

Noah's Ark: A Type Of The Church

Introduction:

- A. Of all the stories in the Old Testament, one of the 1st Bible stories we teach our children, one that they seem to like the best, is the story of Noah's Ark. Perhaps that is because it is so easily illustrated with things that they can touch and play with. But there are some real lessons to be learned from this beloved story.
- B. This morning we want to study the ark itself and the lessons for us...The Ark...A type of the Church

I. *God Was The Designer* - Gen 6:13-21

Genesis 6:13-21 - Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth. Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with rooms, and shall cover it inside and out with pitch. This is how you shall make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its breadth fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. You shall make a window for the ark, and finish it to a cubit from the top; and set the door of the ark in the side of it; you shall make it with lower, second, and third decks. Behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark--you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds after their kind, and of the animals after their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. As for you, take for yourself some of all food which is edible, and gather it to yourself; and it shall be for food for you and for them."

- A. Design much different than most picture it
 1. "Ark" from Hebrew word meaning "chest", "box" or "coffin"
 2. 300 cubits (450 feet approx) by 50 (75 feet) by 30 (45 feet)
 3. Window at the top ... a cubit above the roof
 4. Door in the side
 5. 3 stories ... total volume about 1 1/2 million cubic ft; 43,000 tonnage
 6. Not ocean vessel - only designed to hold large cargo and float on the water
- B. God designed church much different from what most picture it
 1. Not a building with stained glass; steeples; bells, etc.
 2. Church - people, who have separated FROM World TO God
 3. Also had specific instructions for its construction
 - a. Christ is the builder - Matt 16:18

Matthew 16:18 - "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

b. Christ is the foundation - 1 Cor 3:10-11

1 Corinthians 3:10-11 - According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

c. Began in Jerusalem on Pentecost - Isa 2:23; Lk 24:47; Act 2

Isaiah 2:2 - Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be

established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it.

Luke 24:47 - and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

C. Ark was built just as God designed, so also the church

II. **Only One Ark** - Gen 6:14; Heb 11:7

Genesis 6:14 - "Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with rooms, and shall cover it inside and out with pitch.

Hebrews 11:7 - By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

A. Noah was instructed to build only one Ark

1. Large enough to hold all God intended to save

B. Jesus was commissioned to build only one church - Matt 16:18; Eph 4:4; 1:22-23; 2:14-16

Matthew 16:18 - "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Ephesians 4:4 - There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

Ephesians 1:22-23 - And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 2:14-16 - For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

1. One church sufficient to contain all the saved

III. **Only ONE Door** - Gen 6:16

Genesis 6:16 - "You shall make a window for the ark, and finish it to a cubit from the top; and set the door of the ark in the side of it; you shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.

A. God's design for the Ark called for only one door

1. Large enough to accommodate all who would enter

2. Open for all to enter

a. But only the righteous did so - Gen 7:1, 7

Genesis 7:1 - Then the LORD said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time.

Genesis 7:7 - Then Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him entered the ark because of the water of the flood.

b. Those who believed and obeyed

B. The Church also has only one way of entrance

1. Christ is the door - Jn 10:7, 9, 1

John 10:7 - So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

John 10:9 - "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 10:1 - "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber.

2. Jesus is the Way - Jn 14:6, Rom 5:1-2; Heb 10:19-20

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

Hebrews 10:19-20 - Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,

IV. *Only ONE Source Of Light* - Gen 6:16; 8:6

Genesis 6:16 - "You shall make a window for the ark, and finish it to a cubit from the top; and set the door of the ark in the side of it; you shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.

Genesis 8:6 - Then it came about at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made;

A. Only one window authorized

B. God has provided the one source of light for the Church - Psa 119:105, 130

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Psalms 119:130 - The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

1. Light was available for all

2. Only those in the Ark of safety benefit from it - 2 Cor 4:3-4; Jn 3:19-21

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 - And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

John 3:19-21 - "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

V. *Safety ONLY In The Ark*

A. God determined to destroy entire earth - Gen 6:5-8

Genesis 6:5-8 - Then 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. The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

B. He provided a way for Noah - Gen 6:13-14, 22

Genesis 6:13-14 - Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth. Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with rooms, and shall cover it inside and out with pitch.

Genesis 6:22 - Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did.

C. Noah had to enter Ark to be saved - Gen 7:1,7,13,15

Genesis 7:1 - Then the LORD said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time.

Genesis 7:7 - Then Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him entered the ark because of the water of the flood.

Genesis 7:13 - On the very same day Noah and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark,

Genesis 7:15 - So they went into the ark to Noah, by twos of all flesh in which was the breath of life.

1. All who remained outside of the Ark were destroyed - Gen 7:17-23

Genesis 7:17-23 - Then the flood came upon the earth for forty days, and the water increased and lifted up the ark, so that it rose above the earth. The water prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. The water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered. The water prevailed fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered. All flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died. Thus He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark.

2. Once God's judgment began, He shut the door and no more could enter - Gen 7:16

Genesis 7:16 - Those that entered, male and female of all flesh, entered as God had commanded him; and the LORD closed it behind him.

D. Noah had to stay in the Ark to continue his safety

E. In the same way, there is safety ONLY in the Church

1. Christ is the Savior of the body - Eph 5:23; Rom 8:1

Ephesians 5:23 - For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

Romans 8:1 - Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2. God will destroy the earth again - 2 Pet 3:9-11

2 Peter 3:9-11 - The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

3. Those "In Jesus" will be spared - 2 Pet 2:4-5, 9

2 Peter 2:4-5 - For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

2 Peter 2:9 - then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

F. How do we enter that spiritual Ark, the Church?

1. According to His instructions

2. Believe it is necessary, believe He has provided - Heb 11:6-7

Hebrews 11:6-7 - And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

3. Be willing to change our ways...most will laugh and scoff

4. Confessing Jesus as Lord - Rom 10:9-10

Romans 10:9-10 - that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

5. Baptism...entering Jesus - Rom 6:3; Gal 3:27; 1 Pet 3:18-21

1 Peter 3:18-21 - For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

G. Christians must remain "In Christ" to be saved - 2 Pet 2:20-21

2 Peter 2:20-21 - For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.

VII. *Every Need Met Within Ark*

A. God provided for every need for Noah and his family

1. God did not do it all, but provided a way - Gen 6:21

Genesis 6:21 - "As for you, take for yourself some of all food which is edible, and gather it to yourself;

and it shall be for food for you and for them."

2. Food, clothing, fellowship, shelter, God

B. God will provide all our needs....if we are in the "ark"

1. Physical needs - Matt 6:26, 31-33

Matthew 6:26 - "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?"

Matthew 6:31-33 - "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

2. Spiritual needs - Eph 1:3

Ephesians 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

3. No need to go outside the church for anything (dangerous spiritually if you do) - 2 Cor 6:14--18; 1 Cor 15:33

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 - Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

1 Corinthians 15:33 - Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

Conclusion:

A. God has provided a way to be saved from the coming destruction

B. There is only one way

C. Are you safely in the Ark of God?