

## WHY DO WE NEED AN ARK TODAY?

God did promise that He would never destroy the world by a flood again. But, he did say that at the end times, the way people would be living would be like the time of Noah (Matt 24:37-39). That means that it is a very evil time and those are the times we are living in today. The news is filled with terrible, awful happenings in this world. People are killing other people, senselessly. Children are killed in their car seats during gang wars. People in churches are being killed while they are praying. People (even little school children) are being martyred for their faith. There are wars. Nations are conquering other nations using brutal battle techniques. People are fleeing their countries and going to other nations for protection. The economies of the world are collapsing. People lie and cheat, steal and destroy. Overall, times are very, very bad. Is there any hope for any us? Is there any safe place to go?

## SAFETY IN THE ARK (JESUS)

There is a place to seek refuge and safety. It is in a right relationship with God, through His Son Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. God protected Noah and His family and He can protect you and your family. You can experience peace and love even in these very difficult times. The Holy Spirit can guide you. All it takes is a desire to reach out and accept what Jesus did and thank Him. Then, you are in right relationship and can pray, for yourself and your family, and

the other people that you know. The door to this spiritual ark is still open. The call to repent (confess the wrongdoing in your life) is still available. Now is the time to accept what Jesus did and thank Him. The warning is that just as the door to Noah's Ark was closed one day and the rain started to fall, so the judgment of a righteous God is coming on this whole earth. A spiritual door will also close. God will move and times will change.

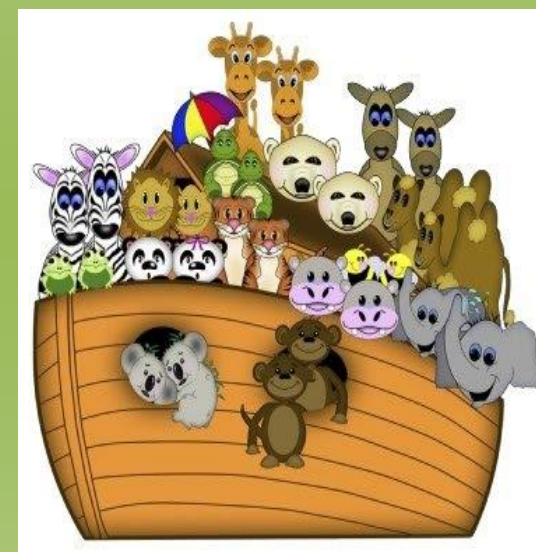
Before it is too late, please take this moment to talk to God and accept the gift of His Son and what Jesus did for you and say "thank you". Put your faith in Jesus the "ark of salvation".

Then, start reading His Word, the Bible. Keep talking to Him (prayer) and ask Him to help you, guide you, protect you and rescue you. He will. Remember, when He makes a promise, He keeps it. Forever.

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# Noah's Ark



## THE STORY OF NOAH

If you ask people today if they remember any stories of the Bible from their childhood, one of their favorites is Noah's Ark (Gen 6:13-14). But, before we get to the ark part of the story, we first need to know that after Adam and Eve made a bad choice in the Garden of Eden (that is a story for another time), the people on earth lived without thinking about God. They did really bad things. God decided to send a flood to destroy all that He had made so that He could start all over. That is where Noah comes into the story. Noah was a good man and God didn't want to destroy him and his family. To protect him from the coming flood, God told him how to build a huge boat that was called the Ark. It had to be huge because God also planned on saving the animals as well.

## THE ARK THEN

God told Noah exactly how to build this ark. The ark was three stories high and had living areas for the people and separate areas for the animals which had come to the ark (two of every kind male and female). It was well built as it had to survive the worst flood ever which covered the entire earth. It took Noah and his family years to build! All the while he was building, he kept telling all the people to repent because a flood was coming. If they repented, they could have been safe in the ark. But, they just laughed at Noah and kept on living very evil lives. Once the ark was done, God closed the door. Noah, his family, and the animals were safe on board. Then, it started to rain! It rained forty days and night. Eventually, the rain stopped and Noah and everyone got out and life started all over again.

## THE RAINBOW

The first thing that Noah did was to build an altar and thank God for keeping him and his family safe as well as all of the animals (Gen 8:20). Noah looked into the sky and saw something he had never seen before. It was a rainbow! The God said to him: "I have set My rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth" (Gen 9:13). A covenant is a promise that cannot be broken and will never end. The promise was that God would never destroy the earth by flood again. So, when we see a rainbow in the sky, it is a reminder of God's promise to us even today. "The LORD is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made (Psalm 145:13).

## THE ARK TODAY

So, where is the ark today? Is there someone actually building one somewhere? No, there is no one building a literal real wood ship or boat that you have to buy a ticket for to escape the trouble that is coming. But, there is an ark for today already built by Jesus the "ark of our salvation". That means when trouble comes on earth, the spiritual part of our existence can be protected through the coming storm by Jesus. Just like in the time of Noah, we need to acknowledge God, ask for forgiveness for the wrong things we are doing, and receive forgiveness through what Jesus did.

## WHAT DID JESUS DO FOR US?

Has anyone ever bought you a cup of coffee or a meal? When they did, did you enjoy it, and just say thank you? Of course you did! We all have. Well, that is what Jesus did for us. That is when Adam and Eve disobeyed God deliberately and caused a separation from God (Gen 3:13-14), not only for themselves, but for all humans (yes, you too!). A way had to be made to reconcile mankind (you and me) back to God. So, Jesus (God's ONLY son) came to earth, was born as a human, felt and experienced what we feel and experience. Then, He died on the Cross as the perfect sacrifice (remember Noah offered up a sacrifice to God), and paid the price for our sins. (John 3:16). Then, God raised Him from the dead 3 days later!

All we have to do is accept what He did on the Cross and thank Him! That's it. We can't earn our way into Heaven and we certainly don't deserve to get in because of how right we live or the nice things we do. Really nice people as well as some not so nice or even really bad people need to accept what Jesus did and thank Him. "If you confess Jesus Christ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9-10).

