

Shut In or Shut Out

Genesis 7:1–24

An Expositional Sermon by Dr. Bradley Rushing

Big Idea

When judgment comes, only those who walk with God by faith will stand.

I. When the storm comes, it is too late to build the ark (vv. 1–10)

- “Go into the ark” is not the start of Noah’s obedience. It is the culmination of decades of it.
- God’s judgment was preceded by God’s patience.
 - 120 years of mercy.
 - A long public warning while the ark was being built.
- Noah was a herald of righteousness. His building was preaching.
- God always warns before He acts, but the warning period does not last forever.
- Faith acts before judgment comes, not after.
- **Life Truth: You do not build the ark when the storm hits. You build it when the skies are still clear.**
- Jesus says the end will be like the days of Noah. People will be living normal life until the day judgment comes.

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II. God’s judgment is terrifying, but His mercy is sure (vv. 11–16)

- Moses gives a date and time because this is history, not myth.
- The flood is divine judgment and divine reversal. (Gen. 1:2 chaos)
- The flood is also God confronting both seen evil and unseen rebellion from Genesis 6.
- Yet one thing is different in the storm. Noah floats.

- The key line is this: “And the Lord shut him in.”
- **Life Truth: The only safe place in the flood of judgment is inside the grace of God.**
- The ark points forward to Christ.
- The door does not stay open forever. When God shuts it, it is shut.


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III. God remains faithful, even when He is silent (vv. 17–24)


- Rain fell forty days, but the waters prevailed one hundred fifty days.
- After “the Lord shut him in,” God does not speak again until Genesis 8:1.
- Five months of silence inside the ark while judgment raged outside.
- God’s last word before the silence was covenant promise, “I will establish my covenant with you.”
- **Life Truth: Just because God is silent does not mean He is absent.**
- Waiting quietly for salvation is not weakness. It is faith.
- Sometimes the most faithful thing you can do is keep floating, keep trusting, and hold fast to what God already promised.
- God will “remember” Noah, meaning God will act on His covenant at the right time.

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