

“Get on Board”

Scripture: Genesis 7:1-10

Graphic: ark, animals,

Key Verse:

1) Introduction –

- a) Recap – creation...corruption...God’s plan to destroy all living creatures...Noah alone was righteous and God chose to use Noah for re-creation of the world...Noah is asked to build the ark (the really big boat on dry land)...b/c the flood is coming...Noah did everything that God commanded him...
- b) Open your Bible to Genesis 7...

2) Scripture – Genesis 7:1-10

- a) The ark (teba) occurs in two different books of the Bible. The first is Genesis (26 times) and Exodus 2. You might remember that Exodus 2 is the story of the baby Moses. This word is used to describe the basket in which Moses floated down the river when Moses’ mother sent him to escape the wrath of Pharaoh. Here in Genesis, of course, the word described the huge, boxy boat, into which Noah is commanded, now, to go with his family and all the animals (verses 1-4).
- b) Note here, that in the midst of this command to enter the ark, the author notes that the reason God is commanding Noah to go into the ask is because he has been found righteous. Better yet, because he has been found righteous, God has allowed him...graciously allowed him...to enter the ark and be saved.
- c) God had a plan for Noah...just as he will with Moses...God makes a way, here, a provision, for Noah to be saved, in order to fulfill God’s plan.
- d) And part of that plan is saving, not only Noah and his family, but animals. You’ll recall from last week that the animals came TO Noah...two of each animal, bird, etc. The fish were good, right? They just had more room to roam.
- e) Incidentally, why did Noah not go fishing while on the ark? He only had two worms! Anyway...

- f) God graciously provides for Noah and the animals...
- g) If you look at verse 4, though, an interesting thing occurs...God said, "Seven days from now, I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty night, and I will wipe from the face of the earth, every living creature I have made."
- h) Remember the time table – God initially gave the world 120 years to come to righteousness before He would wipe it clean...he tells Noah to build the ark, presumably in that timeframe...and then he says, "Noah, go in to the ark, b/c in seven days, it's going to start raining."
- i) As if 120 years wasn't enough, God gave one more warning to Noah and to the people...it's time!
- j) in John Wesley's notes on this passage, he think that God was holding out that more might turn to Him and be saved from the judgment of the flood.
- k) You know, there are people who, no matter how imminent the danger of being judged and sentenced, will not repent and acknowledge that God is God and they are not.
- l) There are people that might say there is a hell, but there's no one in it. You see, if there is no hell...than there can be no right and wrong. I believe there is a hell and there are people in it because they choose to be there, simply because they refuse to acknowledge that God is God and they are not.
- m) And the story of Noah is as much about the judgment to come, as it is about the historical events of the judgment past. Learning from this story is on many levels...but it's really about acknowledging God...like Noah did.
- n) And because God gave Noah and the world a seven day final warning, that gives us some insight into the nature of our God...he holds out all hope for us to come to him, even at the last hour of the last day...
- o) Verse 5 – Noah did all that the Lord commanded – he loaded the ark with himself, his family, and the animals...and he waited. And after seven days...it began to rain.
- p) We'll look at the floodwaters next week, but I want to highlight one more thing in verses 2,3, and 8. The author notes that God makes a distinction between the clean and the unclean animals. I won't go to far into the

explanation, here, but just know that God considers some animals to be clean and worthy to be eaten and used for sacrifice, and considers other animals unclean, but still worthy by way of their status as created.

- q) Now, later on in the history of Israel, God establishes laws regarding the use of clean animals versus unclean animals. Suffice to say at this point, God establishes with Noah a distinction.
- r) And in verses 2 and 3, God tells Noah to make sure he has, not two kinds of clean animal and bird, but seven pairs of each clean animal and bird. In the Levitical law, not yet established, clean animals were things like deer, elk, goats and sheep, bison, cattle, etc. Our modern game birds and poultry were considered clean as well, along with most fish.
- s) But why seven instead of two. Well, most practically, it's because (1) Noah and his family needed to eat, and (2) because God would expect sacrifices (religious ritual) and the clean animals were the ones that were sacrificed. So instead of two of each, God required more as a further provision for Noah and his family...but also so that they could ultimately worship God when this was over.

3) Application

- a) Ultimately, when God provides for us...it's not so much because he cares for our well-being, which he does, as he does for all of creation...but ultimately, God provides for us so we can be in relationship with our creator by worshipping him.
- b) God doesn't need us to do that...God doesn't need this church, the United Methodist Church...or any church...what God wants is a relationship with each one of us...and he will provide for our needs in order for us to live in response to that provision. He covets our worship...
- c) And just as God gave the people of the earth a 120-year and then a seven day notice...a warning...the Holy Spirit work on us throughout our lives to draw us into the ark...
- d) For some people, going into the ark is a response to a command from the Lord...God calls you by name and you march into the ark...maybe that's you if you came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ early on...

- e) For some of us, responding to God's call of salvation in Jesus Christ was something that we waited for...maybe you were in the 120-year waiting period...it something you procrastinated about...rejected for a time...but then ultimately accepted God provision to enter in to the ark...to escape the wrath on the vessel God provided...
- f) Maybe there are some here today who are waiting outside during the seven day period...and the Holy Spirit is working on you to get on board, Noah.
- g) You see, being a righteous and faithful Christian is finally standing on the edge, Neitche would say the precipice, and deciding to take the ultimate leaped of faith, trusting that when you do, you will be caught into the arms of a Savior that will go with you for your entire life from then on.
- h) This isn't some eyes closed little jump across a ditch...but an all-out leaped – trusting God for the first time in your life...
- i) Noah had to get on board...his wife...his sons...his son's wives...they had to get on board. They had to trust God totally.
- j) The animals were there to provide for the family and to fulfill God's plan...
- k) God is providing for your whole life...all you need...especially salvation to flee the coming judgment...but also provisions for the journey...when we get on board.
- l) Let me challenge you today to consider what God is calling you to do in your own life...maybe it's make a decision to follow Jesus...if you've made that decision already, maybe it's get involved with one of the ministries of the church (opportunities abound with our new CE ministry plan). Maybe your being called to live life with more personal moral conviction...ridding your life of the sin that has a hold on you...get on board!
- m) Get on board, people!
- n) Let's pray...