

## **A SHADOW OF THE CHURCH** **(1 Peter 3:20-21)**

### **I. The builder.**

- A. Noah was the builder of the ark (Genesis 6:9-14).
  - 1. The people of Noah's day were steeped in sin (6:5).
  - 2. It made God sad to see the shape in which the people He had created had allowed themselves to get.
  - 3. God determined to cleanse the world of those sinners.
  - 4. Though surrounded by these wicked people, Noah lived in such a way as to find grace in God's eyes (6:6-8).
- B. When we compare the ark to the church, we see that Jesus built the church (Matthew 16:18).
- C. There was only one ark built and there was only one church built (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4; Colossians 1:18).

### **II. The building material.**

- A. Noah was told exactly what was to go into the ship material wise.
  - 1. It was to be made strictly of gopher wood (Genesis 6:14).
  - 2. No other wood was to be used to in the making of this ship because God simply said gopher wood.
  - 3. Thankfully, Noah used just what God told him to use (6:22).
- B. The New Testament specifies one type of material be used in the building of the church.
  - 1. The only material that can be used is Christians.
  - 2. 1 Peter 2:5.
  - 3. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13.
- C. Only New Testament Christians make up the material used in building the church just as gopher wood made up the only material used in building the ark.

### **III. The door.**

- A. The ark had only one door (Genesis 6:16).
  - 1. This was the only means of entrance into the ark.
  - 2. The ones that entered through that door were the ones who heard and heeded the message that Noah preached.
- B. The church has only one door.
  - 1. John 10:9.
  - 2. Jesus is the only way into the church (John 14:6).
  - 3. One must get into Christ through baptism (Galatians 3:27).
- C. Just as with those that entered the ark, one must obey the gospel message of Jesus to enter the church (Matthew 7:21).
- D. Once in the ark, all needs were supplied just as all needs are supplied in Christ (Matthew 6:31-33; Ephesians 1:3).

### **IV. One family saved.**

- A. When the door shut on the ark, there was one family on board, Noah's (Genesis 7:7).
- B. Those saved in the church are one family as well (Ephesians 3:14-15;

Romans 8:16-17; 1 Timothy 3:15).

1. People who wear another name are not going to be saved.
2. Only those who were the family name of Christian are going to be in heaven.

**V. Salvation inside.**

- A. Salvation was found in the ark (1 Peter 3:20; Genesis 8:15-16).
  1. No one inside the ark died in the flood.
  2. All were cared for by God and none suffered death from the flood.
- B. Salvation is found in the church (Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47).
  1. No faithful Christians is going to be lost.
  2. We are cared for by God and no one can remove us from Him (John 10:28-29).
  3. Those that are in Christ will be saved (2 Timothy 2:10).

**VI. Death outside.**

- A. Those outside the ark perished (Genesis 7:21-23).
  1. I've often wondered what it was like outside the ark.
  2. Were there people banging on the ark to get in?
  3. Were people running for high ground?
  4. Were they thinking what could have been if they had listened to Noah?
  5. Sadly, everyone of them died.
- B. Those outside the church will perish.
  1. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.
  2. Ephesians 5:23 - Jesus is only the Savior of the body, which is the church.