

Noah

The God-authored Scripture we call the Holy Bible can be considered to be a very condensed history of the world from the created beginning as described in Genesis, to its future end, as detailed in Revelation. In between, our Lord's narrative introduces us to a number of outstanding men and women whom He had blessed with the privilege of serving Him mightily as He advanced His purpose for having created all that exists. In any list one might make of these giants in the faith it is certain that Noah would be included. He might not be as high on such a list as would Abraham, or Moses, or David. However, there are few things about Noah that stand out so compellingly that if we were to examine what we know about him, along with what we might reasonable infer it seems likely that his place in any list of greats might rise considerably. Let us see if there is any merit to this supposition.

The first we read about Noah is in Genesis 5:29-32 where he is named as the last on the list of the first ten men who make up the antediluvian genealogy of the Son of man, our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus. Here his father Lamech predicted at his birth that Noah would be a comfort to others. It's also interesting that Lamech lived another 595 years and died just 5 years before the flood. It's likely that there were many saved souls along with Lamech that through God's mercy and love died peacefully and so were spared going through the flood. The next mention of Noah is in Genesis 6:8 where it says that *"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."* Then in verse 9 we are told that *Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God."* WOW!! Could there be a higher endorsement than that, for anyone to take with them to the "pearly gate"? The Hebrew word for just also means righteous.

Can we conclude from this that Noah was a saved soul with the indwelling Holy Spirit? I believe that we can. In Ezekiel 14:14, God said *"though these three men, Noah, Daniel and Job, were in it, (the sinful world) they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness...."* Also in Hebrews 11:7 we are again told that *"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness*

which is by faith.” Righteousness in the Scriptural context is a quality reserved for those who are saved to eternal life with God. All born-again souls by definition have been declared righteous.

Notice in Ezekiel 14:14 that Noah and the others could only deliver their own souls. By means of the Ark the eight were saved from drowning, that is a physical saving. This did not save their souls. Spiritual salvation is totally different, and is an individual thing. Noah’s wife, his sons and their wives, while saved from the flood, were not necessarily spiritually redeemed. In fact it appears that they may not have been yet, as we consider two later references to Noah. Notice in Ezekiel 14:14 they were able to deliver “...*but their own souls...*” We also read in 2Peter 2:5 “*and spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness....*”

From those verses it appears that only Noah was redeemed, while the others were not, at least during the time they were on the Ark. These verses make it clear that no one is able to save anyone else. One can only pray for others, direct them to the Word of God, and be a living example of what a redeemed soul is like. It’s God’s grace through the faith of individual souls that saves them. Contrary to some beliefs, the redeemed head of a household does not directly convey salvation to his family. Again, each must be saved through their individual faith.

We read only of Enoch and Noah walking with God, and who were reported to be saved souls. There may have been many others saved of those who lived prior to the flood. However there are no others so mentioned. As Schofield observed, having been raptured, Enoch became a type of saint who will be “caught up” before the great tribulation, while Noah, having been preserved through the flood, is a type of the Israelite people who will be preserved through the tribulation. While we are in the business of symbolism, we might also observe that the ark is a type of Christ in as much that it is a refuge from judgement for His people. As the redeemed through Christ will escape the judgment of the whole earth which we call the Great Tribulation, so also did the Ark preserve the eight souls from the first judgment of the whole earth called the great flood. When it says

in 6:9 that Noah was “perfect in his generations,” many, including myself, interpret this to be in reference to the pollution of the gene pool as a result of what Genesis 6:1-5 tells us about what Satan’s crew of particularly evil angels did when they “took” wives of women. The inference is that this contamination spread like leaven throughout the population accelerating and expanding the evil nature of all mankind.

Noah lived for 600 years before the flood, and was a contemporary of each of his recorded ancestors except Adam, Seth and Enoch. He witnessed, and had to be to some degree immersed within the ever growing wickedness of the earth’s people. Yet somehow, through God’s grace he escaped contamination of his soul. In that sense, are not all who are redeemed and living today, not only of his seed, but somehow his kindred spirit as well? Christ people, today’s Christians, are living through a similar time of increasing wickedness as well as the time immediately preceding the second and final world wide judgment and physical destruction. This time, the “Ark” will be Jesus when He calls His own and raptures them just as He did Enoch. They will escape the storm of destruction by being in heaven, after which they will return to the refreshed earth for a millennium.

In Genesis 6:7, the Lord said “*...I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.*” This indicates that these are words spoken by God Himself. To whom? The next two verses, as already described above, suggest that it was to Noah that He spoke, and that it is Noah who is recording what God had told him. As Noah and the Son, in His physical manifestation as the Theophany walked together, no doubt they talked of many things. Perhaps God told him about those portions of the world beyond his own limited region, as well as what the post-flood world would be like, and also what happened to his great grandfather Enoch. Surely God made it clear as recorded in verse 13, just what He would do to the world and why.

How might we understand how God, who is spirit, could “walk” with Enoch or Noah and earlier with Adam, in the physical sense? Some choose to allegorize this by suggesting that God was not in the flesh but merely speaking as thoughts in man’s head. As noted

above, we should take this “walking” literally and know it as a “Theophany, the physical manifestation of the pre-incarnate Son of God. This was the same Person who came to Abraham’s tent on the way to destroy Sodom, the same One who walked and talked with Adam in the garden, and also who appeared as the “Angel of God” many other times as recorded in the Old Testament.

Right after telling Noah that He was about to destroy the world, God, in 6:14-21 instructs him to build an Ark, a large floatable box by means of which He will preserve through the destruction period, Noah’s family of eight as well as two of every species of breathing animal then existing on earth. Let us try to imagine what must have gone through Noah’s mind. He was told to build a water-proof floatable box as big as an average size cargo ship sailing the seas today. Nothing like this had ever been done before. No ship of this size is known to have ever been built until steel came into use in the 18th century. Prior to the flood it is unlikely that any boats much bigger than a rowboat had ever existed. At the most there probably were a few ponds and lake-sized seas but no continent-separating oceans. It is likely that the dry ground was one continuous land mass. It is doubtful that there was very much commerce where a boat or even a raft would have been more efficient than land travel. While it is possible that some people fished, it is not recorded anywhere that God permitted the eating of any flesh until after the flood (Genesis 1:22, 2:16, etc.)

It’s of interest in passing that the word “Ark” as used here is “rebah” meaning “box.” It is used only to describe Noah’s Ark and the “basket” into which baby Moses was placed. All other Old Testament references to an Ark are the Hebrew word “aron” and that means in the sense of gathering, a box, a chest, a coffin. Also, the first Hebrew spelling for the word that is translated as “Ark” is “arown.” Looking to the Hebrew word translated as Aaron, the name of Moses’ older brother, it is “Aharown”. As we read in Exodus we find a very close relationship between Aaron and the Ark. Could it be that Aaron’s name and the name of the Ark have a spiritual relationship? Did God simply put an “ah”, that is spiritual breath on the word for Ark, in naming Aaron Aharown? Don’t laugh, there is

far more to this than is obvious. Strong's concordance says that the word "aharon" is of "uncertain derivation."

By the way, as another note of passing interest, why was Noah instructed to waterproof, that is apply pitch to the Ark both inside and out? The Hebrew word for pitch is "kaphar" which in this case is a bituminous material. This is the residue sludge that is left after petroleum products have been extruded. For centuries, it also existed in surface pools in many parts of the world. It has been used for many centuries to preserve wood, and is the "gluing agent" in bituminous concrete used as road pavements. Natural sludge beds were found in surface pools where all of the volatile components had evaporated. For the apparent purpose of the Ark, it would have been necessary to waterproof only the outside. There has to be another reason to have had the inside so treated as well. The only thing that seems to make sense is that the long term preservation of the entire structure was intended. Why? Perhaps so that it might exist during these end times, and in God's fullness of time, be found as a major evidence of the truth of the flood.

If whoever it was that chose to list the seven wonders of the ancient world, had fully appreciated the awesome size and complexity of the Ark, they would have called it the number one of the eight wonders, of the ancient world. To describe the all but impossible task that had been given to Noah would take many pages, and is hardly essential for the present purpose. What is relevant however, and most outstanding here, is the incredible faith, obedience, strength, intelligence, ingenuity and perseverance that Noah displayed as he accepted the task and proceeded for the next 120 years to accomplish. Of these, his faithful perseverance was by far his greatest attribute. Anyone with a lesser faith would have soon "pulled a Jonah" and ran away as fast as possible. Here is where we see the greatness of Noah towering over most, if not all of Scripture's great personages. Put aside the physical and technical near impossibilities, the unquestioning and long enduring, never failing faith he displayed, has never been, nor could it ever again be matched.

Certainly Abraham's faith as he proceeded in the sacrifice of Isaac is also unmatched in its totality. However, that expression of faith didn't require over a century of day after day sustaining. Also Abraham knew that he was carrying out prophecy and had confidence in its quick delivery. Absent God's guidance and support, the Ark construction would have been impossible. Who other than Noah, could have, at that time, considered it even remotely possible? Perhaps even he didn't think it could be done, making his dogged, faithful continuance even more incredible. It could only be a man of totally uncompromising faith. There was supernatural guidance both in the design and construction of the Ark. However, God left the physical aspect of construction up to Noah. Scripture teaches us that God prefers to guide and let man deal with what he can, and only gets involved supernaturally when absolutely necessary.

Again, setting aside the magnitude of the task, just think how his contemporaries must have mocked and cursed him, and even sabotaged his work as he proceeded to obey God day-by-day, year-by-year for well over a century. By that time, Scripture tells us that there was a huge and extremely wicked population. The disrupting and disheartening attitudes and actions of those who witnessed Noah's efforts may have been even more daunting and stressful than the work itself. Without God's protection, it's likely that the work would have been sabotaged to the point of total destruction. This is reminiscent of how Satan's human agents harassed and made it near impossible to complete the second temple and the walls of Jerusalem during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Who might have helped him build the ark? Certainly his three mentioned sons must have helped. Perhaps also his father Lamech, along with other sons of Noah's brothers, cousins, etc. who may also have been righteous and who died before the flood. Could there have been other workmen hired from among the wicked? Perhaps, but probably not, given the sacredness of the Ark and its divine purpose.

Most recently a disciple named Ken Ham is completing a full-scale copy of the Ark to the dimensions and detail provided in Scripture. It will be available to the public in July of

2016. It even includes every species that was on the original, and how they might have been housed, fed, and provided water.

Scripture makes it evident that each of the named people during the pre-flood age had many children, perhaps hundreds. We are told only of those through which God chose to identify the genealogy of Jesus. No doubt that early on, Adam had many more children other than Cain and Abel, as well as before and after Seth. In the case of Noah, we are given the names of the three sons who were physically saved through the flood. There is no reason to believe that he didn't have many more children. It is reasonable to assume that some died in faith, some died not in faith before the flood, and the rest, not of the faith, died in the flood.

Let us look again at Noah when he accepted God's commission to build the Ark. We look again so we can savor the spiritual awesomeness of this most incredible expression of faith, trust and obedience. God told him to build a waterproof vessel 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high, why? Because he wanted to save him, his family and two of every kind of living breathing creatures on earth from a flood that would destroy the entire face of the earth. It had never rained, and there had never been such thing as even a local flood. It's unlikely that he had any comprehension of what "rain" or "flood" meant. Nothing even slightly resembling such a structure had ever been built, and from any human perspective, every aspect of the idea was foolish, absurd, pointless and impossible to accomplish. Yet Noah believed, he trusted, he obeyed, and he persevered for 120 years under what had to be the most continuously trying, painful, stressful, daunting, discouraging circumstances imaginable, even beyond the imaginable, as we think deeply about it. This was Noah, a towering giant in the faith. To call him simply unequalled among those of great perseverance and obedience does his greatness in these qualities a gross disservice. He was a Mt. Everest compared with the rolling mounds of the Great Plains in these characteristics.

Now consider the $377 \pm$ days on the Ark. Lacking an open window shutter, at least for the first forty days, it must have been dark as well as claustrophobic. We don't know the

full extent of the duties necessary for the feeding and caring of the 18,000 or more pairs of animals, birds and creeping things. Perhaps God put many into suspended animation, or hibernation for most of the time to help lessen Noah's burden. However there was some considerable need for attention due to the fact that food and water was in the Ark for their use and had to be doled out in the darkness by Noah and his sons. Then what about the emotional health and sanity of his family under these prolonged and extremely stressful conditions? As the patriarch, their welfare was his responsibility, and there must have been many emotional crises to deal with. Unless God told Noah a great deal more than He has shared with us in Scripture, all Noah knew was that it would start raining seven days after He closed the door of the Ark, and that it would rain for forty day and nights. He also told him that the result would be the destruction of all breathing life from the face of the earth. (Genesis 7:4) Scripture makes no reference to God having spoken to Noah until Chapter 8, verse 16, where, 377 days later, God tells him to "go forth of the ark", that is, to take his family and the animals out so that they can all could begin to breed and multiply.

In many ways this year-plus had to be more emotionally draining, faith testing and physiologically debilitating than were the 120 years of Ark construction. As previously noted, as the head of the family he had to hold things together physically, emotionally, and spiritually, under the worst possible circumstances. Surely God's love did intervene in subtle ways, which allowed them all to keep their health and sanity. If one is willing to put one's imaginative self into the Ark, I'm sure that a full diary of horrors could be written about the ordeal.

There's not much more revealed about Noah prior to his exodus from the ark. However, as soon as he and his family left the Ark, Scripture tells us that he built an altar and "*took of every clean beast and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt-offerings on the altar*" (Genesis 8:20). In Genesis 9:1 God spoke to Noah and said: "*And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.*" Does verse 20 indicate that one of each of the clean animals that were sacrificed each time there was a sacrifice? It probably means that out of that supply he sacrificed one or

a few, depending on the size of the animals and the particular purpose of the sacrifice. Here we can see why God, in addition to a male and female of every kind, also had 7 pairs of these sacrificial animals and birds saved. These were to be consumed in sacrifice while the many propagated, and thus kept providing a continued future supply that could perpetuate the ability to make these offerings.

Scripture's final word regarding Noah's activities is found in Genesis 9:20-27, "*20 And Noah began to be a husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: 21 and he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. 22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. 23 And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father, and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. 24 And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. 25 And he said, cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. 26 And he said, blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. 27 God shall enlarge Japheth and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem: and Canaan shall be his servant. 28 And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. 29 And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years: and he died.*" Noah became a husbandman, which means he became a man of the soil, a tiller and planter rather than a shepherd or of some other vocation. All that we are told about this is that he grew a vineyard and that at least in one instance he became drunk from the wine that he made from its fruit.

Was this a sin? Yes, it was, if we are to rightly take the literal meaning of sin to be anything contrary to God's will. Drinking wine was not and is not sinful. It is drinking in excess that is sinful. If we are faithful to Scripture, we cannot believe otherwise regardless of how much twisting of words or rationalizations anyone chooses to make. As an explanation to exonerate Noah, some have suggested that grape juice did not ferment into wine in the pre-flood environment, and therefore Noah didn't know that this fermented version would cause intoxication. What a tragic biographical point in such an exemplary godly life story. And look at the consequences of that one simple "little" sin.

In his drunken stupor something bad, some very serious sin, that may or may not have been of Ham's direct making, took place in Noah's tent. We don't know what it was, but many scholars assume it was some perverse sexual act. Others see it as merely his nakedness that Ham saw and for which he ridiculed his father. That however, does not fit the definition of "hath done to him." Nevertheless, what ever it was that Ham did, Noah saw fit to put a curse on Ham's son, even though it seems evident that it was Ham who committed the sin! Canaan is not even mentioned as being there!

Although it was Noah who uttered the curse, which by the way, are the only words he is recorded to have spoken, it must have been in accordance with God's permissive will, because Scripture clearly attests to its fulfillment. Not having found any satisfactory explanation for the curse having been placed on the culprit's son rather than on the culprit, perhaps this thought may have some merit. Might we conclude that Ham was a redeemed soul, and that since no where in Scripture is such a person indicated as having been cursed, that Noah could not curse him directly? Therefore he cursed one of his sons, the effect of which would have been the same in its fulfillment, even though it was limited to only one of his seed.

Perhaps that was sufficient to provide the requisite punishment of Ham. There is another interpretation of this event that is not without some merit. The Hebrew language does not contain the word "grandson." There are numerous instances where "the son of" actually means the son of a son, or a grandson. While Ham was Noah's youngest son, Canaan was Ham's youngest son. With that in mind, when Noah said that he "knew what his younger son had done unto him," could it be that he was referring to Canaan and not Ham? This explanation which is what most likely happened would certainly make his curse on Canaan appropriately directed.

Under this scenario, we would have to conclude that Ham merely reported that he saw the nakedness, perhaps the aftermath of Canaan's sin. While not recorded, it is likely that Ham lived for hundreds of years longer, as we know Shem did. (500 years) It seems likely that the consequences of that sin grieved him the rest of his life both as a matter of

conscience, and because of what it caused his son, and all of Canaan's offspring's. Perhaps there may be other plausible theories, but the one here cited is I believe the most probable. Over 2300 years later, an event occurred, that if it had happened before this Ham event, we would have called it a precedent for this type of situation. In 1Kings 11:11-13 we see God's punishment of Solomon for his evil ways. The punishment was that God would take the kingdom from him. However, because of God's love of his father David, He would not remove it directly from David's son, but from Solomon's son Rehoboam. If this is a relevant "precedent" then we might conclude that it was Ham's sin, however, because of God's love for Noah, Ham's father, He would not curse him, but would curse his son instead. This is only relevant to this study if one chooses to believe that it was Ham and not Canaan who served.

Having completed his "mission impossible" of building the Ark, and delivering all of what life that God had chosen to save, one might conclude that He would have now taken this faithful servant to paradise. Instead, Noah lived yet another 350 years. In 2Peter 2:5 we learn that Noah was a "preacher of righteousness." Chapter 5 verse 20 is generally interpreted to indicate that Lamech was a tiller of the soil and therefore his son Noah seems to have been also. That could explain why Noah became a "husbandman" a man of the soil. He was simply returning to his pre-ark vocation, one he probably carried on for the rest of his life, along with his preaching of righteousness. Even though he was the ultimate patriarch, the father of every soul that would ever live beyond the flood, it seems unlikely that he was very long revered or appreciated while he lived.

As a preacher of righteousness, it probably wasn't long before "righteousness" became a politically "incorrect" word as the then growing and spreading society focused mostly on physical and carnal rather than on spiritual values. Scripture is almost silent about the post-flood history, until it mentions Nimrod the world's first would-be dictator, and the tower of Babel. This may have been Satan's first attempt, through Nimrod, to create his one world government, as he has attempted over and over again through anti-Christ's such as Nebuchadnezzar, Darius, Alexandria, Caesar, Napoleon, Hitler, Lenin, etc. However, it was not until now, in "the fullness of time" when God will soon loosen Satan's chains

and allow him to have his brief hour of world government through the Antichrist who is soon to be revealed, once the church has been Raptured.

Noah must have witnessed what went on with Nimrod, the tower of Babel and the supernatural act of God that would *“confound the language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”* (Genesis 11:7) As subsequent verses relate, this is what caused the tribes to scatter too many other parts of the earth, as mentioned in part, in Genesis 10. In Genesis 9:1 God spoke to Noah and said: *“And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.”* “Replenish the earth” means to become again numerous. They were to spread across the vast areas and not just stay in the general area of where the Ark delivered them. Yet we find about 160 years later that they were for the most part, still clustered around the Babylon area where Satan through Nimrod attempted to keep them corralled and controlled. Noah must have seen this and wondered what God would do about it. He also must have witnessed what God finally did do, because he lived over 184 years after the event. God retained the original language in the minds of the Sethites, but replaced that language with different ones in the minds of the other 69 families. This is course led their separating, and thus moving out into the remote regions of the world, to replenish the whole earth, just as God has originally told them to do,

The offsprings of the three sons of Noah, are identified through the first three generations to the total of 70, each then being a tribal nation that moved on to populate specific areas of the earth. If we follow the genealogies of the three sons of Noah, we find that Shem was the father of 26 nations, Ham the youngest, was the father of 30 nations, and Japheth, the oldest, was the father of 14 nations. This was the entire total of the 70 original nations from which the entire earth is now populated. Only the ones of Shem’s line continued to be recorded, because it is the one through which our Savior came. As noted, God erased the original language from each of the other 69 minds and their families that given to Adam. He replaced it with 69 other languages, a different one for each of these tribes. The Hebrew language of today, in its original form, is the language that God gave

Adam. Thus we see here the origin of the languages, and subsequent dialects that would evolve through the ages into German, French, Spanish, Russian, Indian, Chinese, Ethiopian, Arabic, Egyptian, etc. What an intriguing subject to examine further.

One must wonder how much of the “old worlds” skills and technology that Noah and his sons acquired, was brought with them, and utilized to “jump start” the whole new civilization. Did they learn metallurgy and the making of musical instruments from Lamech’s sons of the Cainite line? What about the vast and complex skills that went into building the Ark? Scripture is silent on these matters. However, it seems likely that many of these survived and were taught rather than having to have been reinvented. What other things did Noah and Shem, and perhaps Noah’s other two sons experience during their several centuries of life after the flood? Noah lived to within two years of the birth of Abraham, and Shem lived even to the time of the marriage of Isaac to Rebecca. We are not told how long Japheth or Ham lived. While hearing nothing more about them, over these centuries of their continued lives, can we assume that God ‘retired’ Noah and his three sons from active duty, and let them till the soil or tend sheep and only serve their immediate families? Or did God continue to use them, even perhaps mightily for purposes He chose not to mention?

It seems likely that neither Noah nor Shem and his brothers had any more children after those identified. Why? Because the 70 tribes emanating from Noah’s great, great grandchildren represent every sustaining people group that would ever continue to populate the earth. No other lasting people groups were formed, and only the multiple branches of these 70 exist today. God specifically identified these and no others, and even indicated in a general way, what lands they would occupy. If Noah and his sons did have more children, these would have died out without having formed any lasting people groups. In the 70, God told us from whence we all came. Seventy is the number used in Scripture to signify completion. It should not therefore be considered as merely a “coincidence” that He identified exactly seventy nations with which He filled the earth.

With this it seems that for now at least, I have conveyed all of my musings related to Noah. What an incredible blessing we have been given in the sacred Word through which to learn about God, His divine purpose, and how He has used human servants to bring it to fruition. I pray that whoever reads this will come away as I have, with a greater appreciation of this man Noah as being very high among the greatest and most favored of God's servants to have ever lived. Where my written thoughts may have exceeded the bounds of Scripture, I pray they be challenged, and I've offer them here in the hopes that they will stimulate the readers interested to probe these areas for himself or herself for their further enrichment, and for their greater appreciation of God's glory.

P.S.

As I lay in bed unable to sleep, and musing about this great preacher of righteousness, I heard coming from the basement the sound of rushing water. It was the backwashing of the filter system that cleanses the municipal water as it enters the house. This occurs every seventh night. As my mind returned to Noah it came to me that perhaps this was somehow symbolic of Noah's continued calling during the literally centuries of his post flood life. As my water filter continually cleanses the waters to protect my family from physical contaminates, so also may Noah have preached on each seventh day, that is on the Sabbath, to at least some of his ever growing family regarding the spiritual waters of righteousness. As I think about the unequalled greatness of his faith, his obedience and his perseverance, I must believe that to his last breath, God used him, and he remained an active preacher of righteousness. How difficult this must have been as his seed grew in such large numbers and distanced themselves from his influence, for sin also grew even more abundantly in their hearts. How grieved he must have been to see Nimrod, the tower of Babel, and departure of all but the small remnant that retained his language.

Suddenly they all became foreign to him, unable to even communicate. While greatly saddened by this, I'm certain that as he continued with this remnant for those many many years of his life, he did not waiver in his preaching of the clean spiritual waters of God's righteousness. No doubt he often remembered how God had, all at once, cleansed the

entire earth of iniquity through the great and terrible waters He had stored in the deep for that very purpose. I suspect that as he saw blatant wide-spread sin and near universal departure from God again dominate mankind, he probably concluded that God's patience would again end, and that another purging was inevitable. If indeed he perceived this, how prophetic it was! For today, God is, in these final days has provided a second Ark that will rescue all of His own from the coming of the flood of evil, suffering and death that is about to descend onto the earth. This time the "Ark" is Jesus. Those, for whom He is their "Ark", will not suffer the coming flood of wrath. Jesus, their Ark will Rapture them to heaven, and to a land of new beginnings, just as did Noah's Ark for the eight who escaped the "first" flood.