



# Noah's Ark

*BEING THE SUBSTANCE  
OF A GOSPEL ADDRESS*

BY  
F. W. K.



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## NOAH'S ARK.

(Gen. vi. 9 to end.)

**I**N the first part of this chapter, we see how GOD in His grace reached Noah and brought him through deep exercise to the recognition of his lost and ruined condition, so that he turned to GOD and found HIM to be the GOD of all grace.

Verse 8 tells us : “ *Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.* ” From this moment, his history starts afresh. Chapter v. had already recorded that NOAH was 500 years old and that he begat Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Now, in verse 9 of our chapter, we find that GOD starts *all over again* with the generations of Noah. The fact is that all his past life until his conversion is, so to speak, *time LOST and WASTED* !—time which does not count with GOD, because

GOD had been left out of account ; so an entirely new beginning was made with a man *who* HAS FOUND GRACE.

It is just like the 12th chapter of Exodus : “ *THIS month shall be to you the beginning of months.*” GOD starts a NEW CALENDAR for the Children of Israel, beginning with the Passover Month, and *all* their previous history is, so to speak, *wiped out* ! Thus with every believer : WHEN we are brought to GOD, there is an *entirely* new start, and so we read in this chapter that GOD said : “ *The end of ALL FLESH is come before ME !* ” Man, after the flesh, was so *hopelessly* bad, that even GOD does not attempt to *mend* him, HE could only “ end ” him. All this is most important for us.

Now, in this new life, after this new beginning, GOD can speak of Noah in quite a different way. “ *Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations.* ” He had two generations that counted with GOD.

One from his conversion *until* the flood, and one *after* the flood. But his previous life, i.e., *up to* his conversion, which I should judge took place when he was 500 years old, is entirely passed over as ended before GOD.

Once more we get a description of the corrupt condition of the earth. It was filled with violence and corruption, but GOD has now a *Witness* for Himself. Once this witness was the same as all his neighbours, lost, ruined and undone, but now he has been turned to GOD. Like Abraham, he believed GOD, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness ; so GOD can speak of him as a just and upright man. But his salvation is not complete. The judgment is impending, and is about to sweep man off the scene, so Noah is instructed to prepare an ARK for the saving of his house.

Now let me say a little word about Noah's ark : it presents a wonderful picture of our Lord Jesus Christ

going into death to bear the judgment of GOD and lying in the waters of death.

I should like to show that the Ark is a wonderful TYPE of Christ. We may consider it in the following details :—

- (1) Its dimensions,
- (2) Its materials,
- (3) Its capacity,
- (4) The pitch which kept out the water,
- (5) The window,
- (6) The door,
- (7) The store of food it contained.

I. ITS DIMENSIONS : They give us the *exact proportions* of a well-built human body—but that body lying in the waters of death. It is the picture of a man lying on his back. The length is six times the width and ten times the height, and these are just the proportions of a normal human body, so the Ark is a type of CHRIST lying in death.

II. THE MATERIALS : It is made

of gopher wood, trees cut down. The Lord said of Himself that He was the "*green tree.*" Psalm i. represents Him as the "*tree planted by the rivers of water,*" bearing fruit to GOD and evergreen leaves for men ; but, beloved friends, if that Tree had not been cut down, it could never have been built into an Ark of safety and shelter for you and me, and so the hundreds and thousands of trees that were cut down to form the Ark bring before us again and again, as every tree was cut down, the fact that CHRIST MUST DIE if HE is to become an ARK of safety for His people.

This wonderful fact is presented to us in many different ways in Scripture : "*Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit*" (John xii. 24). The death of CHRIST is essential to our salvation.

All the perfection of that blessed life, which ever rose as a sweet

fragrance to GOD, could never avail for us if HE had not died ! All the perfect law-keeping of our Lord Jesus Christ could never meet the law-breaking of poor sinners like you and me. JESUS *had to* die, if we were to be saved, and so the materials bring that thought before us. The trees were cut down and yielded their life, in order to become the Ark.

III. ITS CAPACITY : We need not say much as to the capacity of this Ark, but the expression, "*rooms shalt thou make in the Ark,*" just conveys the thought that there was plenty of room—room for everyone that was willing to flee from the wrath to come and take shelter in the ark of GOD'S providing. " Yet there is room " (Luke xiv. 22).

IV. " THOU SHALT PITCH IT WITHIN AND WITHOUT WITH PITCH " : This, dear friends, it seems to me, is a wonderful picture of the two aspects of the death of Christ. Firstly, it was pitched *without* with

pitch, and that seems to me to correspond to the fact that Jesus "*bore our sins in His own body on the tree.*" During those three hours of darkness when the Lord Jesus was the SIN-BEARER, GOD, who knew them, took the sins of all believers of past generations, of those present upon the earth at that time, and of all *future generations* right to the end, and laid those sins upon the devoted head of our Blessed Substitute : "*The Lord hath laid upon Him the iniquities of us all*" (Isaiah liii. 6), and "*He bare our sins in His own body on the tree*" (1 Peter ii. 24).

Then there is the other side : "*Thou shalt pitch it within with pitch.*" Not only were our sins laid on HIM, but the Lord Jesus was "*made sin for us.*" If you ask me, dear friends, *what* that means, I shall have to say "*I do not know.*" I do not think the oldest believer here would venture to explain the meaning of those solemn words : "*HE WAS MADE SIN.*" GOD made



HIM who knew *no* sin, to *be* sin for us, that we might become GOD'S *righteousness* in HIM (II Cor. v. 21).

Now let me say a little about the Cross of Calvary. I think it is a subject which is but little understood, though it is of the greatest importance for our souls. The Lord Jesus was *six* hours upon the Cross ; during the first *three* hours, the sun was shining and HE was surrounded by the priests and scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees, all seeking to make His last hours bitter, man led on by Satan, proving the wickedness and malice of his heart. “ *For My love, they gave ME hatred.*” Yet nothing could turn that Blessed One aside from His perfect devotedness to the Will of HIS FATHER and HIS GOD.

But not only was man's hatred fully displayed at the Cross of Christ : Satan and his host were there, as we learn from Psalm xxii. and elsewhere. Satan was making one last supreme effort to deflect that blessed dependent Man from

perfect submission to the Will of God. If he could have succeeded in leading HIM to give expression to one single murmur, what a triumph that would have been for SATAN ! But, thank GOD, the ONE that had bound the strong man in the wilderness, the ONE that had for three and a half years been spoiling his goods, was proof against the enemy's seductions, as well as against his violence and malice. The Blessed Lord stood firm to the very end, not one murmur escaped from His blessed lips.

All the above took place during the first three hours, but suddenly there was a change in the scene, and for three hours the sun was darkened. GOD would not have man look upon the face of His Blessed SON while HE was the SIN-BEARER and while HE was "*made sin*" for us. And so the sun was veiled, the moon and the stars gave no light, and the mass of the people surrounding the Cross of Jesus just cowered down on the

ground, feeling deeply impressed that this was a Divine intervention. Not one human voice was heard while GOD was dealing with His Blessed SON about the tremendous question of sin.

I love to think of it that during those three hours of darkness, the Lord Jesus thought of me: HE thought of each one of us individually: "*HE bare our sins in His own body on the tree.*" The terrible judgment of GOD which was our due fell upon Him, and HE exhausted that judgment. He bore the penalty, and HE, the holy, *spotless* VICTIM, consumed the fire of Divine judgment, so that now there is no judgment left for those who believe in Jesus.

There is a wonderful verse in Psalm lxxxiv., the meaning of which often puzzled me in years gone by. It is this: "Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord

of hosts, my King and my God." How could the sparrow build her nest in the brazen altar where the everlasting fire was burning? Was it not ordained that the fire should never go out? There was the morning sacrifice and the evening sacrifice of those lambs offered up, that ever spoke before God of the precious death of our Lord Jesus CHRIST, and yet the sparrow and the swallow are invited to make their nest in Jehovah's altars. Ah, dear friends, the explanation is that this verse looks forward to the perfect finished sacrifice of CHRIST, the fire exhausted, the judgment past, but the altar, which is CHRIST, abides for the poor sinner to find rest in HIM. The sparrow is a type of the poor, the lowly, the despised in this world. The swallow speaks of the restless heart; both can find rest in the blessed SAVIOUR.

V. THE WINDOW : Now we come to the WINDOW, as to which I will only say that it was at the top, and

gives the thought that those who are in Christ can have sweet communion with GOD and can look up to HIM whilst the judgment is falling. It speaks of the communion which the godly remnant will have with GOD during the great tribulation.

VI. THE DOOR : When we come to the DOOR, it is noticeable that its exact position is indicated : " The door shalt thou set in the side thereof." It was not to be at the top end nor at the bottom end, but at the side. Surely this cannot fail to remind us of that deeply important verse in the 19th chapter of John's gospel : "*And a soldier with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.*" How do we get into Christ as the Ark of shelter for His people ? Surely it is by the fact that the blood which flowed from the riven side of Jesus cleanseth from all sin : " The blood of Jesus Christ God's Son cleanseth us from all

sin.” But there is also the water : The *blood* gives the thought of *judicial* cleansing ; the *water* presents to us the thought of *moral* cleansing. By the blood my *sins* are washed away, and if I may so say, by the water *I myself* am washed away, and yet, such is the wonderful way that GOD can work, although as we find in this chapter (vi. 13), “ *The end of all flesh is come before ME,*” yet GOD can save us and bless us as we are in CHRIST.

When Noah and his family were inside the Ark, GOD could indeed say : “ The end of all flesh is come before ME.” Not one single human being was visible upon the earth. Noah and his family were safely hidden in the Ark—in CHRIST—and so it is to-day. In the Cross of CHRIST, GOD has ended man according to the flesh, and the only ones who live in GOD’S sight are those who are safely hidden in CHRIST. So that the Door presents a lovely thought of how we can get into the

Ark, that is by receiving the forgiveness of sins and moral cleaning by the work of the Spirit within.

VII. THE STORE OF FOOD IT CONTAINED : In addition to Noah and his family and all the animals, there was every kind of food. This, too, is of great significance : In CHRIST, there is everything to sustain the spiritual man, every kind of spiritual food to maintain us during our pathway.

Noah and his family went into the Ark, the LORD shut him in, and you may depend upon it that if the Lord shut him in, he was perfectly safe inside. But the *same* door which shut Noah and his family *inside* in perfect safety, shut everybody else *outside* for judgment. Dear friends, the LORD HIMSELF tells us that “ *as it was in the days of NOAH, so shall it be in the days of the SON OF MAN.*” When the Blessed Lord rises from His FATHER'S THRONE and shuts the door, it will *shut in* a'l those who are safe in CHRIST, and

will *shut out* all those who have heard and have not heeded the gospel of God's *wonderful grace*.

My friends, if the door were to shut *to-day*, if the door were to shut *this moment*, on which side would you be found? This is a solemn consideration, and one I would press upon your spirit. Thank God, the door is *still wide open* TO-DAY!

The very fact that I am preaching here this evening is a proof of it, for when the LORD closes the door, *all* gospel preaching as we now have it, will cease, for those who have *heard* and have *neglected* or REFUSED GOD'S wonderful gospel of Divine Grace.

May the LORD grant that *each* of my hearers may be found INSIDE that DOOR, ere it close for ever.

F. W. K.

42, Argyle Road,  
Ilford, Essex.

*A companion booklet on "Noah's Conversion" can be obtained from the publisher.*

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JOHN HERBERT, STOW HILL, NEWPORT, MON.