

The true and living GOD is not only in absolute control of this universe but HE cannot be influenced nor moved from HIS determined purpose by anything which HE has created. This is a great comfort to those who rest in HIS absolute sovereignty and have confidence in HIS holy wisdom and purpose, but it is the greatest source of irritation and outright hatred for those who think that they can improve on that which HE has designed.

The LORD told Noah to build a large ship called an ark. The LORD gave him explicit instructions as to how this ark was to be built including the kind of materials that were to be used. HE even explained to him about the wrath that HE was about to unleash on the unsuspecting generation with which Noah dwelt. The LORD has been pleased to manifest HIS purpose of redemption for HIS people from the very beginning when HE made coats of animal skins for Adam and Eve to cover their nakedness. Then HE had Noah to build an ark of safety and preservation into which HE was pleased to bring every member of HIS creation that HE had not marked out for destruction because of their wickedness. This ark in its every detail is a type and foreshadow of JESUS CHRIST who is the ONE in whom all of HIS elect shall be preserved from destruction forever.

The ark was many years in its preparation. We read that JESUS CHRIST came into the world with the purpose of saving HIS people from their sins. In fact the scripture even says HE was a *"LAMB slain from the foundation of the world"*. In other words HE has always been the REDEEMER of HIS people and did not design the salvation of HIS own as a stop gap method of solving a problem that had arisen which was out of HIS control or design. So HE was born as a babe, and *"learned he obedience by the things which he suffered."* *"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* The greatest and most glorious mystery of all the ages is this; that HE who knew no sin became sin for us.

A window was prepared in the ark. A window serves several purposes: to look out of, to let in fresh air, and most importantly for illumination. The salvation of the animals and Noah was in the ark that carried them to safety, and not in the window which let the light in for them. In the same fashion we contend that men are not rescued by the preaching of the gospel but the gospel is that which brings *"life and immortality to light"*. The LORD has sent HIS preachers into the earth to declare the salvation which is found in CHRIST. The gospel is a proclamation of the finished work of the LORD JESUS. Just as the ark's window let in fresh air so is this gospel as a breath of fresh air to the weary and as a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life to those who are thirsty.

A door was built in the side of the ark. There was only one door. The LORD said *"I am the door."* *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* This door was built to accommodate the tallest of animals as well as the smallest. The fattest and the skinniest. All who will be saved must be found in HIM. *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* CHRIST is the DOOR of the sheep. There was no mechanism for shutting the door nor any lock for Noah to actuate to keep it closed. Noah could neither shut himself in nor let himself out. When Noah was safely in the ark the scripture says that the Lord shut him in. *"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."*

A flood came which destroyed every human which was not aboard the ark. Many criticize the concept of the everlasting destruction of all of those not found in the LORD JESUS CHRIST. Yet the scripture is clear that GOD will manifest the glory of HIS grace in the redemption of HIS elect as contrasted with the demonstration of HIS justice and power in the continuing total destruction of all of those who have loved the wages of unrighteousness. Have you entered the ARK of GOD?