

## **The Waters of Salvation: A Journey Through Righteousness and Grace**

*Gen 7:17 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.*

Today, we embark on a spiritual journey through the profound symbolism of water in the Scriptures—particularly the waters of the Flood during Noah’s time, and the waters of the Garden of Eden and the great deluge that followed. These waters, though seemingly destructive, are marked by divine purpose; they are the channels through which salvation, righteousness, and new beginnings are wrought. Let us delve into the depths of these waters, understanding their significance in God’s redemptive plan, and see how they speak to us today of divine navigation, righteousness, and eternal hope.

### **The Waters of the Flood of Noah Prevail**

In Genesis 7:17-24, we read about the great Flood: “And the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lifted up above the earth... And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.” The Flood was the culmination of God’s judgment upon a corrupt and violent world. Yet, amidst judgment, the waters also prevailed to the salvation of Noah and his family. Noah and his family were preserved in the ark—a vessel of salvation built by faith and obedience. Here, water symbolizes divine judgment intertwined with mercy. The Flood’s waters prevailed—meaning they overcame all evil and wickedness, sweeping away the corrupt to make way for a renewed earth. But it was not just destruction; it was salvation for Noah, his family, and future generations. As the Scriptures declare in 2 Peter 2:5, Noah was “a preacher of righteousness,” and his obedience in building the ark was an act of faith that secured salvation not only for himself but also foreshadowed future divine salvation.

### **A Journey Without Sailors and Without Destination**

The journey that Noah took in the ark was unprecedented. The waters of the Flood “prevailed,” yet they carried the ark across the chaos—the tumult of divine judgment—yet no sailor guided this vessel. The striking truth is that “God himself was the sailor,” navigating this divine judgment and salvation. Psalm 107:23-24 reminds us, “They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.” Here, it’s clear that the mighty waters serve as a canvas for God’s sovereignty.

Moreover, this journey had no fixed destination—because God Himself became the goal. Noah’s ark was led by God's unseen hand, guided by divine providence, toward a post-deluge world that would need to be replenished and redeemed. It wouldn’t be fixed by human plan or compass but directed solely by divine purpose. Genesis 8:1 echoes this guiding hand, “And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark.” God’s presence and purpose overshadowed all human uncertainty.

### **When They Landed: No One to Receive and No One to Harm**

When the waters receded, and Noah’s ark came to rest upon Mount Ararat, the world seemed silent, reset. There was no welcoming party, no city to greet them. No one was there to hurt them, no enemies to oppose them—only the promise of a new beginning. Genesis 8:4 states, “And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.” They landed in a new land—one that would now belong to them, not by conquest or inheritance but by divine appointment.

This landing is symbolic of a divine reset—a fresh start in God's creation, a land of promise. It aligns with the spiritual truth that salvation through divine judgment opens the door for new beginnings. Romans 8:20-21 declares, “For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.” Just as Noah’s land became their home, so does salvation become our divine inheritance in Christ.

### **The Sacrifice of Abel and Noah: Blood and Righteousness**

In Genesis 4:4, Abel "offered unto the Lord a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by faith: by faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous." Abel’s offering was a sacrifice of blood—an innocent victim symbolizing faith and the foreshadow of the ultimate sacrifice of Christ. It was offered outside the land—on the plain, in the fields—yet it was an act of righteousness. Contrast this with Noah, who, after being delivered into the new land, was called to sacrifice. Genesis 8:20 narrates, “And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.” Noah’s sacrifice was not a blood

offering for sin like Abel's, but an act of worship and gratitude. Yet, both sacrifices were rooted in righteousness, faith, and obedience.

The key difference is the agent or medium of their sacrifices—blood and water. Abel's offering was blood, symbolizing innocent atonement, while Noah's offering came after the flood, signaling a new beginning rooted in grace and righteousness. Both acts point us toward the divine principle that faith rooted in righteousness unlocks divine favor.

### **Water as the Agent of Transition**

After Adam's sin, he was cast into a strange new land—away from God's original garden—symbolizing a separation, a wilderness filled with unknowns: but there was no water involved for a new beginning. Yet, Noah's story demonstrates that water became a divine agent of judgment, salvation, and transformation. Genesis 6:17 says, “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 everything that is in the earth shall die.” The waters of judgment ultimately provided an avenue for renewal. They washed away the corruption of the old, making space for God's new creation. For Noah, water becomes a divine medium—marking transitions from chaos to order, from judgment to grace.

### **Righteousness in the New Land**

While Adam was cast into a strange land because of his sin, Noah was cast into a new land because of righteousness—God's righteousness. Genesis 6:9 describes Noah as “a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.” Noah's righteousness was a response to God's grace, and it set him apart. When he obeyed God and built the ark, he demonstrated faithfulness that was rewarded by divine salvation. The difference lies in their heart conditions and obedience. Adam's sin led to confusion and alienation, representing disobedience and separation from God. Noah's righteousness was an act of divine obedience—an acceptance of God's plan—and it led to restoration and new life. Romans 4:20-21 emphasizes this: “He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.” Noah's journey into a new land exemplifies that faith and righteousness open the door to divine blessing.

## **Conclusion: The Divine Journey of Salvation**

Brothers and Sisters, today's message underscores that water—whether in judgment, salvation, or renewal—is a divine medium through which God works His purposes in our lives. Noah's journey in the ark, the land they settled upon, and their sacrifices all point us to a divine pattern: the necessity of righteousness, faith, and obedience for divine salvation. No matter how turbulent the waters or how strange the land, God is sovereign. When the waters prevail, they are not only destructive; they are also transformative. They carry us through judgment to salvation, away from sin toward righteousness. Just as Noah's ark was guided by God's unfailing hand, so must we trust in God's divine navigation through the waters of life.

Remember, the journey may be uncharted, with no clear destination from man's perspective, but when God is the Sailor and the destination, we are assured of victory. The waters may be fierce, but they serve a divine purpose—to wash away the old, to prepare a new beginning, and to bring us into our God-ordained land of promise. Let us, therefore, walk in righteousness, trusting in God's divine guidance—knowing that through faith and obedience, we are guided safely through the waters of judgment and into the land of salvation. As Psalm 23:2-3 proclaims, “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.”

May the Lord help us to be righteous in our walk, confident that His divine waters will carry us safely to our eternal home.