

NOAH, BUILD A BOAT!

Genesis 6:9-22

OPEN:

It has been called “the cruise ship from hell.” No doubt Carnival Cruise Lines would like to forget what happened last week...

- ✓ What was supposed to be a vacation of a lifetime turned into a week that will not soon be forgotten.
 - ✓ Fire in the engine room shut the vessel down and loss of power made conditions on board difficult and unbearable for many...
- Today, I wish to tell you of another boat trip...one that has never been forgotten.
- Though some “intellectuals” may want to make “Noah and the Ark” a story of legends...something that best fits in children’s coloring books...it is clear from other scriptures that we look back on this event as one that really happened and that changed the course of the world.
 - Isaiah took Noah seriously: **Isaiah 54:9 (NLT)** – Just as I swore in the time of Noah that I would never again let a flood cover the earth...God goes on to reveal His unfailing love for Israel.
 - ✓ Ezekiel mentions Noah as one of the three most righteous men in history (**Ezekiel 14:14, 20**)
 - ✓ The writer of Chronicles, as well as Luke, includes Noah in the official genealogy of Christ. (**1 Chronicles 1:4; Luke 3:36**)
 - ✓ The Apostle Peter mentions Noah twice (**1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5**).
 - ✓ Most importantly, the Lord Jesus Christ accepted the story of Noah and the ark as a real event. **Matthew 24:37-39 (NLT)** – ³⁷When the son of man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. ³⁸In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. ³⁹People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. This is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.
 - ✓ Noah makes the “Heroes Hall of Faith” chapter...**Hebrews 11**

→ Thus, we can say with scriptural integrity...Noah and the Ark really happened.

Genesis 6:9-12 (NKJV) – ⁹This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. ¹¹The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

- Here we see Noah's character and the culture he lived in.
 - ✓ Like a light in the darkness, he stands out.
 - ✓ No doubt he was despised and ridiculed.
 - ✓ His life and message would have made the people of that day uncomfortable.
 - ✓ Some thought him to be a fanatic; others saw him as insane...
 - ✓ Some may have tried to stop him or at least silence him...yet, he remains faithful and loyal to God.

❖ Notice how scripture describes him:

1) Meet the Man

- a) He was a **"just"** man...he had found forgiveness and was declared **righteous** in God's sight. (*PP Slide*)
 - The term "just" carries the idea of being justified by God...made right.
 - Notice the word "grace" in the previous verse and the word "just" in this verse and you have a clue as to how this occurs.
 - ✓ God offers grace (acceptance, forgiveness) to those who put their faith in His promise (a Deliverer will come).
 - Noah was looking for the coming of the Savior.
 - ✓ Faith in the Savior is what makes us right in God's sight.

→ Noah, like Abraham had a right standing with God.

Romans 4:2-3 (NLT) – ²If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. ³For the

Scriptures tell us, “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.”

✓ Noah’s faith put him in good standing with God...He was a “just man.”

b) **Perfect** in his generations (*PP Slide*)

✓ Whereas “just” describes his standing with God, “Perfect” describes his standing with man.

- The word “perfect” carries the idea of being blameless, not contaminated, pure.

✓ Meaning he was genetically pure in regards to the demon invasion, or...

✓ He was a man of purity, integrity, honesty.

✓ He walked the talk, his life reflected his faith.

✓ Unlike others who were stealing, cheating, being immoral, he lived a life that honored God!

→ Right with God, right with **man**...live so there is nothing in your life that would hinder another from following God. (*PP Slide*)

c) He **walked** with God (*PP Slide*)

- The verb tense is such that it reads: he continued walking with God.

✓ The only other man of whom that was said was Enoch.

✓ No doubt Noah had heard all about his walk.

→ It is only as we continually pursue God that we are kept from the evil around us.

✓ Keep your focus on God and do not let the pleasures of sin distract you.

d) He **raised** a godly family *vs. 10* we meet his sons. (*PP Slide*)

- When Noah was born, five of his “grandfathers” were still living.

✓ Enosh, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Methusaleh and his dad, Lemech.

✓ According to scripture, these were godly men.

✓ Their influence was bound to have impacted Noah’s life.

- ✓ He was the recipient of a godly heritage and it would seem fitting Noah would raise his children likewise.

→ This must have been a challenging job for Mr. and Mrs. Noah considering the world they were living in.

- ✓ We believe the boys to be believers (willing followers) as God saved the whole family.
- In a day when some dads approach “faith” with a “take it or leave it” mentality...what’s important to you becomes important to them!

Ephesians 6:4 (NLT) – Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

❖ The man Noah was the kind of man we should aspire to become.

1) Meet the Man...

2) Listen to God’s demand

Genesis 6:13-22 (NKJV) – ¹³ And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴ Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. ¹⁵ And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. ¹⁶ You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it *with* lower, second, and third *decks*. ¹⁷ And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which *is* the breath of life; everything that *is* on the earth shall die. ¹⁸ But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁹ And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every *sort* into the ark, to keep *them* alive with you; they shall be male and female. ²⁰ Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every *kind* will come to you to keep *them* alive. ²¹ And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather *it* to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.” ²² Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

- God tips Noah off...it must have been a startling conversation...Noah arrives home later that day and Mrs. Noah asked... “how did your day go, honey?”
 - ✓ As he watched his boys play...his mind would go back to the 911 warning.

- Imagine: The earth was down to one last godly family.
 - Living for God can sometimes be a **lonely** experience...this is one of the reasons **church** is important. (*PP Slide*)
 - ✓ It’s a place where I can encourage and be encouraged by godly friends.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) – ²⁴Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

- Blueprint in hand, let the building begin.
 - Use gopherwood – type of cedar, cypress or evergreen tree...wood that was resilient to water.
 - ✓ Ancient people used gopherwood to make their coffins, it was said to be incorruptible.
 - ✓ Interestingly, the dimensions of the ark resembled that of a coffin.
 - ✓ The ark wasn’t built to navigate or for speed but for stability (stay afloat).

 - The ark would have separate rooms...cabin area for the family and section areas (rooms = nests) for the different species of animals.

 - Prior to the days of “Thompson Waterseal” they would waterproof the ark with a tar like substance called pitch.
 - ✓ This was done inside and out to seal any leaks.

 - As for the size of the boat = huge
 - ✓ The question of how long a cubit is gives us a variety of dimensions...most agree to approximately 18 inches.
 - ✓ 450 ft. long, 75 ft. wide, 45 ft. high...equal to a modern day ocean liner.
 - ✓ It had 3 stories and at the top, a window that wrapped around it...

- Probably for ventilation, sky light as well and may have served as a means of gathering water.
 - ✓ The ark had only one door.

- ❖ The ark would serve as the means of salvation for Noah and his family.
 - Note how Noah's project pictures our salvation today:
 - ✓ Noah, the carpenter, produces a "judgment proof vehicle" of salvation. Jesus, the carpenter produces a "judgment proof righteousness" for our salvation today.
 - ✓ The Old Testament word for "pitch" is also the word for "atonement" just as the pitch would keep the waters of judgment out...the blood of Christ protects us from God's wrath upon sin.
 - ✓ The ark had but one door, there is only one way into Heaven...through Christ.
 - ✓ The choice to climb on board is yours but God is the one that closes the door.
 - ✓ The ark provided shelter from the storm but as well within was all that was necessary to sustain life...Christ is our shelter and in Him all our spiritual needs are met.

- ❖ Besides Noah and his family the ark would provide protection for one pair of animals and living creatures.
 - There are less than 18,000 species living on earth today. Let's double that number to allow for any animal now extinct.
 - ✓ Suppose then 36,000 species of 72,000 creatures (2x2) were on the boat.
 - ✓ Volume of space available...1.4 million cubic feet or approximately 522 standard box cars.
 - ✓ A space this size could handle 125,000 sheep. The average size of land animals is less than a sheep.
 - ✓ Less than 60% of the space would have been used, leaving room for a year supply of food.
 - No doubt the large animals (elephants, dinosaurs, giraffes, etc.) would have been babies, or young.
 - The animals may have been in hibernation mode.

- ✓ As to how to get the animals on the boat...Noah wouldn't trap them...God sent them at the appropriate time.

→ What God asks of us, He will help accomplish.

CLOSE: God asked Noah to believe the unbelievable and to do the incredible and he did.

➤ What does God ask of you?

- Have you been made right in His sight through Christ?
- Are you living a godly life in the midst of an ungodly world?
- Are you continuing to walk with God?
- Are you raising your children to know and love Him?
- Noah rescued his family and the animals God sent his way, whom might you rescue? Proclaim the message of salvation...people need to know Jesus saves!

Pastor Ralph Schneck
Message Notes
First Baptist Church of Lexington
February 24, 2013