



14 | GENESIS 6:14-7:24

JESUS, NOAH, & THE ARK

Like Noah's ark, Jesus is the only way of salvation. Jesus alone satisfies the righteous wrath and justice of God against our sin.

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Call to Worship

Jesus said ... "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." —John 14:6

Songs

Wonderful Merciful Savior
Turn Your Eyes
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Before the Throne of God Above
I Want to Know You

Announcements

WELCOME: We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet if you are visiting with us.

Introduction

WRONG WAY ON ONE WAY

There is only one way of salvation. Have you ever gone the wrong way down a one way? Once I was driving the **wrong way on a one way** in downtown Chicago. I was in a **Ford F-350 packed full of steel, bullet resistant panels for a currency exchange**. What did I do in that moment? Amidst lots of “well-meaning advice” (lol) and honking of the horns, I turned around as quickly as I could and started going the right direction.

If **you know the proper direction**, you can't keep going the wrong way down the one way. When God opens the sinner's eyes, his beauty and love are irresistible. He causes us by his Spirit to seek him by transforming our hearts.

In the days before the flood, Noah as **a grace filled, justified man**, was a “herald of righteousness,” pointing the way to Christ by calling people to flee from God's wrath. And there stood the looming ark. Just **enter the ark to be spared from the waters of God's judgment**. He urged people to turn from the wrath and judgment of God that was about to be unleashed. There was a haven for the people. They only had to enter the ark.

Key thought: Like Noah's ark, Jesus is the only way of salvation. Jesus alone satisfies the righteous wrath and justice of God against our sin.

By way of review, let's look again at Genesis 6:8 and see the message of salvation that Noah preached.

1. THE EXPOSITION OF SALVATION (6:8-13)

As Noah is building the ark, he is living out a life of grace himself and he begins preaching salvation. He's a “preacher of righteousness.”

THE PREACHER'S ENCOUNTER WITH GOD

Before Noah can preach salvation, he has to experience it himself. Noah first finds favor in the eyes of the Lord. Noah, like all people needed God's unmerited favor, or as we say in the New Testament, God's grace.

Genesis 6:8 | But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

The epistle of Hebrews tells us how it was that Noah found favor In God's sight.

Hebrews 11:7 | By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

It was his faith—his reverent fear—that led him to trust God's word. This is how it is today. We come by grace through faith in Christ alone for salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-9 | For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

THE PREACHER'S EXAMPLE

Genesis 6:9-10 | These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰ And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Notice, the Bible says, “**Noah walked with God.**” Noah is **distinguished from the “people of his time”** by his upright character. He’s a transformed man.¹ The one who has a new heart will have a transformed character. Noah’s righteousness was not his own. It is a gift. His blamelessness is a result of **a transformed heart of faith.**

Noah was favored. Noah was a wretch like the rest. He was not saved by his own goodness and righteousness (*cf* Isa 64:6). **Noah was saved by grace alone!** Left to himself, he would have perished like the rest.² But instead, Noah “found favor” in the sight of the Lord (6:8). In the Bible, **grace is unmerited favor;** it is getting something we do not deserve—Noah found grace. He was not a godly man because he came from a long line of godly men, for God has no grandchildren. He was made a godly man because he discovered eternal life in the generous, overflowing grace of God.³

Noah was forgiven. He was a “**righteous**” or justified (*tsaddiyq*) man. Noah was declared righteous before the throne of God.

Noah was faithful. He was “**blameless** in his generation.” That is he had a transformed life that matched his transformed heart. Later Ezekiel recognized that it was Noah’s character that distinguished him from his peers (Eze 14:14, 20).⁴

Noah was filled with God’s presence. He “**walked with God.**” The center of Noah’s life was not an earthly happiness, but a true God-saturated, God ended joy. Noah knew the intimacy that David describes in Psalm 16.

Psalm 16:11 | In your presence there is fullness of joy, at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Oh, the joy that we have in Jesus. No Christian can live comfortably in sin (1 Jn 1:6-9). We were made to walk with God.

THE PREACHER'S EXPOSITION

God saw the wickedness in the earth, and he raised up a preacher to preach his wrath and his mercy.

Genesis 6:11-13 | Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³ And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.”

God sees the earth is “**filled with violence.**” This is the opposite of the beginning of the creation account. **There God saw that everything was “good” and “very good.” Now the earth is very bad.** Here the earth has been vandalized. Murder and violence are rampant. “The

¹ K. A. Mathews, *Genesis 1-11:26*, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 356.

² R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis: Beginning and Blessing*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004), 129.

³ John Phillips, *Exploring Genesis: An Expository Commentary*, The John Phillips Commentary Series (Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp., 2009), Ge 6:8–13.

⁴ K. A. Mathews, *Genesis 1-11:26*, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 346.

end is near!” says the Lord. But notice, he shares this message to Noah. This is a message for Noah. Noah’s message was essentially, **“Repent or perish!”**

2. THE ENGINEERING OF SALVATION (6:14-22)

God calls Noah to build an ark, which is a type of Christ. Anyone who enters the ark will be saved. The comparison is made in 1 Peter where Peter says that Christ died for our sins. He says because of the ark, Noah and his family were brought through the waters of judgment safely (1 Pet 3:18-21).

Christ went through the flood of judgment for us so that we could be saved. Enter into Christ! He is the ark of our salvation! Look at the types and shadows in the ark. **The events of the Old Testament are shadows.**

A SHADOW OF THINGS TO COME

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 | Our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

Colossians 2:17 | These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

Luke 24:27 | Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

In the early Christian teaching of **Justin Martyr**, he says **Noah’s water and ark are a picture and type of the Lord’s cross** whereby we are saved through “water, faith, and wood” comparing the wood of the ark to the wood of the cross of Jesus Christ.⁵ Peter compares the ark to Jesus. He says it’s not the baptism of water that saves but that baptism that gives you a clean conscience, that receiving of Christ by faith!

1 Peter 3:20-22 | They formerly did not obey, when **God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared**, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Christ took on the waters of God’s judgment and prevailed! There is no condemnation in Christ (Rom 8:1). We are more than conquerors because Christ took the full hit of God’s wrath. **All who enter into the ark of Jesus experience rescue from hell** and eternal life with God.

THE STRENGTH OF THE ARK

Genesis 6:14a | Make yourself an ark of gopher wood.

The ark was made of gopher wood. What is gopher wood? Nothing certain is known about *gopher wood*, a name found only here. Some have translated it (as in the Septuagint) “square

⁵ Justin, *Dialogue*, 138.2.

timber” but a more likely translation is “cypress.”⁶ Cypress is a wood that does not easily rot, sort of an indestructible wood. It points to the indestructibility of our salvation.

Romans 10:11 | Anyone who trusts in Christ will never be disappointed.

Christ is Author and Finisher of our faith and salvation (Heb 12:1-2). What he has begun, he will complete (Phil 1:6). Our salvation is not based on our own performance or works but on Christ’s work on the cross. **He did it all.** It was his perfect, “indestructible life” (Heb 7:16) and his vicarious death. Salvation in anything else is a lie. Christ alone saves from beginning to end.

THE SAFETY OF THE ARK

The ark was covered with pitch.

Genesis 6:14b | Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch.

What is pitch? That’s just sticky tar. That means it is sealed watertight inside and out.⁷ The pitch was a covering. The actual word (*kopher*) is translated as “atonement” or “mercy seat” over 70 times in our English translations.⁸

Leviticus 17:11 | For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make **atonement** (*kopher*) for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement (*kopher*) by the life.

This word “**atonement**” is the same word as “**pitch**.” It means a covering. The pitch covered and insulated the believers on the ark from God’s judgment waters.

Like the pitch, God says, “When I see the blood, I will pass over you” (Exo 12:13).
Because of Christ, “There is now therefore no condemnation” (Rom 8:1).

What a picture of Christ! Christ is our atoning sacrifice. It’s a wonderful, beautiful prophecy of the blood atonement of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Because of the blood, when God sees you on judgment day, he sees you through the righteousness of his own dear Son Jesus Christ. God cannot condemn you. You are righteous in Christ.

A Sunday School teacher was asking the class, “Is there anything that God cannot do?” And a little girl said, “Yes, Teacher, **there’s one thing God cannot do.**” The teacher said, “There is? What is that?” She said, “**God cannot see my sin through the blood of Jesus Christ.**” Yes, not one drop—not one drop—of judgment can come through.⁹

THE SIZE OF THE ARK

Genesis 6:15-16 | This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. ¹⁶Make a roof for the ark, and finish it

⁶ Derek Kidner, *Genesis: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 1, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1967), 95. See also Mathews, *Genesis 1-11:26*, vol. 1A, 364. Cf Wenham, *Genesis 1-15*, vol. 1, 172-173, where he notes that gopher wood could be translated “‘cedar,’ whereas LXX translates it ‘squared’ timber, and Vg, ‘smoothed’ timber. Modern commentators usually suppose some sort of conifer suitable for shipbuilding must be meant.”

⁷ K. A. Mathews, *Genesis 1-11:26*, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 364.

⁸ R. Laird Harris, “1023 קֹפֶר,” in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, ed. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 452.

⁹ Adrian Rogers, “Unsinkable Saints,” in *Adrian Rogers Sermon Archive* (Signal Hill, CA: Rogers Family Trust, 2017), Ge 6:5-16.

to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.

When Noah laid out its keel at 450 feet, the pre-diluvians must have laughed themselves silly.¹⁰ **Noah's ocean vessel was two and a half the size of anything in the ancient world.**¹¹ It was truly a seaworthy structure. The Lord revealed to Noah the pattern of this place which would be a house of worship for Noah and his family as the world was being destroyed.¹²

The ark is going to weigh approximately 1400 tons of wood (without the animals). The ark is measured in cubits. What's a cubit? It's from your elbow to the tip of your finger. That's about 18 inches. With that in mind, we know generally how large the ark of Noah was.

- It's **450 feet long**, so a football field and a half.
- **It's 75 feet wide.** It's 45 feet high (three stories).
- It's **got a million and a half cubit feet.** That's ***the equivalent of 569 railroad cars.***

Today if you took **two of every species on this planet**, (and we have approximately **17,000** species) **you could fit them on less than half of the ark.** If you took two of them if they were somewhat young, being smaller, they would **take up the capacity of 188 of those railroad cars.** The ark is a massive structure. That's less than half the structure for the animals. So you have room for food and supplies and Noah's family.

But it's not just a window. It goes all the way around the top deck of the ark. It's a roof that is suspended 1 cubit, or 18 inches on the top deck of the ark. "Make a roof for the ark and finish it to a cubit [18 inches] above" (6:16). Why a window? Because you'd want a window with all those animals! You'd want some ventilation.

Most importantly, the ark is massive because **Noah preached for people to repent and come on board the ark.** That's what we do today. We invite you to come to Jesus. If you have not entrusted your life to him yet, you are like a plane with a broken engine. You are going to crash and burn with no hope for eternity. Death is coming. Run to Jesus! There is room for you! God wants his heaven full!

Luke 14:23 | Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.

THE SYMBOL OF THE ARK

The ark is **a type or illustration of the covenant** we have with Jesus.

Genesis 6:17-18 | For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

By this covenant with Noah as a believer, **God commits himself to save all those that would call on the name of the LORD** and to bestow on them his holy kingdom through their entrance into the ark.¹³ This is a covenant of grace. Just as Abraham believed God, so Noah also believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness (*cf* Heb 11:7).

Our covenant with God is also by God's unmerited favor: by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, to the glory of God alone. So looking at the ark from the bird's eye

¹⁰ R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis: Beginning and Blessing*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004), 135.

¹¹ Tremper Longman and David E. Garland, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008), 89.

¹² Meredith G. Kline, *Genesis: A New Commentary*, ed. Jonathan G. Kline (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2016), 35.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 36.

view, we see God’s covenant with his people. We hear the eternal refrain, “I will be your God, and you will be my people” (Gen 17:7; cf Rev 21:3).

We deserve the flood waters of God’s judgment. But God finds a man who walks by faith. **Noah found God’s unmerited favor** in the eyes of the Lord. He had a righteousness that was not his own (Heb 11:7). The **ark symbolized God’s covenant** in Christ.

THE SUSTENANCE (SUPPLY) OF THE ARK

God calls all flesh into the ark. **Two by two the animals start walking toward the ark**, obeying the voice of their Creator. And God also provides all the food that Noah and all the animals need.

Genesis 6:19-22 | 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. ²⁰Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. ²¹Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. **It shall serve as food for you and for them.** ²²Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

The hope of salvation in the ark was simple. Enter the ark, and you are safe from the waters of God’s judgment, and God will care for you. God **not only saved Noah from judgment, but he also sustained** him and took care of him. The ark wasn’t just a shelter; it was a place of satisfaction and sustenance. Can I testify as well that Jesus not only saves, but he also satisfies! In his presence is **“fullness of joy”** and at his right hand there are **“pleasures forevermore”** (Psa 16:11).

Some of you are asking, **how can all those animals fit on the ark?** Calculations show that the animals to be saved would have needed less than 50 percent of the ark’s carrying capacity, leaving room for people, food, water, and whatever other provisions may have been necessary.¹⁴

Can I just say that **in Jesus, God is going to take care of you.** He’s promised to sustain you. Remember his promise to take care of you.

Philippians 4:19 | My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

3. THE EXCLUSIVITY OF SALVATION (7:1-24)

The ark is a type of Christ in the Old Testament. As Noah entered the ark by faith, so we must enter our ark, Jesus Christ, by grace through faith in Christ alone. As the sin in our culture rises, we are called to “enter the ark” like Noah and his family.

JESUS ALONE CALLS US

God calls Noah and his family to “go in the ark” for shelter from his judgment.

Genesis 7:1-5 | Then the LORD said to Noah, **“Go into the ark,** you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. ²Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, ³and seven

¹⁴ Timothy F. LaHaye and John David Morris, *The Ark on Ararat* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1976), 246–47.

pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” ⁵And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

THEME OF SACRIFICE

Why did Noah bring **seven pairs of clean animals** and only two pairs of the unclean animals? Because the clean animals were to be sacrificed. **These animals pointed to the atonement of Jesus Christ.** This is a major theme introduced here in Genesis. We saw it in Genesis 3 when God provided animal skins as a covering for the sin of Adam and Eve. We see it again. We must be covered in the blood of Christ to be accepted in God’s holy sight.

When did Noah enter the ark? When **he saw the clouds** coming? No! **He entered by faith.** That’s not how the movies portray it. Walt Disney did a Claymation of Noah in 1959—you probably never saw it. But when do the movies say Noah and his family got into the ark. It’s when the sky grew dark, and it began to rain. Is that when they got in?

NOAH WAITED ON THE ARK FOR SEVEN DAYS

Noah and his family got in the ark and waited 7 days! Look at Genesis 7:4, **“For in seven days I will send rain”** (cf 7:10, “after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth”). So, Noah entered the ark seven days before it began to rain. And verse 13 (Gen 7) we learn that Noah, his family, and all the animals all entered into the ark on the same day.

Noah did everything the Lord commanded (6:5)! He entered the ark by faith. Peter says this would have been the equivalent to our baptism. He had already been walking with God. He had already found favor in the eyes of the Lord, but on this day, he publicly declared his love for the Lord. It’s like our baptism.

The invitation to enter the ark is for all humanity. Come to Jesus. Come by grace through faith in Christ!

JESUS ALONE SECURES US

Anyone who wanted to join Noah in the ark could have come. By the way, Noah begins building the ark when he is about 500 years old at the birth of his three sons (Gen 5:32). At this time **Noah becomes “a herald of righteousness”** (2 Pet 2:5, 9). He would have **preached 100 years** as he built the ark. We read in Hebrews 11:7 that Noah was “warned by God concerning events as yet unseen.” And “in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household” as he warned others. When Noah was “six hundred” years old, the flood waters came according to Genesis 7:6.

It took Noah 100 years to build the ark with three helpers—his sons-in-law! They had four ladies to cook for them, and it took them 100 years to get it done.

Genesis 7:6-16 | Then Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth. ⁷And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, ⁹two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth. ¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. ¹²And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³ On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, ¹⁴ they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. ¹⁵ They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶ And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. **And the LORD shut him in.**

There's only **one entrance to the ark**. Jesus is **the one, exclusive way to the Father** (Jn 14:6). When Noah and his family get on the ark, **God shuts the door! Closing the ark's door signals the divine protection** that kept out the raging seas.¹⁵ Noah and his family are **safe from the waters of God's judgment** that they deserve. They have with them on the ark the animal sacrifices that they are going to offer when they land in order to point to the ultimate **"Lamb of God who takes away the sin** of the world" (Jn 1:29).

Remember what Jesus called himself in the Gospel of John? He said, **"I am the door of the sheep"** (Jn 10:7). Many seek to enter other ways, he said, but they are thieves and liars (Jn 10:1). Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven. You see there is only one way to approach salvation, and that is the way that God designs. **Security is not in a place. Security is in a person**, and his name is Jesus.

Do you see where our security comes from? **It does not come from our circumstances or our emotions. "Feeling better" is not salvation. Drugs and alcohol** can give you a temporary high. Salvation comes from Christ alone. We are in Christ, sealed by the Holy Spirit of God (Eph 1:13-14), and it is in Jesus that we know God the Father (Jn 14:6). Is that not true? When we come into him, we are **secured in the measureless love of Christ** (Eph 3:18-19). He is our ark!

How safe are you? When you're in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are as safe as you can possibly be, because Christ is the ark who took on the judgment waters through his cross and resurrection. "There is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom 8:1). **Nothing is held against you**. You are completely free in Christ. God does the work. He secures. He shuts us in. He keeps and **preserves us unto his heavenly kingdom**. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith (Heb 12:1-2). **What he has begun he will complete** (Phil 1:6).

JESUS ALONE SAVES US

The Bible says that **Jesus is the only way of salvation**. In order to be saved, **God's righteous justice has to be propitiated**. Remember, **Christ "is the propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 Jn 2:2). Jesus said he's the only way to heaven. As we consider the ark, consider the description God gives of how catastrophic the flood was. Today we seemingly unending evidence of a worldwide flood. It was so destructive that **"all flesh died"** (7:21). God's justice has to be propitiated. **Jesus alone can take upon himself the hell we deserve**. He alone can give us eternal life.

Genesis 7:17-24 | The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. ¹⁹ And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰ The waters prevailed above the mountains,

¹⁵ K. A. Mathews, *Genesis 1-11:26*, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 378.

covering them fifteen cubits deep. ²¹And **all flesh died** that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind.

²²Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. ²³He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. ²⁴And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

There is no salvation outside of Jesus. **Only those who entered the ark by faith were saved.** Noah's faith foreshadows the faith of **Abraham** (Gen 21:4). Noah leaves his whole world behind and enters the ark (*cf* Gen 7:7; 15:6). God was gracious to Noah (Gen 6:8) and counted him as righteous (Gen 6:9). Abraham believed God, who counted him righteous. The faith of both men was demonstrated in their obedience to God (Gen 7:5; 22:16). ¹⁶ **Noah entered the ark. Abraham entered the promised land.**

Today, we want to declare from the mountain tops that for Noah, Abraham and us, **there is only one exclusive way of salvation.**

John 14:6 | Jesus said... I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Acts 4:12 | And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

John 3:16 | For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:36 | Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Come to Jesus! Jesus invites you today.

Matthew 11:28-30 | Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Jesus said the end is going to be like the days of Noah. Some were getting married. They were eating and drinking, but they were not at all expecting God's judgment.

Conclusion

I'm here to announce that we need to all be expecting God's swift wrath. Certainly, he's not wishing any should perish. He's patient. He does not delight in the death of the wicked. Yet, the end will indeed come. He will set up his kingdom. He's calling you right now to come to him! Anyone who comes to him will never be turned away.

We must warn the world that the end could occur at anytime. Jesus could return at any moment. I'm so glad he's patient, "not wishing for any to perish" (2 Peter 2:9).

Last Christmas Eve a Buffalo man was hailed as a hero after saving 24 people during a brutal **snowstorm that dumped up to 50.3 inches** in western New York.

¹⁶ John H. Sailhamer, "Genesis," *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, Tremper Longman and David E. Garland, eds. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008), 92.

The man's name was **Jay Withey**. This man Jay onboarded his crew, a total of 24 others who were stranded, including seven senior citizens, and they made their way into Pine Hill Primary Center in Buffalo and took shelter. They found some food in the cafeteria. They slept there until the weather cleared. He wrote a letter and said, "I'm sorry we had to break in. We only ate what we needed to survive. **Merry Christmas, Jay.**"¹⁷ This hero was known as "Merry Christmas Jay," and they finally tracked him down. He was a hero for breaking in. What an amazing story.

But here's **a story infinitely more amazing. No one had to break into the ark.** The invitation was open! People hardened their hearts to Noah's preaching. He was calling people to the ark where they could be safe and warm and cared for.

Dear one, Jesus is ready to receive you. Come to him today.

Benediction

Romans 8:38-39 – For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

¹⁷ Nicholas McEntyre, "Buffalo Man Hailed as Hero for Rescuing 24 People during Winter Storm," *New York Post*, December 30, 2022, <https://nypost.com/2022/12/30/buffalo-man-jay-withey-known-as-merry-christmas-jay-ailed-hero-for-rescuing-people-in-winter-storm/>.