

Noah's Ark & the Church

Introduction; Very few things are truly unique.

- A. Solomon said long ago there is nothing new under the sun —Eccl 1:9.
 1. We try to build on things and we try to make things better and we often succeed.
 2. God acknowledged man's ability at the tower of Babel. God did not deny that man could build it but said they could and so He stopped them.
 3. *Gen 11:5-6 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them."*
 4. Man has succeeded in building bigger and greater buildings since then. Pyramids, the Effie Tower, the Twin Towers, the Sears building and so many others are greater. But they are still all buildings.
- B. God has created unique things.
 1. The universe He created in the beginning was unique. It had never existed before. It is amazing when we study it.
 2. The plan of salvation is unique. Man could not devise anything to save himself.
- C. We want to consider another unique thing that God made today.
 1. We want to look at the church. The church is God's kingdom on the earth today and it is unique. There is nothing else like it.
 2. We want to consider the church today by showing some parallels to the Ark of Noah. Noah's ark is a type of the church.
 3. This doesn't mean the church isn't unique. The church provides spiritual salvation. The ark was a large boat that saved Noah and his family from a flood.
 4. We simply mean God foreshadowed some things of the church in the ark of Noah.
- D. We want to look at 'Noah's Ark and the Church' today.

I. First we will consider briefly Noah's ark.

- A. We read of Noah in Genesis 6 to 9.
 1. **Genesis 6:5-8**; Mankind becomes so wicked that God's sense of right and justice must punish them. Only Noah found favor and so mankind would not be completely destroyed.
 2. **Vs 13-22**; God designed the ark and told Noah to build it. It needed to be done God's way and Noah did all God commanded. God always expects His people to do this.
 3. *Heb 8:5 ...who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."*—Exod 25:40.
- B. Noah built the ark as God commanded.
 1. He did everything God commanded. He filled it with the animals and food and his family and road out the flood.
 2. **Genesis 8:14-19**; He stayed in the ark until God said to leave. Then he and his family and all the animals left.
 3. **Vs 20-22**; Mankind was saved by Noah. The first thing he did after leaving was to worship God.
 4. Noah's ark may have been unique at his time. We do not know if they sailed the seas or not. They probably did.
 5. Noah's ark saved mankind. Mankind still needs saving. Our need today is spiritual.
- C. This is briefly the story of Noah.

II. Now we will consider some parallels to the church.

- A. **1st, God was the designer.**

1. God said how high, how wide how long, how many floors and what to make it out of. It was about 450 feet long by 75 feet wide by 45 feet high and made of Gopher wood.
2. It had a window 18 inches high all along the top of the ark for air and light. It had no sails nor rudder. It was completely dependent on God.
3. Jehovah designed the ark. He also designed the universe. And He designed the church. Jesus make the universe as the Father designed it. Noah make the ark as the Lord said. Moses make the ark of the covenant according to God's pattern.
4. Jesus Christ is the builder of the church and its foundation. It is not man's church but the Lord's. We must make it as He set it up in the N.T.
5. *Matt 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."*
6. *1 Cor 3:10-11 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*
7. We must make the church according to God's pattern. When the church at Corinth changed the pattern of the Lord's supper Paul condemned them and reminded them of what the Lord set up.
8. *1 Cor 11:22-23 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you. 23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*
9. The church is the Lord's and not man's. We must follow God's pattern and not ours.



B. **2nd, there was only one ark.**

1. God did not tell Noah to make one ark for himself and three for his sons. He did not call upon others to make arks. There was just one to save all true believers.
2. *Heb 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.*
3. The ark was large enough to save all true believers. There was only one way to be saved from destruction. Only one was needed. Jesus likewise make one church.
4. Men like to think there are many churches. They like to think they have choices in which church to choose. They like to think there are many ways to heaven and they can choose what pleases them.
5. Yet there is only one church. It is the body of Christ. He has one body. It began in Jerusalem on Pentecost in AD 33.
6. *Eph 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*
7. *Eph 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;*
8. *Acts 2:1-4 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
9. Differences were not allowed. They needed to all practice the same things. When they changed they need to repent and return or be rejected by Christ.
10. *1 Cor 4:17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.*
11. *Rev 2:5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place; unless you repent.*

10. There is one church, not 1000. We must strive to find the Lord's church and be a part of it.

C. 3rd, there was only one door.

1. Noah made one door. There was one way into the ark. You could not sneak in some other way.
2. Likewise there is one way into the church. It is through Jesus Christ. He died for the church and it is His body. We become part of the saved only through Him.
3. *John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*
4. Jesus provided the way into the church through baptism. When we are baptized our sins are washed away by His blood. We share His death & resurrection & are new creatures.
5. *Rev 1:5 ...and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood...*
6. *Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*
7. We see another type in the flood. The waters of the flood washed away the wickedness of the world in Noah's day. It saved Noah and his family from the sinful world. Baptism today washed away our personal wickedness and sins.
8. *1 Pet 3:20-21 ...who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 21 There is also an antitype which now saves us; baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*
9. We are baptized into Jesus Christ and His death. We share His death, burial in baptism. We also share His resurrection.
10. *Rom 6:3-6 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

D. 4th, there was only one source of light.

1. There was only one window in the ark. It was at the top where God said to put it. It provided all the air and light they needed.
2. God has provided light for His church. That light is His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus came to be the light of the world and shine in darkness.
3. *John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*
4. *John 1:9-12 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:*
5. In scripture light represents truth, righteousness and knowledge. Darkness represents ignorance, wickedness and error. God's Son provides us with all the light we need.
6. *Psa 119:104-105 Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*
7. *2 Pet 1:3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*
8. *2 Tim 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work,*
9. We have the New Testament as the one and only source of light for the child of God. The church is to uphold the N.T. and contend for its truths —Jude 1:3.

E. 5th, the only safe place was in the ark.

1. Everyone who did not get in the ark when God said to were destroyed. There was a time to enter and when they did God shut the door.
2. *Gen 7:16 So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the*

LORD shut him in.

3. God has given us many great and magnificent promises —2 Pet 1:4. They are available in the church, in Christ and His body.
4. *Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...*
5. *Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*
6. God will destroy the world again at the end of the age. We will then stand before Him in judgment. The ark offered salvation from the sinful world. The church offers spiritual salvation from sin.
7. *2 Thess 1:8-10 ...in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.*
8. We must enter Christ's church by faith, repentance and baptism if we want the blessings available only to those in His body.
9. There is no need to go outside the church for anything. Just as they had everything they needed in the ark, God has given us all we need in the church. It is the only safe place.
10. *John 6:67-69 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

F. **6th, they had to stay in the ark until God brought them out.**

1. In Noah's day the only safe place was the ark. They had everything they needed until God called them out.
2. Likewise we need to stay in Christ and in His body the church until He calls us home to heaven.
3. *Phil 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*
4. *1 Thess 4:16-18 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.*
5. We see how very important the church is. We cannot be saved outside the church. We must be working in the church until He comes again.
6. *Matt 10:22 "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved."*
7. Some will not stay in the church until the end and will be lost. They return to the world and become worse off than before.
8. *2 Pet 2:20-22 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."*
9. Those in the church are the faithful. They are those who do the will of the Lord. They follow the Light and do His will. They are inside and safe. Others are outside and lost.
10. *Rev 22:14-15 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. 15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.*

G. **We see then the uniqueness and importance of the church.**

Conclusion; There is nothing else like the church.

A. There is nothing else to save mankind.

1. Nations cannot do it. Businesses cannot do it. Scientists cannot do it. Philosophers cannot do it. Preachers cannot do it.
2. Jehovah planned to save mankind by the sacrifice of His only begotten Son. The church is not a building

but the saints who are added to the church by the blood of the Lamb.

3. We all desperately need to be a part of the Lord's church. It is one of the few truly unique things.

B. We have seen we must believe, repent and be baptized to be part of the church and saved.

1. We believe in Jesus Christ as God's Son. We believe He died for us and that we must follow Him as the light of the world.
2. We must repent of our sins and turn from them. We must be buried with Jesus Christ in baptism to have our sins washed away. We are immersed in water in obedience to His commands.
3. *Gal 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*
4. *Acts 18:8 Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.*
5. *Mark 16:15-16 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*

C. If we can help anyone in their service to the Lord today, please let us.