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THE ARK OF SALVATION



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PORTRAITS OF CHRIST IN GENESIS

BOOKLET No. 3

M. R. De HAAN, M.D.

THE ARK OF SALVATION

Four messages in an extended series of studies in Genesis by the late Dr. M. R. De Haan, delivered by Richard W. De Haan over a special network of leading radio stations throughout the world.

1

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith (Hebrews 11:7).

Noah was saved because he had faith in the Word of God concerning an ark whereby he and his family would be saved. We are saved in the very same way, by faith in God's Word concerning His Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour from the coming judgment, of which the flood was a picture and type. One cannot fail to see, therefore, in the Ark of Noah, a shadow, a type, of the coming Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is another of the innumerable portraits and pictures of Christ so lavishly scattered throughout the entire Old Testament, and especially in the books of Moses, and more especially in the book of Genesis.

We emphasize the frequent pictures of Christ in the book of Genesis because of the special attack by critics and unbelievers on this particular book of the Bible. God must have anticipated the modern attack upon this first book of the Bible, and so has guarded it with so many pictures and types of coming events that there is no excuse for anyone's not accepting it as the infallible revelation of God. Nobody can be saved

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who denies the authenticity and genuineness of the book of Genesis. That statement can bear repetition. There is no salvation possible for that individual who does not accept and believe the book of Genesis as literally inspired, and a historical account of its contents. If Genesis be a myth, then Jesus who endorsed it becomes a myth as well. But to the spiritually enlightened mind the evidence is overwhelming and convincing as we have seen in our past studies.

We pass on now to the typology of the Ark of Noah as a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. We shall be able to point out only a few of the many points in which the Ark of Noah was a picture of the coming Christ.

PLANNED BY GOD

The very first thing to notice is that the idea of an ark for the preservation of Noah and his family originated in the heart of God. It was not the invention of man. It was not because Noah, alarmed by the increasing wickedness of man, perceived that judgment was impending, and therefore sought for a plan whereby he might be spared in the imminent catastrophe. There is no hint that Noah anticipated a flood. There had evidently been no rain on earth until this time, and so the idea of a deluge was as far from Noah's mind as anything could possibly be. Before the flood came or instructions were given to Noah to build an ark, the idea for the salvation of Noah and his family already existed in the mind of God. He foreknew the wickedness of man in the antediluvian days, and also knew that He would send the judgment upon the world. But in wrath God remembered Noah, and He planned for his safety beforehand.

As the Ark was planned by God, and God alone, so too the antitype of the Ark, the Lord Jesus Christ, was foreordained by God to meet the judgment of sin

(typified by the flood), and to make provision for the safety of the elect. Peter tells us in speaking of Christ the Lamb of God,

Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you (I Peter 1:20).

And in Revelation 13 He is called "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8).

Not only was the Ark designed and planned by God in every detail, but Noah and his family were also planned for, long before they were ever born. Paul says of us, who are represented by Noah,

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will (Ephesians 1:3-5, 11).

IT IS ALL OF GRACE

Noah had no part in the planning of this mighty ship. All the blueprints and specifications were furnished by God. It was ALL the work of God, and man had no hand in it at all. Now all this is in harmony with the lessons we saw in the coats of skins, Abel's sacrifice, and God's provision for man's salvation. Not a detail is overlooked. Man must have no part in the plan of salvation. How wonderful, therefore, that after we read:

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth. . .

And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; . . . (Genesis 6:5, 7),

the Word goes on to say in verse 8,

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

In every picture of Christ in these early chapters in Genesis we encounter the cardinal truth of grace. It was so when God rejected man's work of fig-leaf aprons; it was so when God rejected Cain's works and saved Abel by grace. Noah alone and his family were chosen to escape the universal judgment of God, but it was not because Noah deserved it; it was still by GRACE.

SUPERNATIONAL REVELATION

Notice further, in addition to the fact that the Ark was entirely a product of the mind of God, that it called for a supernatural revelation in order to reveal it to the heart of Noah. And so God gave a divine revelation concerning the coming judgment:

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth (Genesis 6:13).

God announced judgment upon sin, but no sooner had He pronounced the sentence than He also gave a plan to escape from the judgment. The same was true of Adam and Eve, for in the very day they sinned and came under judgment, God revealed His plan of salvation by the sacrifice of a lamb, in providing our parents with a covering of bloody skins. It was so in the case of Noah. Scarcely had God pronounced judgment when He revealed a plan of escape, and so the record continues in verse 14:

Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch (Genesis 6:14).

Then notice the details given by God for the building of this ark. Not a single thing is left up to man; the whole plan is of God. He says:

And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits [450 feet], the breadth of it fifty cubits [75 feet], and the height of it thirty cubits [45 feet] (Genesis 6:15).

Incidentally, modern shipbuilders tell us these dimensions are the most ideal measurements to ensure the safest and most seaworthy craft. The Ark was built on dry land, miles and miles from the nearest water, without a model to work from, and yet it had the ideal dimensions for a ship accepted even by modern shipbuilders today. What an evidence of divine inspiration! No human mind could have conceived such a structure without the knowledge of a similar one. But, as we said, this Ark (type of the Lord Jesus) was designed and planned by the all-wise Creator. Let infidelity explain how Noah could devise such a perfectly proportioned ship four to five thousand years ago, when he himself probably had never before seen a rowboat or a canoe. Yes, the whole plan of the Ark was supernaturally revealed to Noah by the One who gave all the details. And Noah believed what God said about the Ark. In Hebrews 11:7 we read:

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith (Hebrews 11:7).

Noah believed what God told him about the flood

and the Ark, although there was no evidence of either. He just believed God's Word. Now don't forget that the Ark is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, our only hope against the judgment of God. And He too must be accepted by faith. All we have is the Word of God concerning Jesus Christ, and it is by believing that Word we are saved. With Peter we must say:

Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory (I Peter 1:8).

It was the same in the days of Noah. He was warned of things "not seen as yet." God announced the coming of something which had never been seen before; namely, RAIN from heaven. Evidently before the flood there had never been any rain. At least there is no mention of it, but the Word says that

...God had not caused it to rain upon the earth,...

But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground (Genesis 2:5, 6).

The ground before the flood was watered by a mist or dew so heavy that "it watered the whole face of the ground." All the moisture came UP from below — NOTHING from up above. And now God announces a flood, a deluge. Water was now to come DOWN from heaven as well as from the ground. Unbelievable! It had never happened before, but God said it would, and Noah believed it. This is the meaning of the words in Hebrews 11:7, "Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet (never seen before)." Just as Noah had nothing else to base his faith on than the Word of God, so too we today must receive Jesus Christ only on the authority of the Word of God. We

cannot prove the existence of Jesus Christ in Heaven except by the record of this Book — the Bible. It must be received by faith.

BELIEVE THE RECORD

John tells us in I John 5,

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son (I John 5:9, 10).

Salvation is believing the record God gave of His Son, and acting upon it. It was no different with Noah. He had nothing to go on but the Word of God, but he believed it, acted upon it, and was saved. There is only one way of salvation, and this is by faith in the Word of God concerning His Son Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament, the age of shadows, men were saved no differently. It was always by faith in the Word of God, and from the New Testament we know that Jesus is the WORD. When the Old Testament saint believed what God said, whether it be Abel, Adam, Noah or Abraham, it was really faith in Jesus Christ who is the eternal Word of God.

ONLY ONE DOOR

Returning for a moment again to the Ark as a most complete type of the Lord Jesus Christ, we remind you again that man had no part in its planning. The Lord gave all the details for its construction. The description, brief but complete, continues in Genesis 6, verse 16,

A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of

the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it (Genesis 6:16).

Time permits us merely to mention the details of the DOOR. A number of unusual features are seen. First, there is ONLY ONE DOOR. Today such an arrangement would not be allowed. A ship of this size would have to have several exits, and be equipped with life rafts, lifeboats and life preservers for its passengers. But none of these things is mentioned, for they were completely unnecessary. As we shall see, God had provided for the PERFECT safety of the occupants, for God was Himself with them in the ship. There was no need for any safety features within the Ark, for it was a type of Jesus the Christ, and just as God was with Noah in the ship, so "God was IN CHRIST reconciling the world to himself."

One final thought, and a strange one! The dimensions of the door are not mentioned. We don't know how high or how wide it was. This was for a definite reason. Since no dimensions are given, all can gain entrance. No matter how great a sinner one may be, there is room for him through Him who said, "I AM THE DOOR."

Never before in history has there been such a relentless, destructive attack upon the Bible as in these last days. The chief point of attack is the Pentateuch, the five books of Moses, and among these the book of Genesis is singled out for this onslaught by infidels and skeptics. The teaching widely disseminated even in our Sunday schools and churches is that Genesis has no historical basis and that it is not an accurate or literal account of the creation of the earth and man, of the entrance of sin and of the early history of Abraham. It is characterized as entirely mythical, on a level with pagan mythology, fables, and folklore. Two of the areas being most viciously attacked in recent days are the account of the flood and Noah as recorded in Genesis chapters 6 to 9, and the record of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah as recorded in Genesis 19. Yet it was these very two events which Jesus singled out to indicate what He thought of the account in the book of Genesis.

The Lord knew beforehand that these two records, the flood and the destruction of Sodom, would be called in question by the critics in these latter days, and so He went out of His way to place His seal of endorsement upon these two accounts. He left no doubt about the matter at all. He said in Luke 17,

And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all (Luke 17:26, 27).

Did Jesus believe the record of Genesis concerning Noah and the flood? If He didn't, He certainly practiced a colossal bit of deception and is unworthy of

any respect or confidence. Let the skeptics find an answer. Of course, they would even dare to suggest that Jesus was mistaken, and didn't know any better. And how about the miracle of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah? How about Lot's wife having been turned into a pillar of salt? Listen to what Jesus thought about this. He says in Luke 17,

Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

Remember Lot's wife (Luke 17:28-30, 32).

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

We repeat, therefore, that the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation were given with the primary purpose of revealing Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of man. Every part of the revelation has some bearing on His person, character, and mission. Even those passages in the Bible which record the atrocities, the slaughters of men, the immorality and the violence of men and nations, are recorded to show the need of salvation and the hopeless depravity of the natural human heart. In our previous study we began an examination of the Ark of Noah as a picture and a portrait of Jesus Christ, the Saviour from judgment. The wickedness of man had become so great in the days before the flood that God said,

... My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was

great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; . . . (Genesis 6:3, 5, 7).

After God had revealed His plan of salvation in the slaying of the substitutionary lamb in Genesis 3:21 to provide a covering of skins for Adam and Eve, the world did not accept the lesson, and things did not begin to get better and better. Instead they became worse and worse. And so God commanded Noah to build an ark of salvation for a remnant of mankind. The Ark was the only escape.

Jesus used this historic incident to illustrate the condition of the world just prior to His Second Coming. According to the Bible the world will not become better and better during this age, but instead worse and worse. Without the intervention of God, man would ultimately destroy himself. This age will not see the world brought to Christ, it will not culminate in a blaze of glory with world-wide revival. There is not one verse in the entire Bible to indicate a great turning to God before the return of Jesus for His Church. Not only do we have abundant Scripture passages to show that this age will end in apostasy (and who is so blind as not to see it today in this ecumenical deluge of compromise), but Jesus, by referring us to the days BEFORE THE FLOOD, spoke of a pattern which will be followed just before the return of Jesus FOR HIS CHURCH.

It will be the same Jesus so plainly foreshadowed by the Ark of Noah. In our former message we pointed out the unmistakable figure of the Ark as pointing to Jesus, by calling your attention to the fact that (1) the Ark was not the invention of man, but a foreknown, foreordained plan of God; and (2) it was super-

naturally revealed to Noah by the Word of God (Hebrews 11:5).

We now come to a most interesting detail in the record of Noah's Ark. While Noah had no part in planning the Ark, he nevertheless was given a part in building the physical structure of the Ark. We hope to show you that this was a shadow and a figure of the INCARNATION of the Lord Jesus of which the Ark was a type. The Ark was designed and planned by God, but it was built by Noah. The instructions were clear:

Make thee an ark of gopher wood; . . . and . . . pitch it within and without with pitch (Genesis 6:14).

The Redeemer of mankind, in order to substitute for man, must Himself be a man. While the Ark was God's divine design, the Ark itself must be builded by the sinner who was to be saved from the flood. The Saviour must be both GOD and MAN. He must be man to atone for man's sin; He must be God in order to bear the infinite penalty of man's sin. Because He was a man, He could stand in man's place. Because He was God, He could bear in a few brief hours the eternal, infinite judgment of God upon sin. The spiritually enlightened mind cannot fail to see in this a shadow of the incarnation — the part that humanity was to play in preparing the Saviour Jesus as the Ark of safety. The Saviour must have a human body and nature as well as divine. Noah was therefore commanded to build the Ark. Millenniums later the One who was foreshadowed by all this came into the world — the product of a human being, called in the Scripture the SEED OF THE WOMAN. The Apostle Paul makes it crystal-clear in Galatians 4:

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, MADE OF A WOMAN, made under the law,

To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons (Galatians 4:4, 5).

This was the fulfillment of the protevangelium in Genesis 3:15,

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Jesus Christ was the eternal Son of God, pre-existent from eternity, but in the fullness of time came into the world as the incarnated Son of God, with a human body and nature prepared by God within the womb of a virgin mother. Yes, God designed it all, but Noah must build the Ark.

PERFECT SAFETY

The typology of the Ark as a figure of Christ is so rich, so wide in its application to our Lord, that we can only select a very few of the details which unmistakably remind us of and point us to Him. The Ark was the safest ship which was ever built. It was completely unsinkable. There could be no storm great or violent enough to cause it to flounder or sink. It was a perfect place of refuge first of all because it was designed by the Lord God Almighty Himself. The security of all those in the Ark was fully guaranteed, and this for a number of reasons, all of which are true and typical of Him of whom the Ark was a picture.

1. The Ark was a place of security because the designer and architect Himself was present in the Ark with its occupants. The record speaks volumes as we read in Genesis 7:1,

And the LORD said unto Noah, COME thou and all thy house into the ark; . . .

Notice the word, COME. Interestingly enough this

is the very first time the word "come" occurs in our Bible. God did not say to Noah, "Now the Ark is ready, and it is safe, so do not hesitate to go in, for I will be out here watching over you to prevent any harm." This would have been enough for Noah, but this is not what God did. Instead He went into the Ark FIRST, and then invited Noah and his family to come and join Him. If the Ark went down, it would carry God down with it. His own presence was the guarantee of the greatest safety.

This reminds me of a conversation I had with a very close and dear friend of mine who has been a chief pilot on one of our great international airlines, flying over the North and South American continents, the seas and the mountains. He has just completed twenty-five years of commercial flying these millions of miles. One day I said to him, "Don't you find the responsibility of carrying over a hundred passengers in your great jet plane a tremendous strain upon you? How does it feel to realize that you are responsible for all those lives behind you?" His answer first stunned me, and then I understood. He said, "I never think of the safety of those passengers. I only think of my own safety." I say, at first I misunderstood, but the truth soon dawned on me. He was not indifferent to the safety of his passengers, but he knew their safety depended on HIS OWN. The best protection he could give his passengers was to be alert every minute to his job as pilot of the plane. It is a weak illustration, I realize, but it carries the lesson that with God in the Ark, Noah was safe. This was the lesson the disciples of Jesus had not yet learned in the great storm in Matthew 8. They came to the sleeping Jesus, and cried:

...Lord, save us: we perish (Matthew 8:25).

They had not yet learned the lesson that when Jesus is in the ship, IT CANNOT SINK.

2. Notice further the security of the occupants of the Ark, because they had nothing to do with handling the Ark. Evidently the Ark had no sails, no oars, no motor or engine, no rudder, and no pilot house. God Himself directed the course of the great ship. The common idea that the Ark just drifted aimlessly upon the roaring waters is as far from the truth as anything can be. It was carefully piloted and steered by the hand of Him who said, "Come in." It was being piloted to a safe goal, Mount Ararat, and a safe landing. So, too, when we trust Christ and come into the Ark of safety, we are not left to drift aimlessly upon the tide, but every moment brings us nearer to Heaven and home.

NOAH'S WORK IN THE ARK

God designed and planned the Ark, and Noah was absolutely secure, but there was plenty for Noah to do. His work was cut out for him. It must have been quite a task to care for and feed all the animals and keep things in order. Now Noah didn't have to do this to keep from being ejected from the Ark, but because he was safe in the Ark. So, too, the believer in Christ, safe in the "ark of salvation," has a responsibility and duty to care for those who have been entrusted to his care. Paul says in Philippians,

...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure (Philippians 2:12, 13).

We are to work OUT what God has already worked IN. Salvation is God's gift, but we must work to cultivate the fruits of salvation.

3. While the door was open, anyone and all who believed God's Word could come in. But once the door was shut, no one else could come in. However,

there is one little phrase in the account which is often overlooked. It is the record that when the door was shut, **NO ONE COULD GET OUT AGAIN.** Notice carefully Genesis 7:16,

And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: AND THE LORD SHUT HIM IN.

Notice that phrase, for it is inspired, "And the Lord shut him in." God did not say, "Now Noah, shut the door and slide the bar, or snap the lock." Oh, no! The Lord does not place the safety of His own in the hands of men, of preacher or priest. He Himself snaps the lock, and He it is of whom it is said that He

... openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth (Revelation 3:7).

In conclusion, one or two additional observations. There was only **ONE ARK.** God did not provide a fleet of ships and say, "You may have your choice," but it was the **ONLY** ship available. There are religions without number, but there is only **ONE WAY OF SALVATION.** Jesus said,

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved... (John 10:9).

... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (John 14:6).

3

When we began this series of **PORTRAITS OF CHRIST** in the book of Genesis, we planned on devoting just one chapter to the typology of the Ark of Noah as pointing to the Lord Jesus Christ as our only place of security and safety. However, we had not gone very far until we discovered that we had entered upon a veritable mine of spiritual treasures and the lessons which progressively opened up before us were inexhaustible. As we dwelt upon one aspect of the typology of the Ark, other truths hitherto not seen just jumped up at us, so that even in these four chapters we devote to the Ark as a figure of Christ, we shall only touch the very fringe of the infinite mine of revelation; we shall be able only to dip our toes in the limitless expanse of revelation suggested by the story of the flood and its great lessons of salvation.

Jesus accepted the record of the flood and the Ark of Noah as historic fact, and referred to it repeatedly. In answer to the question of His disciples concerning the signs of His coming again, He referred them to the days of Noah, and said:

But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be (Matthew 24:37).

In our previous messages on the Ark we noted a number of things:

1. It was all designed and planned by God.
2. Man's part was in building the physical structure — a prophecy of the incarnation of the Saviour by birth of a human mother.
3. The message of salvation through the Ark was supernaturally revealed.
4. It was the only place of refuge. There was only **ONE ARK.**

Now we are ready to notice some of the other details and their lessons in pointing us to the Lord Jesus our Saviour. Noah was ordered by God to make the Ark three stories high. We read in Genesis 6:16,

...with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it (Genesis 6:16).

I must confess that I am not just sure of the correct interpretation and meaning of the three stories of the Ark, but it must have some spiritual meaning or it would not have been mentioned. We can only make a suggestion or two as to its probable meaning. Do we have here a picture of the Trinity as represented by the Ark? We know the Ark is a picture of Jesus Christ, and Christ is God. On earth He represented all of the three persons of the Godhead. He said: "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30). When Philip said to Jesus, "Shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us," (John 14:8),

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me?...

Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake (John 14:9-11).

Paul tells us that,

...God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself... (II Corinthians 5:19).

Even as the Father dwelt in Christ, so too the blessed third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, dwelt in the person of Jesus Christ. At the baptism of Jesus as recorded by Luke we read:

...it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased (Luke 3:21, 22).

Jesus Christ was the incarnate representation of the entire Godhead: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He was the embodiment of the Trinity. He was the ambassador for both the Father and the Holy Spirit here upon the earth. There are a goodly number of passages in the New Testament which clearly teach that the Triune Godhead dwelt in the person of Christ (Ephesians 1:23; 3:19; Colossians 1:19). We quote here just one which seems to establish this truth beyond question:

For in him [Christ] dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power (Colossians 2:9, 10).

From these Scripture passages we believe that the three stories of the Ark, which is such a clear type of Christ, may very well point to the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Ghost, all being active in the salvation of Noah and his family.

Another interpretation is presented, which we merely mention, that the three levels of the Ark represent the complete salvation and provision for those who take refuge in Christ. It has been suggested that we have here a picture of our complete, ultimate redemption of BODY, SOUL and SPIRIT. The ground floor of the Ark was for storage of food and provisions for their protracted sojourn in the Ark, and thus, since it provided for the physical need of the occupants, it represents the BODY. The second story, it is

intimated, was for the animals, and the place of activity for Noah and his family for caring for their charges. It was the place of work and so represents the SOUL and its spiritual activities and work. The upper story would then represent the dwelling place for Noah and his family for fellowship, rest and communion. This would signify the SPIRIT. Whether these interpretations are the correct ones may be questioned by some of our readers, but we throw them out as something to think about. They may not be important, but if they stimulate to further study, then it will still prove profitable.

ONLY ONE WINDOW

We cannot leave the study of the Ark of Noah without a few words about its peculiar structure. It seems to have been more of a scow than a ship, without rounded bow or pointed prow. From the record we assume it was a flat-bottomed skiff. It had, as we have seen, only one door. It also had only one window described as being a square hole in the flat roof about 18 by 18 inches. It was covered by a window or hatch. The spiritual application of all this is clear. Noah and his family were not to be looking OUT upon the raging waves and pounding billows with the scene of destruction about and beneath them, but UP only to Heaven. This is the lesson God would have His people to learn. The same lesson is suggested by Israel's journey for forty years through a howling, barren wilderness. He furnished them also with a window above, in the form of a pillar of cloud by day and a glowing pillar of fire by night. This cloud was not only for the purpose of guiding them on their way, but very evidently also to remind them to LOOK UP, and not to be overwhelmed by the difficulties and trials of the wilderness.

PLACE OF REST

One detail often overlooked in the study of the Ark as a portrait of Christ is the provision the Lord made in the Ark for rest and relaxation. A little phrase is inserted in verse 14:

...rooms shalt thou make in the ark... (Genesis 6:14).

The Hebrew word translated "rooms" in this verse is *kane* and means literally "a nest." God not only provided for the safety of the occupants of the Ark, but He made provision for their comfort as well. Noah was told to make "nests" in the Ark. Our Lord Jesus of whom all this is a type, said many years later:

In my Father's house are many mansions [dwelling places]: ...I go to prepare a place for you (John 14:2).

ABSOLUTE SECURITY

Before concluding this chapter we must call your attention once more to the picture of absolute security and safety which God provided for those who had entered the Ark. In order for the Ark to be a place of absolute safety it must be absolutely "water-proof." This was provided for in a number of ways. First, there was only one door and that door was locked by God Himself. There was only one window, and that on the roof and only 18 inches square. But the Lord made an additional provision for keeping out the waters of judgment. The Ark itself was made of cypress, in itself an excellent wood for exposure to water, and was completely sealed both inside and outside by a water-proofing material common in that area. We read in Genesis 6,

Make thee an ark of gopher wood; ...and ... pitch it within and without with pitch (Genesis 6:14).

The Hebrew word here translated as "pitch" is not the usual word used elsewhere which is *zepheth* and simply means a bituminous substance such as asphalt. The material Noah used for the covering of the Ark may have been the same material, but an entirely different word is used. The word translated "pitch" in Genesis 6 is the word *kaphar* (verb) or *kopher* (noun). It is the only place this word is so translated, although it is used 70 times elsewhere in the Bible. And now be ready for a real revelation. The word *kaphar*, translated "pitch" in the building of the Ark and used 70 times elsewhere, is in every other occurrence translated "atonement." The word itself simply means "a covering," but is translated "atonement" in every other place. Literally, therefore, we might read Genesis 6:14, "Thou shalt 'cover' it within and without with ATONEMENT."

We have already seen that the only atonement God would receive for sin was a blood sacrifice. After Adam's fig leaves had proven inadequate, the Lord came and slew a substitutionary animal and covered Adam and Eve with the bloody skins. Here already in Paradise God revealed that the only adequate covering for sin is BLOOD, and that only BLOOD can make an atonement for the SOUL. We saw it again in the experience of Cain and Abel, for Cain's sacrifice was rejected because he ignored the blood, while Abel's was accepted because he brought a bleeding lamb. This is God's rule throughout the entire Scriptures that "without shedding of blood (there) is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22).

After Israel had left Egypt under the sheltering blood of the Passover Lamb, one of the first things they were to learn was the sanctity and importance of the blood. Again and again he reminds them of the cardinal principle, "no atonement without blood."

Noah had scarcely left the Ark when God gave the command about the blood. As soon as Noah left the Ark he builded an altar and presented the blood to the Lord.

And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt-offerings on the altar (Genesis 8:20).

It was right after this that God gave the command concerning the sacredness of the blood, when he said in Genesis 9:4,

But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

This prohibition was again stated. In Leviticus 7:26 God said:

Moreover ye shall eat no manner of blood, whether it be of fowl or of beast...

The reason was because blood speaks of atonement and the covering for sin, and it is not to be despised. This is made clear in Leviticus 17,

And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people (Leviticus 17:10).

AND WHY?

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an ATONEMENT for your souls... (Leviticus 17:11).

Do you realize that the word "atonement" in this verse is a translation of the same identical word translated "pitch" in Genesis 6, the pitch with which the Ark was covered within and without? Do you know

that when the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies (Leviticus 16) and sprinkled the blood upon the Mercy Seat over the broken law, that he made ATONEMENT for Israel's sins and the same word translated "pitch" in Genesis 6 is used?

The Ark was symbolically covered inside and outside with the blood of atonement. No wonder there were no casualties in the Ark. Everyone that went in was kept, and came out safely. The Holy Spirit evidently wanted us to know how secure the occupants of the Ark were, for He records:

And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him:

EVERY beast, EVERY creeping thing, and EVERY fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, WENT FORTH OUT OF THE ARK (Genesis 8:18, 19).

Not a single one was missing, for the Ark foreshadowed the One who milleniums later said to His disciples,

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand (John 10:27-29).

Oh, sinner, hear once more God's invitation to Noah:

... Come thou and all thy house into the ark... (Genesis 7:1).

The word "type" does not occur anywhere in our English Bible. Neither does the word "typology" appear and yet the study of types in the Old Testament is one of the most interesting and rewarding exercises. The word "type" in the original Greek is *typos*, and is translated "figure" or "shadow." Hence we speak of types as figures or shadows of objects or occurrences. A type is an incident or occurrence that is historically true but points to another person, incident or occurrence in the future. It is a shadow of something to come. We usually cannot identify the object that casts the shadow by the shadow alone, but when the object to whom the figure points is seen, all becomes clear. For instance, we know that Adam was a type of Christ when he was put to sleep and from his wounded side the Lord God builded for him a woman to be an help meet for him. Of course, without the record of the New Testament we could never have known the meaning of that first surgical operation performed in the Garden of Eden. But in the light of the New Testament we see Christ as the Second Man and the Last Adam. In the same way we see Calvary plainly in the sacrifice of the first animal when God made coats of skins and covered our first parents.

NOAH'S ARK

In the same way no spiritually enlightened child of God can fail to see in the Ark of Noah God's picture of our Saviour from judgment. Every detail points to some aspect of the work of Christ. In our former messages on the Ark of Noah as a figure of Christ, we have seen the Ark as an unmistakable figure of our coming Redeemer. The Ark represents the refuge for sinners from the coming judgment. But this does

not entirely exhaust the typology. Sometimes, yea, oftentimes, we see a double typology; that is, an incident may be a type or a figure of two different things. Such was the case with Adam. He certainly is a figure and type of the lost sinner in need of salvation. But at the same time he is also a type of the Last Adam and the Second Man, Jesus Christ. Such, too, was the case with Isaac, the son of Abraham. As we shall see in our coming messages, he was a clear type and picture of the Son who was to be sacrificed, but at the same time he was a picture of the sinner who himself needed a Saviour and, therefore, God provided for him a substitute in the ram caught in the bushes (Gen. 22:13).

The ark was truly a type of Christ as Saviour from coming judgment, but the flood is also a picture of the Great Tribulation of the end-time, and God's provision for an elect remnant to be brought through the Great Tribulation by Jesus Christ, their Ark of safety. We would remind you again of Jesus' answer to the question of the disciples:

...Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world [age]? (Matthew 24:3).

To this direct and unmistakable question, Jesus answers;

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...

...so shall also the coming of the Son of man be (Matthew 24:37-39).

We would call your attention to one word in this passage — the word, BEFORE. Jesus speaks of condi-

tions BEFORE the flood came. There were only three classes of people on the earth in the days BEFORE the flood, represented by Enoch, Noah and his family, and the wicked who were destroyed in the judgment of the flood. Enoch was translated before the flood came; Noah and his family were carried safely through the flood; and the wicked perished in the flood. The same three classes of people are in the world today, and will be at the coming of the Son of man. Paul identifies the only three kinds of people living today in I Corinthians 10:32,

Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.

Every individual belongs to one of these three groups. A Jew is a physical descendant of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob. Israelites are descendants of Israel. All who are not Israelites or Jews are classified as Gentiles. But there is a third group, consisting of both Jews and Gentiles, and called the Church of the living God, the Body of Christ. Everyone who has believed in Jesus as the Son of God, and trusted Him for salvation is a member of the one true Church, the Body of Christ. With these three groups of people in mind, think again about the words of Jesus:

For as in the days that were BEFORE the flood...

...so shall also the coming of the Son of man be (Matthew 24:38, 39).

As it was in Noah's day, so shall it be just prior to the Second Coming of Christ. In the days before the flood, the Bible records that Enoch was translated BEFORE the flood. There was a second company (Noah and his family) who passed safely THROUGH the

flood, and then the third group who perished IN the flood. This is to be repeated, for the Lord has promised that before He visits the world in judgment in the coming Great Tribulation, He will call out all true believers. Paul speaks of this in many places, but we refer you to the classic passage:

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord (I Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

Then the Day of the Lord will be ushered in, and the days of earth's greatest tribulation be experienced, a time so terrible that except those days were shortened there should no flesh be saved. But while the Church is raptured, Israel is still here, and God has made provision for the faithful remnant of Jacob's seed, that they will not be destroyed by the wrath of the false messiah, the Antichrist. Just as Enoch was translated before the judgment fell, and Noah was made safe in the Ark, so also after the Church has been raptured and the Tribulation days begin, God will prepare a place of safety for the believing remnant of Israel. Soon after the Rapture of the Church, the greatest revival in history will sweep over the nation of Israel, and thousands upon thousands of the Jews will acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Messiah. They will become the special target for the Antichrist, but God will protect them, even as Noah was protected in the Ark. Just as the exact number of souls saved in the Ark is recorded, so the exact number of the saved of Israel is recorded. There were

exactly eight saved in the Ark. There will be exactly 144,000 Israelites saved in the Tribulation, and supernaturally preserved through that awful day.

THE SEAL OF GOD

All of this had already been predicted and promised by the prophets in many passages. Ezekiel says concerning Israel:

For I will take you from among the heathen [Gentiles], and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean. . . .

And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God (Ezekiel 36:24, 25, 28).

Or, listen carefully to the prophet Jeremiah in speaking about that great and terrible day of earth's greatest tribulation when the nation of Israel will be persecuted in a measure never before experienced in history:

Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE, BUT HE SHALL BE SAVED OUT OF IT.

Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.

For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished (Jeremiah 30:7, 10, 11).

After the Church is translated, there will be a rem-

nant of the true Israel converted and they will become the greatest missionaries of all time, with the result that a great revival will break out and a multitude from every people, tongue, tribe and nation will be converted. They with Israel shall suffer great persecution, but they will be delivered by the personal return of Jesus Christ with His Church. John says in Revelation 7, concerning the remnant of Israel during the Tribulation:

...Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. . . (Revelation 7:3-5).

John continues naming all of the twelve tribes individually. This will be a nation born in a day. One hundred and forty-four thousand converted Israelites, supernaturally protected by God and sealed against death, will go forth during those awful days of the Tribulation, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, resulting in the greatest revival of all time. Immediately after the record of the sealing of the 144,000 Jews, John continues under inspiration:

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb (Revelation 7:9, 10).

This great multitude consists of Tribulation believers, presumably converted by the testimony of the 144,000. This is made very clear, for one of the elders explains to John:

... These are they which came out of [the] great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:14).

ORDER OF EVENTS

This tribulation period of seven years will be suddenly ended by the personal return of the Lord Jesus to deliver His people and judge the wicked nations. So remember the three groups of people before the flood: Enoch representing those who will be raptured before the Tribulation; then Noah and his family representing the faithful remnant of Israel who will pass through the Tribulation to emerge upon a renewed and cleaned earth. This leaves the third group, the wicked nations who will perish in the judgment of those days.

As we conclude these few chapters on the typology of the Ark we realize that we have merely skimmed the surface, we have scarcely moistened our feet in the edge of God's infinite ocean of revelation. If we have stimulated you to dig deeper into this great type of the work of Christ, we shall feel we are well repaid. If these studies have created a hunger for more of Christ in the WORD,* then the many hours and days of study, research, and prayer will not have been in vain. As we wrote this book, the words of the wise man of Ecclesiastes came frequently to mind:

And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh (Ecclesiastes 12:12).

I have found it so, and sometimes I wondered if it

was worthwhile to write another book, but when I considered the fruit of my own study, and the blessing I received from digging into the bottomless mine of God's precious truth, I was constrained to put it in writing that others (I hope) might share somewhat in the blessing of finding "things old and new" in this inexhaustible storehouse of truth. We are deeply conscious of the many other lessons this story of the flood and the Ark contains, which we have passed over. We do hope our readers will be prompted to study for themselves this great picture of Christ and His redemptive program. The most pressing question we would ask as we close our series on the Ark is this: "Have you taken refuge in the Ark of God's provision?" The people in Noah's day could enter only while the door was open. Once it was shut by God, it was forever too late. The door of salvation is still open to you. It may be shut before the day is over. Why not heed the call:

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28).