

Podcast 297 Steve's Encounter at the Ark

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: I am well. I referenced the other day that after I had been to Cincinnati, and my reunion, and the Ark, but I didn't go very deep into my experience at the Ark so I wanted to talk about that today.

Steve: I'm going to start with a song. I'm going to sing you the first verse. About four days ago, I woke up with this tune in my head, but I didn't know any words that went with it. I had to do a little bird-dogging and I found out where the tune came from. I'm not going to go into that, but I found the tune. Then I looked up the words. I went backwards. It's not a modern hymn and I really like it. I've been singing it a lot. I'm going to sing you just the first verse and see what you think.

"The Lord is King, lift up your voice. O earth, and all ye heavens rejoice. From world to world, the song shall ring. The Lord Omnipotent is King."

Steve: Isn't that good?

Scott: Bravo, that is good.

Steve: Are you clapping your hands politely with the tips?

The reality is the Lord is King. If we watch Facebook too much, or the evening news we're going to start doubting that. If we read the newspaper too much, we're going to start doubting that truth. But if we read God's word enough, we're going to be convinced that God is King.

There's a great verse in Deuteronomy that says, "Jehovah is Lord of heaven above, and on the earth beneath, there is no other."

Let's pray: Father, thank You for what you're doing in our days. Even though we're battered about by all kinds of waves, feelings and emotions, and information and data. We're simply stopping now. We're being still. We're acknowledging that You are the king. I pray that You help us as we draw near to speak well. Give us all ears to hear what Your Spirit is saying to us today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: As I visited the Ark, there were two major emotions that I was experiencing. This is not just a little replica of the boat which housed Noah and his family, this is a life-size replica of the ark. In the Bible the measurements are 300 by 50 by 30 cubits, which makes it close to 510 feet long. Now a football field is 100 yards, or 300 feet long. It's huge.

You don't notice that at first until you keep walking closer and closer to it. Then you look up and it's massive. As I entered into the ark, I started thinking two thoughts. The first one was there really was a flood. An historical event. It reminded me of being

in Israel. Even though you know God, and you have met Jesus, and you believe all of the things that you read in Scripture, when you land in Tel Aviv airport, and are transported to Jerusalem the Bible becomes more real. This sensation continues as you traverse the land.

Your comprehension of the truth of the Word of God is deepened. I don't know how to explain it, but being where Jesus walked, you understand Jesus differently, and as you read scripture, it just comes across differently. This is very similar to being in the ark. I realized, "There really was a worldwide flood."

There were two things that I experienced through multimedia at the Ark that contributed to my deepening comprehension. One was a fictional (but based on true events) interview between a television reporter interviewing Noah. It was comical, and really well done.

You got a sense that this really happened, that there were people watching this ark being built, wondering why it's being built, and scorning why it's being built. This is what Noah endured for decades and decades and decades, but he steadfastly pursued God. You saw a little bit of life through Noah's eyes and through the world's eyes at the time.

The second thing that helped me was what you call virtual reality where you put on goggles and you're sitting in a chair that moves and you experience what it would be like to have been on the ark. You are being tossed about and at the very end, the best part of the whole experience, was seeing a picture of the ark on top of a mountain with a rainbow arcing over it.

This sign reminds us that God did wipe out the earth, but then He gave us a rainbow to say, "But I will never do that again." This was a promise or a covenant. Sadly the rainbow has been twisted and perverted by our culture today, but it's still God's sign to us.

The last thing which impacted me was a timeline. Have you ever seen a 27-foot timeline of the world's several thousand year history?

Scott: I don't know if I have seen one that big, but I think I have seen world history timelines. Yeah.

Steve: I think mine is 18 feet. Unfortunately, I have wanted to put it on the ceiling on our bedroom and that didn't go over well. My office doesn't have a wall that long, but boy there is something about looking at the span of human history. This one was made by Sebastian Adams, and it covers creation up to late 1800s like 1900.

As you look at it, you see, 40 percent of that timeline is the Book of Genesis. You see all of creation. You see Adam, and you see his children, and then you see Noah. Then everything stops because the world came to an end. Then you see Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their lines going out and then the world starts up again.

As you look at this, you see how many of the patriarchs overlapped each other. Methuselah knew a bunch of these patriarchs. Adam lived for a long time and he talked to many of his children and great children and great, great, great-grandchildren.

You don't have that perspective when you just read the Bible. I was really happy to see that on the top floor. Right before I left, I just stood there and looked at that timeline for hours.

As I proceeded through the ark, the first emotion I experienced was solemnity. This was a devastating catastrophe. My fear of God increased. God is powerful. God does judge sin, and God warned them, He sent a preacher to preach the gospel to them, a preacher of righteousness, Noah was called.

Then God said, "The time is up. I'm not gonna forbear forever. You have disregarded me." Then He sends Noah, builds the ark, put them in the ark, and closes the door.

I'm going to read it, "God said to Noah, 'I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch.'"

"This is how you are to make it, the length of the ark, 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. Make a roof for the ark and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side." I'll talk about that later. "Make it with lower second and third decks."

"For behold, I will bring up flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh, which is the bread of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. I will establish my covenant with you. You shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you."

Some people disregard scripture. They disregard the book of Genesis, which I said is about 40 percent of the world's history. Yet, Jesus reaffirmed Genesis, and He reaffirmed Noah, as it says in Luke 17, and in Matthew. "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking and marrying, and being given in marriage until the day when Noah entered the ark. The flood came and destroyed them all."

When the Son of Man returns, it's going to be like it was in the days of Noah. Life is going on. People are living their lives. Until God says, "It's time, enter the ark." A worldwide flood's not going to come this time, fire is going to come.

As you think about God's judgments, remember Babel when God had to judge them and spread them all abroad, with different languages. We think about the judgments on the false gods of Egypt, during the Exodus. And there's going to be a judgment in our world at some point. That's extremely sobering. It's somber, it's solemn.

My second emotion was a sense of calm. The ark is a testimony to me that God cares for His people. God preserved Noah and his family. As I stood in the Ark It comforted me, and built my faith up because God has a way of providing for His people.

Peter talks about them twice, in both of his epistles. 2 Peter 2, "If He did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness with seven others when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly. If by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes, he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly."

"If He rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked, (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day. He was tormenting his righteous soul over the lawless deeds that he saw and heard). Then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment."

This is God. As I was experiencing the ark, walking through it, thinking about it, I had both the somber mood and a comforting mood, because God takes care of His people.

Another surprising thing happened to me when on the Middle Deck, where they all came in, the animals, the people, etc. There was this huge door. I stood in front of it to give a sense of perspective because I look small in front of that door. When I saw that door, my first thought was, "Jesus is the door."

In John 10:9, "I am the door, if anyone enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture." This is Jesus. He is the way into this safe harbor. He is the way into the ark.

Interestingly, I not only saw Jesus as the door in, I saw Him as the one who closed the door. I thought about the end of chapter 10, of John, where it says, "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father who has given them to me is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."

He not only opened the door, he closed the door. Pretty special. Now, here's something that maybe you know, maybe you didn't. I'll put you on the spot here. What do you think happened when Jesus died and was raised from the dead? What was the next thing He did?

Scott: When He was raised from the dead, He appeared to several people, starting with Mary.

Steve: Corinthians says He appeared to Mary, appeared to apostles. He appeared to over 500 and all that.

Let me read something in 1 Peter 3. "Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous. That he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit in which he went, and proclaim to the spirits in prison."

They formerly did not obey when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared. In which, a few that his eight persons were brought safely through water." Is that amazing?

Scott: Yep.

Steve: There's a lot going on here we don't even know about, but Jesus was raised by the Spirit. We know that, but it seems that before He appeared, as it says in Corinthians to Mary and the apostles and over 500 people, He preached and proclaimed to the spirits in prison. These poor souls who drowned in the flood were pursued by the Good Shepherd, just as we've been pursued by the Good Shepherd. It says in Isaiah 26:9, "When your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness." I'll bet you those people didn't take a lot of persuading. They were in prison. Jesus visited them. He proclaimed to them, they met the risen Christ. Hopefully they learned righteousness in the flood. We don't know what all else that takes place there, but it looks like God sent His Son to talk to them and say, "You've sinned, you've know you've sinned, you've paid the price, and you perished in the flood. I am the One who has taken your sins upon myself."

I don't know what he preached, but I would like to be in that service, an altar call in prison. Jesus made that appearance. I just love the heart of Jesus because He's the Door, He's also the pursuer, and He's the preacher. This chapter in human history reveals God's heart Who uses even floods for His glory. He didn't just punish them. He taught them righteousness through this great judgment.

I believe that's going to happen in our day. In the last days, God is going to use judgments and those judgments are going to wake people up. They're going to say there is a God. There's all kinds of scriptures about this.

It says in Zechariah, "They shall look on him whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him as one born for an only son." They're going to get it. The veil is going to be torn away. They're going to understand, "Oh, that was Jesus that we crucified," and they're going to turn to Him.

As I was preparing to write this newsletter, the first thing that came to my mind, was Psalm 29:10, which says, "Yahweh sat as King at the flood. Yea! Yahweh sitteth as King forever. Yahweh will give strength unto His people. Yahweh will bless His people with peace."

He's King, is what we started with. He's King of Heaven above and of the earth beneath. I like the fact that he's sitting. He's not walking around the room, wringing His hands wondering what's going to happen. Wondering if He's got enough angels to take care of all the demons.

"Boy, I wonder if this plan that I made is going to work?" He's sitting. He knows it's going to work. He's confident. He knows the end from the beginning. He rules in wisdom and might. He reigns alone. He reigns supreme.

Interestingly, I'm starting to dig a little bit more in my research, do you know what Noah means?

Scott: No, I don't.

Steve: It mean rest and comes from the Hebrew word for rest. Isn't that something. Noah, you might think would be catastrophe or judgment or something like that. It's rest. That's what the King gives to us. He will bless His people with peace. That's what it says in Psalms 29:10–11.

I'm going to close with this, Genesis 9, "I will remember my convenient that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. The waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, the rainbow, I will see it and remember the ever-lasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth. God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

We just had several podcast about how God watches over his word to perform it. That He esteems His name and His word above all things. Jesus fulfilled the Word to the letter. God made a promise that He is not going to wipe us out again with water. He put that rainbow there. It says to remind Him, and it reminds us that we have a good God, a wonderful God.

Here's my take-a-way from the Ark, God fulfilled his word. He said He was going to punish the world, He did. He protected His children while He was fulfilling His word. He used the righteous judgment on the world to draw people to Himself.

He's loving. He's merciful. He's omnipotent. He's amazing. That's what the Ark did to me. It pointed me to Christ in a new way. It reaffirmed scripture. Now, can I sing another verse?

Scott: Sure. We're all waiting, man. Come on.

Steve: I might sing you two verses. I'm getting inspired here. I've been walking around the house singing this song over and over.

The Lord is King, child of the dust. The Judge of all the earth is just, Holy and true are all His ways. Let every creature speak His praise.

One Lord, one empire, all secures. He reigns, and life and death are yours. Through earth and Heaven one song shall ring, the Lord omnipotent is King.

Scott: Bravo. Encore, encore.

Steve: Let's pray. Thank you, Father, that you are King. There's so many facets to your nature. You're merciful and you're firm and you watch over your word. You care for people and you protect your people and those that don't know you, you're patient and patient and patient until you finally have to judge.

Even in a judgment, you're loving and merciful. Thank you for being our King. Help us all to submit to your kingship. Help us all to give glory to you for being King. We do

worship you. We thank you for this visual reminder of the reality of things of God. You do rule on Heaven above and you rule on the earth beneath. In Jesus' name, amen.