## **Readings:**

Genesis 6:13-16, 19-21

### **Introduction**

The distorted perception of God and His love:

- a) Those who want to act contrary to the God of judgment and recompense will often repeat the truth: "God is love" (1 Jn. 4:8, 16). However, in their ignorance they fail to proclaim two other balancing truths:
  - i) "God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all" (1 Jn. 1:5)
  - ii) That before God is ever spoken of as "love", He is "light", that is, His love is in full parallel with His own character.
- b) There is also ignored their own moral judgment for when someone breaks the law of the land corresponding consequences are expected.
  - i) Is the sovereign Ruler and Governor of the universe to be denied the same rights?
  - ii) When man rebels against God there are severe consequences:
    - 1. In the past, i.e. the flood (Gen. 7:10-12; 17-23); Babel (Gen. 11:1-9)
    - 2. In the present (Rom. 1:21-31)
    - 3. In the future (Psa. 9:17; 2 Thess. 1:8)
- c) Thank God He is merciful and provided a righteous way of deliverance from His judgment, consider the Ark.

# The Way of Deliverance By God - An Ark - The Provision

The longsuffering of God:

- a) The first indication of judgment came from Enoch who gave the warning.
  - i) "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." (Jude 1:14-15)
  - ii) The warning was solemnized by the name Enoch gave to his son, "Methuselah" (Gen. 5:21), which meant: "When he dies it shall come to pass", that is the judgment from God.
  - iii) The warning was solomized by the uncertainty of when Methuselah would die, in other words, it could happen at anytime.
- b) The next major warning came approximately 800 years later when Noah began to preach of the coming judgment. He was a preacher of righteousness. (2 Pet. 2:5)
  - i) He took God at his word, judgment is coming.
  - ii) The fact it had not rained, never mind having a flood had happened before was irrelevant, God had spoken.
  - iii) Noah preached! Normally it is said he preached for 120 years but the scriptures no where say that. However, we do know it was long enough for men to hear and be reminded of approaching judgment so that none were without excuse.
- c) Another warning came when the news of the coming judgment became a reality in that Noah built an ark!
  - i) The dimensions of the ark were all from God (Gen. 6:15), and it was big enough for all who wished to enter it. It indicates the vastness of God's salvation, yet the ark had limitations!
  - ii) The vastness of God's salvation:
    - 1. It is sufficient for the sins of those who believed God but lived in the ages past (Rom. 3:25); of the present (1 Jn. 1:5); and the future (Rev. 7:14).
    - 2. It can cleanse from every sin. (1 Jn. 1:7)
    - 3. It is for the whosoever. (Jn. 3:16)

- iii) It is limited to:
  - 1. Those who are alive, for there is no change of places after death. (Lk. 16:26)
  - 2. Those who will obey the command of God. (Acts 17:30)
  - 3. Those who will believe. (Jn. 3:18)
- iv) It was exclusive:
  - 1. There was no other way to escape the judgment except by the provision of God, the ark!
  - 2. There was only one door. (Jn. 10:7, 9)
  - 3. Nothing on earth could help, neither the highest mountains, lifestyle, or education. (Gen. 7:20)
  - 4. There was only one way of salvation. (Gen. 6:13-14)
  - 5. There is only one person in whom we can depend for salvation Jesus. (Jn. 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5)
  - 6. There is only one work on which we can depend for salvation the substitutionary sufferings of Christ. (Eph. 2:16; Col.1:20)

### The Messenger

Noah believed God, there was a coming judgment, and it would be in his lifetime.

- a) In this there are two very solemn truths for the child of God:
  - i) How strong is our conviction that for the unsaved there is a coming judgment?
  - ii) How strong is our conviction that for many of those we know, they will enter that judgment while we are still on the earth?
- b) There is a solemn question for the sinner:
  - i) Do I really believe that as I sit here I am already under the condemnation of God?
  - ii) If I really believed, that I would run with all haste for salvation.
  - iii) If I really believed it, I would run to Christ to be saved.

#### **The Responsibility**

- 1) A decision will be made, "Will I enter the place of security and safety, or reject the command and offer of God for eternal salvation"?
- 2) As the question was put by Pilate, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" (Matt. 27:22)

### May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth. John 16:13

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