

Old Testament # 6
Noah... Prepared an Ark for the Saving of His House
(Moses 8; Genesis 6-9; 11)
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(Here is inspirational background and evidences supporting the Restoration)

I. It is truly said that the Book of Mormon was written for our time.

A. **But so was the Bible!**

B. **For the Lord repeatedly foretold through ancient events what would occur in our Days.**

C. That is particularly true with the life of Noah.

II. Jesus Himself said Noah's time was prophetic of the "Last Days" (Matt. 24:36-51).

A. As Jehovah He had emphasized that **He could foretell the future.**

B. He even challenged other "supposed" gods: "Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye *are* gods;" (Isaiah 41:23).

1. Of course, no other "supposed god" can or has foretold the future.

C. But **Jehovah, the One and Only True God, has repeatedly foretold all significant future events.**

D. One way He did so was through similitudes in the lives of His prophets (Hosea 12:10).

III. Noah's story revealed the terrible "Last Days Wickedness and Last Days Destructions" which would eventually come upon the earth (Jesus confirmed that warning in Matt. 24:36-51).

A. He also revealed these "Last Days of Wickedness" through Moses (Moses 8:19-24, 28-30)

B. Modern prophets give these same warnings, and relate them to Noah!

1. "We are approaching the day of burning when the promised new heaven and new earth will be created. And... the transformation in the days of Noah, and all that attended it, is a similitude and type of that which is to be in the day of burning..."

"[The story of Noah] lets us know that the normal activities of life [in our days] will continue unabated until the day of cleansing comes, and also that these ordinary activities will be as evil and wicked as they were in that day when men were drowned by the flood lest their evil deeds further offend their Maker" (Bruce R. McConkie, *The Millennial Messiah*, p. 357).

2. As the scriptures and Elder McConkie make clear, the final destruction will come by fire.

IV. Noah's story also shows **the Lord will provide safety and salvation to all obedient believers.**

A. **If we will just enter into His Ark!**

B. For most importantly, **Noah's life bore powerful witness of our means of ultimate salvation --- It would come through Jesus the Christ --- the Ark of our Salvation.** Note the following very important parallels:

C. "Noah" means "Comforter" or "One that giveth rest." (To eventually be fulfilled by Jesus Christ).

D. The Lord saved the righteous in Noah's time by "lifting them safely up above the floods."

1. Christ taught He would be lifted up on the cross so He could lift all men up unto Him (John 12:32-33).

2. He covenanted to save the righteous in the Last Days by “lifting them up at His coming.”(See 1 Thessalonians 2:16-18; Doctrine and Covenants 88:96-7).

E. Thus through Noah we learn how Christ will have mercy upon the believing and repentant by **lifting up** the faithful to escape the wrath of death and hell.

1. As Noah’s story also revealed: The faithful **will then inherit a newly cleansed land where Christ will Comfort them and give them Rest.**

F. **Noah and his Ark does indeed reveal Jesus the Christ. He is the true Ark of our Salvation and the true Ark of the Covenant --- who will save the obedient.**

V. Modern prophets tell us how to access this Ark of our Salvation.

A. To begin: “We all need to build a personal ark, to fortify ourselves against this rising tide of evil, to protect ourselves and our families against the floodwaters of iniquity around us....

“...we do need to listen to the Lord’s spokesmen. We need to calmly continue to move ahead and to prepare for what will surely come. We need not panic or fear, for if we are prepared, spiritually and temporally, we and our families will survive any flood. Our arks will float on a sea of faith if our works have been steadily and surely preparing for the future.

[But more importantly] **The key is to accept the invitation of our prophet, “to live with ever more attention to the life and example of the Lord Jesus Christ....**

The most important thing we can do—young or old—is develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. If we do, we will always be comfortable with ourselves. we will have a quiet confidence that will see us through any trial. And the Savior’s promise to us is ‘Fear not, little children, for you are mine, and I have overcome the world’” (D&C 50:41). (Elder Don Ladd, *Ensign*, Nov.1994, p. 29.)

B. Jesus Christ said ‘I am the Way... no one cometh to the Father, but by me’ (John 14:6). As Noah showed, Christ is truly our sole “ark of salvation.” It is only by Him and by Him alone that any can be lifted up and dwell in God’s presence.

C. However, we are blessed to have **a physical manifestation of Jesus’ Ark today, which is the Temple.** Following the prophets’ counsel to always be worthy of and to carry a temple recommend is one way we have of being **continually ready to “enter into the ark.”**

But regular temple attendance is the major key to renewing covenants --- thus helping insure we are prepared to **enter into Christ’s final “Ark of Salvation.”**

VI. Jesus Himself emphasized, in speaking of Noah, that we must similarly watch and always be prepared for the Last Days of Destruction and His coming (Matt. 24:36-41).

A. “[For] of that day and hour knoweth no man (Mat. 24:36).

B. Thus He taught it is imperative we be prepared at all times.

1. And He gave three key parables to show how to be prepared at all times (Matt. 25).

2. Those parables are:

a. The Parable of the Ten Virgins --- which teaches us to **always remember Him that we may always have His Spirit [light in our lamps] to guide us.**

b. The Parable of the Talents --- which teaches that He has given us the Gift of His Gospel, and that **when He returns He expects us to have multiplied this most vital gift by sharing it with others.**

c. The Parable of the Sheep and Goats --- which teaches at His Coming, He will expect that we have **given spiritual water to the thirsty** [through missionary and temple and personal

ministry works]; **fed the spiritually hungry** [in similar ways]; **clothed the spiritually naked** [which means clothing them with the atoning power of Jesus Christ --- through missionary and temple and personal ministry works]; **and by visiting those in prison**, [which means visiting those in the Spirit Prison---through Temple Work --- or spiritual prisons [through personal ministry works].

C. He had made the same point in a simpler way when He said, we are prepared if when He comes, **He finds us spiritually nurturing others** (Matthew 24:44-46).

VII. Doesn't "being prepared" also begin with faith that events in Noah's time were real events?

A. While many cast doubt on whether there really was a flood, **many cultures throughout the whole earth have traditions of its reality.**

B. I suggest we need to believe in the first world-wide destruction to really believe in the Last. For then we are motivated to prepare.

VIII. Remember, The Old Testament, like the Book of Mormon, was written for Our Days. In fact, **the Lord knew that it would be only in our days that we could really understand it, because it testifies of our times.**

A. As we hear continual threats of nuclear war, and know that in fact there are weapons that can quickly obliterate humankind, with Fire, it would be wise not to disdain the prophecies made in the life of Noah.

B. But we should also find "Comfort," as his name suggests, in knowing that as the Lord provided an Ark for him, **so He has provided an Ark for us.**

C. Believing his story is true should give us additional faith to know that Jesus Christ is our ultimate Ark, and that we can actually enter into a symbolic ark --- our Temples --- which testifies of His final "Lifting Up" unto Eternal Life.

The Old Testament truly was written for Our Times!