

Advent Readings Day 7

Redemption has been woven into the narrative since the beginning, but I think we have often missed it. Consider Noah.

Noah was about five hundred years old when he had his sons. The rest of the world was steeped in wickedness. Every intent of the thoughts of men's hearts was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made men upon the earth, and he was deeply grieved. Sin's curse had spread to every corner of the world and had infected every heart. God looked upon the sons of men and decided to bring the world to an end through a deluge.

But Noah found favor in God's sight, so the father made a way for this righteous man and his family to be saved. God instructed Noah and his sons to build an ark, a boat of immense proportions. God would send fourteen of every clean animal and two of every unclean animal to inhabit the ark. The day came for the rain to fall with severity on the earth. The eight, who God called righteous, entered the ark, and He shut the door behind them, sealing them inside. The great deeps erupted with violence, the doors of heaven were opened, and the great flood collided from above and below. The wrath of God was poured out, but again there was mercy. Again there was grace. Again there was redemption. God brought these eight through death and decay and delivered them safely to life on the other side.

As the first earth was destroyed by the waters, so the second is reserved for fire. As the ark was salvation for those who put their faith in God, so too today there is salvation for those who put their faith in God and enter into Christ. As God shut the door and sealed the eight inside, so too are the people of faith today sealed by God's Spirit into the person of Jesus. As Noah and his fellow righteous ones were lifted above death and destruction and delivered safely to life, so too have we who entered into Christ been delivered from death. And in the same way, we shall be delivered to life.

The first ark saved for a moment. Christ will save for all time.