

The Ark And The Church

Intro: We learn great principles from the Old Testament; Rom. 15:4 ⁴⁴“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” The New Testament references the account of Noah and the ark several times. In this lesson, I would like to draw some comparisons between the ark and the church (type/antitype relationships).

I. ONLY ONE BUILT

A. Noah only built one ark.

1. Gen. 6:14 ¹⁴“Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.”
2. Gen. 7:1 ¹“And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.”

B. Christ built only one church.

1. Mat. 16:18 ¹⁸“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
2. Eph 4:4 ⁴“*There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;”
 - a. That one body is the church.
 - b. Eph. 1:22-23 ²²“And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, ²³Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”

C. Denominationalism is sinful.

1. What if another person built a similar ark to Noah’s?
 - a. They built it to a different set of standards: maybe varied the type of wood, or the sealant, or the size, etc.?
 - b. That ark would not have survived and those on it would have died.
2. 1 Cor. 1:10 ¹⁰“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”
3. Jesus prayed for unity; John 17:21 ²¹“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”

II. ONLY ONE WAY

A. Noah was instructed to include a door.

1. There was to be only one.
2. Gen. 6:16 ¹⁶“A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; *with* lower, second, and third *stories* shalt thou make it.”
3. There was no other way into the ark.

B. Jesus is the only way.

1. He is the door; John 10:9 ⁹“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”
2. John 14:6 ⁶“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

C. Only one way into Christ’s church.

1. John 3:3, 5 ³“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁵“Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can

he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

- a. Notice *except* indicating there is no other way.
 - b. Through the word of God instilling in us life.
 - c. We are baptized in water.
2. In the act of baptism, we enter the church.
 - a. Acts 2:38, 40-41, 47 ³⁸Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ³⁹For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. ⁴⁰And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. ⁴¹Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.... ⁴⁷Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."
 - b. 1 Cor. 12:13 ¹³For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

III. LIGHT SOURCE

A. Noah.

1. There was to be one window.
2. Gen. 6:16 ¹⁶A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; *with* lower, second, and third *stories* shalt thou make it."
3. Gen. 8:6 ⁶And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made:"

B. Jesus is the light.

1. John 1:4 ⁴In him was life; and the life was the light of men."
2. John 8:12 ¹²Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

C. The Gospel of Christ is the one source of light for His church.

1. The light of Christ is in His Word; John 12:48 ⁴⁸He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."
2. 2 Cor. 4:3-6 ³But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: ⁴In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. ⁵For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."
3. 1 Tim. 1:11 ¹¹According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust."

D. Thus, the Gospel is God's power to save.

1. Rom. 1:16 ¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
2. Jam. 1:21 ²¹Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."
3. Heb. 4:12 ¹²For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

E. We must allow the light of the Gospel to shine.

1. By what we say:
 - a. 1 Pet. 4:11 ¹¹ "If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."
 - b. 2 Tim. 4:2 ² "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."
 - c. Paul was free from the blood of all men because he preached the whole council of God; Acts 20:20, 27 ²⁰ "And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,..." ²⁷ "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."
2. Not only by what we say, but how we act.
 - a. 1 Pet. 2:9 ⁹ "But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"
 - b. Mat. 5:13-16 ¹³ "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. ¹⁴ "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ "Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. ¹⁶ "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
 - c. Eph. 5:8-11 ⁸ "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light: ⁹ (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) ¹⁰ "Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. ¹¹ "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*."
 - d. Phi. 2:15-16 ¹⁵ "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; ¹⁶ "Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."

IV. FAMILY

A. Noah was the only family in the ark.

1. Gen. 7:1 ¹ "And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation."
2. 1 Pet. 3:20 ²⁰ "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."

B. We are born into the family of God.

1. 1 Tim. 3:15 ¹⁵ "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."
2. We enter that family through the new birth
 - a. John 3:3, 5 ³ "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴ "Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵ "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."
 - b. 1 Pet. 1:22-23 ²² "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently: ²³ "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

3. So, we are children of God.
 - a. Gal. 3:26-27 ²⁶For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
 - (1) Notice this in relation to the new birth.
 - (2) We are children of God by the faith or the word of God.
 - (a) 1 Cor. 4:15 ¹⁵For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *have ye* not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel."
 - (b) Jam. 1:18 ¹⁸Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."
 - (3) That new birth process takes place when we are baptized into Christ.
 - (a) Tit. 3:5 ⁵Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"
 - (b) Eph. 5:26 ²⁶That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word"
 - b. Rom. 8:14, 17 ¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ¹⁵For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together."

V. ALL NEEDS PROVIDED

A. Noah

1. They spent over a year in the ark.
2. While in the ark, God took care of them (even with the storms of life outside the ark).
3. When they came forth from the ark, a new world to live in; Gen. 8:15-19 ¹⁵And God spake unto Noah, saying, ¹⁶Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. ¹⁷Bring forth with thee every living thing that *is* with thee, of all flesh, *both* of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth. ¹⁸And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him: ¹⁹Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, *and* whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark."

B. God provides for us in Christ and His church.

1. Eph. 1:3 ³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:"
2. 1 Tim. 4:8 ⁸For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."
3. He has given us what we need to live successfully in this life.
 - a. Purpose in life
 - (1) 1 Cor. 6:20 ²⁰For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."
 - (2) Phi. 1:20-21 ²⁰According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, *so* now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death. ²¹For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain."
 - b. Fellowship with God; 1 John 1:5-7 ⁵This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."
 - c. Joy; Phi. 4:4 ⁴Rejoice in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, Rejoice."

- d. Peace; John 14:27 ²⁷ Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”
 - e. Security; Phi. 4:19 ¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
 - f. Protection;
 - (1) Song: “God will take care of you”
 - (2) Rom. 8:28 ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”
 - (3) 1 Cor. 10:13 ¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”
 - (4) The storms of life will come, but God will give us the strength to endure them; Psa. 46:1 ¹ God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.”
 - g. Hope; Heb. 6:18-19 ¹⁸ That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: ¹⁹ Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;”
4. He has given us everything we need to attain heaven.
- a. 2 Pet. 1:3-4, 11 ³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. ⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. ¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: ¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”
 - b. John 20:31 ³¹ But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”
 - c. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 ¹⁶ All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”
 - d. Rev. 14:13 ¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

VI. ONE DANGER

A. If you miss the ark, you die in the flood.

B. Missing Christ and the church means disaster for us.

- 1. 1 Tim. 4:8 ⁸ For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”
- 2. In this life; missing all the blessings found in Christ.
- 3. In the afterlife.
 - a. Eternal punishment.
 - b. 2 The. 1:7-9 ⁷ And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, ⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

- c. Mat. 25:30, 46 ⁴³⁰ And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.... ⁴⁶ And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

Conclusion: Noah was saved by water while in the ark. If we obey the Gospel of Christ and are added to the church, we will be saved today.