

'IN THE BEGINNING'
(The Origins of All Things Coming to Pass in the Last Days)
Studies in Genesis 1-11

'Ark-e-ology'

"...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 antitype which now saves us – baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Who has gone into heaven is at the right hand of God, angels, authorities and powers having been made subject to Him."
1 Peter 3:20-22

Most people know about Noah and the ark. As the world was sinking deeper and deeper into sin, corruption and violence, God was building a vessel of deliverance to ride out the coming judgment of God – a global flood. Approximately 1500 years after Adam and Eve's failure in the Garden of Eden, the world had become more and more sinful and wicked, to the point God decided to purge the planet of its fallen human race. Only Noah and his family found *grace* in God's sight to build the ark, oversee it during the judgment, and restart human history when it was over.

Scripture also tells us that during the 120 years of construction Noah also preached righteousness (**2 Peter 2:5**). In the family tradition of Enosh (**Genesis 4:26**) and Enoch (**Genesis 5:21-24**), he cried out powerfully against sin and warned of the coming judgment (**Jude 14-15**). With his grandfather Methuselah's longevity as a great example of God's gracious patience (his name meaning is '*when he dies, it (judgment) comes*'), Noah preached and built in the Name of the LORD.

When the flood judgment came, the ark was immersed (*literally 'baptized'*) with water from beneath and above (**Genesis 7:11-12**). As the flood waters drowned the sinful world, the ark with its occupants raised above the waters saving the eight souls aboard. According to the Holy Spirit through Apostle Peter, the ark was a *type* (*prophetic preview*) of a New Testament *anti-type* (*a fulfillment of its Old Testament 'type' believers' baptism*). Baptism by immersion portrays a believer's faith in the death and burial of Jesus for our sins. It also shows commitment to put away our old sinful life.

Coming up out of the water pictures belief that Jesus has risen from the dead and our commitment to the new life '*in Christ*' with Him as Lord. Baptism also symbolizes the importance of the believer's being safely '*in Christ*', spared of all judgment which rained down upon Jesus on the cross and the new life we live in His kingdom.

Baptismal water doesn't save us any more than the rains of the flood saved the passengers on the ark. In fact, immersion under the flood killed all except those in the ark. Being '*in Christ*', as Noah was '*in the ark*' (*not the water*) is what saves our souls from the coming floods of judgment coming from God. And as the ark floated up above the death and destruction of the doomed world beneath them, baptism says about the person being immersed – he or she now rises above this world '*in Christ*' to live above this lost, doomed world.

As we await the Lord's return to evacuate us before judgment falls, we must be sure we're safely '*in Christ*' through faith in the gospel of His cross. And we must be busy building up the body of Christ (the New Testament ark), in a good local church ministry like CBF. Are you on board the New Testament ark of salvation – true faith and allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you building up the *body of Christ* through faithfulness in time, talent, and treasure in a good local church family? And are you sharing the gospel message with others at work, school, and in the community? One of these days the *doors of opportunity* will close. Where will you be when the storm clouds of judgment break?
PtL

‘Back to the Present’
(Comparing the ‘days of Noah’ with today)
Genesis 6

A Deplorable World

“Now it came to pass when men began to multiply on the face of the earth and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the Lord said, “**My Spirit shall not strive with man forever for he is indeed flesh; his days shall be one hundred and twenty years**” There were giants on the earth in those days and also afterward, when the sons of God came into the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. Then 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 on evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, **“I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.”** 6:1-7

- Discuss what must have happened to the godly lineage of Seth over the centuries. (1 Timothy 4:1-2, 2 Timothy 3:1-5)
- Discuss the correlation between turning away from the truth and demon possession.
- Do you think the world, in our day, is becoming ‘*reprobate*’ (Romans 1:28-32)? (Explain)

A Dedicated Remnant

“...But **Noah found grace in the sight of the LORD.** This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. And Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. The earth was also corrupt before God and earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, **“The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.”** 6:8-13

- **Romans 11:5** predicts that only a remnant will be saved. If a remnant of the whole world before the flood ended up being 8 (Noah’s family) what does this reveal to us regarding who is truly saved and God’s true evaluation of the human race (**Hebrews 11:7**)?
- Talk about Noah’s testimony and how it is the picture of true salvation (**2 Peter 2:10-15**).
- Discuss how believers can live godly lives in a decadent generation (**Luke 17:26-30**).

A Deliverance Vessel

“And God said to Noah, “...**Make yourself an ark** of gopher-wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits (450’), its width fifty cubits (75’) and its height thirty cubits (45’). You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second and third decks. And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But **I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark – you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you... Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.**” 6:14-22

- Discuss how ‘the ark of Noah’ compares with being saved and being ‘*in Christ*’ today.
- Talk about how ‘building Christ’s church’ is a true sign of being truly saved and on the way to heaven for sure (**Matthew 16:18**).