Within and Without with Pitch

Genesis 6:13 – 7:24

~ I told you in our last report from our Spiritual Safari that we wouldn't see the sun for a while - and we won't see it in this report, either I'm afraid. Today is a rainy day in Scripture — which is a good thing — because if the rains had not come in Noah's day, then Noah would never have been vindicated in his life's work on this earth. He was building a boat for which there was simply no apparent good reason. Noah's friends were certainly saying something along the lines of, "Noah, you need to get out more often. Come have a drink with us, play a round of golf and relax. This thing you're doing seems a little crazy, and, well - it can wait, you know? We're worried about you, Noah." I'm absolutely sure Noah's sanity was seriously questioned; and I feel pretty sure he was the laughingstock of the neighborhood. After all, Noah never did win a single convert throughout his one hundred twenty-year ministry — and, obviously, neither did Enoch — but they both sure believed God.

There is a startling revelation in the fact that the days of Noah are to be repeated – or duplicated – before the Lord Jesus returns to this earth - not in the rapture, of course - but before He returns to establish His earthly kingdom physically and literally. Many remarkable parallels have already taken place, such as the way chapter six opened, with men beginning to multiply on the face of the earth, and the resulting, tremendous population increase. I believe that man had spread out, by the time in which we are studying, pretty much all over the earth. Man was in North America; he was in Asia and Europe. Man had gone to Africa; he had moved literally in every possible direction; we can reasonably conclude. Realistically, Noah's day may have not been much different from our today.

Remember, during the Great Tribulation period, the Holy Spirit will no longer restrain evil in the world. Christ will still be there to convert men,

but His Holy Spirit will not be restraining evil IN THAT DAY - we are told very definitely in Scripture. God's overtures of salvation and mercy to men will be even more despised and rejected than it is today; even though that seems impossible. Now, the amazing thing is that the only men who are listened to today are liberal Protestant ministers and the Roman Catholic Church. You hear nothing whatsoever about Fundamental Conservative Bible teaching. There has been some attempt to make a haphazard in-road with conventions, crazy cable television preachers and a few mainstream sermons here and there - but let's face it - it's doctrinal theory from limited, disconnected verses manufactured from haphazard Scripture dissection, in large part; and there are thousands to choose from who do that as far as religion is concerned. But if you try to get out the Word of God properly, correctly and completely - and that alone is your only motive - you are going to be questioned, ridiculed and dismissed with the quickness. If you won't protest and march around and openly oppose and deny everything you don't like – then you are going to be a loner in this jungle, friends – I assure you of that....

VI

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.

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

~ Gopher wood is a practically indestructible substance, similar to Redwood. The word "rooms" in the ark has the meaning of "dens," "nests" or "lairs." The elephant, of course, would need a room; but the mole wouldn't need that much space - just some dirt in the corner. To keep from sinking, the ark was to be pitched — which means waterproofed. Now, don't think that everywhere you placed your hand it was going to make you black from touching the tar. I believe the hull of the ark probably consisted of a four-or-more-ply laminate of Gopher wood with the inner two layers being soaked in tar and reapplied with another layer of pitch - and then

"sandwiched" between two outer layers of wood; pitched within and without; because, from an engineering viewpoint, that would make sense....

15 And this is the fashion which thou shalt 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.

~ Most people's mental image of Noah's ark comes from a caricature that shows up in many children's Bibles. I also had a children's Bible as a little boy that was full of pictures. I have had to unlearn just about every associated pictorial thought I gleaned from perusing that Bible. My personal thought is that we need to stop drawing and painting pictures from the Bible because they are just ridiculous – all of them, by the way. The picture of the ark ranks right up there with pictures of what man thinks Jesus looked like. I know we are wrong about the ark and what it might have looked like; and I suspect we are woefully ignorant of what Jesus may have presented as in the flesh. What we can be sure of is that the ark was not some clumsily rounded and wholly disproportionate hollowed out log type of thing.

A cubit is approximately eighteen inches. Some simple multiplication should give you an idea of the size of the ark. Some people wonder how that sized vessel could have been feasibly fabricated in that day. Well, first of all, we aren't dealing with the stereotypical caveman. Noah was a very intelligent man. Any intelligence man has today came right through the learning and experience of Noah! He wasn't making an ocean-going cruise liner that would have to negotiate fifty foot waves. All the design calls for is a buoyant elevator, if you will. It's just going to float up like a dish in the sink when you fill the sink with water. When the water recedes, the dish returns back to the basin. It didn't even need propulsion. Noah had no earthly idea where he was going to end up — and I don't think he really cared — if he even thought about it at all.

Now, it didn't have to be built for storm survival, either; but there was going to be quite a bit of rain so the roof was cantilevered. The edges would have provided for water shed of the rain over and off of it.

Underneath was a window. The window was not some little cabin peephole

on the side, either. Think of the ventilation that would be required with all those animals cooped-up in such close quarters for such a long period of time. The window went all the way around; and I'm sure it was similar to a modern day school gymnasium type construction - with upper elevation window ventilation, which is very effective, by the way. This is all intriguing to ponder - but the relative measurement is what is REALLY interesting. The USS Battleship Arizona was built 624 feet long; 106.25 feet wide; and has a 29.5-foot mean draft. When scaled for comparison with the ark, they are practically identical. So, we have a ship that compares favorably with modern standards of shipbuilding. Now, the door is critically important. Christ said He is the "door to the sheepfold," and Christ was THE one and ONLY door to the ark. So, we will soon set sail with Noah and we will be very glad he followed the precise and exacting instructions he received from God on how to build it....

16 A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.

17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

~ Note that God says THREE times the flood is going to come. He didn't just tell Noah once and say, "too bad if Noah didn't listen or understand." No, God fills that chapter of Noah's life up with His divine warning. God said to Noah very clearly that judgment was coming to every animal, bird and to mankind in full. Do you think Noah had some questions for God as he built furiously and looked out at his friends and neighbors going about their everyday lives? Of course, the friends and neighbors were enjoying their life, having cocktail parties and banquets and getting rich off of a very good economy. Noah knew what an ark was for, but his friends and neighbors couldn't comprehend its purpose. Remember that Noah is up in the mountains away from rivers and seas; and there had not even been a drizzle of rain on the face of the earth yet. I think Noah was deeply troubled by the end purpose of his work and what the implications and ramifications

of it were; because in spite of all this seeming uncertainty, he KNEW he would soon need that ark if he wanted to live....

18 But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

20 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 unto thee, to keep them alive.

~ We really should pay attention to the fact that the animals were going to come to Noah. He was not some Frank Buck bring-'em-back-alive big game hunter; he didn't go after these animals, they came to him! Why would wild animals come to a man? — Well, when animals are in danger, they will come to man. There are deer in Yosemite that come down from the High Sierra's when the mountaintops freeze. When they are down there in the park they are the sweetest, most docile creatures you can find — they will eat out of your hand, if you dare; but when the snow starts to melt up in their mountains, they bound out of the valley so fast they disappear within a week. If you get between the animal and the mountain at that point you may well receive an unexpected, lightening fast, fatal kick. Animals escaping forest fires will also walk right past firefighters and frightening heavy equipment without hesitation. Animal's SENSE danger, such as when a tsunami is coming; the people sometimes don't even know what is about to happen - but the animals start heading for higher ground days before....

21 And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

~ Now, let's just think practically through here. It took a lot of different kinds of substances to feed these animals for five months. Where do we get the time frame of five months? – from chapter seven, verse twenty-four, where the length of the stay in the ark is revealed - with the exception of one bird - but that bird still had to eat when it returned the first time! Some

people think that some of the animals would have eaten each other; but we know that isn't so. I'm sure Noah separated any animals that were likely to fight; that is, the dogs were on one level and the cats were on another level – but the Bible says that man and animals were all vegetarians at this point in time. Man has not eaten meat yet and animals had not yet begun preying upon each other. This reveals that the world is currently MUCH different from that of its original intention. We are also going to see that day in the Bible when the lion and the lamb will lie together and the lion will eat straw, like an ox! I am confident that was the original state of the animals in the ark....

22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

VII

1 And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

~ So, here we are in the seventh chapter of the first book of the Bible in our second so-called Spiritual Safari. It's a good thing we decided to hang out with Noah or this would be the end for us. Noah was righteous by FAITH! Abraham will be justified BY FAITH very soon, too. Both of these men had faith that God was righteous and they obeyed His Voice because they believed Him. How did God speak to them? — The Word of God is written. Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him as righteousness. Noah believed God and it was righteousness unto him. By faith God saves you, friends — no other way. Consider just how gracious God was to Noah all this time leading up to and through this judgment? The Bible says, "Come, thou..." in verse one of this chapter. It's the same invitation the Lord Jesus gives today to all mankind; that is, to anyone who will listen. Christ says to come unto Him all ye that labored and are heavy laden and He will give you rest....

2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.

3 Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

4 For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.

5 And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.

6 And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

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.

8 Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth,

9 There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah.

10 And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.

11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

12 And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

13 In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark;

14 They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort.

15 And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life.

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.

~ Let's take a sneak peek real quickly at the way chapter eight is going to open. We don't typically jump ahead in this safari expedition this way - but permission is granted for us to take a quick glance at the near future. God remembers Noah in the very first sentence of chapter eight. You know, God could have forgotten all about Noah and his family. Years later, God could have said, "....oops, My bad, I forgot all about that floating fellow and his family; I put them in an ark and forgot all about them." I guess it would have just been too bad for Noah, huh? Well, the Lord shut Noah in the ark and closed the door and sealed it, friends; and the Lord remembered Noah.

See, Jesus does not forget His children – or His promises – and He never breaks His promises, either. Christ never forgets you, my beloved – but He does forget your sin! IF you have accepted Him He remembers your sins no more. IF you call upon Him He is faithful to remember you! IF we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. Those are His promises to us - and that is His invitation to you right now. The "IF" is entirely up to you. Anyone could have gotten on board the ark with Noah. Instead, they laughed at him - and then they died. There are a WHOLE lot of people that laugh at this rinky dink little safari ministry, too; and they wouldn't get on board with me if you paid them to do so – but I digress. We can get on the ark with Noah right now and have Christ shut us in, also - or we can refuse and die right here!

Noah and his family – and us on our safari – are all shut into the ark now. We're all looking at each other in absolute solemn and sobering silence as we listen to the rain pound down outside. The only other sounds are the animals rustling around and getting comfortable. Why did it come to this so quickly? – Well, that was my question, too. It's going to take days for the waters to rise; but, nonetheless, here we are. Having wandered all over the earth in our journey through the creation story with Adam, Cain, Abel, Seth,

Methuselah and Enoch, we will now wander the earth in our maritime travels with Noah as well; roam the face of the earth again, if you will. The stories will read eerily similarly to each other.

Likewise, I encourage you to research and compare the Babylonian account of all of this. I also encourage you to check out the absurd Mohammedism theories of this section of Scripture. I'm not going into all of those things in these reports. I have researched them; I have considered them seriously – or, as seriously as one can be about them given all the falsities and distorted visions seen in arrogance and smallness from merely a man – not from God - and I am just not satisfied. Indeed, most are laughable just because of their core contradictions. So, I urge you to check them out for yourself. It is very worthwhile; but, remember, a sincere student of Scripture asks for guidance from the Holy Spirit when researching other religions; and don't expect to find any true study of the Bible by them. Understanding them would simply be for your own self-edification. Some men may know every Word in the Bible by memory, but it is still not real to them; and it isn't real because they only look into it for contradictions or self-promotion.

So, with those other religious theories in mind, I would pose three questions here to any intellectual that might wish to respond: if the flood is the result of a warring between the gods, then why haven't they had their feuds again? Will they? What is it all about regarding purpose? — Now, I know what they have recorded as answers to those questions and the answers written thus far are utterly preposterous! I also know someone will be tempted to write and shift the theory just enough to pacify - or ridicule — me; since the flaw is exposed. That's why they end up with so many religious philosophies about the flood. Some say immediately this is merely a reflective position; but I say not so — because Christianity is NOT a religion - and Christ has not changed in 2,500 plus years - eternities, to be more specific. Christianity is life in Christ! The Bible is a book about judgment of sin; which only makes sense, by the way. Mohammed is dead, friends; Buddha - dead; Confucius — dead. Christ is ALIVE! A-Men.

Alright, here we need to back up briefly to verse two of this chapter - or we are going to bypass something that I think you will find remarkable. Verse

two reads, "....of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female." This verse was the basis of a lawsuit against Dr Harry Rimmer when he once offered a large sum of money to anyone who could find a contradiction in the Bible. Several liberal theological scholars testified that this was, indeed, a discrepancy, which could not be reconciled. Why would it say two of each kind and then say seven of each kind? Well, if you continue on to chapter eight, verse twenty, you will find Noah exiting the ark. That is when he is offering burnt offerings unto the Lord. Where do you think he got those animals to sacrifice? - If there were only two of each, there would have been many extinct species real quickly. Note it is only the clean beasts of which he took seven; and now you know why, if you didn't already. Those that were not clean were only taken by two because they couldn't be offered! Interestingly, in verse four of chapter seven, we saw a period of seven days. I think it also bears repeating that the world could have knocked on the door of the ark and Noah would have welcomed them. in. I think Noah probably suspected no one was going to join him. Even so, God would have saved – and WILL save - anyone who believes Him; all we have to do is believe God! Make sure you thank Him for that truth today....

17 And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.

18 And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters.

19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered.

20 Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.

21 And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

23 And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

| 24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days $^{\sim}$ | |
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