

Noah's Ark and the Lord's Church

1Peter 3:20-21



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- “Who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 21 There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

Only One Way To Build It

- Only one way to build the ark.
 - Gen. 6:14-16 - “Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. 15 And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. 16 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.”

Only One Way To Build It

- Only one way to build the church.
 - Psalm 127:1 - “Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it.”
 - Matt. 16:18 - “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.”

Only One Source Of Light

- One source of light in the ark: one window.
 - Gen. 6:16 - “You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above.”
- One source of light in the church: the Bible.
 - Psalm 119:105, 130 - “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.... 130 The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.”

Only One Source Of Light

- 2John 9-11 - “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.”

Only One Entrance

- Only one door in the ark.
 - Gen. 6:16 - “...and set the door of the ark in its side...”
 - Gen. 7:16 - “So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.”

Only One Entrance

- Only one entrance to the church: Jesus Christ.
 - John 10:9 - “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”
 - Eph. 2:18 - “For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”

Only One Family

- Only one family inside the ark.
 - Gen. 7:1, 7 - “Then the LORD said to Noah, Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation... 7 So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood.”

Only One Family

- Only one family inside the church.
 - Gal. 3:28-29 - “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Only One Family

- John 17:20-21 - “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”
- 1Cor. 12:12-13 - “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

Only One Vessel

- Only one ark; no other boats.
 - Gen. 6:14 - “Make yourself an ark of gopherwood.”
- Only one church; no other organizations.
 - Eph. 1:22-23 - “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”
 - Eph. 4:4 - “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling”

Only One Saving Element

- Saved by water.
 - 1Peter 3:20 - "...when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water."
- Saved by baptism.
 - 1Peter 3:21 - "There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism..."

Only One Safe Place

- Saved in the ark.
 - Gen 7:23 - “So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive.”

Only One Safe Place

- Saved in the Lord's church.
 - Eph. 5:23 - "...as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body."
 - Acts 4:12 - "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Only Destruction For Those Outside The Safe Place

- Destruction for all outside the ark.
 - Gen. 7:20-22 - “The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. 21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died.”

Only Destruction For Those Outside The Safe Place

- Destruction for all outside the church.
 - Acts 2:47 - “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”
 - 2Thes. 1:7-9 - “And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 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. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

Only The Lord Assigns The Work

- Noah had to feed them.
 - Gen. 6:21 - “And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.”

Only The Lord Assigns The Work

- Christians feed souls.
 - Eph. 4:11-13 - “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

Only One Hope

Only one hope for a new world.

- Gen. 8:13-22 - “And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry. 14 And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried. 15 Then God spoke to Noah, saying, 16 ‘Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. 17 Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth. 18 So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. 19 Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark. 20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, ‘I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. 22 While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.’”

Only One Hope

- Only one hope for a new life.
 - 2Cor. 5:17 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
 - Isa. 65:17 - “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.”
 - Rev. 21:5 - “Then He who sat on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.”