

## **CHRIST OUR ARK**

**August 19, 2018**

**Genesis 6:1-22**

In an earlier message we considered the greatest disaster in world history: the flood. By it humanity was reduced to eight people. Our focus was upon Noah. In him humanity was saved from absolute destruction, and the line of Christ was preserved. This ensured that the Savior would be born, and an atonement provided for sinners who lived before and after the flood. Therein, Noah is a type and picture of Christ our Savior.

We return to the record of that great flood to consider another type and picture of Christ: the ark. Again we note that the flood demonstrates God's willingness to judge sin, and that He has at His disposal every force in the universe to enact judgment. Moreover, His judgment is devastating, unsparing and absolute.

Yet divine judgment is not separated from divine grace and mercy. They are shown in that God never judges without first warning that judgment is coming. And that warning always includes a means to escape the coming judgment.

Such was the case when God judged the world with a flood of water. He informed Noah that it was coming, so that Noah could preach the message of coming judgment. And He gave Noah instructions to build the ark by which deliverance would be provided. Noah's message and his century-long construction project both testified that judgment was coming, and that deliverance was available.

That flood is represented in Scripture as a picture and forewarning of another judgment that is to come: a judgment of fire. "The world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men" (II Peter 3:6, 7).

Scripture abounds with warnings regarding the coming judgment. And, the central theme of Scripture is Christ, Who is the only deliverance from that judgment. In Noah's ark, a picture of Christ is provided.

As in Noah's day, only God knows the severity of coming judgment, and how to escape that judgment. God prescribed for Noah the particulars regarding the ark: its size, materials, design, and function. In Christ God has provided a deliverer whose person and work are perfectly suited to deliver all who are united with Him by faith.

God instructed Noah to build, and his family to enter, the ark. Whereas they could not know of coming judgment, nor the means for escaping that judgment, yet God revealed it unto them in an act of sovereign power and grace. But they had the responsibility to build and to enter the ark, and there was no salvation for them if they did not do so. Thus it is throughout Scripture. Divine

sovereignty and human responsibility meet in the salvation of every soul, and only those who enter Christ by faith will be delivered from the coming judgment of fire.