

THE FLOOD: SCOFFERS BEWARE II PETER 3

Fossils speak of death, and death speaks of sin and judgment, not of creation and development. When correctly interpreted, whether theologically or scientifically, this world- wide witness in the very earth itself testifies of a sovereign Creator who controls and judges His creation. Rather than evolutionary progress over many ages, these stones cry out concerning a judicial termination of *one age*.

The Biblical record is complete with a first hand account of that great hydrodynamic convulsion with which God judged the wickedness of the antediluvian world. Whatever geological problems may be suggested, there can no longer be *any* question that, if the word of God be true, the Genesis Flood was a world covering, cataclysmic judgment imposed by the strong hand of God.

Now join me in II Peter 3. The Lord tells us what do when you find yourself in a world that denies their Maker!

- I. TRUST THE WORD v. 2
- II. EXPECT THE SCOFFERS v. 3
 - A. In the days of Noah before the Flood, they were eating and drinking; they were marrying and giving in marriage. While Noah built the ark, he also preached (2 Pet. 2:5), but the people were just as unconcerned about his preaching as about the ark he was building, thinking both were meaningless and absurd. They laughed when he spoke of the coming flood. They had never seen rain, much less a flood, because until that time the earth was apparently covered by a vapor canopy that provided all the moisture necessary for life to flourish. Because they had never seen such a calamity, they discounted the idea that it could happen. They therefore went about their daily routines of eating and drinking and of marrying and giving in

marriage. It was business as usual until the day Noah entered the ark and it started to rain.

- B. The people were so untouched by God's truth that they did not understand their perilous situation until the flood came and took them all away into a godless eternity. Flood translates *kataklusmos*, which means deluge or washing away, and is the term from which the English *cataclysm* is derived. Only after it was too late did the people of that generation understand their tragic destiny. ¹
 - C. The times in which Noah grew up were among the most evil and corrupt in history. "The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). If any man had reason to regret the time in which he lived it was Noah. But he did not complain about when he was born, his lot in life, or his calling. He obeyed as he was and where he was.
 - D. Noah's job was to warn the people of his time that God would soon judge them because of their wickedness and unbelief. They had had the same opportunity to know God and His will as had Noah. The difference between Noah and everyone around him was not a difference in the amount of light but a difference in response to it.
- III. RESIST THE LIE v. 4
- A. Satan's Gospel = uniformitarianism, evolution, impersonal god, animal ancestry and chance.
 - B. God's Truth = cataclysmic intervention, creation, personal God, image of God and purposeful design.
- IV. AFFIRM THE CREATOR v. 5
- V. REMEMBER THE JUDGE v. 6
- A. Against that wicked, cruel, and dark world, Noah's life and testimony shined in glistening condemnation. Black never seems so black as when white is put beside it. The man of faith rebukes the world just by his living, even if he never utters a word of reproach. A young man of Athens told Socrates, "I hate you, because every time I meet you, you show me what I am."
- VI. ESCAPE THE FIRE v. 7
- A. Perhaps the saddest lesson from Noah's day is that men have not changed in their attitude toward God since then, and will not change until the Lord returns. "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating

¹ MacArthur, John F., *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*, (Chicago: Moody Press) 1983.

and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matt. 24: 37–39).

- B. The parallels of Noah's day to our own are sobering. In Noah's day God's message was rejected, as it is today. In his day, wickedness, immorality, violence, lewdness, vulgarity, profanity, lying, killing, and blasphemy were rampant, as they are today. In his day a remnant found grace, just as a remnant believes today. In Noah's day or shortly before it, Enoch was translated, picturing the rapture of believers when the Lord returns, which could be in our day. We can be as sure as they should have been that judgment is coming, because God has promised it just as clearly and men deserve it just as much. Someone has said, "If God doesn't destroy our world, He'll have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah." The next judgment will be different in two ways, however. First, it will not be by flood (Gen. 9:15) but by fire (2 Pet. 3:10). Second, it will be the last. And again the only security is refuge in God's ark, Jesus Christ.²

VII. SEEK THE SAVIOR v. 8-9

- A. It will be a moment of sheer terror when unbelievers face a holy God and realize with absolute certainty that they are eternally lost. That must have been the feeling of the people of Noah's day when they saw the flood waters rise above their heads and knew the door to the ark was unalterably shut.
- B. The ark symbolized many of God's future dealings with men. The Hebrew word for pitch, for example, has the same root (*kaphar*) as that used for atonement. The pitch kept the waters of judgment from entering the ark just as Christ's atoning blood keeps judgment from the sinner.
- C. The exact length of the cubit during Noah's time is not certain, but using the lowest, most conservative figure it would be about seventeen and a half inches. On this basis, the ark was 438 feet long, 73 feet wide, and 44 feet high. In other words it was nearly one and a half times the length of a football field and more than four stories high. Since it had three decks, the total deck area was almost 96,000 square feet, and the total volume within the decks was about 1.3 million cubic feet. Naval engineers have

²MacArthur, John F., *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*, (Chicago: Moody Press) 1983.

discovered that the dimensions and shape of the ark form the most stable ship design known. The ark was not designed for maneuverability but for stability, in order to best protect those within it.

- D. The ark is a beautiful picture of the salvation offered in Jesus Christ. The ark was easily large enough to hold all the animals needed to assure each species' survival. It had plenty of room for every person who wanted to come to God for safety. The fact that only eight persons came into the ark means that only eight wanted to be saved on God's terms. God does not wish "for any to perish but for all to come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9). God's nature does not change. His will in Peter's time was the same in Noah's time. Only those perished in the Flood who rejected God's way of salvation. Had more come to Him for safety, we can be sure the ark would have accommodated them. Just so, Jesus' blood is more than sufficient to atone for all the sins ever committed since the Fall. That no more people are saved than are simply means that these are the only ones who *want* to be saved. Jesus declared absolutely that no one who comes to Him will be cast out (John 6:37).

TOPIC: "The Flood" Genesis 5-8

These chapters deal with the flood and the faith of Noah. It is impossible for us to mine all of the spiritual treasures here; we will limit ourselves to a fourfold study of this important event in Bible history.

I. THE FLOOD CONSIDERED HISTORICALLY

A. The Genesis record proves the fact of the flood.

1. Christ taught a literal Flood Matthew 24: 37-39 "But as the days of Noah [were,] so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 "and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (NKJV), Luke 17:26 "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: (NKJV).
2. The prophet Isaiah in 54:9 "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. (NKJV).
3. The apostle Peter 1 Peter 3:20 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. (NKJV); 2 Peter 2:5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, [one of] eight [people,] a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; (NKJV) 2 Peter 3:6 by which the world [that] then existed perished, being flooded with water. (NKJV) Archaeologists tell us that every ancient civilization had a flood tradition with details paralleling the Genesis account. It is likely that these stories (involving their fanciful gods and goddesses) were corruptions of the original history of the flood that was handed down from generation to generation.

THE PURPOSE OF THE FLOOD

The purpose of the flood is stated in Genesis 6:5-13. Man had become corrupt, the earth was filled with violence, and God had to destroy mankind. There must always be judgment and death before there can be a new beginning. We will study the details later.

THE METHOD OF THE FLOOD.

The method of the Flood.

The ark was not a boat, but was rather a "floating box" made of cypress wood and pitched with bitumen. If we use a 24 inch cubit, its size would be 600' long, wide, and 60' high. With an 18-inch cubit the size becomes 450 x 75 x 45. In either case, the ark was large enough to hold the collection of animals, the food, and Noah's family. We do not know how many species of animals there were in that day. Note that 6:20 indicates that God brought the animals to Noah. There-were three levels to the ark, with a window either in the roof of the top level or running all around the top level (6:16); and there was one door.

The flood itself was caused by the falling rain and the erupting of water from under the earth (7:11). One can well imagine the

tremendous effects these would have on the surface of the earth, as well as on the climate. Gigantic tidal waves followed these eruptions. Gen. 2:5-6 suggests that the falling of rain was a new thing on the earth, which makes the faith of Noah even more wonderful.

THE SCHEDULE OF THE FLOOD

The schedule of the flood is clearly given in the record. If we count the year of Adam's creation as 1 then Noah was born in the year 1056. Gen. 6:3 indicates that God gave Noah 120 years to preach and build the ark (I Pt. 3:20), which means he was 480 Years old when he started (7:11). This would be the year 1536. The flood came in Noah's 600th year, which would be 1656; and on the 27th day of the second month in the year 1567, Noah and his family were back on dry ground (8:13ff). The daily schedule would look like this:

Month 2 (November) 1656	Day 10	They enter the ark (7:1-9)
Month 2 (November)	Day 17	The floods come (7:10-11)
Month 3 (December)	Day 26	The rains end (7:12)
Month 7 (April) 1657	Day 17	The ark rests (8:1-4)
Month 10 (July)	Day 1	Mountain-tops seen (8:5)
Month 11 (August)	Day 11	Sends out raven and dove (8:6-9)
Month 11 (August)	Day 18	Dove brings branch (8:10-11)
Month 11 (August)	Day 25	Dove fails to return (8:12)
Month 1 (October) 1657	Day 1	Noah opens ark (8:13)
Month 2 (November)	Day 27	They leave the ark (8:14ff)

We shall see later that the year 1656, and the date that the ark rested on Ararat, are very important.

THE MESSAGE OF THE FLOOD

CONSIDERED TYPICALLY the ark is a wonderful picture of our salvation in Christ.

1. It was planned by God, not invented by man.

2. There was only one way of salvation; there was only one door in the ark.
3. The ark was made of wood, speaking of the humanity of Christ: He had to be born as man in order to save us.
4. The word for "pitch" in 6:14 is the same as the word "atonement" used later in the OT.
5. God invited Noah and his family into the ark (7:2); and once they were in, God shut them in so that they were secure (7:16).
6. The ark not only saved mankind, but also the creatures within it; just as Christ's death will one day deliver creation from the bondage of sin.
7. The ark saved them from judgment; Christ saves us from the wrath to come. First Peter 3:18-22 connects the ark with the resurrection of Christ; the waters buried the old world but raised Noah to a new life.

If you will check the Flood schedule, you will see that the ark rested on Ararat on the 17th day of the 7th month. The first month in the Hebrew calendar is October, so the 7th month would be April; and April 17th (three days after Passover, Exodus 12:1-3) is the day our Lord arose from the dead! April was made the first month of the religious year at the Passover, but October remains the first month of the civil year.

960714 PM TAPE TRANSCRIPT

Genesis chapter 6, we're going to look at the flood tonight. We finished this morning the brief little mini-series we had on the book you can trust, and between that and the next part, which is going to be the book you need, we're going to talk about what the bible can do to us and that will be in the future. I wanted to do this study on the flood, because as I was preparing this morning's message, it turned into something that was so voluminous and so widespread throughout the scriptures I realized that we couldn't squeeze it in this morning, and so we'll do it tonight and hope maybe we can finish it off, Lord willing, next Sunday morning. And then we'll get on with our next series.

But fossils speak of death. Death speaks of sin and judgment, not of creation and development. And so fossils and all that are ex post facto. They're after the fact of creation.

When correctly interpreted, whether theologically or scientifically, the worldwide witness in the earth itself testifies of a creator who controls and judges. And that's why the flood is so important. If God did not flood the earth in Noah's time, then God will not judge the earth with fire and history as He promised. Because the same God that began everything took control of his wayward creation and judged the earth and started over again with Noah, is the same God who will end all things as he promised in the book of the Revelation. The biblical record is complete with what we're looking at in chapter six of Genesis, a first hand account of that hydrodynamic convulsion. You say, "What's that?" That's when God totally destroyed the earth with water. Whatever geological problems might be suggested by all the brilliant and well-researched geologists, there's no doubt that the Bible asserts that there can be no question that if the Bible, the word of God, is true, then the Genesis flood was no less than a world-covering cataclysmic judgment of God. Now the reason I say that is there's a growing number of Christian books that have relegated the flood to being kind of like what the Mississippi did a couple of years ago, in '93 or whenever it was. Remember? You know, it just really flooded and all the pictures and you're looking down and square miles are flooded, and they say that was the flood. But the description we're going to look at tonight and next time we're together in the Bible does not want a localized flood. It's a global catastrophe that destroyed all the hundreds of millions, if not billions of people.

Well, because we're living in a world that doesn't particularly like God's intervention because if He intervened once, he might intervene again. Right? And if He's powerful enough to intervene, He might even keep track of my life. So I would rather relegate Him out of the picture and because of that, we saw from Peter this morning, we need to trust His word. We need to expect that scoffers are going to come. We need to constantly be aware of the intrusion of Satan's gospel. And Satan's gospel is a gospel, which he has been pedaling from the earliest philosophers, from the astrologers of Babel all the way through the Greek philosophical system, the Roman world and right to our present day, and that is that everything is copasetic. It's uniformitarianism. There's been no intervention, no cataclysmic intervention of a God. Things are evolving and mutating into better and better and whatever species. That there is an impersonal god, if there even is a god, and that we all have animal ancestry and we all got here by chance.

And I remember one time one of those motivational speakers, I think it was Rich DeVoss, or one of those said one time, he said, "...to believe in evolution is to believe that the jungles of Africa could produce the 747." You know what I mean? I mean a 747, if you ever have seen the complexity of that monster, is infinites... very little, as complicated as we are. Our bodies are so much more complex than an airplane, and to think that this body that we have with the system and all that God has put together in us, could have evolved, or any other animal, is like thinking that a 747 could evolve in the jungle. God's truth is that God has cataclysmically??? Intervened in this planet at the flood, and He's going to do so again with fire at the end. But He is the creator and that He, from nothing, made everything by His word, that He is a personal God, He is neither distant nor is He absent, He is present, and that we have not animal ancestry, but we have as our ancestry the very image of God and that we did not come here by chance.

We're not a blob. If the high schools would like to lessen the number of teen suicides, you know it's in the papers, and it's in the news magazines, and it's in all the sociological reports, and they say teen suicide is such a problem. Stop telling them they're nothing, that they came from nothing, that they're mere animals, that they're going to nothing. When they removed the purposeful creation of God from the education system, they intruded??? It with the hopelessness of existential existence, which is the reason why Ernest Hemingway killed himself and almost 40 years later to the day, his granddaughter killed herself. What is there to live for if you're a protoplasmic blob of primordial soup that has nothing more than an ape imprint upon it?

Well, not only resist the lie, we need to affirm our creator. That's why that special tonight was so good. The creator, this morning our music, the creator.

We need to remember that He is a judge and against the wicked and cruel and dark world Noah's??? Life and testimony shined in gleaming condemnation. Black never seemed so black as when white is put beside it. And that man of faith rebuked the whole world by his life, and just like we should rebuke our generation by our lives.

We need to escape the fire, as we looked at this morning, and I think that as we look at the flood, the saddest lesson is that people just haven't changed in their attitude toward God. You might want to write down Matthew 24: 37-39. This is what Jesus said, "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. In those days before the flood," which Jesus believed in, by the way, "they were eating, they were drinking, they were merry and they were given in marriage until the day that Noah entered the ark. And they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away so shall the coming of the Son of Man be." And it's so true. For me to stand up here and talk about a global cataclysmic judgment when God's going to unleash his wrath upon this planet, is about as hilarious as anything else that we could say from the Bible to the world in which we live. And so we should seek the Savior.

Well, let's look at the flood and basically this is a little different from the morning, I think that to cover this material I won't get as excited and I won't jump up and down, but I'm basically going to give you a lot of information that maybe you've never seen before. Or if you have, I hope that, as Peter said, by stirring up your mind by way of remembrance, it will grip your heart what a wonderful truth this is.

One of the truths is that the ark is a beautiful picture of salvation offered in Jesus. You know the ark was big enough to hold all the animals that God wanted to save as well as all the people. And God could have saved everyone that wanted to be saved, but what's interesting is only eight people wanted to be saved. And what a sad thing it is. It says in 2 Peter 3: 9, "God was not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." God's nature does not change. His will in Peter's time is the same as in Noah's time. Only those who perished in the flood, I mean those who perished in the flood were only those who rejected God's way of salvation. And the

only people that are going to perish in the tribulation hour Christlessly are going to be those that reject.

See God is going to pour out; He's going to send the tribulation witnesses, 144,000. It will be converted Jews that will come to Christ and then become His invulnerable witnesses on the planet. The two witnesses are going to crisscross the planet and have miraculous powers. And in the end when the two witnesses and 144,000 are gone, God's going to send an angel to proclaim the everlasting gospel around the globe. And you know what people are going to do? It says in Revelation 16, it says they're going to worship their gods of stone, they're going to worship the demons and they're going to just immerse themselves in their wickedness. You see they don't want to hear the truth, but I'm so glad that we do.

Well, let's consider the flood historically: 1) the fact of the flood is proved by the Genesis record. Now just because there's scientific evidence of the flood on every square inch of this planet, just because there's no way to explain the geological structure of the earth apart from water being involved in a great way, unless you totally deny that and contort these ridiculous scenarios to make it happen, but if you don't, if you just look as a normal person with a reasoning eye, there's no way to explain the geology of this planet without a lot of water being involved.

But that's not why I believe in the flood. And I was talking with someone after the morning service. The fact of the flood is proven by the scriptures, not by science. It's not empirical, it's not observable, and it's not scientifically provable or discernible things that make me believe in the flood. And you can't prove to a skeptic or an unbeliever the flood, other than by telling them that the word of God says it and God says if anyone's willing to know His will, he'll know it. But you have to be willing. There has to be that. Without faith, it's impossible to please God. You can't come to God without faith. And so I want to remind you that all these things that I tell you, if you have some unsaved or skeptical or agnostic or whatever friend, and you say, "Let me give 'em all the facts." You know what? They will still be a skeptical agnostic, unbelieving friend with all the facts, without the intervention of faith and without God intervening supernaturally in their life. Because it's not facts, it's the truth that is believed.

Well, Christ taught about the literal flood. I already read that to you and you can write that down in Matthew 24: 37-39. Another reference to put by Christ believing the flood is Luke 17:26. This is what Jesus

said when he was preaching, "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be in the days of the Son of Man." You see he didn't even try and prove Noah. He said Noah existed. Noah's era existed. The wickedness of the world existed, and the wrath of God was dumped upon the world at that time. He didn't have to prove it; He believed it.

The prophet Isaiah says this, and let me read to you Isaiah 54 in verse 9. It's interesting how all the writers of scripture agree in their emphasis upon the flood. It says in Isaiah 54, in verse 9, "For this is like the waters of Noah to me, saith the Lord." Isaiah's recording God talking - the infinite God, who is truthful and makes no error. And God said, "For this is like the waters of Noah to me for I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, not the delta of the Tigris and Euphrates, not the fertile crescent, the entire planet."

You say wait a minute, how could the waters, in fact I've heard all kinds of interesting stories like how could all those animals exist at 35,000 feet if the waters were higher than the tallest mountain, as in Everest, or if there was a taller one back then? Well, let me ask you this, can a boat that's on a global ocean ever be higher than sea level? It wasn't at 36,000 feet. It was at sea level. Everything else was undersea. You know the tallest mountain in the world is actual Mona Loa??? If you know anything about Hawaii, it starts two miles back at the bottom sea floor and goes another few miles above the sea. But if the whole thing's covered with water, then the top of Mona Loa is sea level if there's a flood. Lots of other stuff like that, and the Bible though explains that.

It says in Psalms 104 that after the flood God raised the mountain. There were not mountains, as we know it right now. That's why the geologists have so much trouble. They can't explain some of the overthrusts where there are sedimentary layers and then Cambrian rock and then all this stuff, and they can't figure it out. And part of it is because after the flood, God thrust up the mountains. But we won't talk about that until we're in

But the apostle Peter, as we talked about this morning in 1 Peter 3:20, believed in Noah. It says in 1 Peter 3:20, "God says those who were formerly disobedient when the divine longsuffering late??? In the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared of which a few that is eight souls were saved. 2 Peter 2:5, "God did not spare the ancient world but He saved Noah." 2 Peter 3:6 "The world that then existed was flooded."

Archaeologists have found that every ancient civilization has a flood tradition with details that parallel those that Noah and the scriptures record. In fact I'm going to read to you exactly. They've computerized all the legends of the world and they've sorted them and what you find out is, as I mentioned this morning, that a high 90 percentile believe that eight people were in the boat. And then you get just down to the 90 percentile and there were animals in the boat. And you get just under the 90th percentile and 88% of all the legends in the world say that the water destroyed all the other people on the earth. And that's just the legends of the Mayans and the Incas and the people that live in the islands of the Pacific and people that live far in the center of Africa. All of them have flood traditions and legends.

And as archaeologists look at these, and then see the parallel to the Genesis account, they find that they've involved their fanciful gods and goddesses in, like the Babylonians say that the, you know, the people of Nebuchadnezzar, their legends were that the ark was a gigantic cube that was square-shaped. Well, we know that that isn't true 'cause it would have been tumbling, going like this. God told Noah how to make the boat. But they had the story right, that there was a flood.

Secondly, the flood historically was a fact and it's literal, but the purpose of the flood is back in our text. And I want to show you in verse five of Genesis six. And if you wonder how God could kill everybody on the planet, Genesis 6:5 says this, "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." God looked at the planet and spread out the people and looked at their hearts. And He said, all I can see is that every single person on this planet continually is sinning in his or her hearts. And He found one man that was resisting the world. And that's verse eight. "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Why? Look at verse nine. Because Noah was a just man in his generation, and he walked with God. Noah was one who was a part of that line of the Godly that were walking with God. And God says I will graciously pour out my mercy on him. Man had become corrupt. The earth was filled with violence. God had to destroy mankind. There must always be judgment and death before there can be a new beginning. That's what the Bible says.

Well, thirdly, if the scriptures prove the fact of the flood, the purpose of the flood is to meet the just requirements of a holy God in his wrath against sin. What was the method? Well, we've talked about this many times, that the ark definitely could hold all species. If you take

the most conservative cubit, which a cubit is from the fingertips to the elbow. If you take the most conservative size, you would have found out and measured that the ark was between 450 and 600 feet long and about 75-100+ feet wide and about 45 feet high. If you add all this up, that would indicate that there was a minimum of 1.5 million square feet. Now let's convert that to railroad cars. The ark would hold 569 railroad stock cars. Okay, you know that you put animals in, take them to market. Of which only 208 of the 500, almost 600, cars could hold all 21,000-land animals that we have right now. You only need a third of the cars to hold the land animals. You say, well, what about all of the sea animals and everything else? Well, I looked at the charts this week, and if you look at all the 1.072 million species of animals on the planet, you know an awful lot of them are things like sponges and worms and fish and things like that. If you take all the land animals and put 'em in a blender and got the average of all of them, the average land animal is the size of a sheep. Did you know that? The average one. There are 21,000 animals that would need to be in the ark and the average size is a sheep. That means that half of them are greater than that size and half of them are smaller. So they would all fit in only 208 railroad cars. So therefore, there's no problem with this boat holding all the animals. We don't know how many species there were in that day. I'm sure there were more than there are now. I mean if we're having stuff die off before our very eyes, they've been dying off for a long time. It says in verse 20 of Genesis 6, notice this, it says that the birds after their kind, of the animals after their kind, I'm reading Genesis 6:20, of the creeping things after their kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep alive. Now see, this wasn't just Noah out there going (...whistle, whistle, whistle). You know, I mean it wasn't like that, I mean, I just see 'em with a chain on this gigantic, you know, whatever, "Come on!" No, God, it says there, He caused them, verse 20, you might want to underline that, and they will come to you. God was involved. God created them. He had Adam name them and then God put into them a desire to come to the ark.

And the flood itself, it's very interesting what caused it. If you look at verse 11 of chapter seven, it says this, "In the 600th year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the 17th day of the month, and we're going to look at these dates in just a moment, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up and the windows of heaven were open and the rain was on the earth 40 days and 40 nights. What's interesting, we understand what the windows of heaven are, right? Rain. It's the fountains of the deep that are very, very interesting. Because this not only is perhaps subterranean water

but most likely, and what we see if you look at the planet, you can see that there was some time when the volcanoes were on high, high speed. I mean, there is so much volcanic activity. I mentioned the Colombian plateau in the northwest part of the United States, 200,000 square miles of eruptions. At the current rate, there are 500 active or semi-active volcanoes in the world. There are 1,500 dormant or inactive volcanoes. There are 2,000 altogether. If all 2,000 of them went off right now, they couldn't do what we have seen as far as the volcanic eruptions that are on this planet. So, God opened the fountains of the deep. And the flood was caused by falling rain erupting water from under the earth as well as the volcanic effect. It must have been a horrific time for those who were here on the planet.

Well, I want to show you tonight real quickly the schedule of the flood because this is, I've shared this with someone else, it's very interesting. This is unusual how the Bible describes to the day when things happen. And maybe you're someone who just zips along, you don't even notice this, but I want to show you, starting in chapter seven, verse one, the chronology of the flood, and maybe you'll kind of get excited like I did. If we count the year of Adam's creation as year one, then Noah was born about the year 1,056. If we just take all the numbers as they are and they must be in there for some reason, saying that this guy lived so long and this guy was born, etc., etc.; but if you do that, Genesis 6:3 indicates that God gave Noah 120 years to preach and build the ark. Therefore, he was about 480 years old when he started. Why do I say that? Because it says in chapter seven, verse 11 that in the 600th year of his life it all started. So if it started in the 600th year and he had 120 years to build it, then he was 480 when he started and he did it for 120 years. And I just believe they did it in 120 years.

And I was reading someone had calculated how fast people can build. Now some of you are contractors, and you know about that. Just a normal person, it's just building along and, you know, they're not in a hurry, and they're not, you know, at the coffee machine all the time. It would take Noah and his son's about 90 years to build a 1.5 million cubic foot building, if they just build it by hand. That means they have about 30 years extra. Maybe they had to go out and cut the trees down, I don't know. Maybe they bought 'em. Doesn't matter.

But what it says is that God gave them 120 years to do it. So, the year that Noah went in, look at verse 11 of chapter seven. In the 600th year of Noah's life, and that would be the 1536th known year afterward, the flood came. And so the flood came on Noah's 600th

year and the 27th day of the second month. What's the second month in the Hebrew calendar? It's our present month of November. So you know when the flood happened? November 27th in the 1650-something year after creation. That's really interesting. Here's what happened. They entered the ark on November 10th. The floods came on November 17th. And December 26th the rains ended. That's the twelfth verse. And it says and the rain was on the earth 40 days and 40 nights. So 40 days later the rain stopped. The ark rested. Look at chapter eight, verse one. On April 17th, it says there God remembered Noah and every living thing and all the animals that were with him in the ark, and God made a wind to pass over the earth. The water subsided. The fountains of the deep, the windows of heaven, I'm reading verse two of chapter eight, stopped. The rain from heaven was restrained and the waters receded continually. Look at verse four, then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month on the mountain of Ararat April 17th the ark rested. The next thing that happens is in verse six he sends out a raven and a dove, six through nine. Verse ten of chapter eight; the dove brings back the branch. This is now the month of August. I mean they were in that ark from November to November. I mean they were in that thing a long time. They leave the ark on November 27th, one year later.

Well, why does God give all this detail? Well, let me just share a few things with you and then I want to give you the blessing. If you add up those numbers and again, you know, we don't have to fight about it, and I've read enough books this week. I mean I read so many books about, uh...last week, that there are Godly people that I admire greatly that think that the numbers in the Bible mean nothing. And they think that they just stand for groups of people and they don't think that there are literal generations and they don't think the Bible was created in literal 24-hour days. Great. But you know what? They have to build themselves an entire new system. When you cannot believe this just for what it says, and you have to redefine everything else, where do you stop? That's, I mean that's just the problem. Once you start, it's like when I was little, my mom says, don't pull that thread. And I wondered why am I not supposed to pull that thread. So I started pulling it...on my sweater. And all of a sudden, there was a hole. I put all the thread back. But the hole was still there because it was all interwoven links. You know as soon as you start pulling the thread out, it just all comes loose. And that's what we find with the Bible.

Now, why is this? It's because Methuselah, if you add up his numbers, would have died on the very year that the flood started. Why is that?

Because Methuselah means that when he dies it comes. That's what it means in Hebrew. And so God sent Methuselah to live the longest that any man lived on this planet, and the year he died the flood came. Now you say that's a coincidence. No, it's not. I think God just planned this whole thing. God let everybody on the planet know this guy's Methuselah, he's living on, on, on, you know? And here's this other man crazily building a boat. And all of a sudden those two converge and Methuselah croaks and Noah floats away and everybody drowns in between.

Okay, what is the ark and real quickly I want to give you all this because I want you to have the joy of this to go home with. 1) The ark was a wonderful picture of our salvation in Christ. God planned the ark; man didn't invent it. The way that mankind was saved was God's invention, not man's. That's what salvation is.

You know there are two parallel tracks that are going through our world. One is religion. The other is God's revelation. Religion is man's invention on how to get to heaven. Revelation is God's revealed plan. You know what religion says? You can never do enough. Just keep trying and trying and trying. You know what God says? Jesus did it all. Don't try. He paid the price. One is the human achievement. I'm going to try and be as good as God wants me to be. The other is divine accomplishment. Jesus did it all and I stand in Him complete. God invented the ark, man didn't.

Secondly, there was only one way of salvation. There's only one door into the ark. Did you know there's only one way to Christ? There aren't many roads that lead to Christ. He isn't like the other enlightened leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and all the Hindu people...(END OF SIDE ONE) like Buddha and not like Mohammed and not like all the other... No, there are not many roads, and God does not have many names and the people that call him Krishna are going to be right at the same place as the people that call him Jehovah. No. Neither is there any other name under heaven given among men whereby you must be saved other than the name of Jesus Christ. That's why he's so offensive.

You heard Ted Kennedy say it, and I'm not talking about any politics, I'm just talking about Ted Kennedy. You know what he said? He said, you can believe whatever you want, but as soon as you get exclusive, I will not stand for it. See, nobody likes the offense of there being only one-way to God. Nobody, as long as we say we're one of many ways, we will peacefully co-exist on this planet. But as soon as we say

that Christ is the only way, people hate that. They don't like you to say that.

The ark, there was the only way of salvation; there's only one door. The ark was made of wood. That's a picture of the humanity of Christ. He had to be born as a man in order to save us. The ark, look at verse 14 of chapter six. This is neat. Verse 14, make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms and cover it inside and out with pitch.

You know what's interesting? The Hebrew word for pitch is the word kaphar for atonement. You know what it says? Get an ark of wood and atone it. Cover it. Just coat it with pitch. What's interesting is that that's the whole Old Testament. All those blood sacrifices that they offered never got rid of sin. They just covered them over. They atoned. They covered them. They're still there until Christ came and bore them away. But they were covered. The ark is a picture of our salvation because Jesus Christ took our covered sins and bore them away.

God invited Noah and his family into the ark. Look at chapter seven, verse two of Genesis. And it says, "You shall take with you seven animals and a clean male and female, and verse one, come into the ark and bring all the animals with you." See the invitation of God in those first two verses? God invited them into the ark and once they were in, look at verse 16, and it says, so those who entered were male and female and they went in as God had commanded him and the Lord shut them in. You see God invited them into the ark and God secured them. Did you know that if you're truly born again that God invited you into Christ and God shuts the door so you won't lose it.

Boy, there are a lot of people that don't know that. They think that that's an arrogant thing to say. No, that's what the Bible says. We don't deserve it. We don't deserve the invitation or the shut door so we don't lose it. We don't deserve either one. But the ark is such a beautiful picture of salvation of our security because God invites us to Christ and God seals us and holds us in Christ. The ark not only saved mankind, but the creatures within, just as Christ's death will not only deliver us from the bondage of sin but creation will be delivered from the bondage of sin.

If you're an animal lover, and if you're a nature lover, and I just came back from nature and I love it, too. Praise the Lord! All of creation is going to be delivered from the bondage of sin. Right now this universe is groaning. There's a dissonance and there's a just an out-of-jointed

ness in our universe, as entropy and the entire universe is winding down and it's just decaying. It's groaning. But God's going to deliver it from that groaning. Christ not only came to save us, he came to set the universe free from the bondage of sin.

The ark saved them from judgment; Christ saves us from the wrath to come. 1 Peter 3 verses 18-22, which I want to read to you, connects Christ to the flood. And let me read to you what it says. I keep alluding to Peter 'cause he talks about the ark so much. For Christ also suffered once for our 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 the spirits in prison who formerly were disobedient when 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 anti-type, which now saves us. Baptism. Not the removal of the filth of the flesh. Being baptized does not save us and having our sins washed away, but the answer of a good conscience toward God through the resurrection of Christ who has gone into heaven, is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him. You see, people that believe in baptismal regeneration have the wrong idea. Do you know why? All the people on the planet that got baptized by the flood died. It's the people that didn't get into the flood that stayed alive. So all those people that believe that baptism saves you, they're outside the ark. Because it wasn't the water that saved them, it was the ark that saved them from the water. And it's not the water that saves us. It's Christ that we are in and He is the ark. And the water just portrays the fact that we have identified with his death, his burial and his resurrection. Well, the ark saved them from judgment like Christ does.

And here's the last thing and we'll go. If you check your flood schedule that I just read to you, that showed that on the seventh month, in the first four verses of chapter eight on the seventeenth day, the ark rested. Let me read this to you. The ark rested on Mount Ararat on the seventeenth day of the seventh month. The first month in the Hebrew calendar is October so the seventh month would be April. April 17th, three days after Passover, if you want to look at Exodus chapter 12, Passover was supposed to be on April 14th. Three days after April 14th is the day that the ark rested on Mount Ararat. What event took place three days after Passover? Of course. Christ the Lord is risen today. The day that the ark rested on Mount Ararat is the day our Lord arose from the dead. April was made the first month

of the religious year Passover. But October remains the first month of the civil year.

The ark totally pictures our salvation. It pictures our salvation because God planned it. There was the only way of salvation. It was made of wood. It was atoned and covered over. It was at the invitation of God. It saved mankind and the creatures within as the death of Christ liberates the universe from sin. It saved them from judgment as Christ saves us from the wrath to come. And the ark rested on the day that Christ stepped forth from the tomb. There's a lot more we're going to look at how Noah typifies the wonders of our salvation and how the scriptures talk about Enoch and Methuselah and everybody else.

I want you to go home today and I want you to read this book that you can trust. Remember that everyone of the accounts that are in this book were given by God to point us to Christ and to help us to live a life that's not a little better, that's not just easier, but a life that pleases Him and glorifies His name.

When you go home tonight, think about the fact that the vast majority of the houses you're going by are populated with people that are going to be fodder for the demons in the tribulation hour, if it comes soon. That they are going to be screaming and crying for the rocks to fall on them. They're going to plead with God to let them die; it's going to be so horrible. Wouldn't you like to not fail to give them the good news of the gospel? You might start it with saying, "Did you know I was studying the flood. Did you know the whole earth got flooded? And did you know only eight people got saved and that's in every historic record of every civilization on this planet? And did you know God's going to do that again? Only the second time with fire." They're going to go, "You're out on Lake Tenkiller too long in the sun, and you know, drinking too many beers." And you say, no, I'm sober. And I want to tell you that Jesus Christ came to seek and to save the lost. If you've never told them the gospel, you might get the first opportunity and you might see God intervene supernaturally and change their hearts.

Let's bow before Him in prayer as we go home tonight. Oh, Lord, we thank you that your word is true. We can trust it. Your word is filled with such marvelous, marvelous accuracy. Even the dimensions and size and shape of that ark that you told Noah to build could never have been thought up, and it still remains a beautiful, beautiful model for ocean-going cargo vessels. Father, we thank you for the accuracy of your word. For the supernatural nature of your word and for the

spiritual warmth of your word. May we see you, oh Christ, as our ark that saves us from the judgment around us. But may we like Noah be creatures of righteousness to our generation. May we do what is so hard. May we shine like light in this dark world. And may we, as your grace gives movement to their hearts, see many join us in the ark of salvation -you, Lord Jesus. We thank you. We pray that you'd go with us tonight, filling us with the joy of your presence and your spirit and your blessing. For Jesus' sake we pray. Amen.