

NOAH'S ARK – A PICTURE OF CHRIST

Genesis 6-8; 1 Peter 3:20-21

INTRODUCTION

- One of the most well-known stories in the Bible is that of the flood and Noah's ark.
- However, there are many misconceptions about the flood story.
- The flood is an emphatic statement both of the judgment of God and the grace of God.
- Many people today are offended at the thought of God judging and destroying the wicked.
- We must be clear that the God who created us and gave us life and all the blessings we enjoy is also the God who once killed every living person on earth, except for eight souls.
- There are many things to be said about Noah's ark, but today we will consider the numerous ways that the ark represents Jesus Christ.
- In 1 Peter 3:20-21 we are told that the ark is a "figure" or type of salvation.
- The salvation of those eight souls from the awful judgment of God upon the world gives a clear picture of the salvation that Christ gives to those who believe in Him, delivering them from the wrath of God for their sins.

I. GOD'S JUDGMENT UPON THE WICKED

A. Man's sinful state (Genesis 6:5,11-12)

1. We are all sinners by nature (Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:3)
2. We are all sinners by practice (Romans 3:10-12)

B. God's hatred of sin

1. God sees all (6:5; Psalm 14:2-3)

2. Sin grieves God (6:6; Isaiah 59:2)
- C. God's justice demands a penalty for sin (Exodus 34:7)
1. The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)
- D. God is longsuffering (1 Peter 3:20)
1. He gave mankind 120 years to repent (Genesis 6:3)
 2. He is not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9)
 3. His Spirit strives with man
 - a. He illuminates the darkened mind (John 1:9)
 - b. He convicts of sin (John 16:7-11)
 - c. He draws sinners to repentance (John 12:32)
 4. His striving will come to an end

"The time of God's patience and forbearance towards provoking sinners is sometimes long, but always limited: reprieves are not pardons; though God bear a great while, he will not bear always"
(Matthew Henry)

- E. God made a way of salvation possible (John 3:16)

II. GOD'S PROVISION OF SALVATION

- A. This was a Divine provision (Genesis 6:13-14)
1. Before even the world began, the means of escape existed in the mind of God (cf. 2 Timothy 1:9)
 2. Christ was the "lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8)
- B. There was only one door
1. The ark was the only means of deliverance and it had only one means of entry (Genesis 6:16)

2. Christ is the only Saviour (John 10:9; 14:6; Acts 4:12)
 3. Noah was saved by grace through faith (Genesis 6:8; Hebrews 11:7)
 4. We obtain salvation by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- C. It was perfectly safe Genesis 6:14)
1. It was made of gopher wood representing the humanity and death of Christ (Isaiah 53:8; Daniel 9:26)
 2. It was pitched both inside and out
 3. The Hebrew word for “pitch” is elsewhere translated “atonement”
 4. Christ is “the atonement” (Romans 5:11)
 5. The blood of Jesus not only covers sin, but cleanses from all sin (Romans 4:7; 1 John 1:7)
- D. All who were inside were preserved
1. “The LORD shut him in” (Genesis 7:16)
 2. While all outside were killed, Noah and his family were safe (Genesis 7:23)
 3. Those who are in Christ “shall never perish” (John 6:37; 10:28)
 4. God “shuts in” those who come in faith to Him (1 Peter 1:5)
- E. It protected from judgment
1. The water, waves and wind beat upon the ark, not upon Noah
 2. Christ bore the wrath and judgment of God instead of us (1 Peter 3:18)
- F. It carried souls between worlds
1. The ark transported Noah and his family from one world to another

2. Christ is the only one who can take us from this present, mortal realm, to the eternal, immortal realm.

III. GOD'S INVITATION TO ALL

A. "Come into the ark" (7:1)

1. This is the first occurrence of "come" in the Bible
2. "Come" implies that God was with those in the ark (cf. 8:16)
3. Christ says, "Come unto me." (Matthew 11:28)

B. Noah preached for 120 years (2 Peter 2:5)

1. He preached with words (cf. Isaiah 58:1)
2. He preached by his actions
3. He was not like the ungodly generation in which he lived (2 Corinthians 6:17)
4. Only his family believed him

C. The ark had to be entered *before* the flood came

1. Many may have thought they could put off their decision until the flood came
2. When the flood began it was too late
3. It shall be the same at the coming of Christ (Matthew 24:37-39)

CONCLUSION

1. As God destroyed the original world with water, so He will destroy this world by fire, along with those who reject Him (2 Peter 3:6-7)
2. Have you responded to God's strivings in your heart by casting yourself upon His mercy?
3. As Noah faithfully preached to his generation, are you faithfully warning those around you to flee from the wrath to come?