

THE ARK AND THE CHURCH

It's amazing how many things you can take from the OT and compare them to things found in the NT. ***Romans 15:4*** *For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.* This morning we will do just that by comparing the similarities between the ark and the church. Most of us are familiar with the story of Noah and the building of the ark that is recorded in Genesis chapter 6.

Genesis 6:9 *...Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.* Because Noah worshiped God and stood out as a faithful servant he and his family were spared the worldwide destruction. It's reasonable to conclude because of Noah's character, he was called upon to be the builder of the ark, and from what we can tell from scripture, he did not argue with God but rather he followed his commands. ***Genesis 6:14-16*** *Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. (15) And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. (16) A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.*

In The NT Jesus too was God faithful servant. ***Philippians 2:8*** *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.* Not only was he an obedient to God's will, he was the builder of the church. ***Matthew 16:18*** *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.*

God told Noah to build one ark. There were no life boats or any other type of boats built from which to draw a pattern. Noah built the original. Likewise Jesus built a church. There were no other churches to compare. His church was the first and one of a kind for there is only one church. ***Colossians 1:18*** *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.* The same thought was given to the church that met in Ephesus. ***Ephesians 1:22-23*** *And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, (23) Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.* Notice in these two passages that the church is singular in reference and called "the body." To help us put this in perspective, notice ***Ephesians 4:4*** *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling.* Noah built one ark and Jesus built one church.

Noah was told to use one material to build the ark. ***Genesis 6:14-16*** *Make thee an ark of gopher wood.* Gofer was a particular kind of wood similar to the cypress wood that we use today. If Noah had used cedar from Lebanon or any other type of wood than gofer, then he would have violated the commands of God.

Likewise, the church is built out of one kind of material and that's the Christian. ***1 Peter 2:5*** *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.* The apostle Paul put it this way. ***1 Corinthians 12:12*** *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

The Ark only had one window for light. ***Gen. 6:16*** *A window shalt thou make to the ark.* In like manner, the church has one light. ***John 8:12*** *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.* This light of life is the word; the teaching and commands of the Lord, and we are encouraged to walk

in that light. **1 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 Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

The Ark only had one door...**Gen. 6:16:** *... and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof.* There is only one way into the ark. When the animals arrived at the ark, they entered through the door and when they left the ark they left through the one door. In a similar way, there is only one door into the church. **John 10:9** *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.* There was another time when Jesus was speaking to his apostles and said, **John 14:6** , *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

With the ark those who were saved were considered one family. **Genesis 7:7** *And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.* In the NT those who are being saved are considered one family as well. There was a time when Jesus was foretelling about the church and he told his apostles (**Matthew 19:29**) that they would receive a hundred fold brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers. He used the family relationship to describe the saved. Later the apostle Paul would write to the church in Rome and he too used the family to describe the Christian. In Romans 8 he would write: **Romans 8:14** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

(16) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (17) And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;...

Ephesians 3:14-15 *For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*

Salvation was found in the ark. From the Genesis account we learn that when the flood waters came, all that were outside the ark died and only those inside the ark survived. Thus the ark offered salvation to those that were inside. Those that were saved were saved because of obedient faith on the part of Noah. **Hebrews 11:7** *By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house;...* And in a sense, those inside the ark were saved by water as it was the water that floated them to safety.

This too can be compared to salvation today. Salvation is found in the church. Biblical definition of the save is the church. **Acts 2:47** *Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.* As people were being saved, they were being added to the church. In a second letter to Timothy Paul was discussing how much he had endured and then added that he endured these for the elects so *that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory (2 Timothy 2:10).* The point for our discussion is that that salvation is in Christ Jesus-being in Christ is being in the body of Christ or the church. Paul tells us in Eph 5:23 that Christ is the savior of the body. So like the ark, salvation for mankind is found in one place.

Also like with the ark, water was instrumental in the salvation of Noah and his family; so it is with the church. Baptism is the medium by which a person gets into Christ, which is where salvation is located. I want to reference three passages of scripture that bears this point.

Galatians 3:27 *For as many of you as have been BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST have put on Christ.*

Romans 6:3 *Know ye not, that so many of us as were BAPTIZED INTO JESUS CHRIST were baptized into his death?*

1 Corinthians 12:13 *For by one Spirit are we all BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY, ...*

Now notice what Peter has to say about this matter of water and salvation. **1 Peter 3:20-21 ... once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. (21) The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:** The like figure in v21 has reference to the saving water of v20. Baptism is the point that you enter into the church where salvation is found.

[Genesis 7:23](#) tells us that all those outside the ark were “**destroyed from the earth**” – they were lost. **Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive.** In very similar manner all those found outside the church, the body of Christ, will likewise be destroyed.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 ... when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, (8) In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (9) Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Don't let yourself be found outside of the church to face such a terrible fate. Once you have obeyed God commands and you have been baptized into the church, try your best to stay in the church. Can you image Noah and his family jumping off the ark into the water with no land in sight? That is what we are doing when we get wrapped up in sin and fall away from the church. We are jumping off the life saving vessel. Let us strive be like Noah's family who feared God, obeyed his word and found themselves saved in the end.

Are you in the church, the spiritual body of Jesus Christ?