the only ones whom He would show mercy to. All the world was guilty before Him and yet He had mercy on Noah. Verse 8 – But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. This ought to show us all, the seriousness of the issue of sin, and any of us continuing in it. A deep humbling of ourselves needs to take place, where we not only confess that we are sinners, but that we ask God for grace to depart from our sins and forsake them.

It says in the next verse that Noah was just man, perfect in his generations. He walked with God. The word perfect there means that he was loyal to God and his word. He was a man of integrity. He feared the Lord and walked according to it. It doesn’t mean that he was sinless, for we shall find him drunk and uncovered in his tent over in chapter 9, verse 21. But he was blameless in the sense that the whole course of his life was righteous. He lived by faith. He lived to God and what God would have him to do, in righteousness. I am sure that he was aware of his own inward corruptions and sins of his heart, but He knew that God was watching over him, to forgive those sins of his heart. He no doubt confessed them, and He regularly had dealings with God over the thoughts of his heart, like any other godly man does, when they know the plague of their own heart. (Proverbs 28: 13, 1st Kings 8: 37, 38)

1st Kings 8: 37 says – “When there is famine in the land, pestilence or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers; when their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities; whatever plague or whatever sickness there is; whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows the plague of his own heart, and spread out his hand toward this temple: then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men, that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.”

This is pertinent to what we are going through in terms of the coronavirus. For we have pestilence in the land. And pestilence is one of God’s four great judgments that He brings upon sinful nations. Ezekiel 14: 19-23 – “Or if I send a pestilence into that land and pour out My fury on it in blood, and cut off from it man and beast, even though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live, says the Lord God, they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness.” “For thus says the Lord God: How much more it shall be when I send My four severe judgments on Jerusalem – the sword and famine and wild beasts and pestilence – to cut off man and beast from it?” “Yet behold, there shall be left in it a remnant who will be brought out, both sons and daughters; surely they will come out to you, and you will see their ways and their doings.” “Then you will be comforted concerning the disaster that I have brought upon Jerusalem, all that I have brought upon it.”

3. Mercy is alone found in Jesus Christ.

So, we have seen that there are judgments which God brings upon a nation and an unrepentant people. God is bringing judgment in relation to this country and the coronavirus, but He also has plans to show mercy to those who fear Him and repent of their sins. But in regard to our study of Noah, God at that point in human history, in relation to His judgment of the world, introduced the ark as a type of Christ and His sacrifice. He commanded Noah to build it to exact specifications and tells Noah that He is bringing the floodwaters on the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, and that everything would die. But He would establish His covenant with Noah, and he would go into the ark

along with his family. I am trying to show you that God's establishing His covenant with Noah was placing him and his family and all of these creatures in the ark, where they would be safe and ride above and on the waters of God's judgment. They would be saved in this earthly sense, but their salvation was meant by God to be a picture of His great mercy in Christ when we believe in Him and receive the blessings of salvation. You will notice that salvation was of the Lord in Noah's case. Noah was shown grace, he feared God, and so he prepared an ark. In the building of that ark, he was preaching to the people of that day of God's coming judgment, and God's mercy if they would believe his preaching of salvation through Christ. This is proved if we turn over to 1st Peter chapter 3, verses 18-22.

1st Peter chapter 3, verses 18-22 – “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.” “There is also an antitype which now saves us – baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.”

We see here that the Lord Jesus, in order to bring believing sinners to God, was put to death in the flesh on the cross for us, but He was made alive by the Spirit. It was by the Spirit that Christ went and preached to the people of the antediluvian world to those people whose spirits were, at the time of Peter's writing in the prison of hell, awaiting the judgment of the great Day. They were disobedient in their lifetime, and during their lifetimes the Divine patience was kept waiting; God watching and looking for the least indication of repentance on their parts, and there was none. All that while, the ark was being prepared by Noah, and in the building of it, there was the declaration of judgment and mercy. Judgment if they mocked and did not believe that judgment was coming. Mercy if they would believe it. But none believed except Noah and his family.

There is an antitype which now saves us. And it is baptism. Not the removal of the filth of the flesh, (or the sacramental ordinance of baptism, as though that action done by a priest or minister would save anybody) but the answer of a good conscience toward God. A good conscience comes from believing in Jesus Christ and being cleansed from your sins by His blood. “Let the water and the blood, from Thy riven side which flowed, be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.” “Rock of Ages cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.” So, even as Noah entered the ark and was baptized in the waters of judgment, but was safe there in the ark and rode out the judgment of God and was safe there in the ark for a whole year, and landed in a new world, a cleansed earth; even so, the believer in Christ finds escape and safety from the wrath of God by taking refuge in Christ by faith in His having borne the judgment of God against them. And since they are “in Christ” they are brought safely to a new life and new world. All of their sins are forgiven and they are covered by Christ's righteousness, given the Holy Spirit. Through the mediation of Christ they offer the spiritual sacrifices of themselves, and praise, and they have the resolve to live their life keeping the commandments of God because of New Covenant grace.

This response was well pictured in Genesis chapter 8, verses 20-22 – “Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered bountiful offerings on the altar.” “And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma.” “Then the Lord said in His heart, ‘I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.’ “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer and day and night shall not cease.”

Having set down on the mountains of Ararat, having left the ark, the place of his salvation and baptism, Noah did not forget God but remembered Him and the mercy that He had shown to him, by building an altar upon which he would offer a sacrifice. This is the first altar that is mentioned in the Scripture, but it is surely true that there had been others made before it. Yet this one is made by Noah to show forth his desire to set up the worship of God in this New World that he had been brought into, and to

commemorate the great deliverance that he had been given by God from destruction. He would no longer ride in the ark, but he would continue on “in Christ”, in the faith of the coming Savior and Redeemer of the world. He offered sacrifices typical of Christ and His ministry. Noah took of every clean animal and bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar, which showed forth his recognition of God’s merciful saving of him, a sinner from wrath by a substitutionary sacrifice. John Gill says – “The bullock or heifer might denote His strength, the sheep or lamb His patience and harmlessness, the turtle or dove His meekness; and being burnt offerings, may signify the painful and dolorous sufferings of Christ, when the wrath of God was poured on him like fire.”

And it says in verse 21 that the Lord smelled a soothing aroma, and the Lord said in His heart that He would never again curse the ground for man’s sake. For He knew that the imagination of man’s heart was evil from his youth. He knew the depravity of man, and He would send Christ to bear the curse of the law which is rightly due to sinful men. This sacrifice of Noah’s made God the Father think of His Son and what He would do through Him. Those believing in Him God would forgive them and He would teach them a new and better way. Remember Ephesians chapter 5, verse 2? “And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.” This was no doubt what Noah’s sacrifice made God the Father think of, and be satisfied with; the offering and sacrifice of His dear Son.

Isaiah 54: 9 and 10 say – “For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you.” “For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,’ says the LORD, who has mercy on you.”