

“By faith Noah...built an ark” Hebrews chapter 11 verse 7

We all know this one, don't we? Warned by God that he was going to judge the wickedness in the world by sending a flood, Noah built a boat in which to save his family and a pair of every type of animal on the earth.

Hebrews tells us that he did it because of his faith. He was warned about something that was coming in the future and, although he could see no physical sign of it, he acted in obedience to God. We must assume that anyone could have also boarded the ark to escape God's judgment, but no one else did, continuing to live wicked lives right up until the door of the ark closed and the rain began to fall.

We still live in a world scarred by wickedness, corruption and sin today. People follow their own way and reject God. The bible promises that God will one day judge the wilfully wicked, not with a flood, but with an eternity separated from him. We cannot see it now, but it will surely come. Paul speaks of *“Jesus Christ, who is going to judge the living and the dead.”*

Jesus himself references the flood of Noah's time in speaking of his return to earth. He says;

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.”

But whenever he pronounces judgment, God also provides a way out for anyone who is willing to take it. So just as he told Noah to build an ark, so he sent Jesus to offer his life as a once and for all sacrifice for human wrongdoing, so that whoever turns to him by faith will not have to suffer judgement but will have eternal life.

The problem we have is that in our human nature we find it hard to think beyond what we know and experience. We tend to think that life is uniform, and that things never really change. And yet there have been countless events during that time that have broken in on 'normal' life and changed things radically, sometime temporarily and sometimes permanently.

For many centuries the coming of Jesus was promised. The day arrived when he came. He came to save us from another day that will come; the day of God's judgement. It is quite right that all the evil that has been done in this world will be called to account. But what about the measure of sin that is in each one of us? God's judgement is not just for those above a certain level of sin. It encompasses all sin, including mine and yours, whoever you are.

If you are in Christ today, give thanks for your salvation, and call others to him. If you are not in Christ, turn to him today. Today he saves, but no one knows the day when he will come to judge.

Prayer

Father, we know that you are the only true judge of all people, and that your judgement is right. There will be a day when those who have not turned from their sin will be separated from you forever. Thanks you for the salvation that is available in Jesus. May no one miss the opportunity to be spared your judgement, as they did in Noah's time. In Jesus name, amen.

All these devotionals can be found on our website inghamitechurch.org on the 'Resources' page. Click on the link to go there.