

Subject: *God's Ark of Safety*

Scripture: *Genesis 7:1-7*

If you ever watch The Weather Channel you probably know they have a program called “Storm Stories” that re-enacts a severe weather event like a tornado or a flash flood. The Bible tells us about the worldwide flood in the days of Noah. It is the ultimate storm story of all time.

In this message I want to deal with some of the evidence that this was a worldwide flood and not just a localized flood, and I also want to show how the ark is a picture of Christ as our ark of safety from coming judgment.

1. GOD'S FLOOD OF JUDGMENT

- A. The timing of the flood – God's patience finally ran out and He sent the flood as He said. In Genesis 6:3, God said the flood would come after 120 years. In Genesis 7:4, the Lord told Noah the flood would come in 7 days, and that's what happened.
- B. The dating of the flood – In Genesis 7:6, the Bible gives a historical reference to document when the flood took place. Probably no event in the Bible is dated so thoroughly as the flood, and that's important because we know it was a real event and not just a made-up story. There are a total of 18 time references to the flood. The Bible tells us that Noah lived to be 950 years old. He was 500 years old when he became a father, and he was 600 years old when he entered the ark and 601 years old when he left the ark. He began working on the ark when he was 480 years old.
- C. The extent of the flood – Was this really a worldwide flood or was it just a local flood? What we believe about the flood affects what we believe about the whole Bible. Here are seven reasons why we can be sure it was a worldwide flood:
 - 1) The dimensions of the ark (6:15) – It was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. A localized flood would not require an ark this big.
 - 2) The depth of the flood waters (7:19-20) – Even the highest mountains were covered by 22 feet of water.
 - 3) The duration of the flood (7:24) – The flood waters prevailed five months, then receded slowly.
 - 4) The disaster that caused the flood (7:11) – This flood was not caused by normal rainfall. There was an upheaval of water from beneath the earth and the canopy of water vapor above the earth broke loose. So there was water coming from beneath and from above at the same time.
 - 5) The death of all people outside the ark (7:21-23) – Nobody survived except eight people inside the ark.

Matthew 24:38-39 *For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

Luke 17:26-27 *And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.*

- 6) The decree that God would not send another worldwide flood (9:11, 15) - There have been other localized floods since then, but never another worldwide flood.
- 7) The description of God's future judgment by fire (2 Peter 3:6-7) – Just as the whole world was destroyed by the flood, so God is going to destroy the whole world by fire.

2 Peter 3:6-7 *Whereby 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.*

2. GOD'S ARK OF SAFETY

The flood magnifies the justice and wrath of God, but the ark magnifies His grace and mercy. In the flood we see God's judgment. In the ark we see God's salvation.

Three arks are mentioned in the Bible: 1) the ark in which baby Moses was hidden; 2) the ark that was in the Tabernacle and the Temple; and 3) Noah's ark.

In our last message we looked at the layout and construction of Noah's ark. The ark was built for safety and security when God's judgment fell. The ark is in many ways a picture of Christ.

- A. God planned the ark before judgment fell - The ark was not Noah's idea; it was God's. God wisely planned all the details ahead of time so it would be ready for Noah's family. God planned our salvation in Christ before the foundation of the world.
- B. The ark was needed because of man's sin – Christ came to save sinners from the penalty and power of sin.
- C. God called Noah and his family into the ark (7:1) – “Come thou...” God calls us to salvation, and by His grace we hear and heed His call.
- D. God shut Noah and his family in the ark (7:16) – Noah and his family probably fell down inside the ark, but they never fell out.
- E. God took care of Noah and his family in the ark – God was with them and kept them alive.
- F. God lifted Noah and his family above the flood waters – As long as the ark was afloat Noah and his family were secure. In Christ there is no judgment. Outside of Christ there is no salvation. I feel sorry for people who think their salvation depends on what they do or don't do. God didn't tell Noah to attach some wooden pegs or handles outside the ark so he and his family could hold on tight and ride out the flood. God shut Noah in and kept him safe.
- G. God saved very few (only 8 souls) in the ark – Thank God that many more than 8 people are saved in Christ, but still there are only a few compared to the many who are lost and headed for judgment. Make sure you are one of the few. Make sure you are in Christ.

Matthew 7:13-14 *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

How should we apply this message? We need to do three things, the same things Noah did.

- 1) Believe what God says – judgment is coming
- 2) Fear the coming judgment – eternal punishment in Hell
- 3) Prepare by being in Christ. He is God's ark of safety.

To you who are safe and secure in Christ, thank Him for his grace, live for Him and his glory. Do you think Noah's life was affected by God's mercy in saving him and his family? He lived another 350 years after the flood and there's no doubt he lived for the Lord who saved him.