

Rev. Matthew Versemann
Trinity Lutheran Church
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Creation Series – Part 5
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Noah's Ark & The Flood – God's Judgement And God's Salvation

God's PEACE is ALWAYS YOURS in Jesus.

Hear the Word of God from Matthew 24,

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 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; 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.”

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

((As we continue our sermon series on Creation versus Evolution, and the Truth of Genesis 1-11, today we will deal with the Catastrophe of Noah's flood, which laid down the fossil record, and geological makeup of the earth's surface thousands of years ago, rather than millions of years ago.)) A number of years ago I was watching 'Nightline' on TV, and an Evolutionist - who didn't believe in God's Word - was aiming his attacks on Noah's Ark, and a worldwide flood. This evolutionist was trying to come across as an unbiased scientist, when the truth is, none of us are unbiased – it's just that some admit their biases and presuppositions, while others don't. At Trinity Lutheran we admit our bias up front: that God's Word is true from the very first verse. But that doesn't mean that ours' is a blind faith. Our faith is backed up by Jesus making a public appearance on planet earth, and performing miracles and rising again from the dead to validate the truth of His Word, which is also backed up by observational science in the present. **Page 1**

Eventually, the Evolutionist couldn't keep his bias from showing. He finally said, *"I don't care if someday, someone finds a boat made out of Gopher wood (just as the Bible says of Noah's Ark), on Mt. Ararat (where the Bible says the Ark landed); and with the exact dimensions of Noah's Ark (as found in the Bible), and even if such a boat could be carbon-dated to roughly 2500 BC (when Biblically the flood would have occurred), and even if the discoverers parade such a boat down the streets of New York city for all to see, I still won't believe in the Bible."* I remember saying to myself, *"Finally, an honest evolutionist, admitting his biases against God's Word."*

A few years ago, Dr. Ken Ham – of AnswersInGenesis.org - debated an Evolutionist on Noah's flood, and he was asked if he could give any evidence for a world-wide flood. Ken Ham said, *"Well, probably the best evidence we have for a worldwide flood is that we find.....billions of dead things, buried in rock layers, laid down by water, all over the earth....."*. "I see", said the Evolutionist, *"so what you're saying is that you have no evidence for a worldwide, catastrophic flood as recorded in the Bible,"* to which Dr. Ken Ham responded, *"No! Not if you don't count the fact that we have.... billions of dead things, buried in rock layers, laid down by water, all over the earth."*

Why is it that so many pastors, professors, churches, and Christians, are so eager to question and compromise God's Word to believe whatever the biased evolutionists tell them, when evolution is just as much a religious belief as Christianity, because no one can go back in time to prove its' claims? I believe that for many it's because they either don't know how to back up their faith in the truth of God's Word – which is why we're doing this sermon series – or their more concerned about what people will think of them than they are the truth of God's Word. Sadly, even many Christians believe that *"the Bible is guilty of error, until proven innocent"*. At Trinity, we believe *"the Bible is innocent, until proven guilty, and it's never been proven guilty of error."* However, those who don't believe in Noah's Ark and a worldwide Flood have a big problem; for even Jesus believed in Noah's flood. In Matthew 24 Jesus said, *"As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the Ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man."*

Which means what? If you say that Noah's Ark, and a world-wide flood are just a myth, then what you're also saying is that either Jesus is lying when He says that Noah and the flood are real events, or that Jesus just doesn't know all things, and in either case He can't be true God, and if He's not true God, He can't be your Savior – or, the other option is: Jesus is telling us the truth when He says that Noah's Ark and the flood are REAL events of how God judged a prior generation of unbelievers, but saved those who trusted in Him. But, if Noah did build an Ark, and he and his family were saved through a world-wide flood, we have more questions we need to answer.

First of all, is there evidence, outside of the Bible, for a worldwide flood? Why, as a matter of fact there is. Let me give you some of the evidence: We have found ocean or marine fossils buried on top of some of the highest mountain peaks in the world. We have also discovered similar sedimentary layers covering entire continents. Our world experienced an Ice Age, and wide-scale glaciation in the recent past – which would fit the time frame of Noah's flood. And finally, but probably most exciting, is that we have found literally hundreds of flood legends from diverse, pre-missionary cultures all over the world – cultures that were, in many cases, isolated from the other by distance, language, and no forms of communication. Yet, many of these flood legends are amazingly similar to what God's Word teaches about Noah and the flood, but it makes sense, from God's Word, because we all had a common ancestor, Noah.

The Hawaiians have a flood story of a time when, long after the death of the first man, the world became a wicked, terrible place. Only one good man was left, and his name was Nu-u. Nu-u made a great canoe with a house on it and filled it with animals. Then the waters came over all the earth and killed all the people; only Nu-u and his family survived. Another flood story from China, records that a man named Fuhi, his wife, three sons, and three daughters escaped a great flood, and were the only people alive on earth. And after the great flood, they repopulated the world.

The Sumerian Epic of Gilgamesh sounds like Noah's Ark and the flood, when it says: *“Man of Shurrupack’, he said, ‘tear down your house, and build a ship. Abandon your possessions, and the works you find beautiful and crave, and save your life instead. Into the ship bring the seed of all living creatures...for the time of the great rains had come. O there was ample warning, yes, my friend,.....the riverbanks failed to hold the water back.....until the flood subsided from its slaughter.’* **Page 3**

But, pastor, how could Noah and his three sons have built such a huge boat in such a short amount of time? Well, let's begin with the fact that God's Word has answers if we'll study His Word. We know that Noah built the Ark with his three sons. But how much time did they have? The Bible tells us that Japheth was born 100 years before the flood. Shem was born 98 years before the flood, and although we're not told when Ham was born, we assume that he was born shortly thereafter. We also know that all three sons were married when Noah began building the Ark, So, let's assume that they were at least 20 when they got married, that would mean that the Ark began to be built about 75 years before the flood. So they had up to 75 years to build the Ark.

But, Pastor, wasn't the Ark huge? As a matter of fact it was. It was between 510-525 feet long (which is close to the length of two football fields). It was about 80-85 feet wide, and about 45-50 feet tall. However, the Bible nowhere rules out the fact that Noah could have hired skilled workers, as well as purchased timber and lumber to build the Ark. When Ken Ham – of AnswersInGenesis.org - built an exact replica of the Ark in Kentucky, many of the workers were unbelievers, working on the project.

But, Pastor, how could all of the animals have fit on the Ark? If you take the Biblical dimensions of the Ark, the Ark had enough cubic space to hold five hundred train car loads. Try to imagine that amount of space. When we see a train go by with just 100 cars, we consider that a very long train. Now imagine a train 500 train cars long. That's how much cubic feet of space was on Noah's Ark. If you do the math, the Ark would have been big enough to hold approximately 25,000 sheep-sized animals.

Now when the Lord brought the animals to Noah to go into the Ark, it does not say that the Lord brought two of every 'variety' or 'species' of animals. It says the Lord brought two of every "kind" of animal. And creation scientists estimate that if you count both the living kinds we see today, plus the extinct "kinds" we know of, there are about 1400 "kinds" of land animals that exist today, or once existed. Thus, Noah would NOT have had to take two of every 'variety' of cats on the Ark, He would only have had to take two or very few of the "Cat Kind" that had all of the DNA necessary in its' genes to produce the wide variety of cat species when they came off of the Ark. In the same way, Noah would not have had to take every variety or species of dogs – wolves, jackals, dingos, and every kind of domesticated dogs on the Ark. He would only have had to take two or very few of the "Dog Kind" that had all of the DNA necessary to produce the wide variety of dogs we see today. And we could go on and on. He would have only needed to take two of the "Bovine Kind", two of the "sheep kind", two of the "elephant kind" and so forth. Thus, with an Ark big enough to hold 25,000 sheep-sized animals, and an estimate that Noah only had to take about 6000 animals on the ark, there would be plenty of room for food and family also. Page 4

But how would Noah have known all of the “kinds” of animals – with all of the necessary DNA information in them, to produce all of the varieties of animals we see today - onto the Ark? He didn’t have to. Do you remember how Noah got all of the correct animals on the Ark? The Bible gives us the answers, if we’ll just study it.

Genesis 6 says, “¹⁹ *(The Lord said to Noah) You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you.* ²⁰ *Two of every kind of bird, every kind of animal, and every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive.* ²¹ *You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and them.* ²² *So Noah did everything just as God commanded him.*” Wait a second, pastor? There’s no way Noah could have captured lions, and tigers, and bears (Oh! My!), much less dinosaurs? That’s my point. He didn’t have to. Genesis 6 says, “*every kind of creature will come to you (Noah) to be kept alive.*” And Genesis 7 says, “⁸ *Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds, and of all the creatures that move along the ground,* ⁹ *male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, just as God had commanded.*”

But how could Noah have fit a T-Rex or a Brontosaurus, on the Ark? We answered that two weeks ago. Remember dinosaurs came from eggs. And we have found many fossilized dinosaur eggs. The largest dinosaur egg we have found is that of T-Rex. No surprise there. However, the egg of a T-Rex is only about the size of a football, which means that even a T-Rex started out life very small. And since God was going to repopulate the earth, after the flood, with every kind of animal, do you think God chose small, young and healthy T-Rex’s that had many years to live and propagate; and which would have eaten less food on the ark, and produced less waste, or would He choose big, fat, and old T-Rex’s with few years to live, to propagate after the flood? Certainly, He would have chosen the younger, smaller ones to go on the Ark.

But the Real Question for us today, as with any sermon, is: ‘How Is This News That I Can Use?’ 2nd Peter 3 tells us, “*Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing, following their own evil desires...and saying, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. And by these waters also, the world of that time was deluged and destroyed By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.... So then, dear friends....make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.*”

2nd Peter 2 calls Noah a '*preacher of righteousness*'. And for 80 years Noah preached a sermon about the coming judgment of God on peoples' sin with words and hammer, while building the Ark. And yet, his 80-year sermon didn't win a single convert, that's how hard peoples' hearts were. What's the point? If the days before Jesus returns are going to be as evil as the day before Noah's flood, there's going to come a time when faithful churches and faithful pastors will find it hard to gain a single convert, or get anyone to listen to God's Word. Instead, political correctness and pride will cause people to close their ears, and silence the truth of God's Word in their lives.

No doubt there were many people who heard the sound of Noah's mallet, hammering away, day after day, late into the night. And when the kids asked: '*Mommy, daddy, what's that crazy preacher building?*' Their unbelieving parents would tell them something like this: '*Oh, don't you pay any attention to that silly preacher, Johnny, now you go to bed, remember, tomorrow's the Sabbath, and you know what we do on the Sabbath, we go dinosaur hunting, we practice swinging our caveman clubs to hit little rocks, we're going out to eat Brontosaurus burgers, and we're organizing a travel team to play "kick the coconut into the opponent's fishing net", while the dads hit little round stones with wooden sticks into prairie dog holes.*' And they ignored, partied, and slept right through Noah's 80 year sermon, until the hammer blows were replaced with rain drops, and Noah's sermon ended with the "**Amen**" of the door of the Ark being slammed shut.

1st Peter 4 warns us not to fall into the same trap. "*We have spent enough time doing what the pagans do, living in sexual immorality, orgies, carousing, drunkenness, and idolatry. The pagans will think it is strange when you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation; and they will heap abuse on you. But they will have to give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*"

And what Peter is telling us, is that what happened in Noah's day –which is evidenced to this very day by the fossil record, similar strata across entire continents, the ice age, and the flood legends – is given to us as a warning to lead us to repent of our sins, and by faith, come aboard the Ark of Christ's church, of which Jesus is the only door, to be saved. In other words, the fossil record is not JUST about fossils. It is a Biblical sermon of how God judged a prior world that rejected Him, but also a reminder of how the Lord saved Noah and his family (eight souls in all), who trusted in Him. **Page 6**

Jesus is coming back, to Judge the living and the dead. And in Matthew 24 Jesus tells us ‘WHAT’ we are to expect before He returns, ***“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood, people were eating, drinking, marrying, and being given in marriage; right up to the day that Noah entered the Ark; and they did not know what would happen, until the flood hit and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.”*** In other words, most people will be clueless about Christ’s coming. And Judgment Day will be totally off their radar screens. That is, until the Judgment hits.

But if the world will be the same as in the days of Noah right before the flood, then what were those days like? Genesis 6 says, ***“The Lord saw that the wickedness of mankind was ‘great’ in ‘all the earth’; and that ‘every inclination’ of the thoughts of men’s hearts was ‘only evil’, ‘all the time’. And the Lord was sorrowful that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, ‘I will destroy mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and the birds of the air; for I am sorrowful that I have made them....But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”***

With the exception of Noah and his family, the world had unanimously turned its back on God, and voted Him out of office. You get the impression that before Jesus returns, sin will become so accepted, and such a “normal” part of life, that many will be totally clueless that there’s anything in their lives to be judged wrong, by a ‘God’ they believe doesn’t exist, much less a Judgment to be saved from. While we don’t know when Jesus is going to return, what we do know is that we are living in a culture that is as it was in the days of Noah. But to those who repent, God’s Word says, ***“DO NOT BE AFRAID!”*** For the days of Noah were not only days of Judgment. They were also days of salvation! Although there were only 8 believers left on planet earth, among the masses of humanity that were condemned in the flood; the Lord saved them. He did not wipe out the righteous with the unrighteous. He never does. 2nd Peter 2 says, ***““If God did not spare the ancient world, when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but He protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness and seven others.....if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the Godly from trials, while holding the unrighteous for the Day of Judgment, and continuing their punishment.”***

Jesus is our rescuer. His forgiving cross is our rescue. And the church is His present Day Ark - the ONLY life-raft that can save sinners, in this Titanic-sized world. Our Noah, Jesus, not only rescued His disciples by walking on water and stilling storms, but His greatest rescue was when He let the flood of God's wrath hit him instead of us. The Good News is our Savior didn't stay dead. We have an unsinkable Savior, Who checked back out of His grave alive on Easter morning, and He is our life-preservor; so that all who are in Christ are also unsinkable. John 14, ***'Because I live, you will live also.'*** And He has brought us, onto the saving Ark of His church, through Baptism, as 1st Peter 3 promises, ***"This water, (of Noah's flood) symbolizes Baptism, which now saves you ...not by the washing away of dirt from the body, but by the seal of a good conscience towards God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus."*** Even though we're living on a Titanic headed world, our hope is in 2nd Peter 2, ***"If God did not spare the ancient world, when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but He protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness and seven others.....if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the Godly."*** Our rescuer is Jesus. Our rescue is His forgiveness. And our Baptism is our ticket aboard the Ark of Christ's church, which is soon to arrive at the home harbor of Heaven. Amen.