

The Noah Question

Sometime about 4000 years ago God told a man named Noah to build an ark. The earth had become so full of sin that God was going to destroy all the people, except Noah's family.

Noah did, and God did. The world started over.

People have travelled all over the world to try and discover where the ark landed. They have it narrowed down to somewhere in the Middle East. Year after year people go and maybe find something, or say it can't be accessed because of local government restrictions.

So what if God did that again? We know he said he would not destroy the earth with a flood again, but what if a nuclear holocaust or a collision with a planet happened? What if the atmosphere was cracked open and there was going to be no more oxygen.

Unless a certain number of people were ready. Unless a few really believed and walked with God.

This opens up a number of interesting questions.

If we knew the earth was going to end in six months, how would our lives change? Would we walk closer with God? Would we get to know the one with the "escape mechanism," be it a huge boat, airplane, or secure facility?

Where would that escape mechanism be? It's the church. It's right there on the corner, and, just like most people of Noah's day, they passed right on by. Making fun of the builder, going on with their lives, they pass by.

Could it be that obvious? Could it be that simple? Could spending more time in church really save us? Yes, if we are walking with God, there is nothing to fear. And if we really walk with God, we will want to be with others who walk with God.

With all of the activity which fills our lives, what is most important? Family? Life itself? Eternity? Fun? Money? Possessions? Power?

Most Christians know, at least in the back of their minds, about the end of the world, when Jesus comes back at the end of time. But if we lived as if it might happen today, we would find a lot more love, understanding, and less violence in our world.

“Just as it was in the days of Noah,” Jesus points out, “so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man.” People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

“It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot’s wife! “Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it. I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.” ~ Mark 13, selected verses.

Just as it was in the days of Noah, Jesus says. The sin. The darkness. The misplaced priorities.

And the promise of salvation. The promise that God will save us from ourselves, and our limited, temporal way of daily destroying ourselves and others.

So let’s get this straight now. God is coming back to see how we are doing. Jesus returns to judge the faithful and the faithless, and it doesn’t go well for those who do not believe.

Is there still a choice? Is there a way forward? Yes, and it doesn’t have to wait until the world ends. It can start now. It comes in looking now to the cross, the place where God in Christ worked the miracle of the salvation of our souls.

Noah’s Ark Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah’s Ark...

ONE: Don’t miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

THREE: Plan ahead. It wasn’t raining when Noah built the Ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When you’re 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

FIVE: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

SIX: Build your future on high ground.

SEVEN: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

EIGHT: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

NINE: When you're stressed, float awhile.

TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

ELEVEN: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

TWELVE: When Jesus says follow me, look for the big boat behind him. It will look exactly like a cross.

The Noah question, put quite simply: Will we be in it or out?