

# A YEAR BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

<sup>1</sup> But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. <sup>2</sup> Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. <sup>3</sup> The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, <sup>4</sup> and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. <sup>5</sup> The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible. ... <sup>13</sup> By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. <sup>14</sup> By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. <sup>15</sup> Then God said to Noah, <sup>16</sup> "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. <sup>17</sup> Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you--the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground--so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."

Genesis 8:1-5,13-17

<sup>6</sup> By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed

II Peter 3:6

I. Losing an old world

A. Only the sorrow of death permits the joy of new birth.

Only grief permits newness.

- B. 587 B.C. was, to God's people, a metaphor of newness/relinquishment and receiving.
- C. In 587 B.C. Judah's old world was dismantled in order that a new world might be received.
- D. It equaled a loss of everything considered safe, certain, and permanent. (The Davidic dynasty, the temple, its priesthood, their city and their land.)
- \* God has to dismantle our old world in order to bring us to a new world.

## II. A few Ark facts

- A. The Ark was 510 feet long. (One and a half football fields in length. NASA could lay three space shuttles nose to nose on the roof.)
- B. The Ark was 50 feet high, the height of a four-story building with cargo space of 450 standard semi-trailers, 1 million cubic ft. It was 87 feet 6 inches wide.
- C. The Ark, afloat with full contents, weighed 47 million pounds or 24,000 tons.
- D. It held 70,000 animals the size of a sheep.
- E. The trip would last for 370 days.
- F. While they seemed to float aimlessly, there was a new world buried beneath the waves yet unseen.
- G. They were floating in the sea of flux.
- \* God knows exactly what vehicle you need to carry you safely between two worlds.

### III. Noah and a year between two worlds

A. Noah received information of “things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:7)

*<sup>7</sup> 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.*

B. Noah believed God in matters which had never been spoken before.

C. Nothing Noah saw gave him any indication of what was coming. The “things which were seen” in no way reflected the future.

D. Noah knew what others did not know.

E. Noah would’ve only seen building, planting, marriage, progress and advancement on all sides. It looked as though all progress was upward and all advancement was onwards.

F. Noah began his 120 year building project watching progress, invention, civilization, etc., but he knew the progress was downward and the advancement was towards judgment.

\* Never judge eternal realities by the outward appearance.

\*\* Faithfulness is the one great requisite to measure success, not results!

### IV. One year on the water / When all is smelly and God seems silent

A. The Ark was big enough to carry what Noah needed

between two worlds.

- B. Noah needed the correct interpretive perspective. The Ark was not a prison, a punishment, a curse, death, or Hell!
  - C. The Ark was a womb of transformation! If Noah left too soon, he would have drowned!
  - D. It's traumatic to be brought into a small space, to live in a small space, and to leave a small space.
  - E. Everything was on the Ark, his son Ham, who was a devil, and his sons Shem and Japheth who would walk backwards and cover his nakedness!
  - F. There is no record that God said anything to anyone for the majority of the trip.
- V. God remembered Noah / Receiving a new world
- A. God sent the wind to cause the waters to begin to recede. The Ark was landing, not crashing.
  - B. As the waters receded, Noah caught his first glimpse of his new world.
  - C. The very receding of the water sculpted the future world that was deep under their feet.
  - D. It was traumatic for Noah to be invited out of a constricted place into a wide place. Don't be afraid to come out.
  - E. Deliverance is traumatic.
  - F. All Noah's life he had been made into a pioneer with skills to tame his new world.
    - \* Pioneers are never comfortable on the beaten path.
    - \* Pioneers establish what will be normal in the future.

- \* Pioneers must not be afraid of being utterly different.
- \* Pioneers must get used to being misjudged and mislabeled.
- \* Pioneers must be able to withstand extreme pressure.
- \* Pioneers expect jealousy; they are not shocked by it.
- \* Pioneers stand “in the gap” between two worlds.

