

Title: Ark, Raven & Dove  
Text: Genesis 8: 6-9  
Date: September 8, 2013  
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**Genesis 8: 6: And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made: 7: And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth. 8: Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground; 9: But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark.**

Here we have: **Ark, Raven & Dove**

Divisions: **Ark, Raven & Dove**

**Proposition:** Normally, I give you one main point at the beginning of each message then speak to that one point throughout my message. For this message, I will wait until the end to give you my main point.

**I. THE ARK**—The ark is a beautiful picture of Christ Jesus.

### **Different Kinds of Sinners in Christ**

Every kind of animal and bird and beast was called into the ark and so it is with Christ. There are diverse people who God calls into Christ.

- Jew and Gentile
- Male and female
- Circumcision and uncircumcision
- Greek, Barbarian and Scythian—refined, unrefined and even more unrefined
- Bond and free
- Rich and poor

Natural men elevate themselves based on differences perceived with the natural eye.

**Application:** Isn't it sad that all it really takes to impress a dead sinner is some superficial difference in a person. For some it is a mansion or a luxury car, for some it is a level of education, or position/title, for others it is the neighborhood they live in or whether they are from the north or the south, the absurdity goes on and on.

Yet, underneath if you remove all the superficial differences every man, woman and child have one commonality—sin—all are sinners.

**Point: Sin is a divider of men based on the flesh or on works. That is why God's house is not:**

- Not A House of Politics!
- Not A House of Economics!
- Not A House of Entertainment!
- Not A House of Sensuality!

**God's house is a House of Prayer—Worship!—Preaching!—Praise!**

## Election

When God chose a people in Christ before the foundation of the world his choice of that people was not based on anything in them.

Romans 9:11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

When God regenerates the dead sinner, he effectually makes us

Colossians 3: 10:...put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Yet, like the Ark—with the various kinds of animals in the Ark—in Christ, God's elect are still a diverse people.

**Illustration: Danville Conference:** sitting side-by-side—like those various animals in the ark—was a diverse range of people: from doctors to ditch diggers from opera singers to banjo pickers.

## Flood of Justice Born by Christ

The Ark is a good picture of Christ because it bore the flood of judgment like Christ did for his people. All God's elect were shut up in Christ when he obeyed the law and when he died under its curse—like Noah and his family and those animals were shut up in the ark by God when the flood came. The “flood” was the judgment of God upon a sin-cursed world.

**Genesis 6: 5: And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. 6: And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. 8: But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD 9: These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.**

God had chosen Noah. God had put Noah in Christ his Surety in whom he was just and perfect. God had regenerated Noah. Noah walked with God—he was, no doubt just in his dealings with men—but this is how God saw Noah in Christ—just and perfect. But read on—this is how God sees men outside of Christ

**Genesis 6: 11: The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12: And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. 13: And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.**

The flood was God's just justice upon sinner's who hated God. That is what Christ bore for all those God put in Christ.

**Genesis 6: 14: Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.**

Pitch—within and without—was a slime which, when it hardened, made the ark waterproof. The word is often translated—covering, or atonement or ransom.

God's justice must be atoned for God to remain just. Therefore, Noah, could only be brought into a new earth by atonement being made for them. All had to die—Noah included. But an atonement was made for Noah when the

ark bore the flood for him. Noah was covered—he was ransomed from the flood by the ark. All outside the ark died by the flood of justice directly descending upon them. But all **INSIDE THE ARK** lived because the flood bore it for them.

That is a picture of Christ. All—and only all—who were in Christ when he bore God’s justice on the cross were atoned for. All outside of Christ shall one day bear the justice of God directly themselves without an atonement.

**How do men get inside Christ?** The same way Noah and his family got inside the ark. By God’s grace—Noah found grace in the eyes of God. By God putting them in Christ

**Genesis 7: 16: And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.**

Note verse 16: this is what all God’s people have in common: God put us in Christ before the foundation of the world; God sends his gospel to us like he told Noah to get in the ark. By God’s grace, all his people obey God and get in Christ through faith—they believe on Christ as God effectual commands. But it is God himself who shut them all up in Christ.

Paul said, God choose foolish things like a cross, foolish things like preaching, foolish things like using nobodies who this world does not esteem--

1 Corinthians 1: 29: That no flesh should glory in his presence. 30: But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

So the Ark is a picture of Christ. Christ is so lovely that often men attempt to unite with the church who really have no real hunger after Christ because they have not been born again of God the Holy Spirit.

**II. THE RAVEN—Genesis 8: 6: And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. 7: And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth.**

### **The Raven Did Not Return to the Ark**

The raven did not return to the ark—it **went forth “to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth.”** The waters were not yet dried up from off the earth—so how did the raven go “forth to and fro”? Where did the raven go?

This is sickening to think about but it illustrates a point we need to understand. Think of all the dead bodies floating in the waters: both man and beast. The raven went from one to the other—to and fro—feasting upon death. The raven is a sad picture of a sinner who appears to be in Christ but is really dead in sins

Sinner, you whose hearts are yet black as the raven in sin and death—you with no hunger for Christ—**YOU ARE FEASTING UPON DEATH.** You fly to and fro—from one body of death to another body of death looking for something to satisfy your hunger.

### **The Death of Pleasure**

**Most feast upon the death of pleasure:** sports, entertainment, and pleasures of sin. God warned of our day when men would be **“lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;”** (2 Tim 3: 4)

Application: Be honest—why is it you can run and sweat and give your full attention to the ballgame for well over an hour but you can’t get through one 35-45 minute sermon without going to the restroom so you can waist time

and get some relief from hearing of Christ? IT IS BECAUSE YOUR HUNGER IS FOR DEATH, NOT FOR CHRIST THE LIFE!

Illustration: When you meet God on the day of judgment do you think God will be concerned about how well you played football or soccer—how many goals you scored? The only thing that will matter in that day—is are you covered within and without in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ our Ark—what think ye of Christ!

Moses, “[choose] rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;”—he has been with God for thousands of years and will be for eternity.

### **Death of Cares and Riches**

Most feast upon the death of “the cares of this world and of riches.” Oh, you may pay some attention on Sunday but what about the rest of the week? Are you feasting on Christ—is your heart set on Christ, on his word, his gospel? Or are you more taken up with the cares of this world—with your riches?

Mark 4: 18: And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, 19: And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

Moses “[Esteemed] the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.” His hunger was, “That in the ages to come he might [be shown by God] the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.” (Heb 11: 26; Eph 2: 7)

### **Dead Religious Works**

Most hunger for dead religious works. Many go “to and fro” from one church to another because their hunger is “to go to church”, for religious works. Just give them the bloated corpse of ceremony, the bloated corpse of being seen at a prayer meeting, of being seen reading and studying, of just being seen at church. Some are “fixers”—they arrive to fix what they perceive with the Pharisaical eye to be broken.

All such ravens are looking for something to satisfy—to soothe the conscious—to make them feel good that they did deeds “A, B, and C.” Like Noah’s raven they only stay for a while then they fly away never to be seen again content go to to and fro from one body of death to the other—never full, never satisfied—feasting upon death. Sadly, the earth is full of ravens.

**III. THE DOVE—Genesis 8: 8: Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground; 9: But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth:**

The dove is a happy picture of a believer who God has given a hunger after Christ.

### **No Rest**

She flew out and looked around—but **the dove “found no rest for the sole of her foot.”** While the raven rested on the floating bodies of death—the dove could find no rest where the raven found it.

The believer’s rest is Christ our Ark.

- Rest from the curse of the law.
- Rest from the condemnation of the law.
- Rest in the Complete Righteousness of Christ

Romans 8: 1: *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

The believer is like the dove in a lot of ways—

**"Be ye harmless as Doves"** Mt 10:16 The dove is meek, harmless, chaste—that is the believer by God's grace. Believers do not injure others; we are not seeking to hurt others—we are "The children of God, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation," Php 2:15 .

**Doves make their nests in a rock**—believers find no rest except in Christ our Rock.

**Doves feed upon pure grain, not on death, as fowls of prey do**—believers feed upon Christ our Manna from heaven.

**Doves love to be by sweet springs and rivers of water**—Noah's dove found no rest while the waters of justice covered the cursed earth—believers love to be by Christ the Water of Life; feeding upon the water of the word; delighting in his mercy.

Ps 46: 4: There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

**The dove's eye is always watching their mate and they mourn when they have lost sight of their mate**—the believer's eye of faith is always fixed upon Christ our Beloved and how we do mourn when we lose sight of him!

"Thou hidest thy face and I was troubled," David said. Hezekiah said, "I did mourn as a Dove, mine eyes fail with looking up. I shall not see the Lord in the land of the living," Isa 38:11,14

**Doves love to keep company together**—"They fly like a cloud, and as Doves to their windows," that is, to the house or Church of God, Isa 60:8.

Application: The thing I have been thanking God most for over the past few years—the unity he has given us here in Christ Jesus. Aren't you thankful? Ps 133-over

Psalm 133:1...Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

**And doves are often attacked by fowls of prey and they have no defense but by flight**—So when Noah's dove found no rest among the ravens what did she do? She took flight—where?

**She Returned to the Ark**

**Genesis 8: 9: But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark,...**

She had protection with Noah in the Ark—believer our safe refuge is Christ—"At what time I am afraid, I will trust in thee," (Ps 56:3). The believer does not look upon himself as secure unless we are in Christ."The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run into it, and are safe/' Pr 18:10 .

**Illustration:** Doves and Dovecotes

She had everything she needed in the Ark—the Ark was her Dovecote. Believer we have full provision in Christ. We need Justification—we are justified in Christ our Justification—“justified from all our sins from which you cannot be justified by the law of Moses.” We need Righteousness—we are righteous in Christ our Righteousness. We need acceptance with God—we are accepted in the Beloved! We need a safe place to rest with our brethren where all our daily provision will be provided.

Psalm 17:8 [Christ] Keeps me as the apple of the eye, hides me under the shadow of thy wings,

Why on earth would the dove keep looking when she knew all was in the Ark? Is there not enough in Christ? Why keep flying over the waters of death amongst the ravens? Why leave the fountain for the broken cisterns? Will a man leave fertile fields for a barren rock, or forsake the running waters for a stagnant pool?

**Now here is my Proposition:** Men may give all kinds of excuses, the simple fact is men who are ravens can leave the gospel of Christ because they have a hunger to feast on death. While men who are doves keep returning to Christ our Ark because in him alone is our life.

**APPLICATION:** LET ME TELL YOU WHAT YOU SHOULD DO? BUT PREACHER DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT MY PROBLEM IS FIRST? NOPE—BECAUSE I KNOW THE SOLUTION TO EVERY PROBLEM! FLY LIKE A DOVE TO CHRIST! WILL HE EVER REFUSE ONE WHO COMES PUTTING THEIR TRUST IN HIM? NEVER!

**Genesis 8: 9:....then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark.**

**Amen!**