

# God Shut the Door

Genesis 6 begins the story of Noah.

The earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence... Then God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth. Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with rooms, and shall cover it inside and out with pitch...

Behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female...

Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did.

Other passages let us know that this did not happen overnight. One way of looking at Genesis 6:3

suggests that it took Noah 120 years to build the ark. And 2 Peter 2:4-9 calls Noah a “preacher of righteousness,” which suggests that during the construction process Noah was trying to warn the world about the judgment that was on the horizon.

A warning was certainly in order. Hebrews 11:7 says,

By faith, Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

“Things not yet seen...?” I might be speculating too much, but Genesis 1:6-8 says that God created an expanse called heaven (which probably means the sky) and used it to separate the waters below from the waters above. Then God gathered together the waters below so that the dry land could appear. Genesis 2:5-6 says “God had not yet sent rain upon the earth . . . but a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.” Perhaps in Noah’s day it had never rained! Thus, precipitation from the sky was something “not yet seen.” Maybe that’s why a rainbow—a phenomenon of many normal rainshowers—became the new symbol of God’s patience.

In any case, when the judgment finally came in Genesis 7:11, it was a gullywasher. “All the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened, and the rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.” Water began falling to earth by the trillions

of gallons, as the “waters above” the earth showered down as rain. At the same time, water welled up from the ground, like broken off sprinkler heads. That’s how I imagine the cataclysm—great areas in the middle of the oceans roiling and pitching with the force of the water jetting up from beneath, with the shoreline creeping steadily upward.

I also imagine the kind of scoffing Noah endured. The hulking mass taking shape in Noah’s backyard made people wonder, then laugh. Probably much the same way that people scoff at Christians today, who warn of a great judgment coming soon. As 2 Peter 3:3-7 says,

Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.” For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

Call us kooks if you like, but we believe God, and we are getting ready. We have learned from the example of Noah. We do not want to be caught unawares as they were. God warns in Matthew 24:37–39,

But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.

We can’t necessarily envision exactly what it’s going to be like. The earth has never experienced it before. The earth swept with fire, the elements melting with heat, are “things not yet seen.” But God promises it will happen, and we want to escape this wrath.

And so when God points out the vehicle of salvation, we want to get ourselves and our families on board, and invite as many people as possible to climb on board too. There’s plenty of room. Is there a shelter from the coming storm? There certainly is. Peter compares Noah’s day to ours in 1 Peter 3:20-21,

...when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you,—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Believe in God’s word. Trust in His provision for you to escape sin’s judgment through the blood of His Son. Believing, be baptized into his name. For baptism saves you as surely as the ark

saved Noah. And God will add you to the church, and you can climb aboard our secure life raft, too.

Because when that day comes, it will be too late to change your mind. Here's one more parallel from Noah's day. Genesis 7:11-16 says,

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day, all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights. On the very same day, Noah and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark, they and every beast after its kind ... went into the ark to Noah ... Those that entered ... entered as God had commanded him; and the Lord closed it behind him.

Noah didn't close the door; God did! Today, Christians are coming to Christ one at a time, and getting on board the ark of salvation. The signs of judgment are creeping up all around us. The ark is slowly filling up, but the door remains open. And as long as the door is open, the opportunity for salvation for you and your family exists. We want to share the room with you. But one day soon, God Himself will slam the door. And when that happens, no amount of pounding will cause the door to open (Luke 13:25-27). It will be forever too late.