

THE ARK OF NOAH, A PICTURE OF CHRIST

GENESIS 7:7 • TV098A

A television broadcast sermon delivered
SUNDAY AUGUST 12TH, 1979

By
HENRY T. MAHAN

Transcribed, edited and published
SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2016

HENRY T. MAHAN TAPE LIBRARY
Zebulon Baptist Church
6088 Zebulon Highway
Pikeville, KY 41501

Genesis 7:7

“And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons’ wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.”

If you will open your Bible to the **Book of Genesis Chapter 7:7** I’ll read my text, **Genesis 7:7**.

Now, I am speaking to you today on this subject: **“THE ARK, A PICTURE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.”**

In **Genesis 7:7** the Scripture says: *“And Noah went in and his sons and his son’s wives with him into the ark because of the waters of the flood.”*

Now, my friend we expect a physician to be trained, skilled, experienced and dedicated in making people well. That’s what you expect if you go to the doctor, to a physician; you expect him to be a man who knows his business and a man who is dedicated to making people well.

THE ARK OF NOAH, A PICTURE OF CHRIST

GENESIS 7:7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

We expect a builder, if a man's building a house for you or building a building of some sort; you expect him to be honest. You expect him to be knowledgeable in his trade and you expect him to be efficient. If you hire a builder you, have a right to expect these things of him or you will not have him do your work.

Then, we expect elected officials to be experienced men, to be capable men, to be loyal men. We elect them to serve in public office; we expect this. If men do not fulfil these qualifications, then the next time we will not vote for that person.

Well, what about preaching? Do we have a right to expect something of today's preachers? Well, I believe there are three things that we must demand of every preacher whom we hear. Our Lord said, "*Take heed what you hear.*"

And we have a right to expect some things of every preacher of whom we follow. You had better be careful of the person you follow. That person better be following Christ or the blind will be leading the blind.

Here are three things that I believe we have a right to expect of every preacher whom we hear.

First of all: We have a right to expect that person to be knowledgeable!

Paul said, "*I know whom I have believed.*" The reason that he could preach justification by faith is that he had been justified by faith. The reason apostle Paul could lean heavily upon repentance is because he had repented.

The reason that the apostle Paul could talk about conviction of sin and conviction of inability, full and complete trust and confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ is that he had come that route. A man cannot preach what he does not know any more than a man can come back from where he hasn't been.

In the **Book of 1 John**, John wrote this; he said: "*That which we've seen and heard declare we unto you. We've seen the Word of Life; we've handled the Word of life. We've heard the Word of life and what we have seen and what we have heard we declare unto you.*"

So, this is essential. A man cannot preach repentance who has never repented. You cannot preach faith in Christ if he's never believed in Christ. He cannot preach to you to receive life through the Son if he has never been brought himself to receive that life which is in the Son.

THE ARK OF NOAH, A PICTURE OF CHRIST

GENESIS 7:7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

So then, the preacher must have a knowledge, knowledge of himself, knowledge of the Son, and knowledge of the Word of God.

That which we must expect; we have a right to expect this; like I said; if you go to a doctor you expect him to be dedicated, trained, and an efficient man in the healing of diseases. The same thing is true of every other profession, a lawyer, or a builder, or whoever; we have a right to expect something of preachers.

Secondly: That is sincerity!

There's no substitute for sincerity. If we are preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ our one object must be the glory of God and the eternal good of our hearers. We must be dedicated to one object and one goal and that is the glory of God. *"Whatever we do in word or deed; do it for the glory of God almighty."*

Whether we eat or whether we drink; do it for the glory of God. We must be able to say to anyone who hears us preach; we seek not yours but you. We seek you, not your possessions; we are not greedy of your filthy lucre.

We are not looking for anything you have or anything you can contribute to us in anyway. God will meet our needs but we are seeking you. We are seeking that you might know Christ. That is our object and our goal to glorify our God and to bring men who hear us to knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I like the way Peter spoke to that man at the gate of the temple called "Beautiful." He stopped and looked at this lame, broken man, and said to him, *"I don't have any silver and I don't have any gold but such as I have I give unto you."*

And we have the greatest gift in the universe and that's Christ. We have the greatest gift, *"the unspeakable gift."* We have the *"pearl of great price."* We have the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are not asking anything from you. We want to give you something, the good news, the glad tidings, *"the unspeakable gift, the pearl of great price."* We have riches untold. We are not seeking anything from you.

You must be sincere in this thing. There must not be hidden motives and hidden objectives and selfish purposes. There must be an open ministry, an open-handed ministry, dealing with the souls of men for the glory of God and the good of those who hear it.

THE ARK OF NOAH, A PICTURE OF CHRIST

GENESIS 7:7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

I challenge anybody listening to me who's making an attempt to preach the Gospel; if you cannot have as your one objective the glory of God and the good of your hearers; you owe it to God and yourself and everybody else to get out of the ministry just as quickly as you can get out.

Thirdly: We have a right to expect as men who minister the Gospel, knowledge, sincerity, and simplicity.

And there's no substitute for sincerity and there's no substitute for simplicity. The apostle Paul said in **1 Corinthians 1:17**: "*God sent me not to baptize but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.*" That's not our goal to preach the Gospel with wisdom of words.

He said in the next Chapter, **Chapter 2**: "*Not with excellency of speech.*" And then he said in another verse, "*not with enticing words, not with wisdom of words, not with excellency of speech.*"

"*Not with enticing words,*" but to preach the Gospel in such a way that though men do not believe it, they will at least in their head they understand what you are saying. Though men do not receive it, though they do not bow to the royal claims of King Jesus, at least in their heads they know what we are saying, the simplicity of Christ in the gospel.

The apostle Paul in **2 Corinthians 11:3** said: "*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*" I'm fearful lest you should be distracted or taken away from the simplicity of Christ and become interested in building great names for yourselves, a building or great monuments to your ministry.

Or building great programs for your denomination or building this or building that or building something else or impressing men with your wisdom and impressing men with your theology, and impressing men with your oracle powers and impressing men with your success. We are not trying to impress anybody; we are trying to please God.

And those are three things that we have a right; I do, you do, every person has a right to demand and expect of every minister of the Gospel to be a knowledgeable person: "*I know whom I have believed; that which I have seen and heard declare I unto you.*"

And a sincere person, one who can be trusted, one who may know his object is to glorify God and to meet our need and to seek our good, our eternal good, and then simplicity, putting the Gospel down here so that everybody at least in their heads can understand it.

THE ARK OF NOAH, A PICTURE OF CHRIST

GENESIS 7:7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

You know, if you put the food upon a high shelf the rats can eat it but the little squirrels, rabbits, and other animals can't reach it. But, if you put it down here low, little animals can reach it but the giraffe can too. All he has to do is bend down, bow down, and bend his proud neck.

And so, my subject today is plain and simple. It is a parable. I'm saying that the Ark of Noah is a picture, a simple picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.

You know, our Lord talked in parables. Now, while I say that I'm using the Ark as a parable, the Ark is a picture of Jesus Christ; I'm not saying that the Ark is a myth, it's not; it's a fact. There was an Ark. Noah built an Ark.

And the flood of judgment is not pictured; it's reality. But, we are using this as a picture. The whole story of the building of the Ark and the judgment of God, the flood, the wrath of God and the floating of the Ark upon that water is a beautiful picture of salvation from the wrath of God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

And I'm going to present for you eight brief points and I'm going to make them brief in order to cover all eight of them, eight brief points to help you to see the mercy of God to sinners in the Lord Jesus Christ, as pictured by the Ark of Noah.

First of all: The Ark was the only means of salvation!

There was no other way to escape the flood. The only way to escape the flood; the whole world drowned, that's what the Word of God says, the whole world was under the judgement and wrath of almighty God. Only those who were in the Ark were delivered. Only those who were in the Ark were saved.

The water stood 27 feet above the highest mountain. That's what the Scripture says, "*27 feet above the highest mountain.*" So, the mountain did not offer to the people safety. And the caves were all flooded and every house was destroyed and every tree was covered. There was no place to be delivered from the wrath of God.

When the wrath of God flowed through the land there was no place of safety, there was no place of refuge, and there was no place of deliverance but one, just one, and that was the Ark of Noah. That was the only thing that survived, the Ark of Noah.

**“Would you be free from the burden of sin?
There's power in the blood**

THE ARK OF NOAH, A PICTURE OF CHRIST

GENESIS 7:7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

**Would your evil a victory win?
There's wonderful power in the blood.**

**What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus."**

Would you be saved from eternal wrath? Would you be saved from eternal judgment? Would you be delivered from the wrath to come? Christ is the only Saviour.

He didn't say, "I am a door;" He said, "*I'm the door.*" "*By me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved.*" Christ said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the father but by me.*" The apostle wrote; "*Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, Christ the Lord.*"

In vain do men flee to the mountain Sinai (the law) to deliver us. The law is no refuge; it's no more of a hiding place than the mountains were hiding places in the day of the flood. In vain do men build a refuge of works; they shall all be swept away.

In vain do men hide in ceremonies and ordinances and rituals of religion. In vain do men build religious organizations. Christ is the place of refuge. Christ is the rock in a weary land. Christ is the hope of any who would be delivered and the only hope.

"The Word of God preaches one way of salvation and there's none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."

The first thing about the Ark: It was the only way of deliverance; it's a picture of Christ

Secondly: The Ark was big enough, efficient enough for all who came!

In **Genesis 6:15** we have the dimensions of that Ark; it was huge, it was huge. It was 450 feet long. That's as long as a football field and a half of another football field. It was 75 feet wide. That's as wide as a football field and it was three stories high.

And that Ark was big enough and sufficient enough to save all the different animals that God purposed to save and all the people whom God purposed to save plus all the supplies that they would need for the year that that Ark floated upon the water.

THE ARK OF NOAH, A PICTURE OF CHRIST

GENESIS 7:7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

It was a sufficient refuge. It was a sufficient hiding place. It was able to carry all whom God purposed to save. Let me tell you this, our Lord Jesus Christ is a sufficient Saviour for all kinds of sinners.

Just like in that Ark there were all kinds of animals. In Christ there are all kinds of sinners. *“He has a people from every tribe, kindred, nation, and tongue under heaven.”*

Our Lord is sufficient. *“He is able to save to the uttermost them that come to God by him.”* The hymn writer puts it this way:

**“The cross on which Jesus died
Is a shelter in which you can hide
And its grace so free is sufficient for thee
And deep is its fountains, wide as the sea**

**There’s room at the cross for you
There’s room at the cross for you
Though millions have come; there’s still room for one
There’s room at the cross for you.”**

His blood is sufficient. It is sufficient to save, cleanse, and to atone. It’s sufficient to redeem, it’s sufficient to keep, it’s sufficient to sustain and it’s sufficient to perfect all who trust Him. You don’t have to worry about there not being room for you.

And there’s no little squirrel, or little bird, or little chipmunk or no little snail out yonder in the forest that has to worry about the Ark being big enough; it’s big enough, it’s strong enough and it’s sufficient enough. Just come, just come.

Thirdly: The Ark; it was a safe refuge!

Genesis 6:14 tells us that Noah was instructed of God when he built the Ark to pitch it within and without on both sides, all of the Ark, inside and outside was to be covered with pitch to make it a safe and secure refuge so that the wind, waves, rain, the storm, lightening and all of these things would be withstood.

And everybody in that Ark was perfectly safe. They didn’t have a thing to fear. Now, everybody outside had the wrath and judgment of God to fear, but in that Ark they were perfectly safe. They were safe because they were in the hand of God.

THE ARK OF NOAH, A PICTURE OF CHRIST

GENESIS 7:7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

God provided that Ark. God almighty planned that Ark. God almighty secured that Ark. God almighty gave the dimensions of that Ark. God almighty carried out the building of that Ark through His servant Noah. And all who were in that Ark were safe and they were secure.

And my friend; I'm telling you this, all who are in Christ are secure. Now, being in the church is no place of security. I hear people arguing all the time about the security of the church member, the security of the believer, the security of the religious person, and the security of this, that, and the other.

I've got no time for that. No man is secure in the church. No man is secure in a profession of religion. No man is secure in an experience any more than those people back there were securing their homes which they had built, or storm cellars which they had built, or the refuges on the mountains which they had built.

But, in God's refuge they were secure. In God's Ark they were secure. And in Jesus Christ God's Redeemer and God's atonement and God's sacrifice and God's high Priest and God's Tabernacle, men are secure in Christ.

He said: *"My sheep hear my voice and they will follow me and I give them eternal life and they shall never perish. Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father which gave them me is greater than all and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."* They're in Christ and they are in God and they are secure.

Now, if you've made a decision and you've got religion and you've turned over a new leaf and joined the church you are no more secure than those people who were outside the Ark.

But, if you are in Christ, redeemed in Him, loved in Him, accepted in Him, seated in Him, and reconciled in Him, you are as secure as Noah was in that Ark because God can't fail and Christ can't fail. Paul said in **Romans Chapter 8:38 and 39**, *"Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus my Lord."*

Fourthly: That Ark had only one window and only one window!

If you will read **Genesis 6:16** it tells us that Noah was to build the Ark and put in it one window. And that window was not designed for them to see out. That wasn't the design at all. That wasn't the purpose of that window to let them see out.

THE ARK OF NOAH, A PICTURE OF CHRIST

GENESIS 7:7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

The window was designed that light might shine in. No matter what position the animals or the people occupied in the Ark, whether the first story, the second story, or third story or four in the forward part or the aft, starboard, port, or wherever they were, they all received light through one window. That's the way the light came in.

Whatever place or position they occupied there was but one window to bring light to them. Now, there is but one window whereby believers get their light and that is the Holy Spirit. That's how we are illuminated. That's how we are enlightened. That's how Christ is revealed through the Holy Spirit by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is the light of God that comes down and shines in our hearts.

Our Lord Jesus Christ tells us, *“When he the Holy Spirit is come he'll not speak of himself, whatsoever things he shall hear that shall he speak: he shall not glorify himself; he shall glorify me: he shall take the things of mine and show them to you.”*

And all who have been convicted of sin and all who have been illuminated as to their inability and the sufficiency of Christ and all who have been enlightened by God, who have been lightened and illuminated by the Spirit of the living God, will be brought to look to and trust Christ alone.

Have you seen your sins? Well, you've seen them in the light of the Word but that Word came to you in the strength and power of the Holy Spirit. Have you seen Christ as the only Redeemer hanging on the cross for your transgressions and your iniquities and your sin, and *“by his stripes you are healed?”*

You saw that in the light of God's Word revealed to you by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit reveals to us the things of God. *“Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither hath it entered the heart of man the things God has prepared for them that love him but he hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit.”*

So, that Ark would have been a dark place, a dismal place if it hadn't been for that one window. Because of that window they had light and they could see. And because of the Holy Spirit we can see, we can see our guilt and our sins and our inability and our need of Christ.

Fifthly: And we can see the redemptive glory of Christ as the Holy Spirit puts light on this Word.

In the Ark it had many rooms and the word there in **Genesis 6:14** is nests, (n-e-s-t-s), many nests. Now, they were not all together in the Ark. I've seen pictures of Noah's Ark and all the

THE ARK OF NOAH, A PICTURE OF CHRIST

GENESIS 7:7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

animals were running around in the same place and the people were trying to live among them. They weren't in the same nests. They were not in the same room; there were many rooms, many rooms in the Ark.

The tiger didn't live with the squirrels and the elephant didn't live with the chipmunk and the snakes did not live with the little birds; they lived in different nests or in different rooms. They were in the same Ark but they were in different rooms.

What are you trying to say preacher? I'm saying this, that there are Baptists who know the Lord; they are in Christ. There are Lutheran's, Presbyterian's, there's Episcopalian's who know the Lord.

There are people in many denominations. They may govern themselves differently. They maybe have different ways of singing. Some may sing the Psalms and some may sing the hymns. In our church we sing the hymns of the old Wesleyan's, John and Charles.

We sing the hymns of the old Episcopalian, the Church of England, Isaac Watts and John Newton and William Cowper. These men knew God and loved God. They were different. Perhaps they couldn't see things eye to eye on government and on different practices and some had elders and some had stewards and some had deacons.

Some had pastors and some had preachers and some had bishops and some wore robes and some didn't. Some had a choir and some didn't. Some played a piano and some didn't. Some sang the Psalms and some sang the hymns. It doesn't make any difference.

I wouldn't want to be in a bird's nest but I don't imagine you would be comfortable in my house either but we are still in the same heart. That's the question; are you in Christ, are you in Christ? That's the question to be settled. It's not what room you're in but whether or not you are in the Ark. It's not what company you're keeping necessarily, just so you are keeping company with those who are in Christ, in the Ark.

Sixthly: The Ark had but one door!

Genesis 6:6: They all came through the same door; they all came through. The old tall giraffe; he had to bend his neck. He had to bow down and go into the door. The swift, fleet horse showing off his strength and power running down the hillside; he had to stop and quietly go through that door.

THE ARK OF NOAH, A PICTURE OF CHRIST

GENESIS 7:7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

The little snail; he couldn't crawl in a crack; there wasn't any crack. He couldn't crawl in a hole; there wasn't any hole, he had to come through the door, just one door. Everybody that came, came through the same door in the same way, up the same gang-plank to the same entrance.

And they were observed going in that same door. There's not one door of salvation for the rich and one for the poor and one for the learned and one for the ignorant, one for the white and another for the black, and one for the Jew and one for the Gentile, and one for the lawyer and another for the laborer.

They all come through Christ the same door or they don't come. You may be the proud, arrogant, and stiff-necked but you'll bend, you'll bow. You may be the swift, strong, and zealous, but you will slow down.

You may be the little crawling insignificant snail but you will come the same way to God and that's through Christ.

Seventhly: Then the Ark has several stories!

This is something I've never noticed before until I prepared this message. The Ark had a lower-story, a second-story and a third-story. Have you ever been in a ship? I was in the Navy for a little while aboard a ship for nearly two years.

And I started out; we had three decks. We had the lower-deck where the bilges and engines were. We had the little deck where all of the men slept and where the galley was and these things. We had the upper deck where the sun was shining.

I started out down in the bottom of that ship. It was dismal and dark and depressing. Then I got up into that second floor. Before I got out I was up here on the top floor in the quartermaster's staff and I was happy up there.

Well, this lower floor of the Ark reminds me of our poor depressed brother, just really never happy, and never really confident, and never really secure in Christ. He goes a mourning all the day but he's in the Ark. He may be sad but he's there. He may be depressed but he's there.

He may be like the hymn writer who said:

**“I mourn because I can't mourn
And I hate my sin that I cannot turn
And I grieve but I cannot grieve**

THE ARK OF NOAH, A PICTURE OF CHRIST

GENESIS 7:7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

And I hear the truth but I cannot believe.”

He's never very happy. He's always down in the bilges.

Then, there's a man on the second floor. He's confident but not much. He's got assurance but not a whole lot. He's sometimes up and he's sometimes down.

Then, there's the brother who's always on the top floor. He's always happy. He feels so near to heaven he's practically there. Every drop of rain just rings a bell in his heart to praise the Lord.

I don't know where you are on that Ark. You may be down in the valley. You may be sometimes up and sometimes down. You may be happy all the time but just so you are in Christ, trusting him, loving him, and resting in him.

Last of all: The Ark was the home of the clean and the unclean!

That's right; some of those animals were unclean and some of them were clean. And some of God's people were unclean; he said: *“Adulterers, blasphemers, drunkards, and whoremongers; and such were some of you.”*

But some of them were raised in the church. You never did do those things outwardly, in your heart, yet, but outwardly you thought you're clean. Well, the clean and the unclean must come to Christ because by nature they are all under God's judgment and God's wrath!