

When God sent the flood on the earth, he did two things that reveal both his justice and mercy. First, God could not let mankind continue in their wickedness unchecked. Every sin, every miss of the bullseye, every affront to the person and character of the God of all creation needs to be dealt with.

Second, God, being so rich in mercy and so overflowing in love, always, and I do mean ALWAYS, makes a way to escape the judgment he sets in motion.

God warned Noah about the judgment that was so far in the future that Noah couldn't possibly perceive it. It isn't as though Noah went out from his home one morning and saw the armies of heaven with fiery chariots pulled by fiery horses, and myriads of myriads of angelic hosts with swords drawn. It wasn't the threat of a great beast ripping and tearing through the trees of the forest with great roars and glistening fangs. There was no foreboding cloud on the horizon and no change in the direction of the wind to forecast a coming storm. God had told Noah that judgment was coming, and Noah BELIEVED God.

This story is important to our believing. If we say that God never destroyed the evil world by a flood, we might find ourselves starting to think that God wouldn't ever destroy this sinful, wicked world. And if there is no coming judgment, then there is no need for a Savior. If there were no flood, the ark would be a foolish project, and couldn't provide refuge or safety at all.

There must be a way to flee from the heavenly army into the arms of God, a great door to shut and lock so that the beast is no threat, a sturdy roof to come under, and a solid foundation to stand upon so that the storm can not terrorize. And there must be a Savior to save from the coming, and final, judgment of God on the wicked.

And so there is. Noah believed God, and he entered the ark. We believe God, and we put our faith, our belief, in Jesus. Our confidence is not in ourselves as though we could defeat God in a battle. Our confidence and the fullness of our joy rest firmly in Jesus, who is the only way by which we may be saved.

Just as God shut the door to the ark so that Noah and all with him were safe and saved from the ensuing flood, so also we who BELIEVE in Jesus are safe and saved from the coming destruction of this earth.

Noah entered the ark. God shut the door. And all those who DISBELIEVED God found themselves outside, face to face with his judgment.

We who have put our faith in Christ have "entered" into Jesus. God has sealed us in Jesus with no chance of us being overcome by destruction. And all those who DISBELIEVE and want nothing to do with Jesus, will come to an end, having stood face to face with God.

The plan was always Jesus. The plan was always a rescue plan. Satan, on one side of the fight, is turning the hearts of people towards wickedness. God, on the other side, shows love and mercy to those same wicked people. Satan seeks destruction, and God seeks to make all things new again. The Devil rejoices that lives are being wasted on sin and are sentenced to death. God, in his faithfulness, longs to bring the wayward one back to himself. That old dragon, the liar, is seeking to undo the work of God so that all of creation succumbs to decay. God, the speaker of truth, swearing out judgment, but providing a way of escape.

To our left and to our right, a billion souls stand in the face of the onslaught. To our left and to our right, a billion souls stand before the love and mercy of God. To our left and to our right, a billion souls for whom Jesus was prepared to be the means of rescue.

If they would just BELIEVE.

Don't worry.

The best is yet to come.

