

On the Beginning

13. Mankind Rescued

NOTE ESPECIALLY Genesis 7:1-16

When the judgment of the Great Flood came upon the earth, mankind as a species was rescued from extinction by the deliverance of one man and his family. Everybody alive today is descended from Noah. It's a fact. Many ancient cultures circulated flood stories that were certainly distortions of the real story of Noah's ark.

In the salvation of Noah's family in the ark it is easy to see several pictures of our own salvation in Christ. The wording of Hebrews 11:7 seems to point this direction. It would be good to look it up and read it again. Then let's see in Genesis how God rescued a remnant of mankind from the Flood.

1. He Invited Them Into the Safety of the Ark.
Genesis 7:1 reads like a Gospel invitation!

"Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation."

Through faith in Christ, the grace of God renders the sinner righteous before God. The ark represents God's salvation in Christ. His cross and His resurrection save us when we depend entirely on Him to do it. The invitation is "Come." As we find in Acts 16:31, that invitation is not only for ourselves, but also for our family.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Anybody who wants to be saved can be saved by repentance and faith. See Matthew 11:28, John 6:35-37, and Revelation 22:17. The invitation is simply to "come."

2. He Called for Blood Sacrifices.
Genesis 7:2-4 records that God wanted Noah to take a larger number of "clean" animals into the ark than animals unsuitable for sacrifice. "Clean beast" (v. 2) means an animal acceptable for offering to God as a sacrifice. Genesis 6:19-20 says that other animals were to be taken in pairs. Clean animals were to be taken "by sevens" (v. 2). After the Flood, Noah set up an altar and sacrificed "burnt-offerings" to the Lord (Read Genesis 8:15-22). God was pleased with these sacrifices. If Noah had only taken a male and a female of these "clean" animals, whole species would have been made extinct by the sacrifices! Therefore sacrificial animals were saved from the Flood specifically in order to be sacrificed! Our salvation, of course, is based upon the sacrifice of Christ.
3. Noah and His Family Went Into the Ark.
See in Genesis 7:5-10 that, before the Flood came, each member of Noah's family accepted God's call to enter the ark. Although God's plan is for our whole families to be saved, each member must respond to God's call individually.
4. There Was a Time Limit on Getting Into the Ark.

See this in Genesis 7:11-4. The Flood came on the “*selfsame day*” when Noah’s family and the animals got into the ark. In other words, if anybody had delayed, they would have “missed the boat.” We also have a time limit on deciding to believe in Christ. When we die, it’s too late to get saved. When Christ comes for His own, people that have heard God’s call and refused will be “left behind.” Notice how Jesus used the story of Noah to emphasize the need to get ready for judgment.

“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 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, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” (Matthew 24:37-39)

5. God **Shut** Them Into the Ark.
Genesis 7:15-16 says,

“And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.”

The door to the ark was shut behind Noah by God. Jesus not only gets us forgiveness, He saves our souls! We are saved and kept by the power of God. The Lord shuts us in. See this in John 10:27-30, I Peter 1:3-5, and Jude 1-2, 24-25.