

Sermon Outline and Questions

Pastor Dave – Sun 1st Oct - 2023

Back To the Beginning

Message Title – When God Closes a Door

Genesis 6:9-22

Reference made to Christmas fast approaching and us getting out our Christmas trees and decorations, putting the ornaments on the tree.

One ornament being Noah and the Arc.

- Depicted like the unsaved world.
- Cartoon like – childlike images – better placed in a nursery.
- Giving an unrealistic image.

The unsaved world looking at the story of Noah as ridiculous.

- We can let that impact us.
- Undermining our confidence in the bible.

Noah – his interaction and obedience to God.

Previously we read about God giving 120 days and that then he would destroy everything.

A picture of deliverance from judgement for Noah and his family.

- Then Noah found favour with God.

3 Things to pay attention to.

1. The story of Noah is not just a children's story.
 - True history.
 - It is reliable.
2. Noah is an example of faith in action.
3. What happens when the door shuts?

Message Title being – When God Closes a Door.

God Warns Noah

⁹These are the family records of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah fathered three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with wickedness.^[a] ¹²God saw how corrupt the earth was, for every creature had corrupted its way on the earth. ¹³Then God said to Noah, "I have decided to put an end to every creature, for the earth is filled with wickedness because of them; therefore I am going to destroy them along with the earth.

¹⁴"Make yourself an ark of gopher^[b] wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and outside. ¹⁵This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.^[c] ¹⁶You are to make a roof,^[d] finishing the sides of the ark to within eighteen inches^[e] of the roof. You are to put a door in the side of the ark. Make it with lower, middle, and upper decks.

¹⁷"Understand that I am bringing a flood—floodwaters on the earth to destroy every creature under heaven with the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark with your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives. ¹⁹You are also to bring into the ark two of all the living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. ²⁰Two of everything—from the birds according to their kinds, from the livestock according to their kinds, and from the animals that crawl on the ground according to their kinds—will come to you so that you can keep them alive. ²¹Take with you every kind of food that is eaten; gather it as food for you and for them." ²²And Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him.

Listen to how Noah is described here.

- Sounds like a relative that we read about previously.

Genesis Ch 7

An apologetics point of view.

There is a bit more specificity to this.

- A bit more detail.
- You will see this in the wording, in the English language.
- Then the Lord – Lord beginning with a capital – God's name – Jehovah.
- Other sections God – Elohim.

2 different writers at different times – No.

- The God – the redeemer is interacting with Noah – delivering him - redeeming him.

Chapter 6

- Not just a children's story.
- It is history – not a myth or fable.

Reference made to the Epic of Gilgamesh.

We question then, is this a legitimate bible story?

- This is the Word of God – accurate – reliable and true.

Question – Could Noah have built an Arc of this scale – YES.

Dimensions.

- 1.52 million cubic feet!
- The scale of a human being in this being about 18 inches.
- The arc had three levels.
- It was wider than 6 lanes of highway traffic.

Capacity.

- It could hold 522 standard rail cars – 320 truck trailers.

The top deck being the equivalent of 22 International Basketball Courts.

Reference made to Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study by John Woodmorappe

- Noah didn't fit in every species – it was every kind of animal.
- Scripture giving specific categories.

Quote –

For the purpose of identifying the number of animals needed for the Ark, Woodmorappe equates the taxonomic unit of the genus to the 'kind'.

- Man-made category of Genus.
- 16000 individual animals present on the arc.
- Sheep sized animals being able to fit.
- Baby animals brought into the arc.
- Lots of species being small.

Question – Is it then feasible that the arc was able to fit 16000 animals. – Yes, it is.

With the arc being rectangular this made it incredible stable.

People do mention – what about elephants? – what about dinosaurs?

- Again, taking into consideration young animals being taken in and not fully grown adult animals.

With common sense prevailing here and Gods word recording these facts.

Global Flood Legends

Global flood legends are known around the world.

- Common flood stories – relate back to the great flood.
- The Epic of Gilgamesh being one of them.

Reference made to the Miaow Tribes in China

- Like the genesis account.
- These accounts spoken of even before Christian missionaries arrived.
- Interesting flood account similar to the biblical account.
- Adjusted and added to over time.
- But the biblical account being true and accurate.

We can take the biblical account as a true account as reference by Jesus in Matthew 24:38-39.

The truth of scripture being spoken by Jesus – taken as true history.

- Truth and reliability of this passage.

[Matthew 24:38-39 Christian Standard Bible](#)

³⁸ For in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah boarded the ark. ³⁹ They didn't know until the flood came and swept them all away. This is the way the coming of the Son of Man will be.

Jesus – “When I come back it will be like the days of Noah.” – reminiscent of the Genesis flood.

The arc was built of Gopher wood – Hebrew name the same as pitch.

- Translated at times – atone – same word as for Yom Kippur – day of atonement.
- God told Noah to cover the arc in pitch – adding to the legitimacy of it.

Point #2 – Noah is an example of faith in action.

It is clearly told that Noah was a righteous man who walked with God.

Hebrews speaks of things not yet seen.

- Noah believed God and did what he said he had to do.

Noah was a preacher of Righteousness.

- 70 to 120 years.
- Explaining to people while he was doing it – living it out.
- Demonstrating his faith.
- And inviting others along the way.

Noah did everything God commanded him to do.

Noah – “if you are telling me to do this, I will obey and live my life for you”.

[James 2:18 Christian Standard Bible](#)

[18 But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.”^{\[a\]} Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith by my works.](#)

- My works demonstrate my faith.

Genuine saving faith demonstrates...

- Being more and more like Christ.
- More and more obedient.
- To my father.
- The gifts given by God; I will use them for His glory.
- Displaying and bringing about fruit in their lives.
- Genuine saving faith.
- Shown in our life and actions.

Question – Is God our saviour and master? – Do we live out and demonstrate that?

Point #3 – Faith In Action.

Genesis Ch 7 – Jehovah The Redeemer.

- God – “Time for me to deliver you from the destruction to come.
- “Time for me to destroy my creation as Elohim – The Creator God.
- And save Noah as Jehovah Redeemer.

The animals that God put on the arc were male and female – they would not have been able to procreate without male and female - created and ordained by God.

Question – What happens when the door shuts?

We sometimes go to the phrase – “He opens a window”! - No window opening!

- God shuts the door of the arc.

[Genesis 7:14-16 Christian Standard Bible](#)

¹⁴ They entered it with all the wildlife according to their kinds, all livestock according to their kinds, all the creatures that crawl on the earth according to their kinds, every flying creature—all the birds and every winged creature—according to their kinds. ¹⁵ Two of every creature that has the breath of life in it came to Noah and entered the ark. ¹⁶ Those that entered, male and female of every creature, entered just as God had commanded him. Then the LORD shut him in.

Faith In Action.

- They did as they were told – as they were commanded.
- Repented and out of obedience did as God had asked.

Question – As God shut the door what do we see?

We see...

- Security – Noah didn't shut the door – God did.

When the flood came to destroy all things, Noah and his family were secure and protected by God.

God – “I will establish my covenant with you”.

- Noah didn't save himself and his family.
- God saved Noah.
- God kept him and his family alive.

Noah in the arc – In Christ – His grace he richly poured out on us!

[Ephesians 1:13-14 Christian Standard Bible](#)

¹³ In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. ¹⁴ The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

- We are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

- Sealed with the Holy Truth and Promise.
- For those of us who have put our faith and trust in a Holy God, we are sealed in – security.

Ephesians 4:30 Christian Standard Bible

³⁰ And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit. You were sealed by him^[a] for the day of redemption.

- We are not to grieve the Holy Spirit.
- If we are obedient and do as God commands, we will not grieve the Holy Spirit.

It is super important to understand that as someone who has that eternal security, we are to be obedient to God.

If we sin and stray God will use other Christians to come alongside us to bring us back to into a right relationship with him.

- God using Paul to speak to the Corinthian church.

Question – What happens we the door shuts?

- We have security.

People had opportunity to respond to the grace God was offering right up until he shut the door. Then it was too late.

The flood came for 40 days and 40 nights.

God isn't obligated to continually offer the gospel – that justification!

- But their will be a time when that time has passed.

Question asked of those who don't have a personal relationship with God.

- What happens if God shuts the door for you?

When you are wanting to do it your way, rather than God's way.

Question asked of Christians.

We don't know when the opportunity to share the gospel won't come again.

We have to take every opportunity available to us with our family, our friends, our neighbours, work colleges and those that God brings into our path to share the gospel.