

Jesus, the Heart of the Bible
Jesus our Ark
Genesis 6:5-8 & 13-14 & 17-18

Intro:

The goal of this series is to be overwhelmed with Jesus, to see him in many different ways, and to love him all the more.

If you look closely, Jesus is everywhere in the OT –

- In Genesis, Jesus Christ is the Seed of the woman
- In Exodus, He is the Passover Lamb.
- In Leviticus, He is our High Priest.
- In Numbers, He is the Pillar of cloud by day and fire by night.
- In Deuteronomy, He is the Prophet who hears and speaks God's word.
- In Joshua, He is the Commander of the Lord's army.
- In Judges, He is our Judge and Lawgiver.
- In Ruth, He is our Kinsman Redeemer.
- In 1st and 2nd Samuel, He is the son of David.
- In Kings and Chronicles, He is our reigning King.
- In Ezra, He is our faithful Scribe
- In Nehemiah, He is the Rebuilder of everything broken
- In Esther, He is our Mordecai, our Advocate.
- In Job, He is our ever-living Redeemer.
- In Psalms, He is our Shepherd.
- In Proverbs, He is our Wisdom.
- In Ecclesiastes, He is the meaning for life.
- In the Song of Solomon, He is the loving Bridegroom.
- In Isaiah, He is the Prince of peace.
- In Jeremiah and Lamentations, He is our weeping Prophet.
- In Ezekiel, the Glorious Lord.
- In Daniel, He is the fourth Man in the "fiery furnace."
- In Hosea, He is the faithful Husband.
- In Joel, He is the Outpurer of the Holy Spirit.
- In Amos, He is our Burden-bearer.
- In Obadiah, He is our Judge and Savior.
- In Jonah, He is the risen Prophet.
- In Micah, He is the Ruler of the world from Bethlehem.
- In Nahum, He is our Stronghold.

- In Habakkuk, he is the Watchman.
- In Zephaniah, He is the Mighty to save.
- In Haggai, He is the Restorer.
- In Zechariah, He is the branch of David; the One pierced for us.
- In Malachi, He is the Son of Right

This is because, as Jesus told the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24), the OT is all about him.

Luke 24:44-45 - Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures

And that is where we have begun, with Moses in Genesis, asking the Holy Spirit to open our minds to understand the Scriptures, to see that Jesus is "The Heart of the Bible."

It's interesting how John gives us a NT look at the OT beginning in Genesis when he says, "*In the beginning...*" and then shows it to us from Jesus's perspective –

John 1:1-2 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God.

1 – Jesus is God's Creating Voice –

John 1:3 - All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

2 – Jesus is God's Light –

John 1:4 - In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Revelation 22:5 - And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Thus far, we have also seen that...

3 – Jesus is the Sabbath

Matthew 11:28 – Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

4 – Jesus is the true Adam

1 Corinthians 15:22 – *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*

The Bible really is all about Jesus.

There is no way for us to cover every person, thing, or event in Genesis that pre-figures Jesus without being in Genesis only for the whole year. As I mentioned last week, we are not covering Gen 3:15, but I have placed some thoughts on that passage on the Heritage blog, which you can access via the website or APP.

After that prophecy, we come to the ark that Noah built, and that starts with -

First: God's Judgement on the World

After God created everything, Adam and Eve rebelled, thrusting the world into chaotic ruin.

Genesis 6:5-8 – *The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually* ⁶ *And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.* ⁷ *So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."* ⁸ *But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.*

(Note: Don't panic. God's 'regret' doesn't mean that God said, "*Whoops, I didn't see that coming*" or that God changed his mind (Numbers 23:19). Paul tells us the redemptive plan, which requires the Fall to precede it, was in place before the world began – Eph 1:4. Another example of this kind of 'repentance' and 'sorrow' is 1 Samuel 15:10, 29, 35. The Bible authors use human language to express God's heart in ways we understand. God has divine sorrow, such as when Jesus wept at Lazarus's tomb (John 11:35). He hasn't changed his mind or been caught off guard, i.e., Jesus knew that Lazarus was going to die and that he would resurrect him. But God wants us to know how deeply he feels our sin and how it affects him. For instance, we can say the same thing about God 'resting,' (Gen 2:2-3) when he isn't tired and the 'rest' doesn't refresh him).

Scripture, of course, presents Noah as a forerunner of Jesus. There are many times in the Bible, when it call comes down to one person. That's scary from our perspective, but we know there is a great God behind it all. And Noah's temporal, physical salvation points

to spiritual eternal salvation in Jesus, even as Noah is an imperfect type of Christ. Of course, Jesus is the only Son with whom the Father is "well pleased" (Matt 3:17; 17:5).

Second: The Ark Itself

(I know you're thinking about this, and/or, your friends ask how Noah got all the animals on the ark. Here's the answer - <https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/how-could-all-animals-fit-ark/>)

Genesis 6:14-16 - *Make yourself an ark of gopher wood.^[d] Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. ¹⁵ This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. ¹⁶ Make a roof^[f] for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.*

a) Security – v 14

- Gopher wood = cypress that doesn't rot

Psalm 16:10 (& Acts 2:27) - *For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.*

1 Peter 1:18 - *...you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*

- Pitch = tar = a noun and a verb = kaphar = v/to cover and n/atonement

Leviticus 17:11 - *For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.*

1 John 2:2 - *He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.*

- The Door – v 16 & 7:16

6:16 - *Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side.*

7:16 - *And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.*

John 10:9 - *I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.*

John 17:12 - *While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost*

IMP: There was only one door and there is only one way to be saved –

Acts 4:12 - *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

b) The Sufficiency - v 15

300 cubits in length with a breadth of 50 cubits and a height of 30 cubits = 3 million cubic feet.

It was sufficient for what God intended it. The cross is also sufficient to save every person who repents of sin and trusts in Jesus.

c) The Shape –

Ancient people built their coffins out of cypress wood. The ark has no prow or stern and has the dimensions of and looks like a coffin. It's Christ's death that saves us from God's wrath.

d) The Storm

Noah and his family enduring the storm waters is a picture of our physical baptism, which is, in and of itself, a picture of being baptized into Jesus.

1 Peter 3:18-21 - *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from*

the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

In other words, baptism says, "Jesus, this immersion is an expression of my faith in your death to save me just like you saved Noah and his family who also trusted you."

e) The Schedule

Genesis 8:4 – *and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.*

The 7th month, the month the ark rested on Ararat, became the first month in Israel's calendar (Exodus 12:2). The Passover (Ex 12:29) was observed on its 14th day and, of course, "Christ [is] our Passover (1 Cor 15:7) and was crucified on that day (John 19:4) - rising again three days later, on the 17th day, the same day the ark rested on Ararat.

Noah's ark landed on Mount Ararat on that 17th day, providing its inhabitants with a resurrection following judgment, just as Christ's resurrection provides us rest/safety from God's wrath.

Only a sovereign God could have arranged that!

You just can't make up this stuff because it's recorded in the Bible.

But that, friends, is what the Bible is all about, watching God promise and then deliver the promise he made so that we know He is God.

Third: Jesus as the Ultimate Ark

1 - A Word about Grace, Faith and Works

Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- a) Noah found grace – Gen 6:8,18
- b) Noah entered the ark by faith – Gen 7:1; Hb 11:7
- c) Noah was saved for good works

Genesis 8:20 - *Then Noah built an altar to the LORD...*

Genesis 9:1 - *And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.*

2 – A word about Noah's need for Jesus

1 Peter 2:5 – *[God] ...did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;*

Hebrews 11:7 - *By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.*

God greatly used Noah, but the Gospel isn't a fairy tale, and Genesis is a book of true history. There is only one Hero, and it isn't Noah.

Genesis 9:18-25 - *Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹ He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. ²² And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. ²³ Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father's nakedness. ²⁴ When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, ²⁵ he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers."*

Noah's righteousness and his ability to build an ark enabled him to escape God's wrath in the flood but not the corruption of his own heart.

Think about it. Jesus became the man that Adam chose not to be and the man that Noah could not be. Adam was born without sin but chose to sin. Noah was born into sin and could never escape it. Jesus's salvation is better than Eden or the world after Noah.

He reminds us of that when he says,

John 10:9 - *I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved*

Note: Moses uses the same Hebrew word for "ark" in Genesis 6 that he uses for his own "basket" in Exodus 2. More, Moses styles the events of Abraham's exile into Egypt (Gen 12) after the exodus itself. Remember, he wrote Genesis during the Exodus and with the

Exodus in mind as the next book he wrote. The Bible is really one story, re-told with different characters and plot twists, but always the same end, the need for a Savior. As such, we should read Genesis as a preview of the events of Exodus and Exodus as a continuation of the story of Genesis.

Conclusion:

We all know the destructive nature of floods. Our church invests a lot in helping restore creation, and people recover from floods. Floods remind us that nature suffers under the weight of the curse, material, physical, and visible demonstrations of the conflict in our hearts. Things aren't as they should be.

Matthew 24:37-39 - For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

We are assured that Jesus is returning and that when he does, he will wholly reconcile creation and us to himself. Everyone who repents of sin and trusts in Jesus will embark, set sail, on an eternal voyage on "a sea of glass, like crystal" (Rev 4:6).

- For creation, no more turbulent Sea of Galilee.
- For us, when we want to "do good," evil will no longer be present (Ro 7:21).

And finally, one more word about Jesus from the 20th-century Southern Baptist pastor, R.G. Lee.

"By the coming of God in human form, Jesus, clothed the body with imperishable nobility. By Him who was made flesh, whose every muscle was a pulley divinely swung, whose every nerve was divine handwriting, whose every bone was divine sculpture, who, in kingly fashion, wore the flesh as a garment, the body has been made an instrument of Christ. Through the human mouth God in authority spoke. Through human eyes God in pity looked. Through human hands God in love wrought. Upon human feet God on errands of mercy went. Through a human heart God's compassion was shown. Through human ears God heard humanity's despairing cry.... Jesus never struck a jarring note, never made a misstep. On Him circumstances left no fingerprints. Popularity never caused Him to hasten a footstep. Hostility never caused Him to falter. Temptations never loosened a moral fiber. As all the rivers are gathered into the ocean, so Christ is the ocean in which all moral excellencies and spiritual pleasures meet. Even His enemies said they could find no fault in Him. Even His worst foe proclaimed Him innocent."

No wonder the whole Bible is about Jesus!

Community Groups:

A word about this week's sermon and CG time. Our series, "Jesus, the Heart of the Bible," focuses on those places we see Jesus in the OT. Our CGs may have questions about the flood, the ark, the animals, etc., but our emphasis is solely on how the ark prefigures Jesus. You may choose to entertain those discussions, but don't get distracted from the point of the study, which is to see Jesus in the ark. If it comes up, perhaps you could refer your CG to - <https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/how-could-all-animals-fit-ark/>)

- 1 – Where have you seen Jesus in the OT so far?
- 2 – Which text has been the most meaningful to you? Why?
- 3 – Read Genesis 6:5-8. Why does God judge the earth?
- 4 – Read Genesis 6:14-16.
- 5 – How might the wood used to create the ark speak about Jesus?
- 6 – How is the word 'pitch' a picture of what Jesus did on the cross?
- 7 – The ark had only one door. What does this say about Jesus and salvation?
- 8 – Read 1 Peter 3:18-21. How does the storm prefigure our baptism in Jesus?
(Here, we might also get distracted by v 19, but try to stay 'on point' in this passage)
- 9 – Discuss the day that the ark rested on Ararat and Christ's death and resurrection.
- 10 – Read Genesis 9:18-25. Noah reminds us that Jesus is the only Hero of the Bible. The rest of us are sinners who need saving.
- 11 – Matthew 24:37-39 - How does Jesus compare the days of Noah to the days of his return?

Daily Devotion:

Monday, the 30th. Read Genesis 6:5-8 & 1 Peter 3:15. God pictures his judgment as just (right) and good (profitable). How do you explain this to yourself? In your mind, form the thoughts and then say the sentences that explain God's judgment to someone. This will help you believe and prepare you to answer those who have questions.

Tuesday, the 31st. Read Gen 6:14. The pitch that covered the ark prefigures the atonement. Did any of Noah's family die on the ark or get swept overboard? Read John 17:12. How does the ark teach you about the security that is found in Jesus? What keeps you from trusting Jesus like Noah and his family when they either entered the ark?

Wednesday, the 1st. Read Gen 6:16. The ark had only one door. Was there any other way in? Read John 10:9. Who is Jesus? Read Acts 4:12. What do the ark and Peter's statement say about Jesus and salvation? This is a good way to explain salvation.

Thursday, the 2nd. Read Gen 8:4. The ark rested on the same day that Jesus was resurrected. What does this say about resting in Jesus? Do you? Meditating on the ark may help you gain rest. It may also help you explain how we rest to others.

Friday, the 3rd. Read Gen 6:8, 18, Eph 2:8-10 & Gen 9:18-25. Which comes first: grace, faith, or works? Why is that order important? Do you know people who try to keep themselves saved? How does Eph 2 speak well of God and give you security? This would be a good word to share with others.