

## Final Preparations, Entry, Safe at Last.

This chapter tells the story of the final activities before the flood began and the flood's intensity, depth and duration. Jehovah was personally, actively involved with Noah and his family ensuring their safe entry into the ark. **God's Judgement.** In places where the Bible is used, many have been rightly taught that God is Love. But from that some like to reason that a loving God wouldn't actually judge sinners for their sins. This is a lie of the father of lies. He told Eve a bald face lie. "Thou shalt not surely die." The billions of graves in millions of cemeteries in every corner of the world clearly show otherwise. God will judge sin! But offers an opportunity to repent. Cain refused to repent, as have billions since. God didn't instantly strike him dead. Though He could have, as we see from examples of cases when He did just that, Acts 5:\_\_\_\_\_. Today the "Emergent Church" is infiltrating and influencing Christian ranks. Some philosophizing teachers within it actually assert that if the "meek and lowly" Jesus presumes to come and judge the world someday it would be like a "bait and switch." Beware of such men. God is not unloving to remove sinners from circulation on the earth. They will no longer do harm to others, to the earth itself, or themselves. God graciously gives each person ample opportunities to repent. Please do so NOW!

*Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*

*John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

**Worldwide?** Did God really destroy the whole earth once with a flood? Verse 19 tells us that the flood was indeed worldwide. Men try to explain this away. Why? I suspect the unspoken, unthinkable reason is because it is frightening to realize He might do it again. And He will, but He has promised not to do it by Flood. Every rainbow is His silent witness to that. And incidentally, it is a reminder that He really indeed did so once. See 2Peter 3:\_\_\_\_\_; Revelation 19, 20.

Obviously the flood described in Genesis wasn't a local flood, though many "experts" claim it was.. If it had been, there was no need for an ark. People, once warned, could have moved elsewhere to safety with their livestock. More recently scientists have found submerged evidence of human occupation on the floor of what is now the Black Sea. They think there was a natural barrier between the Mediterranean Sea and a large, below sea level, basin where the Black Sea is now. Somehow the barrier washed away and the basin was flooded. They surmise the story of the Flood could have emerged from this event. An ark would not have been necessary for either of these scenarios.

Yes, the Flood was an authentic historical event. It is

substantiated by the Lord Jesus Christ's own words and by two Old Testament prophets, two gospels and two apostles, and of course, Moses. Jesus gave His graphic, truthful witness as follows. He referred to it when warning against coming judgement. Do you believe Him?

*Matthew 24:37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 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. 40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*

Before Jesus, John the Baptist had witnessed to coming judgement,

*Matthew 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?*

Many peoples found around the world have preserved identifiable accounts of a worldwide flood in their histories and legends. Their ancestors descended from survivors of the Flood. Noah was a real person listed in four genealogies, Genesis 5, Genesis 10, 1Chronicles 1, and Luke 3. His sons and descendants are named several times in Genesis as well elsewhere in scripture. Ancient historical records preserved by numerous nations have carefully preserved genealogies that trace their ancestries back specifically to one or the other of Noah's sons. (Their royalty derived their authority from their documented genealogy back to Japheth or Ham or Shem.) When compared, the earlier generations of various nations genealogies correspond. They diverge when the peoples divided into separated nations down though history. Nations like England, Denmark, Iceland and others, all have documented their roots back to Japheth.

**Where.** Men have searched for Noah's ark for thousands of years. Its location was reportedly known in the early centuries following Christ's ascension. In more recent centuries it seemed to have dropped out of sight, at least to the western world. But within the last two decades the Turkish government established a visitor center complete with a restaurant and a window view at the site. This (possible) site is on highlands of Ararat, a broad plateau at the foot of Mount Ararat itself. If the ark was built near the site of the Garden of Eden it came to rest not far from where it was built, some 1600 years after Adam was created. Two of the rivers that flowed from Eden still flow from the region of Ararat. Note "the Ark rested on the 'mountains' of Ararat," Genesis 8:4. This may mean the mountains associated with

Ararat or even the broad highland around Ararat rather than Mount Ararat itself. Mount Ararat itself is a very high, 16000 ft., still active, volcano. Its surroundings are the highest for 1000 miles around. With no motors or oars the ark was blown or moved by currents, not gravity, to rest on this high ground. Once grounded, waters drained away from it. If the ark had been carried downstream by waters of a flooded stream it naturally would have been carried out to sea, adrift far from any shore where it could be beached. It's inhabitants would have perished there. Those who propose the local flood theory don't make sense.

Many explorers have visited Ararat over the past centuries seeking the ark. Some have brought back fragments of wood purportedly from the ark. However, these are suspect because wood flotsam from any building wreckage caused by the flood could have floated in the same winds and currents that carried the ark, and settle near where it did. The ark marked by the Turkish government is a whole structure of the correct size and shape as given in the Bible. (Turkey is Islamic, but the Koran tells of Noah and the Flood.) Is this just a tourist attraction or is it the real ark? God knows and faith doesn't need to know. Obviously faith doesn't need hard evidence to believe the accounts in scripture given above.

**The story.** The Genesis record of the flood is internally consistent, persistent and seems somewhat repetitive, almost as if different accounts are offered for this important incident.

The eight people didn't enter the ark until the last day as it began to rain. (I once heard a "theologian" actually assert that a very "unneighborly" Noah had shut the door keeping his neighbors out.) The door was open until **God shut them in.**

It is doubtful only four able bodied men and their wives could have built an ark this size, even if they had 120 years and even if they had modern construction machines as we have today. If they did have hired help they apparently took their pay and left and were lost. Christendom has hired many earnest builders and helpers today. Will they also "miss the boat"? Do you think you know one of these? Give them the gospel.

The waters were deep. They lifted this huge ark off the ground. As the ark floated away from where it had been built and loaded, indications are that the waters were anything but tranquil. The rain waters would have first flowed down the

slope of the land. The "fountains of the deep breaking up" imply massive earthquakes, momentous tidal waves, treacherous currents, hurricane force winds that carried the ark. But the Lord was in control. We don't know if it was simply a big rectangular barge or was shaped more like a ship. Most translations agree that as it floated the water came up on sides of the ark 15 cubits (about 25 feet), but some have noted rather that it cleared the mountaintops by 15 cubits. Noah could notice the amount of their immersion (draft) from within, but would have more difficulty measuring the depth of the surface of the ground below the ark. Its doubtful that he had an electronic depth finder despite the probably advanced sophistication of technology in Cain's world. The ark sailed on at the mercy of the currents and winds, but under the merciful guiding and protective hand of God. It reached its resting place after about \_\_\_\_ days shut in and \_\_\_\_ days afloat. The grounded ark rested \_\_\_\_ more days until the waters dried up enough to for the occupants depart. That story continues in the next chapter.

**Typically?** But what does this event mean typically? Positionally, the believer has died in Christ! Christ spoke prophetically in the Psalms and in Jonah.

*Psalm 42:7 Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.*

*Jonah 2:3 For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.*

But the believer is seen as having died with Christ, been buried with Christ, risen with Christ and seated in the heavenlies with Christ. All this is vividly portrayed for us by the story of the ark. The ark is Christ. As Noah and his family were safe in the ark, so are we in Christ. He took all of the judgement a holy God could mete out for our sins. We were safe inside, in HIM. Like Noah we have some idea what was going on outside and are thankful to be safe in Christ, and worship. Now out, in the sunshine and fresh air of God's love, we still remember and worship. And we go in and out and find pasture. And we go out and serve Him.

*Colossians 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*

By Ronald Canner, April 6, 2010

He sitteth o'er the water floods  
and He is strong to save-  
He sitteth o'er the water floods,  
and guides each drifting wave!  
Though loud around the vessel's prow  
The waves may toss and break,  
Yet at His word they sink to rest,  
As on a tranquil lake!

He sitteth o'er the water-floods,  
As in the days of old.  
When o'er the Saviour's sinless head  
The waves and billows rolled!  
Yes, all the billows passed o'er Him!  
Our sins-they bore Him down!  
For us He met the crushing storm-  
He met the Almighty's frown!

He sitteth o'er the water-floods!  
Then doubt and fear no more,  
For He who passed through all the storms  
Has reached the heavenly shore;  
And every tempest-driven bark,  
With Jesus for its Guide,  
Will soon be moored in harbor calm,  
In glory to abide!

Henry Bennett, 173 Hymns of Grace and Truth