

# Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

**Date** : 20 Mar 2022

**Sermon Title** : Flood. Ark. Ararat.

**Speaker** : Rev Reuben Ng

**Text** : Genesis 7, 8

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## INTRODUCTION

“In the Old Testament (OT), the New (NT) is concealed,  
in the New, the Old is revealed.”

- St Augustine (419-420 AD)

St Augustine is saying there is a link between the Old and the New Testaments. Even when there are many authors and the NT largely concerns itself with Christians and the Church while the OT focuses on the people of God (Israel) and God's dealings with them, there is a link between them. We still worship the same God and God is consistent. His plan and will are rolled out from the OT to the NT for us to read, decipher and know Him better.

## 1. FLOOD

Genesis 7:6 – The **flood** of waters came upon the earth. It came because of the judgement of God. God was upset with the sins of the earth and so He judged it to wipe clean the earth of its sin. At that time, the earth must have been completely dark and the waters must have been very turbulent, having rained very heavily.

Genesis 7:11-12 – The **fountains** of the great deep burst open. **Burst** here is a huge action. It is the same word as '**divide**' in Exodus 14:16, where God spoke to Moses to raise his hand and staff to divide the Red Sea. The sea was burst open, giving the people of Israel dry land to cross over. Here in Genesis 7:11-12, it is a totally different picture. The land here most likely would be shaking while big pools of water in the great abyss underground burst open with water gushing out.

The word '**floodgates**' of the sky refers to Genesis 1:6-8 where in creation, God separated the waters into those under the expanse/dome and those above it. He called the expanse 'heaven' or 'sky'. Waters under the expanse was gathered into Seas with fountains of the great deep (abyss). This means there is lots of water. It is believed that in pre-flood days there was a canopy of water all over the earth, just above the sky. Hence, when the floodgates of the sky were open, it was not a slow drizzle but water from above pouring down with a huge force, violently and destructively because it was God's judgement.

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## **New Testament reference to The Flood**

1 Peter 3:20-21 – Peter talks about the eight people who were preserved from the **waters** of judgment in the flood and links it to baptism. From the physical event that happened in the OT, Peter now refers to its spiritual significance in **baptism**. Corresponding to that, baptism now saves us. Baptism saves us not because of the physical act of baptism or the removal of dirt from the flesh but in trusting in the resurrection of **Jesus Christ**. Baptism is a symbolic act, through the grace of God, that points towards what actually happens in our heart.

- **When we are immersed in baptism, we are actually immersed into the waters of judgment but we do not perish in it. Like Noah and his family, we will come out of the water alive, having been baptized into the resurrection of Jesus, and come forth into a new life and new beginning. This is symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus because Jesus came to take upon Himself the judgement for all of us and paid the price for it through His death. He did not remain dead but was resurrected.**

## **2. ARK**

Genesis 7:13 – Noah and his family were saved because they were in the **ark**.

Genesis 7:16 – When all had entered as He had commanded, the Lord **closed** the door behind him. If God closed the door, no one but God can open it when He wills.

Genesis 6:14 – God told Noah to make the ark, and **cover** it inside and out with **pitch**. Noah was not a ship builder but God was guiding him. The flood lasted for 40 days and 40 nights and took another 150 days before the water receded. Normal wood would not last, so God guided Noah to cover it with pitch which is like bitumen.

Genesis 6:16 – God told Noah to make a window for the ark and set the **door** of the ark in its side.

- The Hebrew word for cover is the same word for ‘atonement’; to make amends.
- The Hebrew word for pitch also has the meaning as ‘ransom’; the price you pay to redeem something or get something done.

The ark was made with wood and every inch covered with pitch and God closed the only door after all had gone in, and that was how Noah and his family were saved.

## **New Testament reference to The Ark**

Matthew 20:28 (New Testament Gospel) – The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve; to give His life as a **ransom** for many. For atonement to be made to amend the wrongs of humankind towards God, the atonement has to be fully God and fully man. So, Jesus came and gave His life as ransom for us, therefore the debt was paid.

John 10:9 – Jesus Himself said, “I am the **door**; if anyone enters through Me, he will be **saved**,..”. Peter referenced Genesis 7 to baptism - for the judgment waters of

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The Flood, anyone who was outside would die and only those in the ark which was covered with pitch, who had entered through the only door which God chose to close Himself, were saved. In the NT, we now see what the OT shadows or was pointing at, coming out to play, for all of us to understand and to live and walk in.

- **God is righteous and holy, therefore, He needs to judge. Hence, the only way for us to be saved from the judgment of God is to enter through the only door that Jesus is, and in obedience and faith step into, rest/abide/dwell in His work of atonement believing that He was our Sacrificial Lamb, the ransom.**

### 3. ARARAT (Genesis 8:4)

On the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month, the ark **rested** upon the mountains of **Ararat**.

- Rested is a play on the name of Noah which means rest from the toil of life because of the curse from God. (Genesis 5:29) So, Genesis 8:4 seems to mean there is rest because the whole toil and everything is now completed.
  - The name of the seventh month is known as Aviv/Nisan according to the civil calendar of the Hebrew people.
  - Something happened years later (Exodus 12:1-2), such that in the same 7th month, God in preparation to lead His people out of slavery and captivity in Egypt into the Promised Land, told Moses and Aaron to make that month as the 1st month of the year. God made this change because He was making a massive work of salvation and liberation, a religious significance for the Israelites. The Passover was on the 14th of this 7th month.
  - Jesus was crucified on Passover, the 14th day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month, rose again 3 days later on the 17th day, which means it was on the same day the ark rested!
  - The Hebrew word Ararat also means 'the curse is reversed'.
- **When the ark rested, it was a new beginning, new life; judgment had been dealt with, all saved, all preserved. For Jesus, when He took on the whole judgment and was slain as the unblemished Passover Lamb, He resurrected after that when judgment had been paid for. Because of Jesus' atonement, we now know our curse has been removed. (Galatians 3:13. All judgment has been taken out because Jesus took the curse. Now, we can receive God's blessings, because in Christ, the blessing of Abraham has now come to the Gentiles. (Galatians 3:14)**

## CONCLUSION

We read our Bible to understand the will of God. The will and work of God is placed in the Word of God for us the people of God to read, to realise, to understand and discover, to see the beauty of the handiwork of God and respond in praise, worship and gratitude!

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# **Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion**

## **A. Review Sermon Application**

***Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.***

1.
  - a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk!?
  - b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?
  
2. The sermon concluded with the point that God's will and work is placed in the Bible for us to read, to realise, to discover and to see the beauty of God, resulting in us praising and worshipping God. How had the past three months of daily reading the Bible according to the reading plan 'Transformed by the Word', caused you to see the beauty of God, His will and His work?

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## **B. Relate Sermon Content**

***Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.***

3. Read Genesis 7 slowly, absorbing in the imagery, the sound and emotions (read the Bible with imagination).
  - a. How would it be like for you and your family if you were not in the ark? What would be your emotions and thoughts? Explain.
  - b. How would it be like for you and your family if you were in the ark? What would be your emotions and thoughts? Explain.
  - c. Being in the ark is to be atoned for (covered) because Jesus was the ransom (pitch) for all who enter the door (Jesus). How does the truth of being assured that your salvation is in Jesus because He was the ransom for you help you in the face of challenges and persecution, and in directing your life purpose?
  
4. Read Genesis 8 slowly and take in the imagery. Ararat means the curse has been reversed and our new beginning rests on the truth that the curse is reversed through Jesus taking our judgment as our Sacrificial Lamb.
  - a. What is God speaking to you about areas in your life that are not aligned to the truth that it is a new beginning in Christ?
  - b. What is one change you need to make to reflect this new beginning?
  - c. How can your group members help or encourage you to achieve 4b above, for the following week(s) till your next meeting?

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## **C. Testimonies and Prayer**

***Purpose: Give glory to God and seek Him.***

5. Share your personal testimony of how God has revealed Old Testament wisdom to you through your reading of the New Testament.

OR

Give thanks to God for enabling you to persevere in reading, reflection and journaling of His revelation to you through your daily reading of His Word.

6. With a prayer partner, bring all that have been shared in 4a, 4b and 4c to God, asking for the Holy Spirit's enablement to truly seek a new beginning in Christ as His new creation.

As a group, pray for the Lord to open the eyes of our church's heart to realise, understand, discover and see the beauty of the handiwork of God, as we read His Word so we may respond in praise, worship and gratitude!

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