

Lessons from Genesis-part five

Noah's Ark and the Messiah

Every human being who was alive at the time of the flood died, with the exception of the eight people who were in the ark. Noah's ark was their salvation. Likewise, every human being who has ever lived on the face of the earth will die for eternity unless they are saved by Jesus Christ, because "...the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10). Every physical thing, including man, is going to be destroyed.

Only those who abided in the ark survived the worldwide destruction of the flood. Only those who abide in the Messiah will survive the destruction of the heavens and the earth. Jesus said, "If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" (John 15:6).

Noah's ark is a type of Jesus Christ. We are going to examine the various aspects of the ark and show how they reveal the Messiah, and the relationship that man must have with Him if he is to be saved.

The Big Box

God told Noah, "Make you an **ark** [8392, *a coffer, a chest, or box*] of gopher wood..." (Genesis 6:14). Most pictures of the ark show it as a boat with a rounded hull, but Noah's ark was not made in the shape of a boat. It was in the shape of a big rectangular box. The pictures of the supposed discovery of the ark on Mount Ararat show something that is shaped like a ship, which **is proof** that it is not the ark that is described in the scriptures.

The ark was not made like your typical sailing ship, because its purpose was not to travel through the sea. It wasn't going on a long journey to some distant land. Its purpose was to hold a great deal of cargo, and to protect those contents from the elements. A box shape can hold more cargo than a ship of similar size.

A flat-bottomed container would be much more stable than a boat with a rounded hull, which would roll from side to side in stormy seas. Likewise when it came to rest, after the flood subsided, it would tend to roll to one side or the other, and therefore it would have to be braced in some way to keep it from rolling to one side or the other. A flat-bottom box shape would not roll from side to side in stormy seas, nor would it have to be braced when it came to rest. The ark's stability would help to protect its contents from damage.

The stability of the ark represents Jesus Christ. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Be not carried about with diverse [4164, *various*] and strange [3581, *foreign, alien*] doctrines [1322, *teaching, instruction*]..." (Hebrews 13:8, 9). The Word of God is not constantly changing with the times, like the teachings of man. Foreign doctrines are the teachings of men that are contrary to the truth. "Howbeit in vain [3155, *fruitlessly, without profit*] do they worship Me, **teaching for doctrine the commandments of men**" (Mark 7:7).

Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1), and the Rock upon whom we are to build. Jesus said, "Therefore whosoever **hears** these saying of Mine, **and does them**, I will liken him to a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not; for it was **founded upon a rock**"

(Matthew 7:24, 25). A rock represents stability. It is a solid foundation on which to build, "...and that Rock is Christ" (1 Corinthians 10:4).

When the flood came upon the earth, "...all the fountains of the great deep [were] broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened, and the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights" (Genesis 7:11, 12). The ark was able to withstand the storm, and all of its contents that were within its walls were protected. Walls can symbolize strength, protection, and salvation. "...We have a strong city; **salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks** [2426, *defense, fortification*]" (Isaiah 26:1).

The Word of God is our defense against the storm. If we build on the foundation of the Word, then we will not be "...tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" (Ephesians 4:14).

The Gopher Wood

The ark was to be made out of gopher wood, which is thought to be a resinous wood, such as pine or fir, or perhaps it was cypress. While we do not know the exact type of wood it was, the name of the wood reveals the Messiah. The Hebrew spelling of gopher is גפר. In ancient Hebrew, gopher is גפּוּל. By examining the pictograph, we will see that it points to the Messiah.

In ancient Hebrew, the Resh (ר) is the picture of a head (ר). The head is the seat of the intellect, the mind; it represents a leader, a chief, first, preeminent, etc. The Hebrew word for head is rosh. It is *Strong's* 7218, meaning: head, chief, beginning, highest, supreme, first, etc. The head represents a leader. Jesus is "...the captain [747, *a chief, leader, prince, author*] of [our] salvation..." (Hebrews 2:10). Jesus' name in Hebrew is *Strong's* 3442, Yeshua, meaning, "he will save."

Resh is the twentieth letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The number twenty represents a servant. Jesus is the ultimate servant, who was willing to die for all of mankind. Jesus, "Being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a **servant**, and was made in the likeness of men: and...He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:6-8).

The Pey פ in ancient Hebrew is the picture of a mouth (פ). In Hebrew, Pey is the word for mouth. It is *Strong's* 6310, meaning: mouth, speech, blowing, edge, etc. Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1).

The Gimel ג in ancient Hebrew is the picture of a foot (ג). The foot represents the way in which one walks. The Word shows us the way in which we are to walk. "Thy word is a lamp unto my **feet**, and a light unto my path [5410, *trodden with the feet, a footpath*]" (Psalm 119:105).

Hebrew is read from right to left, i.e. from east to west, which is the direction of travel through the courtyard of the tabernacle/temple to come into the presence of God. Jesus leads us in the way that we are to walk (ג) through His word (פ). "Show [3045, *to perceive, get to know, to discover*] me Your ways [1870, *a journey, a path*], O LORD; teach [3925, *to train, discipline*] me Your paths [734, *way of life*]. Lead [1869, *make to walk*] me in Your truth, and

teach [3925] me: for You are the God of my **salvation**; on You do I wait all the day” (Psalm 25:4, 5).

By following this way we are led to Christ, who is the head (רֵשֶׁת), and He “...is the **head** of the body, the [congregation]: who is the beginning [746, *headship, authority*], the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence” (Colossians 1:18). The “...head of Christ is God” (1 Corinthians 11:3). Christ leads us to the Father, who is the head over all things.

The Rooms

Noah was instructed, “rooms [7064, *nests, abode, or stalls*] shall you make in the ark...” (Genesis 6:14). A nest is a shelter prepared by birds for its eggs and young. It is also a place of rest. The nest is where the new generation begins. The Hebrew word for nest is נֶסֶת. The final Nun (ן) in ancient Hebrew is a picture of a seed sprout (שֶׁן), which represents a new generation. The new generation comes through Jesus Christ. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, **he is a new creation**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

A hen will gather her young under her wings to protect them. Jesus said of Jerusalem, “...how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens **under her wings**...” (Matthew 23:37). Psalm 91:4 reads, “He shall cover you with His feathers, and **under His wings shall you trust**: His truth shall be your shield and buckler.”

The Qoph (ק) means a circuit, circle, or revolution, as in the revolution of the sun, which is used to calculate time.¹ In the ancient Hebrew text, it is a picture of the sun at the horizon, which is a gathering of the light. **The sun is a symbol of Jesus Christ**. “But to you that fear My name shall the **Sun of Righteousness** arise with healing in His **wings**; and you shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the **stall** [4770, *a stable or stall, a resting place*]” (Malachi 4:2).

The sun is the physical light of the world, and Jesus is the spiritual light of the world. God’s people gather to the Light. “...[H]e that does truth **comes to the light**...” (John 3:21). “...God is light...[I]f we walk in light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:5, 7).

A stall is a resting and feeding place for animals, as a nest is for fowl. The nests and stalls symbolize our place of rest and safety that is in Messiah. “For the LORD God is a **sun** and shield [4043, *a protector*]: the LORD will give grace [2580, *favor, goodwill*] and glory: no good thing will the He withhold from them that **walk uprightly**. O LORD of Hosts, blessed is the man that trusts in you” (Psalm 84:11, 12).

The Qoph (ק) has a numerical value of one hundred. The number one hundred means an inheritance. Abraham lived in the Promised Land, which was to be given to the children of Israel for their inheritance, for one hundred years. He entered the Promised Land when he was seventy-five (Genesis 12:4), and he died in the land at the age of one hundred seventy and five (Genesis 25:7). The bones of the patriarch Joseph were brought up from Egypt and buried in the Promised

¹ This is called the Metonic cycle, “in astronomy, a period of about 19 years (almost 235 lunar revolutions), in which the phases of the moon repeat on the same dates as in the previous period.” *Webster’s Dictionary*. The Hebrew calendar follows this cycle. The Day of Trumpets was September 22 in 1941, in 1960 it was on September 22, in 1979 it was September 22, in 1998 it was September 21, in 2017 it will be September 21, and in 2036 it will be September 22.

Land, in a parcel that Jacob had purchased "...for a **hundred** pieces of silver: and it became **the inheritance** of the children of Joseph" (Joshua 24:32).

The door of the tabernacle is 10²=100 cubits. The tabernacle, which is a type of the heavenly Jerusalem, represents our inheritance. Jesus said, "I am the **door**: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved [4982, *to keep safe, preserve*], and shall go in and out and find pasture" (John 10:9). The entrance to our inheritance is through Jesus Christ. "...He that has the key of David, He that opens, and no man shuts; and shuts and no man opens" (Revelation 3:7).

Atonement

The ark was to be covered with pitch. You "...shall pitch it [3722, *to cover anything, to pardon sin*] within and without with pitch [3724, *a cover, price of redemption, a ransom*]" (Genesis 6:14). The pitch would prevent the water, which represents the sin of this world, from entering into and swamping the ark. Likewise, the blood of Jesus Christ prevents sin from destroying us, because, "...we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:14).

The pitch [3722] symbolizes the covering over of sin. "But He, being full of compassion, forgave [3722] their iniquity..." (Psalm 78:38). Another example is Psalm 79:9: "Help us, O God of our salvation [3468, *deliverance, liberty*], for the glory of Your name: deliver us, and purge away [3722] our sins, for Your name's sake."

Strong's 3724 is the payment of a ransom. "When you take the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then they shall give every man a ransom [3724] for his soul to the LORD...This they shall give...half a shekel after the shekel [8255, *a weight of gold or silver*] of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs)...Every one that...[is] numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering to the LORD...to make an atonement [3722] for your souls. And you shall take the atonement [3725, *redemption*] money...and appoint it for the service of the tabernacle..." (Exodus 30:12-16).

The ransom money became known as the temple tax, because it was used in the service of the tabernacle/temple. Jesus paid the ransom money for all.

"And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute [1323, *a half shekel* for the Hebrew 8255] came to Peter, and said, Does not your Master pay tribute [*the half shekel*]? He said, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What think you, Simon? Of whom do the kings of the earth take custom [5056, *tax on goods*] or tribute [2778, *poll-tax*]? Of their own children, or of strangers? Peter said to Him, Of strangers. Jesus said to him, Then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go you to the sea, and cast a hook, and take up the fish that first comes up; and when you have opened his mouth, you shall find a piece of money: that take, and give to them for Me and you" (Matthew 17:24-27).

When the fish was taken out of the sea it would die. This symbolized the death of Jesus Christ. The amount of money in the mouth of the fish was a full shekel. A shekel contained **twenty** gerahs, which was a unit of measure, being 1/20th of a shekel. The number twenty is that of a servant.

Jesus took on the sins of mankind, thus paying the half shekel atonement money for each of us. Therefore we are to be servants of Christ. "For you are bought [59, *to redeem, to acquire by a ransom or price paid*] with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, **which are God's**" (1 Corinthians 6:20).

There is no longer a temple tax, because we cannot purchase our salvation. It does not matter how much you give to the church in tithes and offerings; it will not save you! God wants us! "...[P]resent your bodies a **living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service**. And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing [342, *renovation*] of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:1, 2). Giving ourselves to God is far more difficult than giving our money.

We are to be servants of Jesus Christ and the Father. "Know you not, that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey; whether of sin unto death, or of **obedience unto righteousness?**" (Romans 6:16).

The Dimensions of the Ark

The dimensions of the ark provide us with some important components of salvation. "And this is the fashion which you shall make it of: the length of the ark shall be **three hundred** cubits, the breadth of it **fifty** cubits, and the height of it **thirty** cubits" (Genesis 6:15). Each of these three numbers is related to the Word of God.

Jesus began His ministry of preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God at the age of **thirty** (Luke 3:23). The Levites could not enter into their service in the tabernacle/temple until they were age **thirty** (Numbers 4:3, 23, 30). Among their responsibilities, they were to teach the people the Word of God. "For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of Hosts" (Malachi 2:7).

The number **thirty represents a teacher of the Word of God**. The number **three** represents God, and the number **ten** represents the Word. (We covered these numbers in the introduction to this series, when we overlaid the Ten Commandments on the pattern of the tabernacle.) The number thirty is directly connected to the number fifty.

The number **fifty** represents the law, i.e. the covenants, which were given on Shavuot/Pentecost, which is the **fiftieth** day from Passover. On the fiftieth day God gave the covenant to Israel from Mount Sinai. "And God **spoke all these words, saying...**" (Exodus 20:1), and the Ten Commandments followed.

The law is called "...the perfect law of **liberty...**" (James 1:25). Jesus said, "...If you **continue** in My **word...**you shall know the **truth**, and the **truth** shall make you **free**" (John 8:31, 32).

The Day of Atonement is the day on which Jesus will return to the earth to establish the Kingdom of God on earth, which will bring liberty to mankind. "...[O]n the tenth day of the seventh month, **in the Day of Atonement** shall you make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And you shall hallow the **fiftieth** year, and proclaim **liberty** throughout all the land..." (Leviticus 25:10).

When Messiah returns, the people are going to receive the Covenant. "...[T]he mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains...and all nations [1471, *or people*] shall flow to it. And many people shall go and say, Come you, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD...and He will teach us of His ways, and **we shall walk in His paths**: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:2, 3).

This leads us to the number **three hundred**. Three hundred represents walking with God. "And Enoch [2585, *initiated, or dedicated*] lived **sixty and five years**, and he begat Methuselah:

and Enoch **walked with God** after he begat Methuselah **three hundred years...**” (Genesis 5:21, 22).

The day of Shavuot/Pentecost, when the Covenant was given, is the **sixty-fifth day of the year on the Hebrew Calendar** when the Covenant was given. That day is the sixth day of the third month.

On Shavuot/Pentecost (50), man (6) stood before God (3) to receive the Covenant. Enoch was **sixty-five** years old when he began walking with God for **three hundred** years. Six (man) times fifty (the Covenant) equals **three hundred** (walking with God).

The Word of God shows us the way that we are to walk to inherit eternal life. “For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and **reproofs** [8433, *correction by words*] of **instruction** [4148, *admonition, discipline*] are the **way** [1870, *a path, a journey*] **of life**” (Proverbs 7:23).

The Word teaches us the difference between good and evil as we learn to apply it in our walk with God. “For everyone that uses milk is unskillful in **the word of righteousness**: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongs to those that are of full age, even those who by reason of **use** have their senses exercised to discern both **good and evil**” (Hebrews 5:13, 14). The Word of God—not man—determines what is good or evil. Therefore, “Be not overcome of evil, but **overcome** [3518, *conquer, vanquish, subdue*] evil with good” (Romans 12:21).

Walking with God does not come naturally, because our “...carnal mind is enmity against God: for **it is not subject to the law of God...**” (Romans 8:7). As we learn to “...**Walk** [4043, *to regulate one’s life, to conduct one’s self*] in the Spirit...you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh...so that you cannot do the things that you would. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law” (Galatians 5:16-18).

The Spirit is not going to lead you into sin, which “...is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). Therefore you will not be under the penalty of breaking the law, which is death, “For the wages of sin is death...” (Romans 6:23). Learning to **walk** in the Spirit builds godly character, which is our purpose in this life.

The Window of Righteousness

“A **window** [6672, *light, or double light, i.e. noon*] shall you make to the ark, and in a cubit shall you finish it above...” (Genesis 6:16). In the New Testament, the day was divided into twelve hours from sunrise to sunset. The sixth hour is the zenith of the sun, i.e. solar noon. At the sixth hour the sun formed a 90° angle with the earth. The window in the ark corresponds to the sixth hour in the New Testament.

The crucifixion of Jesus began at the third hour, which is about 9:00 A.M. (Mark 15:25). “Now from the **sixth hour** there was **darkness** over all the land to the **ninth hour**” (Matthew 27:45). Darkness represents sin. At the sixth hour the sins of man (6) were placed on the head of Jesus, and “the Sun of Righteousness” was darkened.

The hours of the crucifixion formed the chief cornerstone. From the third hour to the ninth hour, when Jesus died, formed a 90° angle at their vertex (fig. 1). The three hours (3rd, 6th, and 9th) form a perfect 90° corner horizontally and

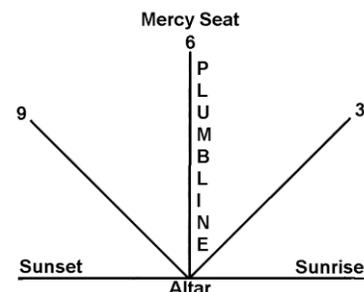


Figure 1

vertically. "...Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation...a precious **corner** stone...**Judgment** will I lay to the line, and **righteousness** to the plummet..." (Isaiah 28:17).

The plumb line represents righteousness, and the third to the ninth hours are God's (3) judgment (9) on man (6), and man is declared righteous, because of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His grace through the redemption [629, *deliverance by the payment of a ransom*] that is in Christ Jesus: whom God has set forth to be a propitiation [2435, *mercy seat*] through faith in His blood, to declare **His righteousness for the remission** [3929, *passing over*] **of sins that are past...**" (Romans 3:23-25).

When the inner court of the tabernacle complex is overlaid on top of the outer court, the Mercy Seat in the Most Holy Place is centered directly over the altar in the outer court (figure 2). The altar represents the Mount of Olives, where the crucifixion took place. When Jesus ascended into heaven, He ascended from the Mount of Olives into the Most Holy Place (Acts 1:3-12).

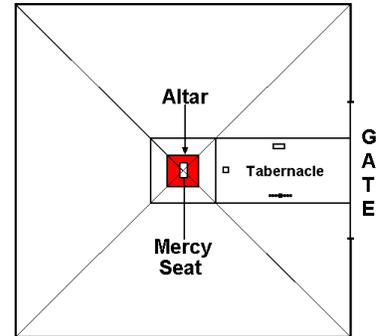


Figure 2

"But Jesus being come a high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but **by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place** [39, *Most Holy Place*], having obtained **eternal redemption** [3085, *liberation, deliverance*] for us" (Hebrews 9:11, 12).

The window in the ark represents the Most Holy Place in heaven where God dwells. The window is double light. In the Most Holy Place, "...Christ [*who is light*] sits on the right hand of God [*who is light*]" (Colossians 3:1). Hence we have double light that comes from the Most Holy Place.

The Door in the Side of the Ark

"[A]nd the door shall you set in the **side** of the ark" (Genesis 6:16). In order to be saved, Noah and his family had to enter into the ark through the door in its side. The door represents the blood of "...Christ our Passover [*who*] is sacrificed for us" (1 Corinthians 5:7). After Jesus was dead on the cross, "...one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith there came out **blood** and **water**" (John 19:34).

Jesus is the bloody door that man must enter through in order to be saved from eternal death. Jesus said, "I am the **door**: by Me if any man **enter in** he shall be saved [4982, *to rescue from danger or destruction*]..." (John 10:9).

Walking through the door in the side of the ark was in type agreeing to the New Covenant. "For this is My blood of the New Testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28). Jesus, "In whom we have redemption [629, *deliverance procured by payment of a ransom*] through His **blood**, even the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:14). Jesus blood "...is the **blood of the covenant** wherewith [*you are*] **sanctified...**" (Hebrews 10:29).

When you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are agreeing to obey the covenant. If you turn away from that covenant, then you "...have trodden underfoot the Son of God, and have counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith [*you*] were sanctified, an unholy thing, and have done despite to the Spirit of grace" (Hebrews 10:29).

Grace is a gift that you cannot earn. It is a pardon of your sins through the blood of Jesus Christ. However, grace does not give you the liberty to continue breaking God's law, "...for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4), and "...the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23). Therefore, "...if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, **there remains no more sacrifice for sins**, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries" (Hebrews 10:26).

The Three Decks

The Eternal told Noah to make the ark "...[W]ith lower, second, and **third** stories shall you make it. And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy **all** [3605, *the whole, totality*] **flesh, wherein is the breath of life**, from under heaven; and **everything** [3605, *the whole, totality*] that is in the earth shall die. But with you will I establish My **covenant**; and you shall come into the ark, you, and your sons [*Shem, Ham and Japheth*], and your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shall you bring into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come to you, **to keep them alive**" (Genesis 6:16-20).

The mammals, reptiles, and fowl symbolize all of the people of the earth who will be saved through Jesus Christ. Those who die in the flood represent the old man of the flesh, and "...they that are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:8). The three decks represent the three periods of salvation.

The apostle Peter had a vision that has a direct connection to the three decks. "...Peter went up on the housetop to pray about the **sixth hour**..." (Acts 10:9). The sixth hour corresponds to the window in the ark, which is when the sins of man were placed on the head of Jesus Christ.

"[A]nd he became very hungry, and he would have eaten: but while they made ready he fell into a trance, and saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending to him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: wherein were all manner of four footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air" (Acts 10:9-12). The four corners are the four compass directions that encompass the entire earth.

"And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common [2839, *profane*] or unclean [169, *impure*]. And the voice spoke to him again the second time, What God has cleansed [2511, *to cleanse from sin, to purify by an expiatory offering*], that call you not common. **This was done three times**: and the vessel was received up again into heaven" (vv.13-16). The three times correspond to the three decks in the ark.

What was the lesson that Peter learned from the vision? Peter was taken to the house of Cornelius, a Gentile. Peter said to him, "...You know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come to one of another nation; but God has showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean" (v. 28).

Cornelius related to Peter, "**Four** days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the **ninth hour** I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and said, Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. Send therefore to Joppa, and call here Simon, whose surname is Peter...Immediately therefore I sent to you; and you have well done that you are come...Then Peter...said, Of a truth I perceive that

God is **no respecter of persons**: but in every [3956, *all, the whole*] nation [1484, *a multitude, company, people*] he that fears Him, and works [2038, *to do, perform, labor*] **righteousness**, is accepted [1184, *approved*] with Him” (vv. 30-35).

The animals and fowl represent all people of the earth. The letting down of the vessel three separate times reveals three separate periods of salvation, just as the three separate floors in the ark do. The cleansing is through the blood of Jesus Christ, who died at the **ninth hour**. The number nine represents judgment. The number three (three times) represents God, and the number six represents man. These three numbers are the hours of the crucifixion, and they represent God’s judgment on man. Through the blood of Jesus Christ, man is declared righteous.

Food for the Journey

The ark was going to carry a great deal of livestock. “And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shall you bring into the ark, to keep them alive with you, they shall be male and female. Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come to you, **to keep alive**” (Genesis 6:19, 20).

God told Noah, “And take you to you of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to you; and it shall be food for you, and for them [*the living creatures*]” (Genesis 6:21). As physical food is necessary for life, the Word of God is necessary for eternal life. Noah provided the food that was necessary for life, as Jesus provides the spiritual food that is necessary for eternal life. “...The words that I speak to you, they are spirit and they are life” (John 6:63).

Physical food is often equated with the Word of God. God said, “...[M]an does not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD does man live” (Deuteronomy 8:3).

The food provided through Noah would sustain them on their journey. The food that was taken aboard the ark was a type of the Word of God that sustains man on his spiritual journey. Without that food we die. Jesus is the bread of life. “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever...” (John 6:51). Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1).

Next: The journey of the ark.

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