

Prepared for Judgement by Grace

Genesis 6:9-22

Halifax: 30 November 2014

Introduction-

Last week in our Genesis sermon series,

- we came to chapter 6 where we are given an account of the great flood that occurred in the days of Noah.

We looked at verses 1-8 and saw that the world was ripe for judgement.

- God says expressly that **the wickedness of man was great in the earth** and that **every intent of the thoughts of his heart** (creative formation of his heart) **was only evil continually**.
 - This reminds us that as fallen men and women, our hearts are like busy factories churning out all kinds of evil.
 - In response to this, the LORD God purposed that He would **destroy** man—
 - or more literally wipe him off the face of the earth as one would wash a dirty dish or as woman would wash her baby when it has had a dirty diaper.
- Man's wickedness had become so great that God was sorry and grieved that He had made him...
 - Not that God did not have a plan all along—but that He shows His response to our wickedness which began at the fall and rises to great heights unless He restrains it.
- Yet, we also found that there was some encouragement,
 - first in that He referred to man as “man whom I have created,” remembering what we were like before we corrupted our way...
 - and even more in that we are told,
 - **“but Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”**
 - That meant that the man Noah would be treated differently than the rest of the world when God's judgement came.
 - He would not be destroyed with the rest of the world!
 - It is in the preservation of this one man that the entire human race was able to go on!
 - Not a one of us would be here if Noah had not found grace in the eyes of the Lord!

Today, we find that the narrative of Genesis 6 goes on to show us how it was that Noah was preserved by this grace.

- More specifically, it shows us how God's grace enabled him to prepare for the coming judgement of the great flood so that he and his family did not perish with the rest of the world.
- This is very helpful for us in two ways...
 - First, in that it gives us reason to be grateful God when we see how He saved our father Noah and so all of us at that time...

- Second, in that it shows us how God works in His people to prepare them for judgement so that we might make sure that we are prepared.

The portion we are looking at begins in Gen 6:9 and continues to the end of the chapter.

- Please give attention as I now read it to you—beginning in Genesis 6:9:

Genesis 6:9-22: This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰ And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹ The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³ And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴ Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. ¹⁵ And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. ¹⁶ You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall

make it *with* lower, second, and third *decks*. ¹⁷ And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which *is* the breath of life; everything that *is* on the earth shall die. ¹⁸ But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁹ And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every *sort* into the ark, to keep *them* alive with you; they shall be male and female. ²⁰ Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every *kind* will come to you to keep *them* alive. ²¹ And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather *it* to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.” ²² Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

And there we end the reading of God’s word.

- May He bless us now as we consider what He has seen fit to record for us here.

You see that the main concern here has to do with preparing Noah for the flood so that he might not perish in it when the Lord sends it to destroy the earth.

- God preserving a people from His judgement is a constant theme in scripture.
- He always has a people that He preserves for Himself—a people to whom He reveals the way of salvation—and a people who embrace that deliverance.
 - There is deliverance of Abraham from idolatry after the rebellion at Babel.
 - There is deliverance of Israel from Egypt to be God’s people.
 - Over and over, after they are established, there is the deliverance of a remnant within Israel when most of them have corrupted their way.
 - When Christ comes to the earth, there is a remnant from Israel that believes and that receives God’s salvation...
 - And so the pattern has gone on through the ages of church history ever since.

It is very important for you to know about God’s way of deliverance that you might be prepared when His judgement falls!

- The great day of judgement is yet to come—but it will come—and it will be worse than the flood of Noah’s day.

- We saw in our New Testament reading that Peter describes it as a judgement by fire that will destroy the earth and its inhabitants and bring forth a new, purified earth.
- As God showed Noah how to prepare for survival in the flood, so He shows His people today how to prepare for survival the final judgement.
 - And don't think that you will escape this judgement if you die before it comes!
 - Jesus is going to call all people who have ever lived out of their graves in that day, and we will all be judged...
 - Those who are in Christ will be spared, but the rest of mankind will be cast into the Lake of Fire to be tormented forever.
 - It is so important for you to be prepared for that judgement...
 - So let's see what we can learn about preparation from our text today about Noah—that we might all be ready when God's judgement comes.

TRANS> The first thing I want you to see is what we might call “pre-preparation.”

I. God graciously pre-prepares His people for deliverance from His judgement.

A. I am calling it “pre-preparation” because it has to do with God working in us so that we will listen and obey when He tells us what to do to prepare.

1. You see, ever since the fall of mankind in the garden, we don't listen to God—we don't really take what He says to heart.
 - In fact, many people are so hardened that they don't even believe that God exists!
 - We always like to have a good time and threat of coming judgement spoils all the fun...
 - so we prefer not to hear about such things.
 - That is why people get so angry when you are following the Lord and they are not, and why they don't want to hear about the Lord...
 - Sometimes they have come up with ways to shield themselves when you talk about it and they can be cordial about it...
 - But some people are very hostile and disturbed when they see that you are a believer—and all the more when you speak of salvation.
 - They don't want to think about salvation because salvation means that there is something they need to be saved from...
 - And they are trying to forget about that.
2. And so you see that it is necessary for us to be pre-prepared if we are to listen to God when He threatens us with judgement and calls us to prepare.
 - God has to do something radical in us so that we will be among those who hear His voice when He speaks to us.
 - If He doesn't do anything, we will never be saved because we will never listen to His word that tells us how to prepare.

B. In our text, we are shown that Noah was pre-prepared.

- Look at how he is described in verse 9:

- **Gen 6:9: This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.**
1. His character is set in stark contrast to the rest of mankind
 - Verse 11-12 tells us what they were like...
 - **Gen 6:11-12: The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.**
 - Notice that the word *corrupt* is used three times in these two verses to describe the situation...
 - The earth is said to be corrupt because all flesh—meaning all people—had corrupted their way on the earth.
 - God made us in His image and we were meant to live beautiful lives reflecting His image—we were to love Him and to love each other.
 - but we all become corrupt through the fall so that we are dead in our trespasses and sins...
 - Now the earth is filled with violence instead of love...
 - And Gordon Wenham says, “*Violence* is a general term that includes every form of antisocial and unneighbourly activity. Very often it involves brute force, but it may also be the exploitation of the weak by the powerful, or of the poor by the rich, or of the naïve by the clever.”
 - As we saw last week, it is completely unlike what God created it to be and He is going to wipe the corruption (man) off the earth like filth.
 - Of course people rise up against such statements!
 - Nobody wants to admit that we are like filth before God.
 2. But you see that Noah is very different from the rest of mankind!
 - a. He is described as a just man—which speaks especially of how he treats others—he does what is right to them...
 - b. And it says that he is perfect in all his generations—this does not mean that he is without sin, but that his heart is for God—
 - In other words, he is reconciled to God—He is no longer in rebellion against God, but is a man who wants to please God and whose aim it is to please God.
 - Of course he comes short, but it is at least what he aims to do.
 - c. And because that is so, he walks with God...
 - He lives before the face of God, relying on Him, trusting Him, seeking to obey Him, listening to His word and seeking to discern His will.
 - He does that instead of walking in the ways of the world—instead of walking according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air.
 - You might say that walking with God is living before the face of God instead of ignoring Him and seeing only what He created.
 3. And this, my friends, shows us how God has pre-prepared Noah!

- He has delivered him from the corruption that characterises the rest of mankind.
 - This is what we call regeneration or the new birth or the circumcision of the heart or the washing and cleansing of the Holy Spirit or the writing of God's law in our heart.
 - It completely changes a man so that he, like Noah, is just, perfect in his generation, and one who walks with God.
 - So that he lives in communion with God as God really is and not in some idolatrous version of God that he makes up in his head.
 - He hears God's word and he takes it to heart—he believes it and he acts upon it—he does not disregard it.
- C. And you see, it is in this way that the LORD prepares a person to hear Him when He speaks of coming judgement.
- He takes it to heart! He does not just dismiss it! He has ears to hear.
1. But let me clarify something about this pre-preparation....
 - I don't want you to be confused and think that it has to happen way before a person hears about God's judgement.
 - Many times, the announcement of God's judgement is the very thing that opens a person's eyes so that they begin to walk with God at that point.
 - You don't have to be prepared way beforehand like Noah was—
 - I don't want anyone to think that you have to have so many years of pre-preparation before you will believe God's announcement of judgement.
 - God can pre-prepare you to receive it as you are hearing it.
- But now I have an important question for each one of you.
2. Are you prepared to hear and receive God's word?
 - Is there within you a heart that believes all that God says, even about judgement, when you hear it?
 - As I said before, the perishing world does not like to hear about this.
 - Some of them are very religious, but judgement spoils the way they like to think about God so they are not ready to hear about it.
 - I am sure there were plenty of religious people in Noah's day, but they were not truly walking with God and they did not listen.
 - So what about you?
 - Do you have a heart that is ready to hear and accept all that God says in His word?
 - Or do you like to pick and choose as if God's word was like a buffet line where you just pick what you want?
 - If that is so, you need the new heart I was telling you about—
 - you need to be born of God's Spirit, to have your heart washed of its corruption and rebellion so that you will hear and receive what God says.

TRANS> And that brings us to the next thing I want you to see about God preparing us for judgement...

II. God graciously instructs His people to prepare them for judgement.

A. First, He tells them that the judgement is coming to prepare them for it.

1. You tell your friends what you are going to do...and God does this with those who walk with Him...

a. Jesus speaks of this in John 15:15 when He says to His disciples:

- **Joh 15:15** “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

- He is letting them in on His plans...

- He wants them to know what He is doing so that they will be ready.

- How often He told them about the coming judgement upon Jerusalem in 70 AD!

- And how often He told them about the final judgement at the end of the world!

b. In the same way, when the Lord was planning to destroy Sodom, He said, in Genesis 18:17, “**Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing...**”

- Abraham was the friend of God, so God tells him His plans.

c. In Psalm 25:14, it says,

- **Psalm 25:14: The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.**

- This does not mean that God comes and speaks to you with an audible voice, but it means that if you are His friend,

- He causes you to hear and believe His word while to others it doesn't register.

- Do you know and believe what God has said about the coming judgement at the last day?

2. See in our text how God tells Noah of the coming destruction in his day.

a. Noah was walking with the LORD and so He tells him what He is about to do so Noah can prepare...

- Look at verse 13:

- **Gen 6:13: And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.”**

- He does not mention the way it will be destroyed in verse 13, but He explains that in verse 17 which is more explicit:

- **Gen 6:17: “And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die.”**

- b. The language here is very powerful. There are a couple of things to note.
- 1) First, that God emphasises that He Himself “I myself” is bringing floodwaters on the earth.
 - It is not that a big storm is blowing up and God is helping Noah prepare for it—it is that God is sending a storm!
 - This is in contrast with the way the gods are described in the accounts given by idolaters in the ancient world.
 - You know, the flood is attested to by ancient peoples from all over the world—but many of them are idolaters...
 - For them, the gods conjure up a storm, but then it gets a bit out of control and they are afraid of it.
 - The true God who sent this storm has His way in the storm.
 - He is the one who sends it as judgement!
 - 2) Secondly, He speaks of how everything will be destroyed—all flesh which has the breath of life and that is on the earth.
 - a) Last week we saw something quite similar to that where God said He would *destroy* them—using the word that meant wipe them off...
 - But here the word *destroy* is different.
 - Here, He uses the same word that is translated *corrupt* three times in verses 11-12...
 - If you want a word that can be used in both places, the word *ruin* will work...
 - Then we can see clearly the word play—that because the earth is *ruined* and because man has *ruined* his way, God is going to *ruin* them along with the earth...
 - It is the principle of *lex talionis*—an eye for an eye and a tooth for tooth...
 - They ruined the earth and ruined themselves so now God is going to ruin them.
 - b) He again mentions here that the earth is filled with violence.
 - It is ruined because it is filled with violence instead of love, so God is going to ruin it.
 - Think about that the next time you are speaking harsh words, the next time you are being selfish, the next time you are gossiping about your neighbour...
 - You are ruining the earth that God made!
 - c) Once again, I should mention the contrast here with the idolatrous nations’ accounts of the flood in this...
 - In these accounts, the gods, after a lot of debate, more or less agreed to destroy the world, but their reason is quite different.
 - For them, it is because man bothering them by being too noisy.
 - It was not because of sin, but because of the noise.

TRANS> So you see that God informs Noah of this great destruction that He is sending!

- He lets His people know about coming judgement and they hear Him.
- But then He tells them of something else—something very important.

B. He tells His people how to prepare for the coming devastation.

1. In verse 14-16, He tells Noah exactly what to do that he may escape judgement.

a. First, He says:

- **Gen 6:14: Make yourself an ark of gopherwood...and cover it with pitch**
 - No one knows what is meant by gopherwood—some say it is cypress and some say it is squared timbers, but these are only guesses...
 - The pitch was used, of course, to make it watertight.
 - The word **ark** refers to a chest, and that is really what it was—not a ship for transporting things, but a chest for the purpose of providing shelter and orderly existence.

b. The orderly part is seen next...where Noah is told to **make rooms in the ark.**

- and also in verse 16 where he is told to make three levels.
- Obviously, it would need to be well organised to accommodate all the animals.
 - Down in verse 19-20, the LORD tells him to bring pairs of all the birds and land animals and creeping things to keep them alive—and to provide food for them all.

c. And in verse 15, the Lord also tells Noah how large to make it...He says:

- **Gen 6:15: And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.**
- This was a huge vessel—a cubit is 18 inches so we are talking about a vessel that is 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high!
- A typical high school gym is about 100 by 60 from wall to wall, so we are looking at more than four of these end to end.
 - Extensive studies have been done to prove that such a vessel could contain all the various kinds of animals and food for them—
 - including dinosaurs which we have good reason to believe were still roaming the earth at this time.
 - Remember, of course, that only one of what the Bible calls kinds of each pair of animals was required, so you only had to have one pair of dogs, for example.
 - All the variety we have today is due to natural selection of the pair that was on the ark.
 - The same would be true of horses and cats—and people—the races all came forth from Noah and his wife.
 - Also, there was no reason to take full size specimens, the animals could be taken in their youth.

- and food supplies might have been reduced if some of the animals went into hibernation on the ark.
 - Studies have also shown that a vessel with these dimensions would have been very sea worthy.
 - We need not question this, for we know that it was successful and of course the Lord kept the vessel from crashing into things, but these studies are helpful to answer skeptics.
 - d. Finally, Noah is told in verse 16 to put a window the ark, probably all the way around the top for ventilation, and to put a door in the side for entry.
- So you see how Noah was told how to build this boat.
- This is, of course, just a summary of what he was told.
 - There are many details we do not know, nor do we need to know, but the LORD certainly gave Noah all the instruction that was needed.
 - The most important thing is that the LORD told Noah what do to escape the coming judgement!
2. The Lord has also told us what to do to escape coming judgement.
- In His word we are instructed about how we may escape His wrath and curse that is coming on account of our sin at the last day...
 - And as our catechism summarizes it in Q. 85, the scriptures tell us...
 - To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.
 - Faith in Jesus Christ! You must rely on what He has done in offering Himself as a sacrifice for the remission of our sins.
 - If you do not believe in Him, you will perish.
 - God has told you so—you will be in the flood without an ark.
 - Jesus is God’s only provision for the forgiveness of sins just as the ark was God’s only provision for safety in the flood
 - Repentance unto life: that is, you must turn from your sins to follow the Lord Jesus and to do God’s will.
 - You cannot be saved if you want to continue in your sin.
 - Sure, you will stumble and fall into sin, but you must not make peace with sin or continue to live in it.
 - You are to turn against it and continue to fight against it as one living to Jesus and keeping His commandments.
 - The diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption: That is, you must continue in God’s word and in prayer as well in the sacraments.

- Jesus says that those who are truly His disciples continue in His word, and true believers will also cry out to God to keep them and to forgive them and to guide them.

TRANS> It was so good of the Lord to not only tell us of His coming judgement, but also to tell us what to do to escape it!

C. It is very foolish to hear what we must do and then not follow through.

1. How can you escape if you neglect so great a salvation that has been revealed to you by God?
 - You are a fool to have these instructions from God about how to escape His judgement and not follow them!
 - The flood makes it clear to us that God does not mess around with empty threats!
 - He does not hesitate to destroy the great majority of the world's population if they reject His salvation.
 - Only eight people got on the ark and all the rest perished.
 - How can you escape if you neglect the salvation that He has provided?
 2. If you peek ahead you can see that Noah did do all that God commanded him to prepare...it says...
 - **Gen 6:22: Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.**
 - Do you see how it repeats it—*Thus Noah did it all—so he did...*
 - That is how he made his escape sure—he did what God told him to do to escape and so he escaped,
 - and so will you if you repent and believe on Jesus and continue in the means of grace by which the Lord ministers His grace to you.
- But we need to face the reality here...it is not easy to obey...
3. It is very difficult to do what God has appointed to escape judgement.
 - a. Think of what a mammoth task it was that was given to Noah!
 - Think of all the trees he had to cut down—all the wood to mill—all the joints to make—all the pitch to prepare and apply—all the food to lay up—all the tools that had to be made and maintained—and all this while he was providing for his regular needs.
 - Day after day perhaps for over 100 years—maybe the 120 years that is mentioned in verse 3...he had to keep on believing and keep on labouring.
 - Besides that, think of the opposition he had to face from his neighbours
 - the ridicule from the violent ungodly world that would have no sympathy for what he was doing—perhaps there were objections to his cutting down all the trees—using up all the timber!
 - But most of all, you can be sure that they are like guilty men always are when there is a man among them serving the Lord.

- That man is a constant annoyance to them because he is a constant reminder of what they are desperately trying to forget.
 - Noah had to endure all this to carry out God's calling—day after day after day after day.
- b. And my brothers and sisters, what you are called to do to escape God's judgement is also not easy!
- Jesus tells us that the way is hard that there are few that find it.
 - We must deny ourselves and take up our cross to follow Him.
 - We must endure ridicule from the world too.
 - Jesus never said that it would be easy and neither did His apostles.
 - Only false evangelists claim that it is easy.
 - It is not that we have to merit salvation by our works...
 - That would be impossible
 - Jesus has fulfilled the righteous requirements of the law...
 - Jesus has done what is required to atone for our sins...
 - But we must come to Him and hold to Him.
 - We must repent and we must believe and we must continue to the end or we will not be saved...
 - As Calvin pointed out when preaching on this passage, there are many who endure for ten years and then they quit!
 - You know how in Moses day, it was only Joshua and Caleb who were ready to go in to the promised land when God told them to.
 - You know what Judas did and you know how we are told of Demas who forsook Paul, having loved the present world.
 - Jesus continually warned about the difficulty of discipleship.
 - In the parable of the sower, he speaks of those who quit—
 - one because of persecution (the stony ground) and
 - another because of love for the world (the thorny ground)...
 - Today we hear even of ministers who go off from the Lord after porn or who turn to false doctrine...
 - We see men and women in the church who find hell too much to take and deny it—or find Christ being the only way too much and deny that—
 - And we find those who just simply and quietly drift away into indifference toward Christ.

TRANS> So while it is very gracious for the Lord to tell us of coming judgement and to tell us what we must do to escape, this is still not enough...

- There is more that is needed—
- We need more help if we are to continue and He provides that...
 - And that brings us to the next thing I want to show you...that...

III. God graciously assures His people that He will make our preparation for judgement successful.

- Noah needed to know that he was not wasting his time to prepare for the coming judgement, and we need to know that too if we are going to endure for Christ.
 - See what God does to encourage us!

A. He makes a covenant with us to make it sure to us that we will not fail if we come to Him for life.

1. Look at verse 18 and you can see how He established a covenant with Noah to assure him.
 - a. As with all His covenants, He takes the initiative and we are the recipients.
 - Genesis 6:18 says: **But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.**
 - When the Lord makes covenants with us, He actually confirms what He will do with an oath to make it doubly sure to us.
 - b. This covenant with Noah assures Noah that he will indeed enter the ark.
 - It is a special covenant that grows out of the covenant made after the fall in Gen 3:15 when God promised to preserve the seed of the woman.
 - God will not allow Noah to perish because he is among those who have enmity against the serpent.
 - He makes the specific promise that he will not perish in the flood.
 - God is assuring Noah that He will give him success in building the ark and in gathering the animals.
 - This is not something that Noah is left to do on his own, but the Lord promises to be with him and give him success!
 - Yes, Noah is to obey by building to the ark and laying up food for the animals,
 - But he is to obey by faith—looking to God's promise to keep him.
2. It is the same for you dear Christian—if you are a true disciple of Christ, He assures you that you will continue.
 - In Hebrews 10:17, He promises to forgive your iniquity and remember your sin no more because you look to Christ,
 - And in Hebrews 10:16, He promises to write His law in your heart so that you will do it—so that you will continue to the end with Jesus.
 - In this way, He gives you assurance that if you have begun with Him, He will keep you to the end and you will not depart from Him.
 - You are kept, as Peter says in 1 Peter 1:5, by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
3. And notice that God also includes Noah's household with him in the promise.
 - The pattern throughout scripture is that the promise is to you and your house.
 - A man has the privilege of bringing his family into God's promises with him and if they believe, they will also be preserved in the judgement.

TRANS> So you see that God graciously sets forth His covenant promise to encourage us that He will see us through!

- He will keep us to the end and nothing will separate us from His love.

B. And we can see how God's promise was fulfilled with Noah...

- We are shown this for our encouragement...

1. Noah was fully prepared for judgement because he did all that God told him to do to be prepared.

- We have already seen how the chapter ends: **Gen 6:22: Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.**
- God did keep him and the whole world was delivered.
 - Through him the promised seed of the woman would come and crush the serpent's head.

2. You can see as well how God waited for Noah to prepare.

- He is very patient about sending His judgement...
 - The ancient world was already ripe for judgement, but God waited until Noah had time to finish the ark.
- So also, the Lord bore with Israel until Messiah came, though there were many times when they deserved to be wiped out.
 - And now He bears with this sinful world and with the sinful church in the world until He has gathered in all those who are appointed for salvation.
 - As we saw in 2 Peter 3, He is not slack about His promised coming, but He waits until all who have been given to His Son are gathered safely in.

➤ What assurance this gives you!

3. You can be sure that if you are in the LORD, He will also keep you.

a. And how do you come to be in Him?

- You repent of your sins and you come to Jesus believing...resting in what He has done to save you by dying on the cross.
 - And believing His promise that He will keep you.
 - "All who come to me," Jesus said, "I will by no means cast out!"

b. Yes, there are many difficulties and hard things to endure...

- Jesus says so—but He also says, "be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world!"
- He will keep you.

c. The LORD will prepare you for judgement!

- He has already sent Jesus to bear our sins and He has already accepted His sacrifice.
- He has already called you to repent and to come to Him to be saved from the coming wrath—

- He has told you of the judgement and of the way to be saved by repenting and coming to Jesus and continuing in Him...
 - And if you have believed the promise, then he has already done the pre-preparation work of giving you a new heart—a heart to believe...
 - And now you can be sure that you will finish the course because He has established His covenant with you to write His law in your heart so that you will do it.
 - He is at work in you to enable you to finish the race, and you will.

Conclusion: So be grateful to Him that He enables you to prepare for His coming judgement!

- Just see that you are walking with Him—relying on Him—submitting to Him—living to please Him, resting in His promise in Jesus.
 - Be sure that if you walk with the world, as the majority in Noah’s day did, you will walk to destruction.
 - The shortest route to Hell is to walk with the crowd!
- But if you walk with the Lord, resting in the gospel of Christ, you will walk to final blessing and deliverance.
 - The Lord will keep you in His gracious way to the end.