

EUROPEAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE—MALE CICHE

THE LIFE AND WORK THAT CHANGED THE AGE

Message Five

The Work that Changed the Age—Building the Ark

Scripture Reading: Gen. 6:14-22; Heb. 11:7; 2 Pet. 2:5; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; Gen. 7:13-16; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; Eph. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 2:9; 2 Cor. 2:10; Acts 26:19; John 10:9; Heb. 9:14; Phil. 2:12-16

I. Building the ark—Gen. 6:14-22:

- A. While Noah was walking with God and God was happy with him, God opened His heart to Noah and revealed His secrets to him—6:14-16.
- B. After Noah received the revelation, he immediately believed in the Word of God—Heb. 11:7.
- C. Noah preached what he believed in and practiced; he preached righteousness because nothing around him was righteous—2 Peter 2:5.
- D. While Noah was preaching righteousness, he was building and preparing the ark—Gen. 6:22; 1 Peter 3:20.
- E. After the ark was prepared he entered the ark with his family and all other living creatures—Gen. 7:13-16.
- F. Noah and his family were shut in the ark by the Lord—v. 16.

II. The ark is a type of Christ—not only the individual Christ but also the corporate Christ, the church—1 Peter 3:20-21:

- A. The length of the ark was three hundred cubits, the width fifty cubits, and the height thirty cubits—Gen. 6:15:
 - 1. The basic numbers in God's building are three and five (cf. Exo. 27), which signify the mingling of the Triune God with man through His divine dispensing—2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6.
 - 2. God's building is to build Himself into us and us into Him, making Him one with us and us one with Him—Eph. 3:16-19.
- B. The ark was to be built three stories high—6:16:
 - 1. The three sections of the tabernacle signify the depths into which we all must enter; the three stories of the ark signify the height to which we all must attain.
 - 2. The three stories of the ark signify the Triune God.
 - 3. We need to enter into the deepest and highest intimacy with our Triune God so that He can bring us to the "third story" to show us His mysteries, secrets and hidden treasures—1 Cor. 2:9; 2 Cor. 2:10; Exo. 33:11.
- C. In the ark there was one opening toward the heavens for light—6:16:
 - 1. The Hebrew word for *opening* has the same root as the word *noon*; this means that when you are under the opening, the window, you are in the noontime and are full of light—Prov. 4:18.
 - 2. Just as there was only one window, one opening, in the ark, there is only one window, one revelation, and one vision through one ministry in God's building—Acts 26:19; Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Tim. 1:3-4.

III. The ark is a symbol of the salvation accomplished in God's economy:

- A. There is only one door, one entrance into the ark; this one door is Christ—Gen. 7:13, 16; John 10:9.

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- B. The ark was made of gopher wood, a kind of cypress, a resinous wood that can withstand the attack of water; this is a type of the crucified Christ who can withstand the waters of death—Gen. 6:14; Acts 2:24.
- C. The ark was covered within and without with pitch, which is a type of the redeeming blood of Christ—Gen. 6:14; Heb. 9:14; Exo. 12:13.
- D. The water through which Noah passed is a figure of water baptism—1 Peter 3:20-21.
- E. To receive salvation by faith is once for all; to work out our own salvation, to carry it out, bring it to its ultimate conclusion, is lifelong—Phil 2:12-16.