

<Introduction>

“Building an Ark” by Jeremiah

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

Today, we would learn from the scripture on Noah and the title of our study is “Building an Ark”. The author of the book of Hebrews, in the scripture above specifically mentioned how Noah built an ark, and said, this is an important factor for your faith. So, I want us to ponder on this. The primary meaning of an ark is literally a ship in the shape of a box. Noah saved his family and animals by building this massive wooden ship, but, there seems to be some hidden meaning here because God talks in parables and mysteries as we can see from the scripture below.

Psalms 78:2 I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—

As God talks in parables and mysteries as written in this scripture, I hope we can understand the parables and the mysteries in the story of Noah.

<Meaning of an ark>

Let’s think about an ark which is specifically described in Hebrews. For the word “ark”, the Greek word “kibotos” is used. The word “kibotos” is used in the scripture below.

Hebrews 9:4 which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron’s staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant.

The same word is used as the meaning of the Ark of the Covenant. There is no coincidence in the Bible, it was written with God’s wisdom, mystery, and parable, therefore there seems to be some significance in how these words match.

<The days of Noah will be repeated in the End of Times>

Now, the story of Noah is written in Genesis, and it happened long time ago. But, the Lord Himself mentioned that this will be repeated in End Times as below.

Matthew 24:37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

24:38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;

24:39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

What the Lord is saying here is:

1. The days of the second coming of Jesus, aka End Times, will be just like the days of Noah.
2. The people in the time of Noah didn't realize this until everything was washed by the flood. As the same thing happens in End Times, no one will realize this.

The Lord mentioned that the End Times will be like the days of Noah when a similar event to the flood will be repeated. We need the help of the Lord to understand what this means.

Daniel also describes that there is going to be flood in the End Times as we can see from the scripture below.

Daniel 9:26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

It is clarified that "the end will come like a flood" in the End Times. Therefore, we have to understand that the Bible tells us End Times is when the days of Noah are going to be repeated, and there will be a flood.

<There will be no flood>

Flood simply means there will be a lot of water coming towards you. You may remember Tsunami in Japan on the 11th of March 2011 as an example. So, will there be a big flood which is going to cover the whole earth in End Times like what happened in the days of Noah? Well, as we read the description of the covenant of the rainbow, it doesn't appear to be so.

Genesis 9:13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

9:14 Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds,

9:15 I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.

Here, the Lord made the covenant of the rainbow, and promised that He will never cause flood with water to destroy the earth, like the days of Noah. Therefore, it will be unlikely that the whole world will be destroyed again by water in End Times.

However, it is also true that the Lord said that End Times is the days of Noah when there will be flood and many people will be taken away. This seems inconsistent, so how should we understand this?

<The meaning of the flood>

I think that there will not be a flood with water again in the End Times, but it is correct to understand that the flood which happened in the days of Noah will be repeated as a parable in the End Times.

From this point of view, the water represents spiritual things. Let's have a look at the scripture below.

John 7:37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.

7:38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

7:39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Here, the Bible is mentioned as parable of living water. Therefore, the water represents something spiritual.

Also, it is described as below.

1 John 5:6 This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

5:7 For there are three that testify

5:8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

The water and blood are mentioned in relation to the Spirit. Spirit can be represented by the water and blood. So, we can see that the water represents something spiritual.

<The End Times is the days of in which the world is flooded by demons>

Now, we can understand what the days of Noah represents from those points of view. The days of Noah which comes in End Times are the days of flood with demons. You may not accept this, but as you read the Bible correctly, you will see how the Bible prophesizes that there will be the days of flood with demons at apostatized churches. Thessalonians describes it as below.

2 Thessalonians 2:9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie,

2:10 and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

2:11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie

2:12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness

It is described that there will be many kinds of false power, signs, wonders of Satan performed at apostatized churches in End Times, and even God will also send powerful delusion. This means there will be a huge flood of demon on the day at apostatized churches.

Also, the book of Revelation describes that the angel of the Abyss, which is the army of demons, will dominate the churches in End Times as below.

Revelation 9:1 The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.

9:2 When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.

9:11 They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).



Noah's flood will be repeated in End Times

It is described that the Abyss will open in the days of Revelation, and the leader of

demons will come out here.

<Examining the description of Noah's Flood>

Now, when we examine the description of Noah's flood from this point of view, there is something we can learn here. Let's take a look at the scripture in Genesis.

Genesis 6:13 So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

It describes the end of all people here. In the same way, the days of flood of demons can be understood as the time of judgment towards Christians who live worldly lives. They will be taken away by a flood of demons.

Genesis 7:15 Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark.

Everything which goes into Noah's ark, avoiding the flood is described as "all creatures that have the breath of life in them"., this implies that whether you survive the flood or not depends on if you have the Holy Spirit which is the breath of life in you.

Genesis 7:19 They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered.

7:20 The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits.

It is written of how the flood kept coming and every high mountain was covered as a result. As a parable, we can read that the revival of demons will cover the churches of the whole world. Therefore, strange spiritual revival taking place right now will never stop, and eventually cover the whole world. The scripture of Revelation below seems to be prophesying the day.

Revelation 13:16 It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads,

13:17 so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.

Buying and selling represents the sign of the beast which means no one can serve at the church unless they have accepted demons. As a result, the spirit at apostatized churches will not be the Holy Spirit, but demons. This matches with the description of Noah we just looked at which is “all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered”.

Genesis 7:21 Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind.

Again, it is described that every living thing was destroyed by the flood. Since the opposite of living thing is spirit, it implies that everyone with the Holy Spirit is going to avoid a flood.

<The Parable of the ark>

As I mentioned in the beginning, an ark is related to an ark of the covenant, and there is God's presence in the ark. The parable of the ark says that during a big flood of demons in End Times, all Christians who continue to live worldly life will be swallowed by the flood of demons, and lose eternal life. We can also understand that Christians who live with the Holy Spirit will avoid the destruction as well as the big flood.

<Parable of wise bride>

Ideas like this may look ridiculous, but as we read the Bible with the Lord's revelation, we will see that the same thing is emphasized by many scriptures. This means whether we live our lives with God's presence or not, in the End Times, this decides our fate on the day of the Lord's second coming. For example, it is written as we can see from the scripture below about the wise and foolish daughters.

Matthew 25:8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

25:9 "No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to

those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

25:10 “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

The oil in this part is clearly a parable of the Holy Spirit. So, the only difference between the wise daughters who were able to be in time for the bridegroom’s arrival and the foolish ones who weren’t, was whether they had the oil or not. It can translate into whether they had the presence of the Holy Spirit or not. And this completely matches with the description of Noah’s ark. The meaning of an ark as a parable matches with the description that Christians who live together with Holy Spirit’s presence will avoid a flood of demons which dominates apostatized churches, and obtain the eternal life. The End Times is when the Holy Spirit is going to be kicked out of the church and dominated by demons instead as written below.

2 Thessalonians 2:6 And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time.

2:7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

The one who holds it back here means the Holy Spirit who holds back the work of anti-Christ. However, as it says “till he is taken out of the way”, the day will come when the Holy Spirit is going to be taken out of the church. We need to know that whether we still remain with the Holy Spirit or not under such circumstances will decide eternal life or death.

<The Revival of demons is progressing>

“A big flood of demons” may sound unrealistic, but it actually is not. Because so many revival phenomenon taking place in churches around the world at the moment are led by demonic or strange spirits. We have a video which shows “Leaders of Revival” such as Kenneth Copeland, Rodney Howard, and Benny Hinn claiming anti-Christ-like statement behind the stage. (e.g. “Let’s put the sign of the beast”)



A flood of spirit: Revival of strange spirit

<The message from God to Protestant churches and Christians>

When we had a Bible study from Jeremiah at Saturday meeting in August, I received the message from God to Protestant churches and Christians, so I would like to give a testimony about it.

Jeremiah 7:1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord:

7:2 “Stand at the gate of the Lord’s house and there proclaim this message:

“ ‘Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the Lord.

7:3 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place.

The scripture above was spoken by God through prophet Jeremiah in Old Testament days. As for **“people of Judah”**, “Judah” means “Judah of the south” which also means “Protestants” in the New Testament days. It also says **“Hear the word of the Lord”**, and said **“Reform your ways and your actions”** to Protestant Christians. Pastor Jeremiah gave a message as below then.

The message from verse 3 is about **“reforming ways and actions”** of Protestant Christians. This is the issue for Protestant Christians, so God mentioned it. **“This place”** means **“the promised land (kingdom of the heaven)”** for Christians. Serving is important, but if you don’t repent and keep sinning, you will be kicked out of **“the promised land (kingdom of the heaven)”**. Despite going to the church, you could end up in **“different**

place”...(Pastor Jeremiah)

Embarrassingly enough, I used to think Protestants are “much better” than Catholics in God’s eye. But, as you read Jeremiah, you can see that Protestants have big issues too. Of course, Roman Catholic has problems. Worshipping Pope/Saints and Statue of Maria instead of Christ, the doctrine which says there is no hell and the evolution theory is scientifically proven to be true are big problems as they are against the fundamental teaching of the Bible... But, let’s forget about other people, and think about the problems of Protestants again, based on what I learned at the meeting.

We look at verse 3 where it talks about “ways” and “actions”. In KJV, “actions” changes to “doings” and “Reform” changes to “Amend”. Therefore, this part can also be interpreted as, “Make your ways and customs as well as doings better”. The key point here is “behavior”. I hope you can understand that it emphasizes to “repent from your behavior”, just like Pastor Jeremiah’s message.

Now, we also like to look at what exactly God requires us in terms of “reforming ways and actions”.

Revelation 3:14 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation.

3:15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!

3:16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

3:17 You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

3:18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

3:19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.

Laodicea means “righteousness of crowd (or people)”. By the way, “Pharisees” in those days indicated some sort of perfection, so it was those people who are completely separated from sin. They are very similar in that they both represent people who think they have no problems at all. However, God told off people of Laodicea in verse 17, saying **“You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked”**. In KJV translation, **“I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing”** is written as **“I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing”**. It may appear to mean I have more than enough because there is a lot of assets. Of course, it could mean like that, but in the Bible, “rich” or “wealthy” also means “being able to do anything without God’s help”, so it can be seen as implying that “I can even keep the law of the Bible without asking God’s help”. But, God says **“you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked”** to those people. There is also a parable here, and **“poor”** probably indicates “there is a lack of faith in trusting Christ”, or similar. Also, **“blind”** means “spiritually blind”, and **“naked”** means “being ashamed spiritually” as is written **“shameful nakedness”** in verse 18.

God is saying that the people of the church of Laodicea, which means Protestant church or Christians, don’t realize that they are in such situation. That is why it is written as **“I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see”** in verse 18. I think this part is connected to **“So be earnest and repent”** in verse 19. Therefore, we can see that we need **“gold refined in the fire”** and **“white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness”**, and **“salve to put on your eyes, so you can see”**. God’s will may be found in these.

Lastly, I would like to finish by explaining those three points. The **“gold refined in the fire”** means “faith which has come through the trial”. This faith makes you to stay in Christ despite going through difficulties, tribulation, and trial, by following the scripture. The **“white clothes”** means “righteous act”, which means “doing God’s will”. The description of **“salve to put on your eyes”** is related to “seeing correctly spiritually”. I think these are what God says to seek earnestly, and if we do, it could lead us to repentance. I am putting this into practice every day. I am praying to “be able to do

God's will", "win against trials or difficulties", or "be able to repent immediately when there is something God wants to show me, so that I can repent", and managing to put into practice by the help of the Holy Spirit. Because, I think "the kingdom of heaven" will become far way, once I stop praying or putting into practice.

So, this time we looked at "repentance" for Protestant churches and Christians. It is up to you to accept it, but because this is what God has spoken, if you think "Maybe it is true", I hope you would put into practice.

May glory and honor be given to God who always teaches us the important lessons.

Amen