

Ir-ot-06
Noah... Prepared an Ark for the Saving of His House
(Moses 8; Genesis 6-9;11)
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(Through Noah, the Lord showed how *we* can be saved from the *wickedness* and thus the *destruction* of the Last Days)

I. Jesus taught that Noah's time was a parallel prophecy of the "Last Days" (Matt. 24:36-41).

A. He also showed that His ability to foretell the future **proved He was *the only God***. In fact, He issued this challenge to the "supposed" gods people worshipped. "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" has or can accurately foretell the future. But **Jehovah, because He is the One and Only True God, has repeatedly foretold all significant future events, including the End of Days.**

B. One way He did so was through the lives of His prophets. Noah was one of those prophets whose very life foretold the future. This included not only the terrible destructions which would come because of wickedness, **but how the Lord would provide safety and salvation to all obedient believers.**

1. Moses 8:19-24, 28-30 gives some of the parallels in terms of the wickedness.

C. Jesus used the parallels (Matt. 24:36-41) to warn His disciples they must be prepared for His coming at all times. **Then He gave three parables to show how to be prepared (Matt. 25).**

II. To be prepared, we should begin with faith the events in Noah's time were real events.

A. While many skeptics cast doubt on whether there really was a world-wide flood, **many cultures throughout the world have traditions of its reality.**

B. Among those who had such legends and even visual portrayals of it were earliest Native Americans.*

III. Just as Noah, our modern prophets seek to save us from today's flood of evils.

A. The Lord sent Noah to warn the people and show them how to save their families, so prophets are warning us. Here is one important example.

"Let me give you a parable. A man built a beautiful home and furnished it with the very best, ... all that money could buy. Within its walls he kept his fine automobiles and his expensive jewelry. Then, fearful of intruders who might enter and rob him, he had installed expensive dead-bolt locks so that he had to use a key to get out as well as to get in. He put bars on the windows and doors.... He installed costly electronic surveillance devices to turn on lights and set off sirens should any unwelcome intruder enter...But what he did not realize is that neither bars nor dead bolts, neither lights nor sirens nor anything of the kind would have the slightest effect on intruders of another variety who could destroy his life and the lives of his family....

"I know it is an old subject and one that has been dealt with much. But I repeat it again: Guard your homes. How foolish it seems to install bars and bolts and electronic devices against thieves and molesters while more insidious intruders stealthily enter and despoil. Avoid pornography as you would a plague." (President Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*,

January, 2002, p. 2). This means to watch over our homes so no form of evil can infiltrate!

IV. Today's Prophets also warn the full wickedness of the earth is here, and that the final destructions which will attend them are at our door!

A. "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.)

V. Most importantly, through Noah's life, the Lord also bore powerful witness of our means of ultimate salvation --- through Him. He deliberately established the following parallels:

- A. The name Noah means "Comforter" or "One that giveth rest." (To be fulfilled in Jesus Christ).
- B. The Lord saved the righteous in Noah's time by "lifting them safely up above the floods." (Christ taught He would be lifted up on the cross so He could lift all men unto Him; and He will save the righteous in the Last Days by "lifting them up at His coming." See 1Thessalonians 2:16-18; Doctrine and Covenants 88:96-7).
- C. 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. **They will then inherit a newly cleansed land where He will comfort them and give them rest.**

Noah and his Ark teaches of Jesus the Christ. He is the true Ark of our Salvation and the true Ark of the Covenant --- who can save us regardless of our circumstances.

VI. Our prophets testify of this true Ark of our Salvation.

"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.

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.)

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

We are blessed to have a second manifestation of Jesus' Ark today, which is our temples. Our temple attendance is one way we have of "entering into the Ark of Salvation."

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 days. From the beginning, the Lord prophesied of what would occur in our times. When truly understood, it bears witness of the salvation of Jesus Christ. Only He can save us from the floods of the wickedness of our times.

For personal interest only: those who have an interest in learning more about North American evidences of the flood.

Visual representations of the flood and its Biblical details were one significant feature of **over 10,000 ancient copper and stone tablets** found by early settlers in Michigan. These plates came to be labeled "forgeries" because most of the scientific community had been swayed by the theory that all Native Americans had come across the Bering Straits and have consistently refused to accept any evidences to the contrary, *always assuming they must be forgeries*.

But the vastness of the numbers found, the fact that they were found throughout the whole state of Michigan, and that they were found by hundreds of different people, including many of high reputation and significant positions in their communities, would show they could not all have been forgeries. (A few might have been forgeries. But the Middle Eastern information contained on the plates, such as complicated 13 month calendars, show any forgeries had to have been copied from originals).

Furthermore, a non-prejudiced expert in forgeries, after studying them for years, gave her evidences that they had to be authentic.

Elder Milton R. Hunter, of the Quorum of the Seventy, after spending many years analyzing some of them, also felt they had to be authentic.

It is true that James E. Talmage, in a briefer review of a few of them, felt they were forgeries because he found saw marks on some of them. But **since his opinion, an ancient sawing tool has been found among ancient artifacts**.

For a lengthy history of these plates and some carvings of Noah and the flood, go online to "Ancient Michigan Tablets" compiled by Glen W. Chapman, Sept. 2000. One carving is on page 15, with a more detailed carving shown on p. 23. The statement by Elder Hunter is on pp. 24-25.