

Purpose: to encourage you to trust and obey the risen Messiah.
“Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts...”

Make Yourself an Ark!

Written by: Mick Abraham

The Command

The above four words from Genesis 6 roused one man to actions which helped prolong his life. Obviously, God could have saved Noah without the ark, but Noah was given a role to play in his own preservation. In similar fashion, many of the miracles recorded in scripture begin with a small contribution made by ordinary people. The Lord (whose name is Yahweh) takes these imperfect, human contributions and then does the things that people cannot do.

The Analogy

In Matthew 24 and Luke 17, Jesus says “**as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man**”. Prophecy students should keep this analogy in mind.

Genesis tells us that Noah’s world was “**corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence**.” What about our world? I think we are overdue for major correction. “**Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction**.” Galatians 6:7 & 8 We cannot know the timing, but someday the cup of sin will be full.



Heaven’s Cleaning Days

Here is a common pattern of scripture: Yahweh occasionally cleans up His creation. During such times, dreadful events may affect many, but grace and mercy also abound. Some people are miraculously allowed to survive, often due in part to their own preparations for the catastrophe. This pattern is seen in the destruction of Sodom, the first Passover, Moses serpent in the wilderness, the fall of Jericho, Elijah’s preservation, etc.

Prophetic Babylon

Revelation 18 and Jeremiah 51, “Babylon” is marked for destruction, “**for her sins are piled up to heaven**.” In these passages, however, “Babylon” is definitely more than a town in Iraq; it may denote the entire world system (which appears fabulously wealthy and successful but is inwardly corrupt). Remember that the “tower of Babel” was the first attempt at world government without Yahweh. In scripture, God’s people are commanded to “**come out of Babylon**” for their own good. Many Christians believe the call to “leave Babylon” somehow applies to our time and to our lives.

Financial Babel

When Babylon falls in Scripture, this includes the failure of her institutions and her economy. “**Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones, and pearls. In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin**.” Revelation 18: 16 & 17.

Ask yourself: Could there be parallels between condemned Babylon and our own institutions? Could our world be headed for a similar dramatic fall? If so, we may lose much of the ease that we now take for granted. Therefore, a greater level of “self-sufficiency” may be one way to “come out of Babylon”.

What About the Rapture?

The doctrine of a “pre-trib Rapture” is very popular in some circles; this teaches that Christians will be miraculously lifted out of the earth “before things really get bad.” This doctrine deserves an essay of its own. Even for those who await the rapture, efforts to “come out of Babylon” may still be an appropriate form of obedience. Let us try to identify the lightning rods for God’s wrath, and then let us try to move away from them. “**When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever**.” Proverbs 10:25

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My Own Path

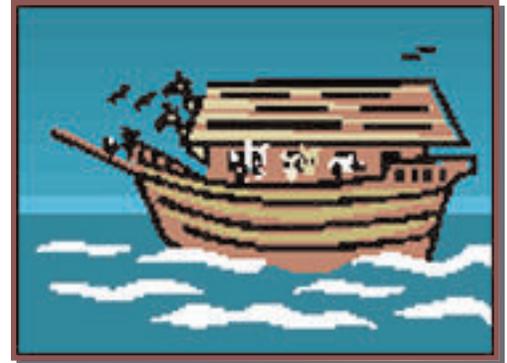
Everyone must be convinced in his or her own mind, but here's the path that my family took. In 1979, I was 23 years old, newly married, and concerned about the children that were to follow (we've since had four). Becky and I felt led to reduce our dependence on the institutions of the world. This involved things like storage food, home school for the kids, living outside the city limits, minimized debt, alternate energy, and even a home-based business.

A Man Looks Back

Over 25 years later, I review the above efforts with mixed feelings. After all, as of this writing, the Big Crisis hasn't happened.

Our storage food has all expired, the roof on the solar greenhouse is leaky, and running a “school” plus a “business” from our home has been hectic and stressful at times. The country life has worked well in some respects, and not so well in others.

Most of our children don't seem headed for college, nor for the apparent ease that path may provide. While we wait to see what God will do with his world, we still must live within it. Our decisions may have made the lives of our kids more difficult, but our grown children are free to make their own choices—we pray that they are good ones.



A Man Looks Sideways

If it had never rained, I suppose Noah could have used the ark for a 500' barn, couldn't he?

Even though the Big Crisis has yet to justify our preparedness efforts, we've still enjoyed some significant benefits. Our children have seen frequent examples of reliance upon the Lord and family, rather than reliance on government and the world. We do have some preparations in place that may be relied on if necessary. Also, we've made some very pleasant associations along the way.

In God We Trust

It is sometimes hard to keep our faith in the right place; consider the early motto of a leading alternate energy retailer: “In Solar We Trust”. Alternate energy can be interesting and worthwhile, but the sun cannot save us; modern sun-worship is no more effective than the failed paganism of old. **“The moon will be abashed, the sun ashamed; for Yahweh Almighty will reign...”** Isaiah 24:23

In the days ahead, the Almighty will preserve anyone He chooses, any way He chooses. We are never to trust in the material preparations we have made—only in the Heavenly Father. Proverbs 21:31 says, **“The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with Yahweh.”** “Self sufficiency” is somewhat of a misnomer; the truly “self sufficient” man would suffice even without God, but nobody is sufficient without God.

Obedience is the Key

Genesis 6:22 tells us that **“Noah did everything just as God commanded him.”**—what a great legacy that is for Noah! Provided that our foundations are sure, if God tells us to “build an ark”, we should obey, just as Noah did. For further study, see I Tim. 5:8, Isaiah 10:20, and the passage from Isaiah 2:6 through 3:1.

**“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen,
in holy fear built an ark to save his family.”** Hebrews 11:7

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