

"Come Into the Ark"

Genesis 7:1-13

7 The Lord then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you, and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. ² Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, ³ and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. ⁴ Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made." ⁵ And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.

⁶ Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. ⁷ And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸ Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, ⁹ male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰ And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. ¹² And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³ On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark.

A. Bible Invitations:

- The Bible is filled with invitations from God to come to Him in love and relationship (Matthew 7:7).
- One of God's favourite words is "Come".
- God is actively searching for those with pure hearts (2 Chronicles 16:9).

B. God's Love in Invitations:

- God's invitations stem from His love & desire to be in fellowship with us.
- While God is patient, His invitations come with urgency (Genesis 6:3).

C. The First Invitation:

- Noah and his family were invited into the Ark as the flood approached.
- God's invitation reflects His nature; the response to it is what matters.

D. An Invitation to Survive Judgment:

- The wickedness of Noah's generation (Genesis 6:5) led to divine judgment (Genesis 6:7).
- Despite judgment, Noah found grace in God's eyes (Genesis 6:8), symbolizing undeserved favour.

E. A Step of Faith:

- Noah entered the Ark by faith, trusting God's promise (Hebrews 11:7).
- Salvation is always by grace through faith, both for Noah and believers today (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- Noah's obedience served as a testimony, even though he likely shared the warning with others.

F. Family Inclusion in God's Plan:

- God invited Noah's entire family into the Ark (Genesis 7:1).
- God desires salvation for whole families (Acts 16:30-31) and extends faithfulness to all generations (Psalm 119:90).
- Sharing faith with family is vital, but it must focus on leading them to Christ, not conforming them to cultural or doctrinal expectations.

G. Personal and Family Response:

- Each person must decide to accept God's invitation.
- Ensuring loved ones are "in the Ark" symbolizes preparing them for salvation before the coming storm of judgment.
- Evangelism is about relationship with Jesus, not imposing religious culture.

Conclusion:

- The story of Noah reminds us of God's invitation to faith, grace, & salvation.
- The question remains: How will you respond?
- Are your loved ones prepared?
- Are they on the Ark?