

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church
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A COMPARISON OF NOAH'S STORY AND SALVATION

Genesis 6:9-13, 7:17-23, and other scriptures

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- Like in Noah's day, God's standard is not impossible to know.
- The security of the ark is like the security of Christ.
- As Noah entered through one door, so must we.

INTRODUCTION: Last week we looked at the story of Noah. I shared how he was righteous in spite of the culture, how he was obedient in spite of the odds, and how his obedience paid off. I also mentioned how our thinking about Noah and the animals coming two by two needs to transcend a mere children's story.

Today I want us to look at the similarities between the story of Noah and salvation. There are a lot of similarities. You may even think of some I do not mention.

LIKE IN NOAH'S DAY, GOD'S STANDARD IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 6:9-13

This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. ¹⁰ Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. ¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³ So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

EXPLANATION: Some people seem to think that it's not possible to know God's standard. Maybe some thought the same in Noah's day but the scripture is pretty clear about how evil the people were, and because of that, I doubt they had any thoughts about God whatsoever.

In order to measure yourself by a standard you must first know the standard. If you ignore all standards, then you'll never be able to measure yourself by any standard. In Noah's day everyone did what they wanted to, when they wanted to. They were nothing but evil in God's eyes. Except for one man and his family.

In all the years Noah built the ark, how many wondered about Noah's standard? How many wondered why Noah and his family were different than the rest of society? All they had to do was ask Noah and he no doubt would have told them. The apostle said, "Follow me as I follow Christ." Noah would have no doubt told any inquirer, "Follow me as I follow God." But no, they were too busy pursuing their own interests.

The ark took a long time to build and Noah was faithful but had not one convert. Someone pointed something out to me last week: Did Noah have other children besides Hem, Shem, and Japheth? If so, they did not make it on the ark? And did Hem, Shem, and Japheth and their wives have children before they boarded the ark? If so, they did not make it on the ark. It would have been quite unusual for them to wait so many years to have children. We know they did have children after the flood because they re-populated the earth. We don't have any record that there were family members who didn't make it, but no doubt Noah had other relatives, cousins, aunts, uncles. What we do know is that in all of society, no one cared enough to be a disciple of Noah.

But Noah knew God's standard. How? Because he knew God. Since Noah lived before the time of the Law of Moses and of Jesus, how did he know God's standard? By faith! By faith, he knew God's standard. The Bible says he was a righteous man, but that does not mean he or his family were sinless. What it means is that they had a heart for God and when they sinned, they repented. God's standard requires repentance.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 11:7

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

APPLICATION: Today we know the truth that it's not possible to meet God's standard without repenting of sin and trusting Jesus. The Bible is clear. For those who say they want to have faith in Jesus but can't quite get there, my response is that they must not want to repent, because repentance is necessary.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 24:37-39

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

This scripture lets us know people paid no attention to Noah as he built the ark... "they knew *nothing* about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away..." Why did they not know? Because they did not care! They did not want to know!

THE SECURITY OF THE ARK IS LIKE THE SECURITY OF CHRIST

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 7:17-23

For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. ¹⁹ They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. ²⁰ The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits. ²¹ Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. ²² Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. ²³ Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

EXPLANATION: Noah and his family entered the ark before it rained and in doing so, they ensured their physical safety. They had everything they needed to survive the worst disaster the world has ever known. They were in the safest possible place. Others who floated on wood or made makeshift boats didn't make it.

Those climbing to ground above the rising water didn't make it. Only those who made it in the ark were safe.

Did Noah and his family face trials in their lives? Of course. But once they were in the ark, they were safe from God's judgement. Will we, as modern day believers, face trials in this life? Of course. But once we are safe in Jesus, we are safe from God's judgement of this earth someday.

I want to point out to you that Noah and his family did not get wet. They weren't on a raft. They were inside the ark that floated on top of the water. Why is that important? Because many have equated baptism with salvation by citing I Peter 3:20 which says about Noah and his family -- "by water" they were saved. Some English translations say "through water" they were saved. But listen closely... they never got wet! I'd like to see a baptism where no one gets wet. They didn't get immersed, sprinkled, or poured. There was no baptism like Romans 6 talks about, which represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Furthermore, they were **ALREADY** righteous people before the ark was even built. They were saved **FROM** water. They were safe and dry on God's cruise ship. I broke down I Peter 3 in excruciating detail a few months ago on a Wednesday night, so I don't want to do that now. If you want to hinge your eternal salvation on a preposition, you are certainly free to do that.

The ark represents entering into Jesus, our ark of security for today and tomorrow.

- Today, when we enter Jesus, if we merely trust him, we'll be in the safest possible place. Being in Christ will give us a perspective different than the rest of the world. We'll be able to cruise right by all the materialism the world strives to gain, we'll be able to cruise right by defending ourselves over every single criticism because we know God has our best interests at heart.
- And tomorrow, at the end of days as we know them, because we entered our ark of security – Jesus - we'll be safe when this world faces God's judgement.

Just as Noah was safe in the ark, believers are safe in Jesus. Jesus said in John 10:28-29 ²⁸ *I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.* ²⁹ *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.*

AS NOAH ENTERED THROUGH ONE DOOR, SO MUST WE

EXPLANATION: The Ark had only one door through which Noah had to enter in order to be saved from the flood. Likewise, salvation in Christ has only one door. In John 10:9 Jesus said, “I am the door.”

By faith, Noah and his family entered the ark not knowing what the future held but knowing full well entering the ark was better than the alternative. They knew they were in God’s hands and they knew God had a plan for them. By faith, we enter Jesus not knowing what the future holds, but knowing that a life with Jesus is better than the alternative.

Genesis 7:16 -- God shut them in. He shut the one door to the ark. Just as Noah was sealed by God in the ark, we are sealed by God. Ephesians 4:30, says, “The Holy Spirit seals us until the day of redemption.”

When Noah and his family entered the ark, and the door was sealed, they had done all that God had told them to do up to that point. They were completely living by faith. They had nothing to depend upon other than God and his grace. When we enter Christ and are sealed by his Holy Spirit, we are doing all we know to do up to that point. We are living completely by faith and are totally dependent on God.

When Noah and his family left the ark in Genesis 8, we learn that God had plans for them. When we come to faith in Christ, we will learn that God has plans for us.

APPLICATION: Let’s look at the world around us right now. I read earlier that it will be like “in the days of Noah” when Christ will return. People will be going about their business, oblivious to the safe ark that they can board. And then they’ll be caught by surprise, wondering what’s going on.

As in the days of Noah...what does that mean? I think it means that people will be awful, there will be very few like Noah. Some might take it to mean that there are still plenty of good people in the world and so therefore we have plenty of time left. I would not count on that. I received an email from a dear church member recently with a link to an article explaining the scriptures about the end times with different points of view. I replied that I knew about those different points of view, but what

I've chosen to do as a pastor is to tell people to be ready, because Jesus could return at any time.

CONCLUSION: Let me say this loud and clear: The ark was the **ONLY** way to survive the great flood and likewise Jesus is the **ONLY** way to God. As Noah entered the ark by faith, we enter, by faith, Jesus' once-and-for-all sacrificial death on the cross.

Makeshift religion has never saved anyone. Any teaching that one can make it to heaven without Jesus is false teaching. Any teaching that Jesus and something else will save your soul from hell is false teaching. It's Jesus alone, nothing else.

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