

Coming to Grips with the Flood

Genesis 7:1-24

Halifax: 7 December 2014

Introduction:

Today as we continue our sermon series in Genesis, we come to Genesis chapter 7.

- In this chapter, we are given an account of the flood itself—of how it came upon the earth and wiped out all men and all the land animals except for Noah and those who got on board the ark with him.
- We saw in chapter six how Noah stood in stark contrast to the rest of the world in that he was (as chapter 6 verse 9 tells us)
 - **a just man, perfect in his generations, who walked with God,**
 - while the earth is said to be **filled with corruption and violence.**
- In the pre-flood period, we have seen that the LORD did not do nearly as much to restrain wickedness as He has done ever since the flood.
 - He left man to go in his own way, with few immediate consequences for his sin.
 - People lived longer, they were prosperous, and God had not instituted civil authorities to represent Him by punishing crimes.
 - The result was ever increasing wickedness, godlessness, and violence until the earth was covered with filth in God's eyes...
 - And He declared that He was going to wipe man along with the animals off of the earth—it would be a great cleansing by a flood of water.
 - But, we are told that Noah **found grace in the eyes of the Lord.**
 - This grace was a grace that preserved Noah so that he was restrained and did not join in the rebellion of the world, even though he had the same corrupt nature as the rest.
 - God's grace causes us to be born again so that we repent and turn to God with a desire to please Him and so that we walk with Him—
 - so that we hear His word and we believe it and we obey it.
 - This grace is a grace that draws us in to God's great promise to establish His righteous Kingdom in Jesus Christ.
 - It brings us into union with Christ so that we obtain the forgiveness of sin and are reconciled to God.
 - Noah had the promise of the triumph of the seed of the woman (in particular Jesus Christ) who would crush the serpent's head at last.
 - And he, trusting God, embraced that promise and served God in hope while the rest of the world went more and more into rebellion.

Today, in chapter 7, we see a vivid display of God's angry response to sinful men who are not reconciled to God as Noah was.

- It is, as we shall see, no light thing.
- God's vindictive judgement is something that we all need to come to grips with, and chapter 7 is given to us to help us do just that.

Please listen as I read it to you—Genesis chapter 7 beginning in verse 1.

- May the Lord bless us as we hear.

Genesis 7:1-24: Then the LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen *that you are* righteous before Me in this generation. ² You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that *are* unclean, a male and his female; ³ also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴ For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made." ⁵ And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him. ⁶ Noah *was* six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth. ⁷ So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. ⁸ Of clean animals, of animals that *are* unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, ⁹ two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰ And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. ¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. ¹² And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³ On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and

Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark— ¹⁴ they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. ¹⁵ And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which *is* the breath of life. ¹⁶ So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in. ¹⁷ Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. ¹⁹ And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰ The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. ²¹ And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. ²² All in whose nostrils *was* the breath of the spirit of life, all that *was* on the dry *land*, died. ²³ So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who *were* with him in the ark remained *alive*. ²⁴ And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

And there we will end the reading of God's holy Word.

As you can see, the flood is not the cute little story that we have made it out to be...

- With our Noah and the ark wall paper and our cute little story books and our bath tub toys.

- We need to see it for what it really is.

I. The flood is a most terrible display of God's vindictive wrath against sin.

A. Consider the reality of what happened here.

1. This was a disaster of monumental proportions—no tsunami, hurricane, tornado, volcano, earthquake, or flood even begins to compare.
 - We hear of villages or provinces or even nations being wiped out—
 - but in this event, the entire world with the exception of those who were aboard the ark were entirely wiped out.
 - Stress is laid upon this fact with the repetition of the fact and with the words that are used to describe it...
 - In verse 4, as the time of the flood draws near, the LORD announces what He declared before will occur in one week:
 - **Gen 7:4: For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made.**
 - And then in verse 21-23, the outcome of the flood is reported with great emphasis upon the extent of the disaster:
 - **Gen 7:21-23: And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. 23 So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive.**
 - The repetition is used to drive home the reality of the devastation—to leave no doubt that it was total...
 - Given the long life and prosperity that was before the flood, there were likely millions if not billions of people on earth by this time.
 - Interestingly, in the pagan accounts of the flood that avoid the real cause for the flood—man's wickedness—it is commonly told that the gods were displeased because men had multiplied too much and were making too much noise.
 - That men greatly multiplied is one aspect of those accounts that is true, but that God was angry about *that* is not true...
 - But in any case, they affirm that the event was worldwide and that it wiped out all the inhabitants of the earth except Noah and his family together with the animals on board the ark.

TRANS> Just take a moment to consider what a great devastation this is!

- The whole world was wiped out—everything—**All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died.**

2. To show that it was a historical event, we are given the specific date in which it began...to the very day...
 - The six hundredth year of Noah in the second month on the seventeenth day of the month...
 - And we are then told that Noah and the rest did not disembark until a year later (Gen 8:14)—the 27th day of the 2nd month—which, assuming a lunar calendar comes out to exactly one solar year.
 - The lunar calendar is not quite a full solar year, but there are the extra days added to make up the difference.
3. We cannot begin to imagine what this storm must have been like!
 - a. In verse 11, we are told that the fountains of the great deep were opened up and that the windows of heaven were opened.
 - This describes something extraordinary.
 - It should be noted that modern scientists are of the opinion that there is water stored in the mantle of the earth that is 10 to 30 times the amount than is in the present oceans.
 - We cannot begin to imagine what it must have been like when some of these waters began to burst forth from below as torrential rains poured out from above.
 - At creation, God had separated the waters that prevailed on the earth and caused the dry land to appear.
 - In the flood, it seems that He brought them back together again with the only visible difference being that this time there was a little ark floating upon them.
 - b. The rising of waters are graphically described...
 - In verses 17 & 18 it says that the waters *increased*.
 - This is the word *multiplied* that God used when He told men to be fruitful and multiply upon the earth—
 - They *had* multiplied on the earth,
 - but instead of multiplying as godly image bearers of God, they had multiplied as people full who were full of sin and violence.
 - so the LORD is responding by multiplying the waters to make it as it was before He formed the dry land.
 - And notice that it is also emphasises that the waters *prevailed* upon the earth.
 - Four times, we are told that they prevailed—in verse 18, verse 19, verse 20 and verse 24...
 - This is in contrast with man who, when God created him, had prevailed—he had been given dominion over the earth,
 - but now the waters had taken his place again—
 - The word *prevail* means to triumph.

- See how the rising of these waters—their triumph—is presented...
- First, these waters lifted the ark...soon it rose high upon the earth...
- Then in verse 19 we are told that they rose so high that all the high hills under the whole earth were covered—by a distance of 15 cubits...
 - Some have questioned how this could be possible given the amount of water we have on the earth today,
 - but from what we know today from geology, the mountain ranges were not always there—
 - Many of them were formed by the shifting of the earth, even the kind of shifting that occurred when the fountains of the deep were opened up.
 - One clear evidence that the mountains were once under water is the presence of the remains of marine life upon even the highest mountains.
 - But from calculations that have been done in our day, it is the general consensus that if the surface of the earth were flattened out, the entire earth would be covered with water at a depth of 2.7 kilometers!
 - Now the water was only 15 cubits above the highest mountain at the time of the flood, so that is easily achieved with lower mountains...
 - and of course for all we know, there may have been other differences—some of the water may have gone back underground or the LORD may have blown it out of the atmosphere for all we know.
 - Geologists who believe in the great flood (and there are many who do) find a lot of evidence to show that the mountains and canyons (including the underground canyons) were formed by the flood.
 - It is believed that the Grand Canyon was formed when muddy waters were released from a great basin in the north—and there are even stories told of those who witnessed this formation.
 - A mudflow on March 19, 1982, eroded a canyon system up to **140 feet** deep in the headwaters of the North Fork of the Toutle River Valley, in the aftermath of Mt. St. Helens.
 - But one thing is certain—the scriptures tell us plainly that the whole earth was covered with water.
 - Noah would never have needed to construct the ark if he could have simply spent 120 years moving to higher ground.

TRANS> This was an incredibly destructive storm the likes of which has never been seen again.

- We cannot begin to imagine a storm on this scale—it wiped out the whole earth!

- You know how much even our relatively small storms unsettle us...
- B. We need to face what this terrible event tells us about God and His relation to us.
1. Throughout this account, the flood is very clearly described as an act of God.
 - And not just a random act, but a deliberate act of vindictive judgement...
 - We are told repeatedly that the reason He sent it was to destroy man from the face of the earth...
 - and the reason the LORD wanted to destroy man whom He had made was because the wickedness of man was great upon the earth.
 - This reason was declared repeatedly in chapter 6...
 - Fallen man in his sin was described as corrupt and violent and God said that He was going to wipe man off the earth, using a word that refers to wiping off a dish—or that could be used to refer to woman wiping her baby from a dirty diaper.
 - It is not a sinister thing or an immoral thing to wipe away filth—it is a right and proper thing—
 - And that is how God describes His action with the waters of the flood—and the filth that is wiped away is rebellious mankind!
 2. We need to come to grips with what this shows us about the way God looks at sinful men and women and their children.
 - a. The scriptures tell us that He is a holy God.
 - They call Him a consuming fire.
 - They say that He will by no means clear the guilty.
 - They tell us that He is a God of wrath and vengeance against sin.
 - They tell us that He is going judge the world at the last day and that people will want to hide under the mountains and rocks in terror.
 - b. But men and women want to deny this about God.
 - Of course they do—it is not pleasant to think about, and we'd rather not.
 - We prefer to think of God in a different way—a gentler way.
 - But our preferring to think of Him that way does not change the way He is.
 - c. The flood is a monument in history that testifies that God is indeed a God of wrath and vindictive justice who takes vengeance on sinners.
 - You might think that since the flood, each generation would have told the next generation the truth about God...
 - But that is not the way sinful men are—they repress they truth and try to adjust it to their own liking.
 - That is what idolatry is all about—we refashion God as if we could change Him simply by talking about what we want Him to be.
 - We want to be able to go on in our corrupt and sinful ways without any fear of adverse consequences or any need to repent.

- But the LORD had graciously preserved the truth about Himself in His word, and here in Genesis 7, He has preserved the truth about the flood.
 - Even when Moses gave us this inspired account, there were already many distorted accounts of the flood—it was too soon to deny that it had ever happened—but many attributed it to other causes as we have seen—a council of gods conjuring it up because man was too noisy and had multiplied too much...
 - The real problem was not that we filled the earth with people but that we filled the earth with sinful corrupt people who refuse to reconcile with God and seek His kingdom.
3. So don't kid yourself—God is a God of extreme wrath against sin!
- a. The flood shows us clearly that He does not hesitate to judge huge masses of people if they are filthy from sin and will not turn to Him.
 - Noah and his family were only eight persons altogether.
 - The fact that most people had gone astray did not keep God from destroying them—it made Him all the more intent on doing so!
 - Do not suppose that you are safe in wickedness just because there are a lot of other people who are wicked.
 - RC Sproul tells of teaching a class in which he told the students they would get a zero if their papers were late.
 - He showed mercy to a couple of students who were late and more and more students started being late...
 - Until the day that he gave them all zeros!
 - They complained that it was not fair, but it was fair.
 - b. I am always grieved when I see how many professing Christians there are today that have a hard time accepting the fact that God has His way in the relatively little storms we have today...
 - They seem to feel that it would be unfair of God to send such troubles.
 - 1) They will attribute these storms to Satan or to natural causes as if Satan and natural causes operated outside of God's sovereign rule!
 - If these Christians can't accept that God sends the calamities that we experience in this present time...
 - how can they honestly accept that He will judge the world and deliver all who are outside of Christ to eternal punishment?
 - 2) And some of these same professing Christians often act as if, because they are serving God, they themselves should be exempt from such calamities in this present time.
 - Here, they have come to God and now He has allowed trouble to come into their lives—it's just not right they complain—
 - not realising that the calamities of this world that God uses to discipline His children are nothing compared to the judgement that is coming!

TRANS> The flood stands as a sure testimony that our God is a God who judges sin the earth. No one ought to be taken by surprise when He judges the whole earth again at the last day.

- The flood screams at us that He is a God who judges sin in the earth and that no one escapes except by His grace—in the way that He has appointed for salvation!
- But there is another reality that is presented to us here in Genesis 7...

II. God's remedy from judgement is (in many ways) most distasteful!

- God's call to get on the ark was not a call to get on a pleasure cruise...

A. Noah obeyed God in building and in entering the ark, but what did he get?

1. He got, as we saw last week, perhaps 120 years of preparing and building the ark when he might have been living in high luxury.
 - A man who was able to build an ark like that—just think what he might have done instead with all that wealth and energy.
 - He gave all that up to build this ark—this chest that was to float upon the waters of a great flood.
2. And then what did he get for entering into the ark...
 - He got a whole year of being shut up in a wooden box with his family and with a bunch of smelly noisy animals with excrement all over the place.
 - The voyage was likely very rough as the ark was tossed about in the wind and waves—and he did not know when he would be able to get out.
 - And there was the terrible sorrow of knowing that all of your friends and all of your relatives who did not get on board were destroyed in the flood...
 - It would have been a very difficult time for Noah and his family.
3. And yes, their lives were spared, but for what?
 - Only to end up on a high mountain when the ark finally settled with everything they had upon the earth wiped out—
 - Noah's home, his workshop, his barn, his garden (and everybody else's), his possessions that were not taken on the ark—all gone.
 - Certainly he would have taken a lot of things on the ark to help him get started, but he could not take his house or his garden.
 - And he had the sorrow of returning to an unpopulated earth with downed trees and death all around—
 - What a life!

TRANS> The ark was no pleasure cruise...

- I would suspect that Noah and his family may have at times wished that they had perished in the water too when the days led into weeks and the weeks into months on that ark—and they had so little to look forward to even when they did get out.
- B. And so today, following the LORD is neither glamorous nor easy—it is referred to as a kind of death.

1. Jesus told us that we must deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Him.
 - He tells us that we must leave everything to follow Him and that we will be hated by all men if we do.
 - Those who preach the prosperity gospel would not have wanted to get on the ark at all—nor do they really want to follow Jesus today.
 - For them, God is just a candyman who gives them what they want in this world.
2. What are some of the things we must die to if we wish to be saved?
 - a. You must die to your sinful lusts and desires.
 - That is right—if you come to Christ, you have to stop dreaming about sin.
 - You may be tempted, but you need to turn from indulging in sinful passions both in your mind as well as in your actions.
 - This is a hard thing—unbelievers do not have to engage in war against sin.
 - They do not have to experience the grief that comes from falling and having to repent—and from seeing the corruption in their heart...
 - They deny their lack of love for Christ and for others, and the corruption that is in them, but as a believer, you have to face all of this and deal with it.
 - And you have to give up sins that you love!
 - b. You must also die to the world.
 - When you openly follow Christ, you may be rejected from a place in this world...
 - You may not get promotions or you may be excluded from certain professions.
 - There is a legal battle right now over whether graduates from Trinity Western can be excluded from the bar society on account of the fact that those who go to Trinity promise to live in chastity—to abstain from sex outside of biblical marriage.
 - If they ungodly get their way, these young law graduates will not be allowed to practice the profession they trained for.
 - Increasingly in our society, Christians are looked down upon and shunned.
 - They are ridiculed and mocked for believing the Bible, what it says about marriage, about God creating the world in six days, about God judging the world and the reality of Hell, about Christ being the only way of salvation...
 - If you believe that, you will be looked at as backward, and sometimes as cruel and unjust...
 - and as unfit for society...
 - Some very capable scientists are dismissed from professorships or from other employment because of their faith.

- Many of our brothers and sisters in the world today and throughout the history of the world have been imprisoned or executed because of their allegiance to Jesus.
- In a similar way,
 - A faithful Christian cannot be a pro ball player today because they require you to violate the Lord's Day.
 - Sometimes this is the case with certain of the arts that perform on the Lord's Day.
- c. And there is the sorrow that comes just from believing the truth...
 - The sorrow that there is for your loved ones who do not come to the Lord, and the sorrow of being estranged from them for Christ...
 - You don't have that if you reject Christ.
 - Nor do you have the sorrow of knowing that if they do not repent they will go to Hell and the sorrow of seeing them die without Christ and knowing what has become of them...
 - It makes you want to deny the hard truth.

TRANS> If Noah had never gotten on the ark, he might have just died and ended it...

- but by getting aboard, he had many sorrows...
 - And so with you—if you never come to Christ—you avoid all these things that we have just spoken of.
- 3. I would suggest to you that there were many people in Noah's day that did not even *want* to get on the ark.
 - a. Even if they believed that the flood was coming, they did not want that.
 - The thought of being shut up in an ark with a bunch of animals and then coming back to an empty world was too distasteful for them to even consider—and they did not want to be with a godly family.
 - There were only eight who got on the ark in the whole world—
 - Some who did not believe him when he told them about the flood, but for many, the real reason for their unbelief was that they did not want the ark—even if it were true that the flood was coming.
 - b. Think about it...A lot of them did know about the flood.
 - They had no real reason to doubt what Noah had told them.
 - They knew Noah was a man of integrity.
 - They knew that Noah walked with God—
 - They did not want to be like that—they did not want to walk with God and to live to please God—they wanted to avoid Him...
 - But seeing Noah, they likely supposed that he might have some special insight into things with God.

- And what shows even more that they knew about the flood and chose not to enter is the coming of the animals!
 - The coming of the animals is stressed in our text—they came two by two and the clean animals came in sevens.
 - Noah did not go out in the world with rope and lasso them.
 - God caused the animals to come on their own—but not a whole flock of sheep, but just seven...
 - Not a pack of dogs, but just two...
 - Not a flock of birds, but only a pair of the unclean kinds and seven of the clean.
 - Just think about those who saw this—Noah and his family are loading up the ark and just at that time, animals come out of their hiding places from all around and start to board the ark...
 - How could they possibly doubt that there was something to what Noah had told them?
 - Look, there is plenty of evidence today about God and His character, about the resurrection of Christ, about prophecies that are fulfilled—
 - The problem is not that people are not given enough to go on—they know there is a God that is angry with sin...
 - It is just that they do not like the remedy.
 - They would rather be judged than repent of their sin and come to Christ.
 - The people in Noah’s day were so committed to their sin that they would rather die in their sin than get on the ark.
 - Now I am sure that when the waters begin to rise, there may very well have been those who in terror would have come into the ark then...
 - but not with repentance—only to escape the danger.
 - Some may have built barges and things in hopes of survival and many would have run for the hills...
 - but they only wanted to preserve their own sinful life, not enter into life with God!
 - They were not interested in repentance and reconciliation with God, but only with preserving their sinful life.

TRANS> Let this be a lesson to us that unbelief is often driven more by a distaste for serving God in His kingdom than it is by an inability to see what is true.

- Of course there were some in the world that did not know about the ark, just as there are many today who have never heard the gospel,
 - It is our duty to tell them, but even if we don’t get to them, there is not a one of them that would come to the LORD (“get on the ark” as it were) unless God renews their sinful heart.

- Not one of us who have come would have come if God had not changed us.

III. But now I will ask you a question...Why should you get on the ark when it is such a hard thing? Why not just perish with crowd in the waters of the flood?

A. What possessed Noah and his family to get on?

1. Noah, you will remember, walked with God and was a just man.
 - a. That means that before the Lord had ever mentioned the flood to him, he was already seeking the kingdom of God.
 - b. Like all the other godly people in the ancient world, as we have seen in previous studies,
 - Noah called on the name of the Lord and lived in communion with Him,
 - Look back at Genesis 3:15, Noah was one of those in whom God had put enmity against the serpent.
 - Instead of staying in alliance with Satan, Noah had repented and turned to follow the LORD and so was now opposed to Satan and his ways.
 - And not only that, but he was also looking for God's promise to raise up an individual seed of the woman who would crush the serpent's head.
 - An individual that would enable the seed of the woman—the entire church—the righteous kingdom of God—to prevail over Satan and all the misery he had caused...
 - Death, sorrow, sin, bondage, guilt, and all that goes with sin and the fall would be overcome by this champion whom we now have the privilege of knowing by name, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
 - Noah was looking for this kingdom that God had promised where righteousness would dwell, and that is where his treasure was.
2. This hope of eternal life enabled Noah to endure difficulties associated with following the Lord.
 - a. If he had only had hope in this life—in the world that was being destroyed by the flood—he'd have had little reason to build and board the ark.
 - What would be the point of slogging out a few more years and then going to the grave?
 - He might as well go with the rest in the flood!
 - b. But if there was hope of eternal life in the promised seed of the woman—then he had much reason to endure all things!
 - For the sake of the elect, he was to be the link to the coming Messiah.
 - By preserving his own life in the flood, as God appointed, he did what was necessary for Christ to come.
 - If he and his family had been wiped out with the rest in the flood, the righteous kingdom could never have come because Jesus the Messiah could never have come.

- And for his own sake—Noah had no desire to die in his sins as those who perished in the flood all did!
 - He saw the wrath of God revealed in the flood and he did not want to die under such wrath—
 - Noah knew that this world was not the end.
 - He did not want to meet his judge as one who had died in his sins under the wrath and fury of God.
 - He knew he would die at God’s appointed time as his godly fathers had done, but he wanted to die in faith, holding securely to the promises of God!
 - We don’t know how fully he understood the resurrection, but he certainly knew that this life was not the end...
 - He knew that his godly great grandfather had been taken alive to heaven.
- If Noah had only had hope in this life, he would have been most miserable indeed!
 - But because he had faith in Christ as promised and in the kingdom as promised,
 - He was able to endure all the hardships associated with walking with God and to do so cheerfully.
 - Through the hardship, it was enough that God loved him and had a wonderful plan for him,
 - and that God would not fail him—that everything was in God’s hands and that he could fully trust Him.
 - That is what Noah did and that was how, by the grace of God, he endured.
 - Hebrews 11:6-7 lays this out for us...It says:
 - **Heb 11:6-7: But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. 7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.**

➤ So why should you follow Christ today even when it is hard? Why should you get on the ark today?

B. You should embark upon the ark for the same reason Noah did...

1. Because you have hope in the promised seed of the woman, Jesus Christ.
 - You have an advantage over Noah because now you know all about Him!
 - You have seen that He is the very Son of God!

- You have seen that He not only calls us to suffer, but that He Himself came to suffer for us!
 - You see clearly that He was raised from the dead, promising that all who come to Him will have eternal life and be raised with Him—that we will not come into judgement, but have everlasting life.
 - And have seen that He Himself actually bore the wrath and curse of God for all the seed of the woman—the whole true church—and that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.
2. I guess the real question is whether you want eternal life—whether you want to live in fellowship with God forever.
- You may not be excited about hell—you may not be excited about the flood—but if your hatred of God is such that you'd rather go there than get on the ark—that is, come to Christ—
 - If you would rather perish under God's wrath in the flood with the crowd than board the ark—then you have chosen your part.
 - You can raise all sorts of objections about following Christ...
 - People won't respect you, you will have to die to self, you will have to serve God, you will have to humble yourself and admit your need of Christ crucified—
 - and of course you can turn that all against God—that it is not right for Him to punish sin and that it He is too strict and severe...
 - You can join the crowd in saying all of that...and you can try to feel secure that only a few follow Christ...
 - And you can even join them in denying that God really will judge the world in righteousness—
 - just like the people did in Noah's day...
 - But you know as well as I do that all of your criticism and all of your denials really won't change anything.
 - God is a God who judges in the earth, and He will still do it, just like He did in Noah's day.
 - That is the reality of the situation.
3. And my brothers and sisters, you who are trusting in Christ,
- a. Let this be an encouragement to you!
 - God keeps His word and we need not doubt it!
 - He is a righteous judge and He will not leave the world to go on in sin forever.
 - He will cleanse it by fire just as He cleansed it by water and then the kingdom of righteousness will emerge...
 - b. Be encouraged though there are many hardships to bear now...
 - It is better to suffer with the righteous now than to party with the wicked.

- As our Lord Jesus said,
 - **John 12:24-26: Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.**
- Noah in the ark was like a grain of wheat in the ground...
 - He lost his life in this world only that he might at last find it in Christ.
 - Get in the ark—die to the world and get in Christ your ark

Conclusion: Let me urge you, if you have not, to get on board before God shuts the door.