

THE ARK AND THE CHURCH

When we study about the ark that Noah built to save his family from the flood (Genesis 6) and about the church that Jesus built to which the saved are added (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47), we find that there are many beautiful comparisons. Let us study some of these comparisons, because I believe we can learn some vital lessons from them.

Each Had One Builder

Noah was the builder of the *ark*: "*And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold I will destroy them with earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.*" (Genesis 6: 13 - 14). Noah was a righteous man (Heb. 11:7), "*just...perfect in his generations...*" (Gen. 6:9), which caused him to find grace in the eyes of the Lord (Gen. 6:3) and made him a fit builder of the ark.

Christ is the builder of the *church*: "*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*" (Matt. 16:18). Christ was without sin in His life, which made Him a fit builder of the church: "*Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth....*" (I Pet. 2:22). "*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit....*" (I Pet. 3:18).

One Ark -- One Church

God told Noah to build *one* ark, not two: "*Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.*" (Genesis 6:14).

Christ told Peter that He would build *one* church, not two: "*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*" (Matt. 16:18).

Each The Only Refuge

The ark was the only refuge God provided in the days of Noah. God told Noah in Genesis 6:17 - 18 that the ark was to be the place of safety during the flood: "*And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy son's wives with thee.*" In Genesis 7: 21 - 22 we are told that all flesh that did not come into the ark died in the flood: "*And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man; All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.*"

The church is the only refuge God has provided in our day. We are told by Luke in Acts 2:47 that the *saved* are *added* to the *church*. Paul said that Christ "*is the saviour of the body*" (Ephesians 5: 23), and that the body of Christ and the church are one and the same (Ephesians 1: 22 -23). So, all who are out of the church are unsaved, are lost, and are without hope in this condition (II Thess. 1: 7 - 9).

Entrance Necessary To Be Saved

All who entered the ark were physically saved from the flood, and all outside the ark were physically destroyed by the flood (Genesis 6: 19 - 22; Genesis 7: 21 - 22).

All who enter the church are spiritually saved from alien sins and come into a saved relationship with God. Peter told the people on the day of Pentecost to "*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*" (Acts 2:38). Three thousand were baptized for the remission of sins and were added to the church (Acts 2: 41 - 47).

But One Door

The one door in the ark was in the side: "*and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; ...*" (Genesis 6:16). All that entered the ark had to enter by that one door.

The church has one door -- Christ is that door: "*I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*" (John 10:9). All who enter the church must enter by Christ, the one door. Jesus said, *He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.*" (John 10:1). How do we enter Christ, the one door? Paul tells us how in Galatians 3: 26 - 27: "*For we are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*" All who have believed (John 8:24), repented of their sins (Luke 13:3), confessed Christ before men (Acts 8:37), and have been baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), have entered Christ. They have entered the body of Christ (I Cor. 12:13), which is the church (Ephesians 1: 22 - 23).

But One Source Of Light

There was only one window in the ark to receive light: "*A window shalt thou make in the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above.*" (Genesis 6:16).

Christ and His word are the only source of light for the church. Jesus said in John 9:5, "*As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*" John said in I John 1: 7, "*But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*" The Psalmist said, "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*" (Psalms 119: 105).

But One Family

The one family in the ark was Noah's family: "*And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and son's wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.*" (Genesis 7:7; I Peter 3:20).

The church is the "house of God" (or family of God): "*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*" (I Tim. 3:15).

Entered By Invitation

God invited Noah to enter the ark: "*And the Lord said unto Noah, come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.*" (Genesis 7:1).

Christ invites all to come in Matthew 11: 28 - 30: "*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*" All have been invited, but only a few come in obedience to Him.

Conclusion

The people in Noah's day ignored God's flood-warning which He gave through Noah (II Peter 2:5; Matt. 24: 37 - 39).

People today are ignoring God's judgment-warning and His warning concerning eternal punishment in fire (II Thess. 1: 8 - 9; Matt. 25: 31 - 46). Most people today are as unprepared as they were in the days of Noah (Matt. 24:37). Friend, are you prepared to meet God in the Judgment?

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