

Come Into the Ark

Ge 7:1 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.

Introduction:

1. The Bible is a book of invitations!
 - a. Beginning here and continuing to the very last verses of Revelation, God is in the business of inviting people to come to Him for salvation, for the help they need, and for the things they lack
 - b. It is amazing to think that the Lord of Glory would invite people like you and me to come to Him.
 - c. Over the next several weeks, we will be examining some of the great invitations found in the Bible.
 - d. I hope they will be a help, a challenge and blessing in your life.
2. We begin today with the first invitation in the Bible.
 - a. The word “come” is used some 1,972 times in the Bible.
 - b. Gen. 7:1 is the 1st time it is used as a command and invitation
 - c. Here, God calls Noah and his family to come into the Ark so that they might be saved from the flood of water that He is about to send
3. Don't think for a moment that the account of Noah's ark and the flood is just a legend or fable like Paul Bunyan and his blue ox
 - a. This is a true account
 - b. Most all of the past civilizations have a flood story
 - c. The Bible account is the true and accurate record and the other civilizations had a corrupted story
4. Jesus believed in Noah and the flood and so I believe in Noah and the worldwide flood

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

5. The days before the flood

Ge 6:5 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. 6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

Ge 6:11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

a. Days of apostasy - mankind had turned away from God

b. Days of anarchy - the earth was filled with violence

6. God's instructions for Noah - Gen 6:

Ge 6:13 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. 14 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. 17 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.

I. THE SECURITY OF THE ARK

14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

A. The Security of Noah

1. God told Noah to make the ark
 - a) *Noah was told that this Ark will provide him, his family and all the creatures of the earth, a place of safety and sanctuary.*
 - b) *The ark was the safest place on the earth*
2. Gopher wood is cypress - perfect wood for a ship
 - a) *Cypress is almost indestructible*
 - b) *Cypress does not rot easily*
3. Pitch was to cover the ship inside and out
 - a) *Pitch is like tar - goo+glue put together*
 - b) *Pitch was rubbed on the inside / outside of the ark*
 - c) *Hebrew word for pitch = kaphar*
 - (1) 70x kaphar is translated “atonement”

Le 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.
 - (2) Because of our sins, we need a covering
4. It is not the humanity or the life of Jesus that saves us, it is His blood that covers our sins
 - a) *He did not come to set an example - He came to die*
 - b) *The blood of Christ covers us and saves from sin*
5. God did not say “Go into the Ark”.
 - a) *God said “Come into the Ark”.*

- b) *He did not say, “Go into the Ark and I’ll be watching you”.*
- c) *He said, “Come into the Ark and I will be with you!”*
- d) *There is a big difference!*
- e) *Now, look ahead to Gen. 8:16. God says, “Go forth of the Ark...”*
Ge 8:16 Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee.
- f) *God said, “Come in here with me” at the beginning and He was still in there with them at the end!*

B. Our Security in Christ

1. In the ark, Noah and his family were saved and “in Christ” we are safe from the judgment of God
2. In Christ, we our salvation is secure
3. We’re not going to lose our salvation
4. When God’s wrath is poured out on sin, we are covered by the blood and we are safe

The Security of the Ark....

II. THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE ARK

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.

A. The Ark was Sufficient for Noah

1. The Ark must have been an unusual sight there in ancient Mesopotamia
 - a) *It was a wooden box 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide and 30 cubits high.*
 - b) *It was built by Noah and his three sons.*
 - c) *For 120 years, Noah had worked on the Ark and preached his message that a torrential rain and a terrible flood was coming*

- d) *Surely, people thought Noah and his family were crazy*
- e) *After all, it had never rained on the earth, much less flooded.*
- f) *Still, Noah labored and told his neighbors that they needed to come into the completed Ark if they wanted to be saved.*
- g) *He told them that the Ark was the only hope any of them had.*
2. God gave Noah the dimensions for the ark
 - a) *300 cubits = 450 ft; 50 cubits - 75ft; 30 cubits - 45ft*
 - b) *The volume of this ark was 3 million cubic feet*
3. The ark was sufficient for the job that it had to perform
4. Noah preached and invited others to come into the ark but no one was interested

B. Christ Provides Us a Sufficient Salvation

Heb 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

1. The ark was the only hope for salvation in Noah's generation and Jesus is the only hope for sinners today
2. Jesus can save the worst sinner
3. The apostle Paul considered himself the chief of sinners and yet God saved him

1Ti 1:15 *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

4. There's Room at the Cross for You

The Sufficiency of the Ark...

III. THE SHAPE OF THE ARK

1. The ark was like a barge
2. It was not pointed at the front
3. The ark was made to float, that's all

- a) *It wasn't going anywhere - no rudder, no helm*
 - b) *There were no sails, oars, engines*
4. Noah was not out on the deck at the helm steering the ark
- a) *God was steering the ark*
 - b) *God is steering our lives*

The Shape of the Ark....

IV. THE STRUCTURE OF THE ARK

6:16 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.

7:13 In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark; 14 They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort. 15 And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein *is* the breath of life. 16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in. 17 And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.

1. Noah was in control of the window, but God was in control of the door
2. There was only one door and there is only one door to salvation
 - a) *Saying that Jesus is the only way of salvation sounds very narrow to people today*
 - b) *The world wants to believe that there are many ways to God*
 - (1) Many believe in Allah and doing all that the Muslims have to do will take one to God

- (2) Following the teachings of Buddhism takes one to God
- c) *Jesus claimed to be the only way to heaven*
- Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
- Ac 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
3. God shut Noah in - he was safe

The Structure of the Ark....

v. THE SUSTENANCE OF THE ARK

Ge 6:17 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. 18 But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. 19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every *sort* shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep *them* alive with thee; they shall be male and female. 20 Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every *sort* shall come unto thee, to keep *them* alive. 21 And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them. 22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

1. Noah and the animals would not starve
2. Noah and the animals would be satisfied
3. They would have everything that they needed to survive the flood
4. We are satisfied in Christ

Joh 7:37 In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Joh 6:31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. 32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. 34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. 35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

The Sustenance of the Ark....

vi. THE SCHEDULE OF THE ARK

Ge 8:4 And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat. 5 And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth *month*, on the first *day* of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.

1. The ark was on a schedule
2. Ark came to rest on Mt. Ararat on the 17th day of the 7th month
 - a) *The 17th day of the 7th month is three days after the passover*
 - b) *Jesus died on the cross as they were observing the Passover on the 14th day of the 7th month.*
 - c) *Three days after the Passover is when Jesus arose from the dead - 17th day of the 7th month*
3. What a wonderful picture we have here of the Lord Jesus Christ who passes through the water of God's judgment and rises from the dead on the same day that the ark rested on Mount Ararat

Conclusion:

1. The Bible tells us that one man, among all the men of the earth, was still walking in the ways of the Lord.
 - a. God extended His grace to Noah, Gen. 6:8.
 - b. We are told that Noah was “just”
 - c. This does not mean that he was sinless; it means that his faith was in God and God counted him righteous on the basis of that faith.
 - d. That is the way it has always been!
 - e. If you are saved, it is by grace through faith!
 - f. You believed God and He gave you His righteousness, apart from any works - Rom. 3:23-26.
2. Even though this invitation was given thousands of years ago, God is still inviting people to enter an Ark of safety.
 - a. This invitation still stands today.
 - b. But this invitation will do you no good unless you accept it
 - c. Before Noah and his family could be saved they had to commit themselves to accepting the Lord’s invitation to enter the Ark.
 - d. If you and I are going to be saved, then we have to commit to accepting His invitation as well.
3. When the flood of God's judgment is poured out one last time on this rebellious earth, the only thing that's going to matter is this: which side of that door are you on?

One door, and only one
And yet its sides are two;
I am on the inside
On which side are you?
4. A girl named Christina lived in Brazil. Christina and her family were very poor. She lived in what amounted to a packing crate. She slept on a pallet and had a little wash basin. That was the extent of her possessions. Christina dreamed of a better life when she thought that she was old

enough she ran away from home to Rio de Janeiro. Her mother's name was Maria and Maria had heard the stories of other girls who had gone to Rio. She knew what they had to do in Rio to live. She knew that Christina was too stubborn to give up and come back. Maria gathered together what money she could and she was going to take the train to Rio to try to find Christina. At the train station, Maria decided to go into a photo booth and have several pictures made. In Rio, Maria visited the seedy hotels, the nightclubs and strip joints looking for Christina. In every nightclub, bar, strip joint, Maria would go into the bathroom and take one of the little pictures of herself and write a note on the back and tape it to the mirror. Maria ran out of money and pictures and she was forced to get back on that train without Christina. It was a sad and lonely trip back home. Weeks later, Christina was coming down the stairs at one of those seedy hotels and she stepped into the restroom to try to wash some of the filth off of her from the night before. She put some water in the sink and splashed the water onto her face. She opened her eyes and she saw this little picture taped to the mirror. She recognized her mother. Christina pulled the picture off the mirror and read the message on the back. It said, "No matter what you have done. No matter what you have become. Come home. That's grace."