

TALKS FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS TRANSCRIPT

Talk Genesis 7:1-16: Noah, His Family and the Animals Enter the Ark

Lesson 16

"Then the LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. 2 You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; 3 also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. 4 For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made." 5 And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him. 6 Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.

7 So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. 8 Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, 9 two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. 12 And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

13 On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark— 14 they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. 15 And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. 16 So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in."

Background Notes

In obedience to God's command, Noah built the ark and brought all the animals on board. He took one pair of all the unclean animals and seven of all the clean animals and clean birds, as we see in verses 2 and 3. Now why bring more of the clean animals like sheep, and cows, and why extras of the clean birds like doves? Most likely this was because they were used for sacrifice and food after they came out of the ark.

In verse 11 we read, *"In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened."* This verse helps to explain where all the water came from for the Flood. Did you know that there is not enough water in our atmosphere today to cause a worldwide flood? If we drained the atmosphere dry all over the earth, the most we'd get would be less than a foot of water. And it certainly couldn't or wouldn't rain for forty days and forty nights all over the earth at the same time.

Well, verse 11 indicates that there were two sources for all the floodwaters -- one, the fountains or springs of the great deep, and two, the windows or floodgates of heaven.

In reference to the fountains or the springs of the deep, we know from Genesis 2:5-6 that before the Flood there was no rain, but rather a mist went up and watered the earth. The mist was possibly the result of the fountains of the deep under great pressure. At the time of the Flood these subterranean reservoirs of water were broken up and a huge volume of water burst forth to flood the continents.

What about the windows or floodgates of heaven? In Genesis 1:6-7 we read that God created a firmament, or expanse, to divide the waters that were under the firmament from those that were above the firmament. Notice, they were not waters that were **in** the firmament, like waters in our atmosphere today, but **above** the expanse or firmament. So before the Flood there may have been a kind of water vapor "canopy" above the atmosphere that surrounded the earth, and these waters ("windows of heaven") were precipitated at the time of the Flood. At first this idea of a water vapor canopy may sound like a far-out idea to you, but it's not really that far-out. Most of the planets in our solar system, have some type of "canopy."

In addition, a water vapor canopy surrounding this earth explains more than just where a lot of the water came from for the Flood. It explains why people lived much longer lives before the Flood, because the earth would have been shielded from dangerous cosmic radiation that can cause aging. It explains why there were semitropical conditions around the world in times past – evidence of which has been found in even in the polar regions. The water vapor canopy would have given a worldwide greenhouse effect. It explains why there was no rain before the Flood, and why there were no rainbows before the Flood.

This water vapor canopy idea certainly explains why Peter, in 2 Peter 3, outlines earth's history in three stages, or three cosmographies.-- that is, three different heavens and earth constitutions. In 2 Peter 3, Peter states that there was a heavens and earth before the Flood, then there is a different heavens and earth system after the time of the Flood (the system that exists today), and there will be a new heavens and a new earth in the future. There is much more that we could say here, but we have to move on to the doctrinal points.

1. God's promised judgment on the unbeliever is certain.

For 120 years Noah preached that a Flood was coming, but no one believed. Can you imagine how the crowds must have laughed at Noah, and ridiculed him for building this huge boat, miles from any body of water and not a hint of rain? But the day came, and it came suddenly, when God's promised judgment became a reality. No one was able to change his mind at the last minute and come banging on the door of the ark to get in, because God had shut the door of the ark. Verse 16 says that it was too late. These people not only lost their lives, but 1 Peter 3:19-20 indicates that they are even now in a lost eternity. They thumbed their noses at God's patience while the ark was being prepared, and they are now in "prison." God's promised judgment on the unbeliever is certain.

Hebrews 9:27 says, *"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,..."* Just as it was in Noah's day, so it is today. People don't believe that a judgment day is coming. In Luke 17:26-27 the Lord Jesus said, *"And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all."* Notice the suddenness of God's judgment. The judgment of God is coming. There will come a day when it is too late for salvation. God's promised judgment on the unbeliever is certain.

2. God's promised salvation for the believer is certain.

"On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark..."(v13) "the LORD shut him in"(v16). Do you think that Noah and his family were safe in the ark? Of course they were! Do you think that the door that was shut by God Himself would somehow pop open by mistake during the Flood? No way! Now we have seen that the ark is a wonderful picture of salvation. The ark took the storm of God's judgment, but Noah and his family were safe in the ark. In the same way, Christ took the storm of God's judgment against sin on the cross, but we who have believed are safe in Christ.

Notice that the ark is not only a picture of salvation -- the ark is also a picture of the eternal security of the believer. There was no way that Noah was going to jump out, fall out, or be thrown out of the ark. God had shut the door and Noah and his believing family were safe and secure. Are you safe in the Ark of Christ? Are you inside or outside the door? The Lord Jesus said, *"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved"*(John 10:9). If you have trusted Christ, you are inside and eternally secure. In John 10:27-28 Jesus said, *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."* Do you see the wonderful spiritual picture? If you have accepted God's invitation to come into the Ark of Christ, you are safe and secure in the Ark of Christ because **God** has sealed the door! God's promised salvation for the believer is certain.

Practical Application: Fathers, let's lead our families by a strong faith.

How was Noah able to convince his family that God was really going to send a worldwide flood, and that the ark was the only way of escape? I think it was his strong faith. Here is what we read in Hebrews 11:7, *"By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."*

Notice that Noah's primary concern was not the animals or the survival of the human race, but his **family!** Noah's faith was modeled over 120 years as he built the ark and preached the message. Noah had a strong faith, and his family believed and followed. Unfortunately, many Christian fathers today don't follow the example of Noah. Oh, they have a Christian faith, but not a strong faith. They tell their children that only what is done for Christ really counts, but then they don't practice that philosophy in their life and lifestyle -- they live for what they can get out of this world. No wonder the families don't follow the faith.

You know, I think one of the greatest tests of faith for Noah and his family was that last seven days before the Flood began. They were in the ark, but not a sign of rain yet -- and that ark, with all those animals, was no hotel suite! But Noah's faith was strong, and his family was with him all the way. Do you see the great lesson here? Fathers, let's lead our families by a strong faith!