



THE FLOOD PART VIII ENTERING THE ARK - THE COVENANT

And God said to Noah, . . . "Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; . . . And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life. 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. 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. 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. 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." Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

Genesis 6:13-22 (abridged)

The first part of the account of Noah and his family entering the ark concerns the covenant God made with Noah. God made two covenants with Noah, this being the first.

God made two great covenants in the Bible which are dealt with at length in the book of Hebrews. The first, the Mosaic covenant, was a covenant of works. The second covenant was the Covenant of Grace. We find the same two covenants with Noah. The building of the Ark was a covenant of works, the second covenant will be of grace.

Noah and his sons had to build the ark. We have already looked at the materials and some of the features of the ark. We shall consider the other features at the appropriate time. When the time came, they had to enter it. In addition, they had to bring food for them and the animals to eat. Had Noah not built the ark, he would have perished also. With no food, they would have starved to death. But *Noah did; according to all that God commanded him.*

How might Noah accomplish all this? How would he possibly round up two of every kind of animal and bird? He didn't have to - *two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive.* God would see to it that the creatures came to him. All he had to do was lead them into the ark.

In this passage we find an interesting aspect of the Election of God. We know how he chose Noah - Noah was a righteous man. On what basis would some of the animals come to Noah to be kept alive while the others perished? We do not know of any moral or spiritual standards imposed on animal life. So, then, how did God choose the ones to come? If you can answer that question, you really have a handle on God's Election!

As far as we can tell from the Scriptures, Noah did not have to bring any animals on the ark for food because they were vegetarians until after the flood. We shall find God's instructions then - *"And the fear of you and the terror of you shall be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given. "Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant.*

Genesis 9:2-3

Summarizing this section, God makes a covenant with Noah to build and furnish the ark. God does not tell Noah when the ark would be needed (other than that man had 120 years left). With this in mind, consider the following passage.

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.

Hebrews 11:7

How did he condemn the world? Did God call him to preach as he did Jonah? We have no record of that. But, consider Noah building an ark in a world that had seen no rain and with no sea anywhere near. "What are you doing, Noah?" Noah had 120 years to answer these questions. No one believed and hence they were all condemned!

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