



THE FLOOD PART IX ENTERING THE ARK - THE COMMAND

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. 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; also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. 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 Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him. Genesis 7:1-5

It had been one-hundred and twenty years since God made the covenant with Noah concerning the flood. For 120 years Noah prepared the ark and the food they would need. As we noted last week, in so doing, he condemned the world around him. God *did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;* II Peter 2:5

For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth. The command for Noah and family to enter the ark came a full week before there was any rain upon the earth. *For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.* Genesis 2:5b-6

The plants of the earth were watered by a mist that went up from the underground water table. I wonder if Noah looked for the signs of this great flood. Jesus spoke of the judgement yet to come and said *"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring . . . Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is at hand."* Luke 21:25-28

I can imagine Noah looking off to the horizon and seeing some little white fluffy things beginning to appear in the sky. He would have figured out what they were. The rest of mankind that did not believe God would send no rain upon the earth would not have known what the clouds meant. God called Noah into the ark before the rain was imminent! Noah would have to enter the ark in faith - not because the rain drops were pelting him on the head! It is the same with you, me, and the rest of the world today. We are called to accept Christ in faith. When the signs come into being that Christ spoke of, it will be too late.

The late Arthur Pink wisely noted that God's word was more an invitation than a command. God did not say "Go into the ark!" but "Come into the ark." We note further that God could not say "come into the ark" unless God was in the ark (unless God uses bad grammar?) Noah was to come into God's presence in the ark.

There appears to be some sort of contradiction here as God says to bring seven (clean) animals into the ark. There is no contradiction. Noah was to bring two (male and female) creatures to preserve the animal life. The need for seven was different. We shall see why seven were needed after the flood.

We noted that Noah was a righteous or just man in Chapter 6 (verse 9). But here God says that Noah was *"righteous before Me."* There is a great difference in just being righteous (in our own eyes) and righteous before God. God had given Noah a job to do, An Ark to construct. Food supplies to gather. Lost people to witness to. Noah had now done all this. He had done exactly as God had told him. We are reminded of Paul's words, *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

II Timothy 4:7-8

Wayne

