

Life Group Notes
Sunday 24 July 2016

Title: Noah, Judgment & The Ark

Speaker: Scott Taylor

Passage: Genesis 6:9-22

This past Sunday we baptised Andy and Ellie in the Thames. To frame that, we looked at the story of Noah and the Ark.

Noah – was remarkable in his lifetime – the only one who God saw as righteous, the only one seen as blameless. He walked closely with God. He was remarkable because everyone else was deemed as being corrupt and violent! He is called by God to partner with Him and build an Ark to save him and his family. Noah is remembered as someone who did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

Judgment – this judgment is that the world is corrupt; the punishment is the flood that comes, and wipes everyone out. This flood was to be one that we find hard to comprehend – it is worldwide, it is total, it is a flood that will rise up above the highest mountain. No one escapes unless they are in the Ark.

Ark – The Ark was large enough for the family that had been called and the animals that came to be taken on board. There was just enough room to house them all. It was made out of the perfect material for purpose. It had only one door that God closed behind them, as the Ark was ready to sail. This is God's Ark, His vehicle for salvation.

We are now those like Noah – as followers of Jesus we are those who have the same things said of us: we are seen as righteous, as blameless; we are those who can walk closely with God, all because of what Jesus has done for us. He has also given us a command – not to make an ark, but to make disciples! We are to be his ambassadors as if Jesus was making his appeal through us. It really matters that we take our call seriously – so it can be said of us that we did everything exactly as God commanded us.

There is a greater judgment to come – not a judgement that will end in a flood, but one that will see the final eternal destination of all that have ever lived decreed! There will only be two decrees, either hell or heaven. This is why we need to take our call seriously.

Jesus the Greater Ark – we are told throughout the New Testament that when we trust in Jesus we are then hidden in him, clothed in his righteousness, having his right standing before God. God chose the best material for our salvation just as he had done with the ark: God in Human form. Only one who was truly sinless, but also who had been tempted in every way, could take the sin of the world upon his shoulders. So, just as the Ark carries Noah and his family through the judgment of their time, so will all who are in Jesus will get through the final judgment, because we are hidden in him. As there is only one door on the Ark, we see that there is only one way to get through this judgement and that is to be hidden in Jesus.

- 1) The story of Noah is so familiar, what did you hear for the first time or what have you been reminded of?
- 2) Share a story where you have displayed or spoken something of Jesus.
- 3) Discuss how the story of Noah can help us understand our purpose as Christians and our hope that we have.