

JOURNEY TO ARARAT

GENESIS 6:1-9

Text:

Introduction:

In 1969, in Pass Christian, Mississippi, a group of people were preparing to have a "hurricane party" in the face of a storm named Camille. Were they ignorant of the dangers? Could they have been overconfident? Did they let their egos and pride influence their decision? We will never know.

What we do know is that the wind was howling outside the posh Richelieu Apartments when Police Chief Jerry Peralta pulled up sometime after dark. Facing the beach less than 250 feet from the surf, the apartments were directly in the line of danger. A man with a drink in his hand came out to the second-floor balcony and waved. Peralta yelled up, "You all need to clear out of here as quickly as you can. The storm's getting worse." But as other joined the man on the balcony, they just laughed at Peralta's order to leave. "This is my land," one of them yelled back. "If you want me off, you'll have to arrest me."

Peralta didn't arrest anyone, but he wasn't able to persuade them to leave either. He wrote down the

names of the next of kin of the twenty or so people who gathered there to party through the storm. They laughed as he took their names. They had been warned, but they had no intention of leaving.

It was 10:15 p.m. when the front wall of the storm came ashore. Scientists clocked Camille's wind speed at more than 205 miles-per-hour, the strongest on record. Raindrops hit with the force of bullets, and waves off the Gulf Coast crested between twenty-two and twenty-eight feet high.

News reports later showed that the worst damage came at the little settlement of motels, bars, and gambling houses known as Pass Christian, Mississippi, where some twenty people were killed at a hurricane party in the Richelieu Apartments. Nothing was left of that three-story structure but the foundation; the only survivor was a five-year-old boy found clinging to a mattress the following day.

That was the case with the flood of Noah's day. The warning was clear, but the people ignored it.

Note—Prior to the flood there was no rain upon the earth. There was a vapor of dew.

Note—Men and woman had turned their backs on creator God.

The population was exploding and the hearts of men were wicked.

God designed a journey of grace for those who would follow him.

1. THE REASON FOR THE JOURNEY (VS. 5)

Genesis 6:5

⁵ And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

A. Corrupt Hearts – vs. 5-6

- The Imagination of the Heart

The word imagination applies to fashioning pottery.

It literally means to make wicked fashionable.

Psalm 14:1

¹ The fool hath said in his heart, *There is* no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is* none that doeth good.

Note—The depravity was widespread. It was inward, continual, and habitual.—verse 5

- The Evil Heart

Jeremiah 4:14

¹⁴ O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?

B. Corrupt Lives

Note—Wickedness was great in the Earth.

Romans 1:24-28

²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. ²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Note—One out of every three babies conceived in America is deliberately aborted. There are 1.6 million abortions reported in this country every year, meaning that over 40 million abortions have taken place since abortion was legalized in 1973.

This was the reason for the journey.

Note secondly:

2. THE READINESS FOR THE JOURNEY

Note—The greatest decision in Noah’s life, was not his decision to build the ark. It was his decision to walk with God.

A. Was Ready Because of His Walk

Genesis 6:8-9

⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. ⁹ These *are* the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man *and* perfect in his generations, *and* Noah walked with God.

In walking with God, Noah had displayed a spirit, an attitude, and a character that made him accepted and approved for the most intimate spiritual relationship. He manifested qualities of soul that endeared him to the Lord.

Note—Noah made the right decision because of His walk with God.

B. Was Ready Because of His Will

Genesis 6:22

²² Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

Note—He willed to obey.

Note—His decisions were based on the Word of God.

Illustration:

Roger Staubach who led the Dallas Cowboys to the World Championship in '71 admitted that his position as a quarterback who didn't call his own signals was a source of trial for him. Coach Landry sent in every play. He told Roger when to pass, when to run and only in emergency situations could he change the play (and he had better be right!). Even though Roger considered Coach Landry to have a "genius mind" when it came to football strategy, pride said that he should be able to run his own team. Roger later said, "I faced up to the issue of obedience. Once I learned to obey there was harmony, fulfillment, and victory."

Psalm 119:105

¹⁰⁵ Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:42

⁴² So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word.

Note—The Word of God is reliable.

Someone once said: "When the fear of God is gone, the decisions of daily life are threatened."

We have considered the reason for the journey, and the readiness for the journey, let's look lastly at:

3. THE RESULTS OF THE JOURNEY

Note—Noah’s decision was instrumental in the preservation of the human race.

A. The Preservation of the People

Genesis 6:14

¹⁴ Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

Genesis 7:1

¹ And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

- Noah was safe in the Ark

Note—God’s grace was clearly seen in His warning, His invitation, and His provision.

Proverbs 2:5-6

⁵ Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. ⁶ For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.

Noah was Secure in the Ark

Genesis 8:1

¹ And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that *was* with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged;

Genesis 7:16

¹⁶ And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.

B. The Preservation of the Faith

Genesis 6:9

⁹ These *are* the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man *and* perfect in his generations, *and* Noah walked with God.

Note—The wicked lineage mentioned in verse 2 had spread throughout the world. But Noah was perfect in his generations.

Ezekiel 14:14

¹⁴ Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver *but* their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD.

2 Peter 2:5-6

⁵ And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrhah into ashes condemned *them* with an overthrow, making *them* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

C. The Presentation of the Gospel

- Noah preached faith in the Word of God.

Hebrews 11:7

⁷ By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by

the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

- The Ark is a picture of our salvation

1 Peter 3:20

²⁰ Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

Note – There was one door into the ark

John 10:9

⁹ I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

- God remembered Noah

Genesis 8:1-4

¹ And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that *was* with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged; ² The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained; ³ And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated. ⁴ And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.

Close:

Matthew 24:37-39

³⁷ But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, ³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

This journey to Ararat was a journey of faith if God.

Are we willing to take God at His Word?