

Noah's Ark – Insights for Adults

- All Scripture references are CEV herein

Prayer

Friends, almost all of us have heard the story of Noah's Ark. It is a wonderful tale of God's saving grace, a lot of animals, a big boat and way too much water...

Picture with me if you will Noah walking out on the deck of his great ship talking to the Lord. "Dear Lord, I know you know what is best, and I thank you for saving my family, but Lord that woodpecker has to go..." Walking a little further down the deck he sees his sons fishing off the side of the Ark and being a man of great wisdom, he approaches his sons with some sage advice... "Take it easy on the bait boys, I've only got two worms..."

We think of the family all safe and secure, the rain, sort of a Disney picture of this event don't we?

Well my friends, today I am going to look at another aspect of that event...

God wiped out all life on earth except for that family and the animals in that boat. The earth was destroyed. Today we are going to look at what else we can learn about this event in our history.

Now back then mankind lived longer lives...

In Genesis 5:32 we see: *"After Noah was five hundred years old, he had three sons and named them Shem, Ham, and Japheth"*

Then in Genesis 6:4-8 we read: *"The children of the supernatural beings who had married these women became famous heroes and warriors. They were called Nephilim and lived on the earth at that time and even later. The LORD saw how bad the people on earth were and that everything they thought and planned was evil. He was very sorry that he had made them, and he said, "I'll destroy every living creature on earth! I'll wipe out people, animals, birds, and reptiles. I'm sorry I ever made them." But the LORD was pleased with Noah."*

Here we begin to see that God's wrath against sin was very powerful and he was not going to tolerate it any longer...

Now if we read a little further we see in verses 8,9: " But the LORD was pleased with Noah, and this is the story about him. Noah was the only person who lived right and obeyed God."

So God talked to his servant in Verses 13-22 and:

So he told Noah: Cruelty and violence have spread everywhere. Now I'm going to destroy the whole earth and all its people. Get some good lumber and build a boat. Put rooms in it and cover it with tar inside and out. Make it four hundred fifty feet long, seventy-five feet wide, and forty-five feet high. Build a roof on the boat and leave a space of about eighteen inches between the roof and the sides. Make the boat three stories high and put a door on one side. I'm going to send a flood that will destroy everything that breathes! Nothing will be left alive. But I solemnly promise that you, your wife, your sons, and your daughters-in-law will be kept safe in the boat. Bring into the boat with you a male and a female of every kind of animal and bird, as well as a male and a female of every reptile. I don't want them to be destroyed. Store up enough food both for yourself and for them. Noah did everything the LORD told him to do

Finally in Chapter 9 Verses 1- 17 we read:

God said to Noah and his sons: I am giving you my blessing. Have a lot of children and grandchildren, so people will live everywhere on this earth. All animals, birds, reptiles, and fish will be afraid of you. I have placed them under your control, and I have given them to you for food. From now on, you may eat them, as well as the green plants that you have always eaten. But life is in the blood, and you must not eat any meat that still has blood in it. I created humans to be like me, and I will punish any animal or person that takes a human life. If an animal kills someone, that animal must die. And if a person takes the life of another, that person must be put to death. I want you and your descendants to have many children, so people will live everywhere on earth. Again, God said to Noah and his sons: I am going to make a solemn promise to you and to everyone who will live after you. This includes the birds and the animals that came out of the boat. I promise every living creature that the earth and those living on it will never again be destroyed by a flood. The rainbow that I have put in the sky will be my sign to you and to every living creature on earth. It will remind you that I will keep this promise forever. When I send clouds over the earth, and a rainbow appears in the sky, I will remember my promise to you and to all other living creatures. Never again will I let floodwaters destroy all life. When I see the rainbow in the sky, I will always remember the promise that I have made to every living creature. The rainbow will be the sign of that solemn promise.

Interesting Story eh?

Here is a 500+ year old man building a boat for many years, enduring the ridicule of the people around him who saw an old man building a boat in a desert. Yet Noah obeyed God.

Now you know the story of Noah's Ark, or do you really see it all. You see today, I want to take us on a journey into the parallels between Noah's story and the Story of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

In Both Noah's culture and in our culture wickedness is running rampant. We know our culture is wicked, but in Genesis 6:5, 6 We clearly read:

The LORD saw how bad the people on earth were and that everything they thought and planned was evil. He was very sorry that he had made them.

So from the time of expulsion from the Garden of Eden until the great flood, we read a tale of mankind growing farther and farther away from God and growing increasingly wicked.

Now some may say, but pastor that's Old Testament. Hear my reply, the moral law of God has not changed...

Turn with me to Galatians 5:15-19

"But if you keep attacking each other like wild animals, you had better watch out or you will destroy yourselves. If you are guided by the Spirit, you won't obey your selfish desires. The Spirit and your desires are enemies of each other. They are always fighting each other and keeping you from doing what you feel you should. But if you obey the Spirit, the Law of Moses has no control over you. People's desires make them give in to immoral ways, filthy thoughts, and shameful deeds"

In short, even in the New Testament mankind still had issues with the flesh. Paul tells us that we are free from the legal aspects of the Mosaic Law. Further, that he was dealing with these issues at the church in Galatia. But Jesus told us in Matthew 5:18 that in regards to the moral law of God: *"Heaven and earth may disappear. But I promise you that not even a period or comma will ever disappear from the Law"*

Friends God still has an expectation that we lead righteous lives before him.

So here's where we are at... The world was growing increasing evil and going away from the principles and expectations of God. Is our world today any different? Have we as a culture learned nothing of our history? Have we forgotten to reverence God?

You know the important aspect of Noah's Ark? God promised not to destroy mankind by water again...

Turn with me to 2 Peter 3:3-7

But first you must realize that in the last days some people won't think about anything except their own selfish desires. They will make fun of you and say, "Didn't your Lord promise to come back? Yet the first leaders have already died, and the world hasn't changed a bit." They will say this because they want to forget that long ago the heavens and the earth were made at God's command. The earth came out of water and was made from water. Later it was destroyed by the waters of a mighty flood. But God has commanded the present heavens and earth to remain until the day of judgment. Then they will be set on fire, and ungodly people will be destroyed.

My friends, this world needs salvation from God's coming judgment of fire!

Remember Genesis 6:13, 14?

So he told Noah: Cruelty and violence have spread everywhere. Now I'm going to destroy the whole earth and all its people. Get some good lumber and build a boat. Put rooms in it and cover it with tar inside and out

God gave Noah the instructions in detail, he chose the perfect wood for making a sturdy boat and even the dimensions for ship building are still used today. God chose to use the Ark as his means of grace and salvation for the righteous people of the earth. In the New Testament he has chosen the perfect vessel for our salvation as well. He has chosen Christ his son!

Let's look at Romans 3:20-24

God doesn't accept people simply because they obey the Law. No, indeed! All the Law does is to point out our sin. Now we see how God does make us acceptable to him. The Law and the Prophets tell how we become acceptable, and it isn't by obeying the Law of Moses. God treats everyone alike. He accepts people only because they have faith in Jesus Christ. All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. But God treats us much better than we deserve, and because of Christ Jesus, he freely accepts us and sets us free from our sins

Friends, Noah's Ark was created so that mankind could live, it was to be a safe place in the storm.

Point #1 – God destroyed the earth, but made a physical way of escape for his righteous

Point #2 – God will destroy the earth again, but has made a permanent spiritual way of escape for his righteous.

Think about it; doesn't Jesus provide us with a means to avoid punishment and judgment for our sins? Isn't he our refuge from sin and judgment?

Jesus is our salvation from the fire! Turn with me to John 5:24-27

I tell you for certain that everyone who hears my message and has faith in the one who sent me has eternal life and will never be condemned. They have already gone from death to life. I tell you for certain that the time will come, and it is already here, when all of the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen to it will live! The Father has the power to give life, and he has given that same power to the Son. And he has given his Son the right to judge everyone, because he is the Son of Man

So next I want to point out that the Ark was conceived by God, as he gave the instructions to Noah on how to build the thing, but the Ark was build by human hands.

Why?

Hebrews 11:7

Because Noah had faith, he was warned about something that had not yet happened. He obeyed and built a boat that saved him and his family. In this way the people of the world were judged, and Noah was given the blessings that come to everyone who pleases God

I want to insert a point here... Like Abraham, Noah was not perfect. He was righteous because of his faith in God.

Now remember I said the Ark was conceived by God and man built it... We let's look at Jesus now... He was conceived by God, and his will was carried out by his Son incarnate in human form. (Luke 1:35)

Now as to capacity... God made enough room to save what he intended... The ark had three floors comprising floor space of 101,250 square feet...

But my friends the good news this morning is that Jesus has capacity for every person who comes to him... Every single Jew and every Gentile. Ps. Unless your name is Goldstein or Goldberg or something like that this morning chances are you are a Gentile.... :)

The good news is in Romans 9:22-25

God wanted to show his anger and reveal his power against everyone who deserved to be destroyed. But instead, he patiently put up with them. He did this by showing how glorious he is when he has pity on the people he has chosen to share in his glory. Whether Jews or Gentiles, we are those chosen ones, just as the Lord says in the book of Hosea, "Although they are not my people, I will make them my people. I will treat with love those nations that have never been loved

Factoid time... The Ark was covered in pitch to protect in and seal it inside and out... The Hebrew word for pitch used in the Old Testament is the same word used for Atonement in the New Testament... think on that for a while...

You are covered inside and out by the blood of Jesus

Now... How many people hear have see depictions of Noah's Ark? Have you noticed that there is only one main door? There is only one door to salvation...

John 14:6

"I am the way, the truth, and the life!" Jesus answered. "Without me, no one can go to the Father"

John 10:9

"I am the gate. All who come in through me will be saved. Through me they will come and go and find pasture"

Friends there is only one way to salvation... Jesus didn't say I am A Gate... he said: "I am the gate. No one is saved except through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Turn with me to 2 Peter 3:11-14

Everything will be destroyed. So you should serve and honor God by the way you live. You should look forward to the day when God judges everyone, and you should try to make it come soon. On that day the heavens will be destroyed by fire, and everything else will melt in the heat. But God has promised us a new heaven and a new earth, where justice will rule. We are really looking forward to that! My friends, while you are waiting, you should make certain that the Lord finds you pure, spotless, and living at peace

Summary

We need salvation just like Noah and his family. The Lord's wrath will not wait forever and we are in the season of the Lord's return

Noah was given instructions and a plan and instructions that he worked on for his salvation, so too have we been given a plan and instructions for living our lives for Christ.

The pitch covered the ark and Jesus blood covers us as atonement for our sins

There is only one door by which we can enter and be saved. Jesus told us he is the way, the truth and the life.

Will we be inside the vessel of our salvation or will we miss the boat!

Prayer