



LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Life Group Notes – 29th May 2022

Origins: Genesis 7 Saved from the flood

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Genesis 7:1-24 Noah and the flood

7 The LORD then said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. **2** Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, **3** and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. **4** Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.” **5** And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him. **6** Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. **7** And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. **8** Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, **9** male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. **10** And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth. **11** In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. **12** And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. **13** On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. **14** They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. **15** Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. **16** The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in. **17** For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. **18** The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. **19** They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. **20** The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits.^{[a][b]} **21** Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. **22** Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. **23** Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. **24** The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

Comment

Noah was saved by his righteousness so his family survived the flood, and the story of mankind continues. One approach is to see the story of Noah as written in language used to refer to concrete events, but to invest those events in theological significance. In Matt 24:37 Jesus referenced Noah to illustrate a point to his disciples, so be confident that in reading the story of Noah, God wants us to learn from it too.

Through the lens of the New Testament we see the ark is a picture of baptism (1 Peter 3.18).

Noah ‘s family were buried in the ark for a time, then came out to a new way of living.

Today, Baptism demonstrates, and symbolically re-enacts, our spiritual death, burial and our resurrection in Christ and recalls Noah and his family’s deliverance from the flood.

Noah walked with God (Gen 8.9) . Walking implies keeping in step with one another. It describes those who enjoy a relationship of intimacy, fellowship and obedience with the Lord. A life of dedication and devotion. Walking with God gives us assurance of His presence and power in our lives. It leads us to working out His purpose in our lives. God’s desire is for us to walk humbly in relationship with him. (Micah 6.8).

We can see the Seriousness of Sin and judgement finally unleashed. It shows our need for salvation.

God was present with Noah in the Ark, inviting him into His divine safety, ‘Come into the Ark’ (v1), Today Jesus is our Ark, We can only be saved when we enter into relationship through Jesus.

Once inside the Ark, The Lord shut him in (v16). Noah didn’t shut any one out, it is not for us to disqualify anyone from salvation.

The Lord shut him in. The sound of that door closing marks a decisive and fearful point between the patience and mercy and grace of God, and the forewarned judgement. Once the door is shut everybody's fate is sealed. This brings a fresh desperate urgency to do whatever we can to share the good news of Jesus with others.

God executed judgement because people refused to forsake their evil ways. Yet God still showed Grace to those who trusted him.

The warning is about the Seriousness of Sin, anything which is out of alignment of Gods will – it starts off small but grows like yeast to separate us from God.

Because Adam chose sin, Noah was unable to completely escape the power of sin corrupting his heart – there needed to be another better Noah that had the power to overcome sin and death itself. God sent His son Jesus, to finish the work, to fix the problem of sin for good, to build an unshakeable bridge to His presence. When Jesus returns again, there will be no sinful seeds to sprout up again.

Noah believed what he had not yet seen. True faith, being certain of something we don't see.

People of Faith also trust God for His timing, especially when we don't see answers to prayer straight away. Following Jesus requires determination and long enduring obedience, hammering plank upon plank day after day. Enduring Faith walks at God's pace and holds tightly to God's word.

Stepping out in faith may mean we don't know where the next step will land, obedient faith requires trust.

When God tests us he is stretching us for His purposes – success is not just about achieving the goal, but its about becoming the people God has called us to be in the process.

we are tested also in the constancy of our daily choices. Every choice that takes the hard narrow path in the name of Jesus, reflects something of the wonder of God. Obedience is one of the Love Languages of God.

We see God creating spaces where He will dwell with us. First God created the heavens and the earth to walk with us in the garden. Then the Ark was built, where Gods presence blessed Noah's family. Precise instructions were given again, for the Tabernacle, and the place of meeting.

God gave David and Solomon His vision for the temple in Jerusalem.

Now, we are created by God's craftsmanship, - and, by His Holy Spirit, we carry the very presence of God within us. (1 Cor 3:16,17). Our bodies are a temple, a tabernacle, an Ark, a garden of Eden, created to carry and radiate Gods presence. This helps us to live as faithful disciples of our Lord Jesus, our infinite, ultimate Ark.

Questions

1. What do you understand God is saying to us through Genesis 7?
2. What faithful people have modelled persistence for you?
3. How can you grow in relationship with God? How can we nourish a rich deep soul-satisfying closeness in our walk with our Lord?
4. Knowing you always carry God's presence, how might that transform your life?
5. The Ark safely withstood the floods, because it was built according to God's instructions. How can we build lives that hold up during testing times? Where are the leaks or weak spots?
6. In what areas of our lives can we be more open to God's love and grace for all mankind?