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Noah, God's Ark-Angel

170-A

Series: Miscellaneous Messages

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Noah, God's Ark-Angel

This morning we have a one Sunday lesson on the subject of God's Ark Angel, Noah. Three of you caught it. That's worth something! This morning we'll begin by dealing with the concept of who Noah was and what God did to a life of faith.

We can begin by turning to Hebrews chapter eleven verse seven. Two more just caught it! It's the other class that's slow, we understand.

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; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. (Hebrews 11:7)

NOAH WARNED OF GOD

This is what is called a faith sandwich—it begins and ends with faith. Noah moved with fear. First of all he was warned of God. Moved with fear, he prepared an ark. He saved his house, condemned the world, and became an heir of righteousness. And it was all wrapped up in a faith sandwich. In other words we can boil it down to this: He heard God, he believed God, he feared God, so he obeyed God. God saved him, God used him, God blessed him.

GOD'S DIVINE INSPECTION

Let's turn to Genesis chapter six and begin with verse five. We're going to sort of walk our way through about three chapters of Genesis this morning as we look at the life of Noah and how it affects you and how it affects me in terms of our daily walk with Christ. Genesis chapter six beginning with verse five. We see that God makes an inspection. Genesis chapter 6, verse 5, is where it begins,

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5)

Noah, God's Ark-Angel

Verse five tells us that God made a Divine inspection of the status quo on earth and He didn't like what He saw. I think you can wrap up the summary of what He saw in Romans 3:23,

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

(Romans 3:23)

God saw that the wickedness of man was great and the thoughts of his heart were evil continually, and it repented the Lord that He had made man, and it grieved His heart. Now what does that say? It says first of all that God looked at two things, and His vision had three levels;

1- He saw man as a whole, and he was rotten.

2- He saw each man's behavior, and it was sorry, and so,

3- He looked into each man's heart and it was horrible,

And God looked. The wickedness was great, and the thoughts of man's heart were evil continually, and He said, "I'm sorry that I made man in the first place, and it grieved Him in His heart". Now to begin, *this is not the language of a condemning judge*. This is the language of a grieved Father, this is the language of a Father whose children have continually, willfully disobeyed, and His heart was broken. I think that you and, at least, I had better speak for myself, we sin so much. And our motivation gets so mixed up, that if we are honest with ourselves, two basic things cause us to be concerned about our sin. One is,

1- *Are we going to be found out?* Seriously, does anybody else know?

2- *Is there a loss of power in our lives?* As we grow beyond that infantile stage where we just don't want our sins to be found out, we don't want to have a loss of fellowship with God.

And those are the two reasons that sort of bridle us or control the way we sin. I wonder how many of us are really concerned about how much we sin in light of what it does to the heart of God? How many of us as children would behave in a certain way because we loved our parents? How many of us just didn't want to break their hearts, and that in itself was motivation enough for us to be obedient?

And yet you and I, with a sovereign God Who created the heavens and the earth, and Who watches over us, knowing every sparrow that falls, and Who loves us with such an intensity of

Noah, God's Ark-Angel

heart that our minds cannot even really grasp it, we look around, and we are not as concerned as we ought to be that this sin breaks the heart of God, grieves Him! He's a loving Father, and His heart is breaking! He wasn't in this case the condemning judge that looked around and said; "a bunch of rotten people, just what I expected." He was a Father who had created man in His image and wanted obedience, and they had disobeyed. All of them! And then He goes on and says,

And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth,
(Genesis 6:6a)

I don't think this passage at all implies that God lost His cool. I don't think it means that He lost His peace of mind. I think it means, not that He was shaken, but rather that *He was grieved*. And then it went on to say,

And it grieved hm at his heart. (Genesis 6:6b)

It does not imply that He changed His mind, but rather that He changed His direction, and there's a lot of difference. His will was spoken and firm. If man will obey I will do this, if man disobeys I will do this. God repented, He saw that man had made this choice, therefore He had to act in a given way. God wasn't wandering around and all of a sudden snapped His fingers and said, "I've changed My mind, I'm not going to do it the way I planned." God's plan was firm from the beginning. It was the same yesterday, today, and forever. In Him is neither variableness nor shadow of turning. He knew from the outset, He said from the outset what He would do if man disobeyed. Man disobeyed. It grieved the heart of God that man had disobeyed. He was sorry. He was broken hearted. And then He said:

And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created
(Genesis 6:7a)

Let's use our imaginations this morning—we'll have to use our imagination. Let's just imagine that Frank Mahan over here is an artist. Now I don't know of Frank's artistic ability; I probably should have picked someone I knew couldn't draw. I don't know whether Frank can draw or not. Can you draw Frank? Straight line, okay! All right, he's the one I need then. Let's suppose that Frank decided he was going to draw a picture of Steve Troxell. Now there's not a more noteworthy person to draw, I think it's a very worthwhile project; you might try it just to see how it works. Let's imagine that you draw this picture of Steve Troxell, and

Noah, God's Ark-Angel

you know, you haven't drawn a picture before, and Steve didn't stay around long, he was busy and gave you fifteen minutes. And you drew the best you could in fifteen minutes, and then you used your imagination. Let's just say that here comes Leo Galindo by and he looks at that picture and he says, "unh ahh, that'll never do," and he rips it to shreds. Now I don't know about Frank, but he's bigger than I am. I wouldn't dare to do that. But let's just assume that didn't bother Leo; he couldn't stand to see this picture. But he was wrong, wasn't he? He didn't have that right. But let's suppose on the other hand that Frank looked at the picture, stepped back, shook his head and he said, "that'll never do." And he took his knife, and he cut the picture into little shreds and threw it away. What's the difference? Well you see, He's the creator. He has the right to do with the picture anything he pleases. He created it; it belongs to him. Romans chapter nine verse twenty says,

Nay but, O man, who art thou that thou repliest against
God? Shall the thing that is formed say to him that formed
it, Why hast you made me thus?

—Hath not the potter power over the clay,

(Romans 9:20,21a)

In other words, the Creator has the right over His creation. And God said, "My heart is broken; the best thing for Me to do is to destroy man whom I have created. I have that right, it belongs to Me." Verse eight is the pivotal verse of this whole passage:

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

(Genesis 6:8)

It literally means, God found Noah and exercised grace. Have you ever realized God doesn't play the numbers game? God looked over the whole world, and He looked, and He looked, and He looked, and He looked. Scripture says,

For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole
earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose
heart is perfect toward him. (II Chronicles 16:9a)

And He looked, and He looked, and all He saw was a world full of sand, and every grain of sand was wicked. You and I would have said, "What a failure." God looked down, and He kept looking, kept looking, kept looking. And He looked through the sand, and He sifted through the sand, and He reached down, and He found a diamond in the rough. He found one man to whom He

Noah, God's Ark-Angel

could reveal Himself. You and I look for quantity, God looks for quality. Jesus changed the whole world by pouring Himself into eleven men. Can you imagine how we would have done it? Let's don't even think about it. There's a poem that goes like this,

An angel came to Christ one day
And said, "Oh Lord what now
That Thou hast borne the sins of men
With thorns upon Thy brow?"

"My people will be witnesses,"
We heard the Master say.
"And they will testify of me
Each hour of every day."

"But what if they should silent be?
For Thou dost know of man."
And softly my Redeemer cried,
"I have no other plan!"

Eleven men. He poured His heart into them. Then He walked off and turned the world over to them. God reached down, and He looked at a world that was wicked and rotten, but His heart was excited. Why? *One faithful man!* He looked down and said, "Noah, we're going to do something with you." Verse eleven says that,

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was
filled with violence. (Genesis 6:11)

That means it was rebellious towards its Creator and hostile towards one another. Matthew chapter 24, verses 34 through 39, give us a picture. Examine the scene and it will tell us something,

Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till
these things be fulfilled.

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not
pass away.

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the
angels of heaven, but my Father only.

But as the days of Noe [Noah] were, so shall also the coming
of the Son of man be. (Matthew 24:34-39)

You look at the latter days, and you realize that you look at life when Noah was about to enter the ark. And you'll see what life will be like just before the Lord's return. They were eating and drinking, marrying, giving in marriage, having a good time.

Noah, God's Ark-Angel

They were totally unaware of what was going on, and then it happened! Verse thirteen, God comes, and He pours His heart into Noah. We read,

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 the earth. (Genesis 6:13)

I went back and got to thinking about Abraham and how God came and shared His heart with Abraham before He destroyed the cities. And how God came with Moses on the mountain and shared His heart with him. It's so exciting to think of the fact that if we'll just be willing to be available to God, how He wants to share His heart with us. And He shared. He said, "Noah, you're the only man alive that knows what I'm going to do." Now if you were in Noah's shape, what would you do? If you were the only person alive that knew that God was going to destroy the whole world, what would you do? Would you begin worrying about what you could do for yourself, or would you begin to spread the word? Verse fourteen, God comes to Noah and He says, "Noah, I've got a project for you."

GOD'S PROJECT FOR NOAH

Now those of you who have been discipled or have discipled other people are probably well aware of the problems that come up when you come to someone and say, "Look, I know you have a need in your life, I'm going to give you a project. There's something I want you to do." The person at the other end usually grabs hold of the table and moans and groans and says, "Is this going to take long? Is this going to require much of me? I've got so much to do." Gang, we haven't seen a project until we look at this one. He says, "Noah, I've got a project for you." Now God didn't have to do it this way. He could have opened the heavens and flooded the earth. And He could have sent an angel down, and He could have taken Noah and put him in a dryer, bounced him around a few times, and cleaned him up and set him up in heaven and waited for it all to be over. Or He could come down, put him in a cage, and wrapped it in saran wrap and let him just bob along and watch the action. He didn't have to require anything of Noah, did He? But what did He do? He said, "Noah, I've got a project for you. It's going to require faith, and I'm going to change your life. I've got four things I'm going to do:

1- I'm going to destroy the world.

Noah, God's Ark-Angel

- 2- I'm going to save you.
- 3- It's going to require faith, and
- 4- It's going to be a testimony to future generations.

Now I'll bet you if I'd have been in Noah's shoes I'd have scratched my head and said, "Lord, there's got to be a better way than this. There's no union here, nobody's going to help me on this project, it's just me!" And when you see the size of this boat you're going to be more overwhelmed that Noah didn't run for the hills. You and I grumble when somebody gives us a project to do that requires three weeks, this one required years! We'd have just said; "Lord, my back is just killing me, and the price of lumber is sky high, I think there's got to be a better way." But God said; "Now, Noah, I want you to make a boat. I want you to get some gopher wood, (which is evidently a kind of cypress) and I want you to put a bunch of rooms in it, but I don't want you to just do it at your whim and disposal. I want to give you a specific set of blue prints. I want you to cover it with pitch." The word pitch in the Old Testament that is used here is the only word used in the Old Testament for atonement. It means, "to cover over". Now I want you to make it three hundred cubits by fifty cubits by thirty cubits. And I want you to put a window and a door, and I want you to make it three stories high. Have you ever realized how long that is? About a half a city block! God gave him a detailed set of blueprints and said, "Call Me when you're through, it's going to rain".

GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS

Notice five things about God's instructions, in particular five things about one of the five things.

1- He desired to save man using natural means. As I said earlier, there are a lot of ways He could have done it. If you and I were God we would have had instant salvation. We'd have had instant transformation.

2- Consider the spiritual significance of the ark and what it represents as the person of Jesus Christ.

a- It was sufficient to survive any storm of life.

Romans chapter 8, beginning with verse 35,

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or

Noah, God's Ark-Angel

nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35,37-39)

It was sufficient to survive any storm.

b- There were rooms enough for everybody that God planned to take along. In John chapter fourteen, verses two and three, Jesus said,

In My Father's house are many mansions [I have enough rooms for everybody]: if it were not so, I would have told you [and you could have made arrangements]. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. (John 14:2,3)

In other words, I go to prepare a place just for you. And if I do that I'll come back and it will have your name on it, and you can relax about it.

c- There was a window at the top to let the light in. No matter how heavy the storm was there was still a way to see the Light.

d- He had to cut a door in it. Jesus said,

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)

And lastly,

e- It was three stories high. Representing the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All had a part in our salvation, and all had a part in Noah's.

3- Notice the quality of the ark. Sometime, if you have time, do a detailed study of that ark. Modern engineers have done so and claim that with all of the computer sciences that we have available to us, and all the materials we have available to us, that man could not build this ark or design this ark the way God did.

4- Notice the details of the design. God never gives an

Noah, God's Ark-Angel

assignment without sufficient details to finish it. Philippians chapter one verse six:

that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform
it until the day of Jesus Christ: (Philippians 1:6b)

5- Notice the size of the ark. Genesis six verses fourteen and fifteen. If a cubit is twenty-five inches, it means this ark was six hundred and twenty five feet long, one hundred and four feet wide, and sixty-two and one-half feet high. You can take Larry Heppes and stand him ten times on top of himself; it was that tall. Historians tell us that up to eighteen hundred and fifty A.D. there was not a ship in the history of the world as large as Noah's ark. As late as nineteen hundred thirty two, of all the steamships in the world, less than one percent, were as large as Noah's ark. The capacity and tonnage was equal to more than six hundred freight cars, which would form a train more than four miles long. Engineers also tell us it had a sewage system more modern than any American city. I think it needed it! An interesting point: engineers tell us the ark was not designed to sail, only to float, to rest upon the waters, going wherever the Master of the waters deemed to send it. There was no navigational equipment on aboard. The one from within had no choice as to its destiny; the one within was to rest. The Captain of the waters was in control. It was only to float, secure in the fact that the God who handled the wind and the waves could certainly guide the destiny of that ship. There were no complex controls so that Noah, with all of his expertise, could guide himself in and around the storm until, safely in port, Noah had arrived. No, God shut him up, shut him in, told him to rest and took over.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH

Genesis six verse eighteen tells us about a covenant God made with Noah. It had six points, but (due to time restrictions) *we'll begin with point two:*

2- God turned to Noah then and He said, "Come." Now I don't know how you can imagine this in your own mind. But I think it's one thing to build a boat like that, it's another thing to get in it! You just imagine if Noah had been tempted to cheat a little along the way. "Ummh, just a gap here and there, just a little hole right here, so what difference will it make?" You know who would have suffered? Noah. It's interesting to me that God didn't shove Noah in the boat. God tenderly called him and said; "Noah, let's

you and I get into the boat". The third point (of the six) is that,

3- The grace of God was extended to the family of a man of God.

I Peter chapter 3, verse 20, tells us that there was a total of eight people saved in that ark. It was interesting that he told each of his sons to bring their wife, and each of them only had one wife, because it only added up to eight. And it is certainly true that each one of us has to stand before God on our own, but how the Spirit of God strives with the children of a man of God! And then we learn,

4- There were two of every species invited aboard. A little later we find that there more than that, but at least two of every species, male and female. In verse twenty you'll find the phrase mentioned three times, "after his kind, after his kind, after his kind". The Bible declared ten times in Genesis alone that everything created by God and given the power to reproduce was given the power to reproduce only after its kind! Nothing could break this law. And now, as Noah entered the boat, it was one thousand six hundred and fifty six years later, and that law had not been broken. And now, today, more than six thousand years further down the line, a sponge is still a sponge, not an octopus, not a turtle, not a frog. There's never been an earthworm that turned into a crocodile or a lizard. There's never been a bird or animal that's ever reproduced another kind, which was fertile. A donkey and a mule can reproduce a mule but it can't reproduce itself. There's never been a monkey that's ever reproduced a man, in spite of how some of us look. And the missing link is still missing! All in all, considering, there are more than two million different species of plant and animal life, none of which has ever reproduced, except after its kind. In other words, evolution is not only not a valid theory, not a fact...it's not a valid theory, it's a lie!

5- "Take enough food for all the troops," (Genesis 6:21 loose translation). I don't know about you but I can just imagine old Noah getting into his Camaro and putt-putting down to Handy Andy. And he walks in and says, "I'd like 72 cases of Alpo." The grocer says, "Well, you've got a pretty hungry dog!" He says, "Well, I've got kind of a family of animals down there." I can just imagine he kept buying until his Master Charge ran its limit. Food, food, food, more food, can you imagine the neighbors? Verse twenty-two *the key verse*:

6- “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.” (Genesis 6:22). Just picture the odds. There was one man in the whole world that knew God's heart and did God's will. It took years to build, putting every piece in place, and the world could see nothing, just a screwball in his backyard, miles from the nearest water, building a boat. But he kept building because he had a word from God. Some of them could imagine this guy building a boat out at the seashore, but here, devoting his whole life to this strange looking monstrosity? You know, that's how the world looks at you and me when we devote our lives to building into our lives the principles of discipleship. When we determine that following Jesus Christ at any price is worth it all, the world looks at us and scratches its head and says, “I don't understand, he could be making more money, he could be accruing fame to himself, what a waste!” The key is that someday the storms of life are going to come, and your ark is going to float. And then the world will scurry to try to get aboard. Only then will they be able to understand what it is you have been hammering on. In the meantime, keep hammering!

a- Can you imagine Noah's temptation to discouragement?

You and I get discouraged if somebody looks at us crooked. Say you witness to someone and they look back at you and scratch their head and say; “I'm not interested”, and we go home and we whimper and we whine. Or we hear somebody saying something behind our back and we think another Christian has a bad attitude towards us? We go home and we suck our thumbs, and we pout. We learn a new principle in church and we go home and try to put it into action, and all of a sudden it seems to recoil on us, and everything goes wrong. We think it's God's boo-boo and we boo-hoo and everything goes wrong. Look at Noah. He did not in his lifetime see the fruits of his labors among his neighbors. All those he witnessed to, except his family, perished. But he never ceased to do the will of God.

b- Also consider his temptation to be slothful. Can you imagine, by now? “Lord, I've been building for years. My back's tired. Lord, let's just put a warped board here; the lumberyard is closed today. It's a long way down the road, and I'm tired. Lord, we're not looking for the Good Housekeeping Seal; just a little compromise?”

c- Imagine the temptation to bitterness. “Why me, Lord?” We know from the Word that everybody else around Noah was

Noah, God's Ark-Angel

having a blast. There was partying. From the world's standards they were just having a ball. Can't you just imagine Noah saying, "Lord, why me?" Why did you choose me? All these people out having a good time and I've got to build a boat? It hasn't rained for years, my hands are sore, I'm broke and I've got to keep building this boat? Let's have somebody else share the load, Lord. I'm the only one." But we don't have any evidence of that. The only thing we hear from Noah in the Scriptures is two words. Memorize them. They go like this, "Yes Sir". God said, Noah, build a boat!" Noah said, "Yes Sir!" God said, We're going to build it this way." Noah said, "Yes Sir!" God said, It's going to rain. Everybody else is going to die." Noah said, "Yes Sir!"

Chapter 7, verse 1, begins (loose translation),

"Okay, come into the boat and let's get going."

You notice that Noah didn't enter the ark until God told him to? So easy for us once we learn the will of God to try to tell God about the *timing* of God. Once we see that boat, and it looks like it's ready, we would have said, "Come on, God, let's start the rain, let's get this thing over with." Well he got the animals on board just as he was told and in verse two God told him on the seventh day it's going to rain. Now there are a lot of commentaries that say that God put Noah in the ark seven days before the first drop fell. Now I don't know if this is true or not. But it would be interesting to be aboard that boat with it sealed up, closed up, and not a drop of rain. Can you imagine? They had the air conditioner on full blast. Animals were mooing and quacking and squeaking. Noah's wife kept turning the TV from channel to channel looking for a weather report. Every one of them says it's going to be dry for twenty years. "I told you Noah, I told you so." Verse 4, God breaks it to Noah for the first time how long it's going to rain. He says, "Noah, for forty days and forty nights it's going to rain" (Genesis 7:4).

He still hadn't broken it to him how long he had to stay in that boat! But verse 5 repeats,

And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.

He repeated; "Yes Sir!"

Verse 10:

It came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood

Noah, God's Ark-Angel

were upon the earth.

(Genesis 7:10)

It's interesting that the flood can't come till God's children are safe inside. And I think this is further indication that before the tribulation comes in the latter days, the children, God's children will be raptured to be with Him. Then He says in verse 13, "Okay, Noah, get all your family and tell them to come into the ark."

Now this says to me an awful lot about Noah! Let's suppose, Dads, that, you've been building a boat out in the backyard and it hasn't rained for years, and all the neighbors were making fun of you. And then one day you told your kids, "Okay, kids, go get into that boat, it's going to rain." To me it says *more*, I know what my kids would say, "Sure it is!" But it says an awful lot here about the man Noah. Somehow in these hundred years or so prior to this his children must have seen Noah walk with God. Because when he said, "Boys get on board!" they got on board. Now these weren't teenagers. The scripture tells us that at least one of these boys, just after the flood, was one hundred years old. So I think that you could just imagine they had to leave their Beatles records and their cassette players and everything behind. And they climbed on board and there was no scriptural record of an argument. Verse fifteen says that the Lord shut them in. There was no handle on the inside. Their security was based in the fact that God put them in. Even if they had panicked and wanted out, once by faith they had entered, God kept them secure until the storm was over and they were safely home. And it's a picture of the security that the Christian has in Jesus Christ. Chapter 7, verses 17-19, tell us that the waters increased and the ark began to float.

Can you imagine what it was like at Sam's place next door? They were sitting over there having a party. And all of a sudden somebody looked out the window and said, "Can you believe that? Water is falling from heaven. I think they call it rain." They laughed and said, "Well, let's open up another case of Pearl Burger Light, and we'll go on, keep the party going." A little later they looked out, said, "You know that ditch out there in front of the house is filling up with water. This is strange. Wonder how the kids are doing? We better call and see." About an hour later they looked out and said, "I hate to tell you this, gang, but the water's up around the windows. Maybe we better get up on the roof." So they scurry up to the roof, and they all climb on the roof of this house, and they look across the fence and say, "Look

Noah, God's Ark-Angel

at that silly thing Noah's been building. It's floating!" Can you imagine at that instant how many people suddenly decided that they'd like to get in that boat! But it was too late. The door was sealed shut, and they were lost. I believe that Noah, with every beat of the hammer, was praying for those people.

The Scripture says,

And God remembered Noah,

(Genesis 8:1)

I'm going to skip some of this because, obviously, as usual, I'm not going to be able to get through this if I don't.

You go into chapter 8, where it says that God turned off the water and the water receded gradually, the way God always does everything, and the ark rested on the top of a mountain. And I can hear Noah now say, "Hey, Lord, is this the best that you can do? All these days we've been floating around and here you land me on the top of a mountain. Surely, Lord, You can do better than this?"

But there's a reason why that boat landed on the top of that mountain. I'm going to read you some excerpts from an article by Nathan Myers called, "Is It The Ark?" so you can see the reason that God put that boat on the top of a mountain in the midst of the ice. It says this, "In the days of Babylon, historians said that the ark could still be seen on the top of Mount Ararat." Four hundred years before Christ, the historian Abadenus wrote, "The ark can still be seen." Forty years before Christ, Damascenus wrote, "The ark on a mountain in Armenia was still there." About the time that John wrote the book of Revelation, Josephus wrote, "The stranded ark could still be seen on the top of the mountain." Marco Polo referred to the ark in A.D. thirteen hundred, and eleven years later a Turkish expedition, seeking to build barriers to prevent an avalanche, reported the bow of a ship jutting out from the midst of the icepack. In eighteen eighty-seven an Archbishop from Persia reported having seen the ark; that the wood was dark red; that he walked through several of its rooms. One hundred years ago Haji Yeam and his father served as guides for three atheists from Russia who actually climbed aboard...who went up the mountain to try to prove that the ark was a fable, only to their amazement, to find the huge ship's hull sticking out of an icy glacier. They threatened Hajis life if he ever told what he had seen. In nineteen fifteen when he was seventy-five, he had come to America, he found Christ as His

Noah, God's Ark-Angel

Savior and he told the whole story. In nineteen sixteen a Russian pilot reported seeing the ship. The Czar from Russia sent out an expedition, found the ark, recorded it, photographed it, said that it had hundreds of small rooms strong enough to hold an elephant. That the wood was Cypress, not rotted, coated with a wax-like substance on its surface. All of this was turned into the Czar in nineteen seventeen, immediately following which, the revolution took place and all the records were destroyed. The flyer, however, came to America, became a Christian and told his story. And on and on the story goes. In nineteen fifty-five a man, named Navarro, made an expedition, in answer to a request made by a friend's dying grandfather. They found that the ark was there and that the ice in which it rested was a huge moving glacier except for a little portion in the center: six hundred fifty feet long and one hundred fifty feet wide. Had the ark landed even one hundred yards in any direction it would have been destroyed years ago.

Then we learn that Noah sent out a Raven and a Dove. The Raven represents the carnal heart that flies into the world, feeds on the carcasses of the world, and doesn't come back. The Dove represents the gracious soul, which goes into the world, finds no rest for its foot amidst the rebels of the world, and returns to the open arms of Christ, as the Dove did the open arms of Noah.

Genesis chapter 8, verses 18 and 19, tell us that, none that entered the ark were lost.

Verses 20 and 21 tell us that Noah got off. He threw a party? No, he got out his hammer and saw again, and he built an altar, and he worshipped God.

THE ARK AND IT'S RELATIONSHIP TO OUR LIVES

In conclusion I'd like to leave you with some principles about the ark and its relationship to our lives. Two in particular, but the second has many parts.

1- The judgment of God "must" come upon all men. Jesus is the door into the presence of God. He is the ark Himself. Those who are in the ark will be saved; those without the ark are lost, no matter how well meaning they might be.

2- The ark also symbolizes the life that God tells you and me to build as potential disciples of Jesus Christ. He gives us tools, instructions, and says, "Build a life that will float through

the storm.” And I want to give you twelve similarities, in closing, between Noah's ark and the disciples' life.

(1) *It was an act of faith.* You invest your life in walking with Jesus Christ at any price, leaving behind you opportunities, the glitter, the glamour. And you will have no proof but the Word of God that it works. You may have seen it in someone's life that bears testimony, but the only proof that you have that it will work for you is this book.

(2) *You can expect to be misunderstood.* They will question you, they will ridicule you, they will wonder what in the world are you building? Your responsibility, as Noah's, love them, and pray for them, but keep building.

(3) *It takes time to put an ark together.* God didn't do it in a day. You and I want a kit, we say, “Lord, I want one of those snap together jobs. I want to build a life, but I want to be able to snap A with B and use a little Elmer's glue and get on with it.” God says, “No, I'm going to give you some raw materials, and your arms will get strong from the hammering, and you'll build stamina in your life from the sawing and the carrying. We're just going to build it slowly, how about that?”

(4) *There are times when it has to be discouraging.*

(5) *There are times when you think you're preparing for a storm that will never come.*

(6) *You have the most detailed instructions in the history of the world.*

(7) *The most pressing requirement is absolute, immediate obedience.* Can you imagine the timing if God had come to Noah and Noah had started to argue? God had said that in a certain period of time the flood is going to come and, “If you don't get to work and do what I tell you there will be no hope for you.” Noah said, “Now look, Lord, I can appreciate what You're saying, but I think there's got to be a better way to do this. Let me make an alternative proposal and You consider it. Oh Lord, you know, I think we can skip a few steps and this whole thing will be simpler. Now Let's talk about it.” “No,” God said, “do it this way! I'll give you the instruction book.” You know, the ones that get on with life and their Christian experience are the ones that read this instruction book. Not fully understanding why the instructions were given the way they are, but who simply turn to the Lord

and say, "Yes Sir!" And they do it, and through obedience, God blesses and saves.

(8) The safety of your loved ones is at stake. Somebody is watching your life. And as we've been studying on Sunday mornings, the difference in whether or not they begin a walk of faith may well depend on watching you.

(9) When God sends you out after the storm your first responsibility is to worship.

(10) God has made a covenant with you. If you walk by faith He has a realm of promises that He will never ever take away.

(11) The rainbow of the Holy Spirit has been given as His guarantee of His Covenant.

(12) It (He) will shine most brilliantly, the Spirit will, just after a storm. We learn in I Peter 5:10 (The Living Bible)

And after you have suffered a little while, our God, who is full of kindness through Christ, will give you his eternal glory. He personally will come and pick you up, set you firmly in place, and make you stronger than you ever.

By faith Noah heard God, believed God, obeyed God. God saved him, used him, blessed him. He says to us, "Here's the blueprint, go build an ark." Our responsibility is our response. How about, "Yes Sir!"

Let us pray,

Our Father,

We thank You for the illustration of obedience that we find in Noah. For the illustration of faith, of "being warned of things not yet seen, he obeyed."

Father, we have so many arguments for not doing the things we already know to do. Help us to see, Father, that our families are at stake, our friends are at stake; that others are watching our lives and watching what we are building; whether we are using inferior materials; whether we are slothful in the process of building a spiritual life.

Father, it's so easy to compromise, so easy to argue, so easy to become bitter or hostile, when in reality, Father, it ought to be so easy, just to obey.

May each of us in the days to come, Father, reconsider the

Noah, God's Ark-Angel

blueprints You have given us, and the life you've told us to construct, and begin a life of complete obedience, knowing that the storms will come, but the ark will float.

In Jesus' name, rejoicing, we pray.

Amen.

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