

## Building your Ark

Good morning everyone.

We praise and thank the Lord for this blessed Sabbath day which He has made especially for us to rejoice and delight in.

We rejoice o Lord for being in Your presence, we rejoice that we have the freedom of being able to meet with other people who share our faith and trust in you.

We delight O Lord in your Agape love, your unconditional and unchanging love.

I ask you now to bless the words of my mouth that they may be pleasing in your sight.

I would like to start by reading from the Book of Genesis Chapter 6 starting at verse 9. "these are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time, Noah walked with God. And Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt in the site of God, and the earth was filled with violence.

And God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. Then God said to Noah, "the end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold I am about to destroy them with the earth. "Make for yourself an arc of gopher wood....and God gave him detailed instructions on how to make it.

God was very sad and disappointed with the people He had created and He was going to destroy them, but He remembered Noah who was a righteous man and He decided to spare him and his family hence the arc that He, God, had instructed Noah to build.

When we look at the evening news on TV we hear of all the terrible things that go on here on earth. We hear of murders, violence, thefts, terrorism, etc... And we wonder how long will the Lord endure all this to go on. We also are affected by these events and we tend to cry out: "Lord, what is happening? It was not like this 10 or 15 years ago! Lord it is becoming worse and worse, Lord what are we going to do?" And it seems as if the Lord is saying to us, just what He said to Noah: "build yourself an arc". Naturally it is not an arc exactly as Noah's, for the arc that we are to build is a spiritual Arc made of the Word of God, an arc in which we can take refuge, an arc where we can be in the presence of the Almighty, an arc where the fiery darts of the enemy cannot reach us. We can live in this crazy world with all its dangers and still feel secure, we don't have to be frightened by the things that are happening all around us, or the things we hear about, that are happening in the world, because we know that we know that God will never leave us nor forsake us, and we can sleep peacefully at night in the knowledge that "he who keeps Israel neither slumber nor sleep". (Ps. 121:4). God has given us many examples of His wonderful ability to deliver His people from all danger. For example the 3 Hebrew boys Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who were delivered from the fiery furnace, Daniel, the Prophet, from the lion's den, and in the New Testament there are numerous accounts of people being delivered

from demon-Possession, (Matt.8:28-34), Matt.9:32-33, (Matt.15:21-28) delivered from sickness and diseases, (Matt.9:20-22, 27-31, Luke 13:10-17, 14:1-6, etc...

But as in everything else, we must do our own part and leave it to God to do His, therefore in order to enjoy God's protection we have to abide in Him. To abide means that we must take permanent residence in Him, which also means that we need to be consistent and stay in the Word day after day, after day. We cannot have a casual relationship with the Lord. Coming to Him when we happen to have a few spare moments, or seeking Him when we are in need of His help. We must learn to be disciplined if we want to be under His protection.

In John 15:7 Jesus said: "if you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask what ever you will and it shall be done for you.

In Psalm 91 :1 we read: " He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord: my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust".

Our God in his everlasting love, infinite wisdom, and supernatural power knows that we are in need of His help and that is why He has given us Angels who are at our beck and call and they are ready and waiting to execute our requests. I think that we do not use enough their ability and their help. You can read story after story of how people have been helped by Angels in their time of need. I think that many of you can recall situations in your own life where you have been saved by an Angel. I can remember how one time as I was driving on a very busy road and I was stopped at the traffic lights, my car suddenly stalled and I could not restart it.

I became very nervous as I could see from my rear mirror, cars heading my way at high-speed and there I was, a sitting duck, when someone tapped at my window and said: I will help, don't worry, I'll push you to the kerb, and he did. I stuck my head out of the window to thank him but there was no one there. I thought, it was a bit strange that he had left so quickly but it was only a few days later as I was thinking about that incident that I realised that I must have been helped by an Angel.

There are a few Scriptures that we must learn by heart and meditate upon, so that when danger comes our way we are prepared, and we can speak the Word of God confidently, without hesitation.

**Scriptures like Ps. 30:2.: O Lord my God, I cried to Thee for help, and Thou didst heal me.**

**Ps.31:3. O Lord you are my rock and my fortress. For Thy name's sake , Thou will lead me and guide me.**

**I love to quote and pray Ps. 27:1 – especially when the family has gone away for a few days, & I am sitting by myself at night and the two dogs bark and bark, at the slightest noise and make me feel nervous: “The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?**

**The Lord is the defence of my life, whom shall I dread?**

**There are so many Scriptures, so many promises that the Lord has given us, it is up to us to search and appropriate to ourselves the ones that are most suitable to our situation.**

**I don't want to be pessimistic but we have to be realistic. We know that life will become more and more difficult as time goes by, so let us be wise and start preparing our arc now.**

**We can start it by reading and memorising Ps.91,**

**We can build it with Scriptures about abiding in the Lord, such as, Ps. 15:1 O Lord, who may abide in Thy tent? Who may dwell on Thy holy hill? And the Lord answers: He who walks with integrity and works righteousness and speaks truth in his heart, he does not slander with his tongue nor does evil to his neighbour, nor takes up a reproach against his friend, in whose eyes a reprobate is despised but who honours those who fear the Lord.**

**We can build our arc with Scriptures about deliverance:**

**Ps.18:1 I love Thee O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised and I am saved from my enemies.**

**We can build our arc by saying with our mouth, out loud: the Lord is my refuge and my fortress in Him I trust.**

**Jesus himself said that things on this earth are going to get worse, just like they did in Noah's day. The darkness will get darker and the light will get brighter. "but as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the arc. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away... (Matt.24:37-39). Let us not wait until trouble hits us to start building our ark because we don't know the date nor the hour. Let us be prepared.**

**May the Lord bless us and keep us, the Lord make His face shine upon us, and be gracious to us, the Lord lift up His countenance on us and give us peace.  
Amen**