

The Ark of Salvation

Let us examine the Word of God and consider a man by the name of Noah. God dealt with Noah in a very particular manner and recorded this for the benefit of all.

(1 Pet 3:20-21) *Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. {21} The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:*

Here we have a very plain and straight-forward passage teaching us that God *saved* Noah from the flood. In Genesis 6:8, we read that Noah found grace in the eyes of God. We read later in Genesis that God told Noah to build the ark which would protect him and his family from the flood. So from this we learn that a man (Noah) found grace in the eyes of God *then* God gave him a work to do which protected him from the destructive elements of the flood. Consider how this harmonizes with the next verse.

(2 Pet 2:5) *And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;*

Relating this verse to those already considered, we learn more details about Noah before he entered the ark. We first learn that Noah had found grace in the eyes of God, Gen. 6:8. Then we learn that Noah served God by building the ark, Gen. 6:13-22. Now we also discover that Noah was a preacher of righteousness, 2 Pet 2:5. If nothing else was learned by these points, it should be clear that Noah was already a child of God before he even built the ark because he had found grace in the eyes of God and was a preacher of righteousness. Noah was a born again person before he was saved by the

Ark. This means the salvation referred to in 1 Pet. 3:20-21 deals strictly with physical deliverance.

By these verses, it is plain that the flood destroyed the ungodly. Where was safety found? Can we not see that the ark provided safety, or salvation, for Noah and his family? If we would take a sober moment and carefully consider the ark in relationship to the flood, we would note that the ark floated on top of the water and was never immersed during the flood. If the ark was never immersed, then neither were the occupants of the ark immersed. Neither immersion nor water saved Noah. God provided salvation for Noah and his family when He provided the ark. The Ark is a type or figure of God's provision for man when He provided Christ. Man cannot save himself, so God has provided Christ to be the Savior of all men. Let's be careful to rightly divide the Word of truth.