

**Parallels**  
(Between Noah's Flood and Christ and the Church)  
I Peter 3:18-22

**I. INTRODUCTION: I**

- I. **2** The Scriptures are chock full of parallels, shadows, types, antitypes (Whatever terminology one would chose to use.).

A. Passover lamb and Christ: Ex. 12

**Jn. 1:29:** "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'"

**I Cor. 5:7:** "For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us."

B. Adam and Christ:

**I Cor. 15:22:** "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive."

**I Cor. 15:45:** "And so it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being.' The last Adam became a life-giving spirit."

2. I believe these many parallels have two major 'takeaway' lessons for us:

A. Value of Old Testament: The OT is extremely valuable for us to study & apply to our lives:

**Rom. 15:4:** "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." (KJV)

**I Cor. 10:11:** "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." (KJV)

B. Evidence of inspiration: The many parallels are extremely strong evidence for the inspiration of the Scriptures

**2 Tim. 3:16-17:** "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (KJV)

**2 Pet. 1:19-21:** "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (KJV)

3. Recently I was reading the account of Noah and the great flood in Genesis 6-9.

A. I was struck by the many parallels between the account of Noah, the ark, and the great flood and Christ and His church.

B. In fact, I found at least 18 important parallels; I believe it's quite amazing and insightful.

4. **3** In this lesson we will briefly explore these parallels (Rom. 15:4; I Cor. 10:11).

**II. DISCUSSION:**

**One thing Noah's ark and Christ and His church have in common is...**

- I. **4** God spoke:

A. God spoke to Noah: Gen. 6:3, 7; 7:1, 9, 15; 9:8, 12, 17 (at least 8 times!)

**Gen. 6:13-14:** *“And God said to Noah, ‘The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14 Make yourself an ark of gopherwood...’”*

B. God speaks to us today:

**Heb. 1:1-2:** *“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;”*; Jn. 12:48

C. God told Noah exactly what he needed to do to save himself from destruction, and, through His Son, God tells us how to avoid eternal destruction.

### **Another thing Noah’s ark and Christ and His church have in common is...**

#### 2. **\*\* One builder:**

A. Noah was the builder of the ark. Noah’s righteousness made him a fit builder:

**Gen. 6:8-9:** *“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. 9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.”*; Gen. 7:1

B. Christ was the builder of the church: Matt. 16:18 Christ’s sinless life made Him a fit builder:

**1 Pet. 1:18-19:** *“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

**1 Pet. 2:22:** *“Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth;”*

**1 Pet. 3:18:** *“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God,”*

C. Our faith and the salvation it brings are not built on sand, but on the rock (Matt. 7:24-26).

### **Another thing Noah’s ark and the church have in common is...**

#### 3. **\*\* One vessel of salvation:**

A. The ark was a vessel of salvation: (No life-boats carried!)

**Heb. 11:7:** *“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”*

B.. The church, so to speak, is God’s vessel of salvation today: Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4; 5:23 No denomination can save; they are not the “one body” Jesus built.

### **Another thing Noah’s ark and the church have in common is...**

#### 4. **\*\* God provides the refuge:** Man cannot save himself! Jer. 10:23 (Ray Comfort videos) Prov. 14:12

A. Man needs refuge from the wrath of God:

**Jn. 15:6:** *“If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”*; Rom. 5:9-10

**Heb. 10:31:** *“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”*

**Eph. 5:6:** *“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”*

**Rev. 19:15:** “Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”

B. God expressed His wrath in Noah’s Flood:

**Gen. 6:13:** “And God said to Noah, ‘The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.’”

(1) The ark was God's only provided refuge in the days of Noah:

**Gen. 7:21-23:** “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. 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.”; Gen. 6:14-21

**1 Pet. 3:20:** “...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.”

C. God will provide His ultimate expression of wrath in the Final Judgment:

(1) The only refuge from final judgment is the church: Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23

(2) The church is God's only provision for refuge in the last days: **Jn. 10:1:** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.”

**Another thing Noah’s ark and the church have in common is...**

5. **5** Only occupants saved:

A. Only those who entered the ark were saved: Gen. 6:19-22 All outside the ark were physically lost:

**Gen. 7:21-23:** “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. 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.”

B. Only those who enter the church are saved:

(1) All responsible people outside the church are lost: Rom. 3:23; 6:23; Rev. 21:8

(2) Only the faithful in the church are saved: **Col. 1:22-23:** “in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight — 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel...”

(3) We are saved...

(a) From sins committed as an alien sinner (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Mk. 16:16),

(b) From sins committed as a Christian (1 Jn. 1:9; Acts 8:22).

(c) Eternally in heaven: Eph. 5:23

**Another thing Noah's ark and the church have in common is...**

6. **\*\* One door:**

- A. There was only one door in the side of the ark: **Gen. 6:16:** *"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."*
  - (1) Noah and his family could only be saved if they entered that one door.
  - (2) Only those who believed Noah's preaching could or would enter that one door.
- B. The church has only one door—Christ said: **Jn. 10:9:** *"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."*
  - (1) All that enter the church must enter by this one door: **Jn. 14:6**
  - (2) How we enter Christ: **Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12:** *"buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."; **1 Cor. 12:13:** "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body..."*
- C. Only those who enter through the one door are declared righteous by God.

**Another thing Noah's ark and the church have in common is...**

7. **\*\* One light:**

- A. The ark had only one window to admit light into the ark: **Gen. 6:16:** *"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."*
- B. Christ is the only source of light for the Church:
  - Jn. 8:12:** *"Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'"*
  - Jn. 12:46:** *"I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness."; **Jn. 1:1:** "...the Word..."*
  - Psa. 119:105:** *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*
- C. The "light" of Catholicism, the "light" of denominationalism, the "light" of Islam, the "light" of Buddhism; cannot save! Christ is the only source of light for the church and salvation.

**Another thing Noah's ark and the church have in common is...**

8. **\*\* One family:**

- A. Only one family was saved in the ark: Noah and his family.
  - Gen. 7:7:** *"So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood."*
  - 1 Pet. 3:20:** *"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."*
- B. Every member of God's family is in the church: **1 Tim. 3:15**
  - 1 Jn. 3:1:** *"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!"*
  - Rom. 8:16-17:** *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, I 7 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."*

## 6 Part 2: Title slide

## 7 Part I review

### Another thing Noah's ark and the church have in common is...

#### 9. **8** One material: Already covered in Part I

- A. The ark was made from only one material, "gopher wood": Gen. 6:14
- B. The church is made of only one material, "living stones": I Pet. 2:5 (emphasize exclusivity; must be a "living stone")  
**I Pet. 2:5**: "you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."
- C. Just think of the grand and glorious honor and privilege God allows us to be a "living stone" in His "holy temple"; "an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Eph. 2:21-22).

### Another thing Noah's ark and the church have in common is...

#### 10. **\*\*** One worship:

- A. The first act Noah did upon exiting the ark (i.e., upon receiving salvation) was worship:  
**Gen. 8:20**: "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."
- B. God expects His people to worship today: Jn. 4:24; Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Cor. 11:23-29; 16:1-2; Eph. 5:19; Heb. 10:25
  - (1) Not according to manmade traditions (Matt. 15:9).
  - (2) No "will-worship" (Col. 2:23 ASV; Eph. 5:19).

### Another thing Noah's ark and the church have in common is...

#### 11. **\*\*** Sign:

- A. In Noah's day God gave a sign: **Gen. 9:13**: "I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth."
- B. Jesus gave a sign: **Matt. 16:4**: "A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."; **Rom. 1:4**: "declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."
- C. Our salvation is completely, totally and absolutely dependent upon Christ's resurrection:  
**Rom. 4:23-25**: "Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification."
- D. All that Christ is, all He stands for, all He promises, etc. depends on His resurrection (cf. Acts 2:36; Matt. 16:18; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23; etc., etc.).

### Another thing Noah's ark and the church have in common is...

#### 12. **\*\*** Righteousness demands obedience:

- A. Noah's faith was perfected by his obedience to God's commands: **Gen. 6:22**: "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did."

**Heb. 11:7**: "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."

- B. Christ demands our obedience today: Matt. 28:20; Heb. 5:8-9; Jn. 14:15

**1 Jn. 2:3-5**: "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him."

### **Another thing Noah's ark and the church have in common are...**

#### **13. \*\* God's promises:**

- A. God promised Noah:

(1) Salvation: God promised Noah salvation from the flood and God delivered: Gen. 6:18-20; 7:15-18; 8:21-22; 1 Pet. 3:20

(2) Bright future: **Gen. 8:21-22**: "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.'"

- B. Christ promises us salvation from sin and a bright future **and** He delivers: **Jn. 4:14**: "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

- C. We have the wonderful comfort of God's promise and His perfect reliability:

**Titus 1:2**: "in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,";  
Rev. 21:4

### **Another thing Noah's ark and the church have in common is...**

#### **14. 9 God specifies the terms of salvation:**

- A. God ordained specific conditions for Noah and his family to receive salvation from the flood: **Gen. 6:14**: "Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch."

(1) \*\* This is how many envision the ark.

(2) \*\* This is more like reality (~525' long x ~88' wide x ~55' high; volume = ~450 semi trailers; would hold ~120,000 sheep).

(3) Imagine the amount of work Noah and his family did to build such a structure!

- B. \*\* God specifies conditions for man to be saved today: **Hear**, Rom. 10:17; **Believe**, Heb. 11:6; Jn. 8:24 (Rom. 1:4); **Repent**, Acts 17:30; Acts 2:38; **Confess**, Rom. 10:9-10; Acts



8:37; **Baptism**, Jn. 3:3-5; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21; **Live faithfully**, Col. 1:21-23; Rev. 2:10

- C. Sadly, so many don't teach the truth about God's terms of salvation (e.g., Bob Enyart, Dr. Kent Hovind will not teach the necessity of baptism.).

**Another thing Noah's ark and the church have in common is...**

15. **\*\*** Only the righteous saved: stress our righteousness comes from God.

- A. Noah was saved because he was found righteous; thus, he became the recipient of God's grace granting him salvation: **Gen. 6:8-9**: "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. 9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God."
- B. In the final judgment only the righteous will be saved; only those "walking in the light" (**1 Jn. 1:6-8**: "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.")).
- C. We become righteous (i.e., acquitted of sin) when we "live by faith": **Rom. 1:16-17**: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'"
- Acts 10:34-35**: "Then Peter opened his mouth and said: 'In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.'"

**Another thing Noah's ark and the church have in common is...**

16. **\*\*** Unrepentant sinners lost: Rom. 3:23

- A. God promised and delivered destruction to unrepentant sinners in Noah's day: **Gen. 6:3**: "And the Lord said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.'"
- 1 Pet. 3:19-20**: "by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah..."
- B. Unrepentant sinners will be lost in the final judgment: **Rom. 2:3-11**; **Rev. 20:15**: "And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

**Another thing Noah's ark and the church have in common is...**

17. **10** Few saved:

- A. In Noah's day only eight souls were saved: **Gen. 7:7**: "So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood."
- 1 Pet. 3:20**: "...in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water."
- (1) Pre-flood world population estimates run from 750 M to ~11 B!
- (2) Noah preached 120 years, but out of that mass of humanity only "eight souls, were saved"!

- B. In the final judgment “few” will be saved: **Matt. 7:13-14:** “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”
- C. Will you be one of the “many” that are lost, or the “few” that are saved?

### **Another thing Noah’s ark and the church have in common is...**

#### **18. \*\* Limited time for repentance:**

- A. In Noah’s day God gave man 120 years to repent: **Gen. 6:3:** “And the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.’”
- B. Today God’s longsuffering will end:
 

**2 Pet. 3:3-7:** “...scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.’ 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

**2 Pet. 3:10:** “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

**Acts 17:30-31:** “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

### **III. CONCLUSION:**

- 1. Believe it or not, I thought of even more parallels between Noah and Christ and His church.
  - A. I went to the Belleville gospel meeting Friday night and Mo Hafley was preaching on the topic of *God’s Patterns*.
  - B. He pointed out the many patterns God has given us in His Word.
  - C. He pointed out, among other things, that God gave Noah a pattern (Gen. 6:14-16).
  - D. And, God gave a pattern for the church (Heb. 8:5; worship, organization, work, etc.).
- 2. **I I** Tragically the people ignored God's warnings in the days of Noah:
 

**2 Pet. 2:5:** “and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;”
- 3. Tragically people today are just like the people in Noah’s day; they ignore God:
 

**Matt. 24:37-39:** “But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”



4. People today are ignoring God's warnings of final judgment and eternal punishment for those not “*in Christ*”: 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Matt. 25:31-46; Mk. 9:42-48
5. Most people today are as unprepared as those in the days of Noah: Matt. 24:37
6. \*\* Are you prepared? Don't ignore or dismiss God like they did.

A few points developed from a sermon (*The Ark and the Church*) by Donald Townsley (1994).