

THE ARK AND THE CHURCH

By Keith Greer

What is the first Bible event we teach our young children? The account of Noah and the flood. This event has some very strong lessons which can help us in our service to our Creator.

Let me suggest some very strong parallels when we compare the Ark with the Lord's church. Maybe you haven't thought of these points. Yet, a close study will show some strong comparisons.

GOD WAS THE DESIGNER OF BOTH. And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; ..." {Genesis 6:13,14}

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." {Matthew 16: 18} Who is the head of the church? Who purchased it? Read Ephesians 1:19-23; Acts 20:28.

THERE WAS ONLY ONE ARK--ONLY ONE CHURCH. Noah was instructed to build ONE ark. No lifeboats, just one. The ark was large enough to accommodate all who would be saved. Hebrews 11:7.

The church is much the same way, there is only ONE.

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;" {Ephesians 4:4} What is that one body? Read Ephesians 1:22,23.

THERE WAS ONLY ONE DOOR INTO THE ARK--ONLY ONE INTO THE CHURCH. "You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks." {Genesis 6: 16} God designed the ark with only one way of entrance.

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture." {John 10:9} Also read John 14:6; Romans 5:1,2.

THERE WAS ONLY SAFETY IN THE ARK--ALSO ONLY IN THE CHURCH. "And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life." {Genesis 7: 15} What happened to those outside when the rain began to fall? All were lost! The same is going to be true of those outside the church. "Then comes the end, puts an end to all rule and all authority and power." {1 Corinthians 15:24} What of those outside the church? Please read 2 Peter 3:9-11; Matthew 7:21.

THEY HAD TO REMAIN IN THE ARK--ONE MUST REMAIN IN THE CHURCH. "And in the second month, on the twenty- seventh day of the month, the earth was dried."

{Genesis 8:14} The eight souls were saved because while the rain was upon the earth they remained in the ark.

When one is in the church they must remain faithful in order to be saved. "In flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power," {2 Thessalonians 1:8,9}

God made provision for the faithful in Noah's day- also for mankind today. God's designs can accomplish whatever He wills. Do you doubt that to be true? Many doubted in Noah's day. What happened to the majority of mankind? Why place yourself in "harm's way?" Why not take God's security for our soul today and be sure when the final storm comes you will be saved. See, the ark and church does have much in common! ***