

JESUS OUR REFUGE

Genesis 6:14 *Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.*

Noah was a righteous man. “These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God” (Gen 6:9). Let us briefly compare Noah and Lot. Noah’s godliness extended to his own family so that they all followed him into the ark. While Lot was also a righteous man, he was unable to influence his family as Noah did. He lost his wife, and his two daughters were debauched. We can be certain that Noah had some job or means of livelihood in his town or city. Nevertheless, his main preoccupation was the building of the ark. We must all have professions related to heaven – some Kingdom business. This cannot be said about Lot. Lot’s only business appeared to be enriching himself in Sodom and Gomorrah. The Apostle Paul warned, “And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away” (I Cor 7:31). Noah proves that we can live in the most corrupt and wicked age and yet remain untainted by sin of the age. Noah was 500 years old when God commanded him to build the ark. For 500 years he fought against and triumphed against the sin around him. With God it is possible to live a holy in the most ungodly place.

Gen 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.*

There was only one ark with one door and one window. Let us say that others decided to build their own arks in the days of Noah. We can be certain those arks would be destroyed in the flood. There is only one Jesus who is God alone, and only he can save the world from the coming destruction by fire. “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12). There were many Hebrew children called Jesus, but the angel Gabriel was dispatched to only one woman in Israel to assign the name Jesus. “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matt 1:21). We can be certain that the world of Noah’s days had many gods and deities claiming to provide divine protection and refuge from the catastrophe Noah was preaching. One the flood came, however, one by one all these gods and their temples drowned – only the ark the ark that Noah built according to divine guidance prevailed against the flood. Only God’s word can resist Gods destructive

power. Only the word made flesh can resist the coming fire that God will send soon to consume the world.

2Peter 3:10 *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

Jesus is the word made flesh that we enter into – he is our ark, our refuge from the storm. The ark was tossed around by the powerful waves and winds, and it may have been struck by lightning, but it never sprung a leak or lost a single nail or chip of wood because it was made according to the word of God. Sometimes the storms of life may threaten to destroy our faith in this journey towards heaven, but rest assured, we are in Jesus – he is indestructible. The Apostles realized that Jesus was their ark in the storm in the Sea of Galilee. It was not about the boat they were in - it was about the Jesus who was in the boat. When the winds of life make us tired, speak to Jesus and he will tell the winds to behave. “And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm” (Mark 4:39). God does not want the wind to get the attention, but him. “And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (Mark 4:41). Certainly, many ship captains would have gladly paid a fortune for the Lord to join them on their journeys and just rebuke the storms. Jesus is indeed our refuge. Furthermore, just as there was only window in the entire ark, there can only be one source of light from the Holy Spirit in the church.

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 world is in darkness, and this darkness is oppressive to the soul. It appears that this darkness is getting progressively worse as we go towards the end of time. But how powerful and welcome was the light through the window in Noah’s ark! All the creatures in the ark were very thankful for this light. Consider also the many miracles that occurred as soon as the creatures entered the ark. Lions and hyenas, cats and mice, wolves and sheep, all were on their best behaviour. Hallelujah! Something incredible happens when we enter into Christ. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Cor 5:17). Thank God there were many rooms and three floors in the ark!

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Until we get to heaven, we must find a way to love one another and tolerate each other's idiosyncrasies. If a brother or sister becomes too much to handle, find another room or floor in the ark – the Lord did not call us to consume each other. “But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.” (Gal 5:15). Moses had to carry the burden of Israel for forty years in the desert. It was overwhelming at times, but God gave grace. “For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones” (Ephesians 5:30). God changed the character of the creatures in the ark and he can change our characters in the church. The important thing is to come to the ark that represents Jesus. The eagle may be the king of birds, but it cannot fly for forty days non-stop. It must enter and rest in the ark. If the cheetah was the first animal to enter the ark because of its speed, it had to wait for the snail and the tortoise to enter also. There are some Christians whose spiritual speed is no better than that of the snail, but there is a place assigned to these Christians also. Be patient! The lion by nature marks out his territory, but he knew that he must share the space with the other creatures too. In the ark, we must also consider one another!