

Bible Readings**Genesis 7:1-5**

¹ The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. ² Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, ³ and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. ⁴ Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made."

⁵ And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

Genesis 8:1

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.

Matthew 8:23-27**Jesus Calms the Storm**

²³ Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. ²⁴ Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵ The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

²⁶ He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

²⁷ The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

Sermon: Peace in a Storm**11-Jul-21**

G'Day Church Family

You have **Bibles in front of you** - and you may have a sermon **outline** - if you'd like to **take notes**.

Let me **ask God** to grant us **understanding** this morning

Let's pray...

Intro/Context

- This is our **last look at Matthew's Gospel** for a while
- You have **Bibles in front of you** and a sermon **outline**
- Let me **pray**

- Here in NSW, we are **very used to storms and floods**
- **Back in March** of this year
- We had **extreme rainfall** which led to flooding in New South Wales, affecting regions from the North Coast to the Sydney metropolitan area in the south. Suburbs of Sydney experienced the **worst flooding in 60 years** and the events were described by NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian as "**one in 100-year**" **flooding**.
- The **federal government declared** many parts of the East coast as a **natural disaster zone** as the floods caused **18,000 people to be evacuated** and over **1,000 flood rescues**

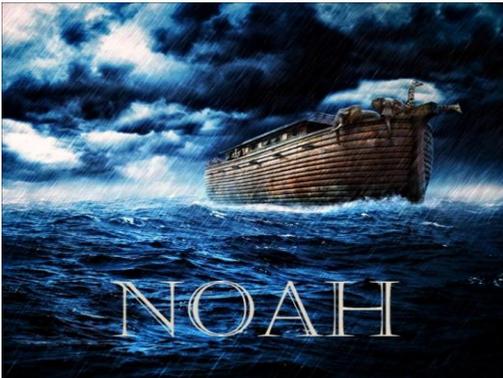
- To **make matters worse** these floods occurred less than 18 months after Australia was affected by the **Black Summer bushfires** - these floods impacted many of the same towns still recovering from the bushfires
- Then on top of that we have been facing the ongoing storm of **COVID19** - which is a worldwide storm

God is in control of the Flood (Genesis 7:1-5; 8:1)

- Which brings us to our OT bible passage from **Genesis 7**
- Where we have a **worldwide storm**

[Please turn there now]

[PowerPoint 1-Noah's ark]



- See v1 - **God tells Noah to go into the Ark** - he has built - **accompanied by his family**
- God is about to flood the whole Earth?
- Why?
- **Genesis 6:5-7 tells us why** - The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the Earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord

regretted that He had made human beings on the Earth and His heart was deeply troubled. So, the Lord said "I will wipe from the face of the Earth the human race I created... for I regret I have made them"

- As we've said many times - **God cannot look at sin - and cannot accept sin and rebellion against Him**
- But **God saw that Noah was the only one walking with God - and so God preserved Noah and his family**
- And v2 - **God instructs Noah to bring every living animal on to the Ark before He sends the rain**
- What can we learn about God from this?
 - God is in control of nature
 - God is a **God of detail** - He gave Noah specific instructions on how to build the Ark (back in chapter 6) and gave Noah plenty of time to build the Ark (we're not sure how long, but maybe even as long as 100 years!)
 - The ark was 510ft (150m) long [1 $\frac{1}{2}$ football fields], 85 ft (25m) wide and 51 ft (15m) high
 - God even organised for all the animals to come to Noah - so they could be taken on the ark (v2-3)
 - God told Noah exactly what was going to happen - In v4 - God says in 7 days I will send rain for 40 days and nights
 - God also **expects obedience** and that's what we see in v5 - Noah did all that the Lord commanded him
 - God gives a way out for those who walk with Him as Noah did - God saves those who have faith - as Heb 11:7 says - By faith Noah, when

warned about things not seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family

- Also, just as God is in control of sending the rain on the earth for 40 days and nights to flood the whole Earth - God is also in control of stopping the rain!
- See **Gen 8:1** - But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and He sent a wind over the Earth and the waters receded
- **Nothing is impossible for God!**

Jesus is in control of the Storm (Matthew 8:23-27)

- Which brings us to our NT passage and to **another water incident**

[Please turn to Matthew 8:23-27]

- The **context** is this: Jesus has come down from the Mountainside after delivering His Sermon on the Mount and **entered a town called Capernaum (v5)** on the **edge of Lake Galilee** (aka Sea of Galilee)
- The **Lake is pretty big** - it's a **166sq Km** [Budgewoi 14sq Km; Tuggerah 80Sq Km; Munmorah 8sq Km; and Macquarie 648sq Km]

[PowerPoint 2 - Lake Galilee]



- The lake's location makes it prone to sudden and violent storms as the wind comes over the eastern mountains and drops suddenly onto the sea. Storms are especially likely when an east wind blows cool air over the warm air that covers the sea. The cold air (being heavier) drops as the warm air rises. This sudden change can produce surprisingly furious storms in a short time, as it did in Jesus' day
- Look at v23 - Jesus and his disciples climbed into a boat

[PowerPoint 3-Storm]



- Suddenly out of nowhere a furious storm came on the lake - v24

- Now the Greek word used for storm here - is **seismos** - where we get our English word seismic - which relates to **earthquake activity** - it's almost like there's a mini earthquake going on under the water which has blown up a terribly dangerous storm
- This is **Satan's opportunity to drown Jesus and all His disciples** - or so he thinks!
- The **waves are sweeping over the side of the boat** - still v24
- What is Jesus doing?
- He's **asleep!**
- What does this show us about Jesus?
- First - He is human - He **needs sleep just like we do**
- Second - He rests calmly and confidently in His Father's will - **knowing** - just like with Noah's ark and the flood - **God, the Father, is in control** - and Jesus also knowing - He Himself has God's Power!
- Not so - the disciples - **they are not calm at all** -
- According to Mark's Gospel on this same event - the **disciples were afraid** and even accused Jesus of not caring if they drown
- Sometimes as we face the storms of our lives - and in our fear - and in our doubt - and in forgetting that God is in control - **we can think Jesus doesn't care about us** - but it's not true - **Jesus is in the boat with us remember!**
- In their fear - **v25** - the **disciples woke up Jesus** - saying "**Save us! We're going to drown!**"

- Look at Jesus' response - He says "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?"
- The **writer** of the Gospel, **Matthew**, intends us to see the difference between the **great** faith of the Roman centurion (Matthew 8:10) and the **little** faith of the disciples. The disciples have accompanied Jesus in His ministry and witnessed the most amazing things but still they doubt and don't recognize that Jesus is able to do ANYTHING.
- Instead of faith, the disciples have fear.
- And look at how Jesus calms the storm - He rebuked the storm - He told off the winds and the waves - just by speaking - and everything became calm
- What this is meant to show us is that Jesus has the power of God - He can control creation, just like God did with the flood in Noah's Day
- What we are meant to see is Jesus is not only fully man (He sleeps like us) but also, He is fully God - He can speak to Creation and amazing things happen
- Nothing is impossible for Jesus
- Now look at the disciples' reaction in v27
- They are amazed - why wouldn't they be!
- Then they ask the key question? "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey Him!"
- What's the answer to the disciples' question? "What kind of man is this?"
- The answer is - Jesus is no ordinary man

- We know from John's Gospel: Jesus was there at the time of Creation - as John 1:3 says: Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made
- We know from Colossians 1:15-17 that Jesus is fully God, He created everything and He holds everything together - Colossians 1:15-17 says: -
¹⁵ The Son is the **image of the invisible God**, the **firstborn over all creation**. ¹⁶ For in him **all things were created: things in heaven and on earth**, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; **all things have been created** through him and for him. ¹⁷ **He is before all things**, and in him **all things hold together**.
- And we know from Luke 19:10 that Jesus has been sent on a rescue mission by the God the Father - to seek and save those lost from God
- And we know that was all part of God's plan - because He loved the people of this world so much - He wanted people to believe in the One who not only controls creation but has the power to forgive our sins through His death on the Cross - and the one who has power to give us eternal life through His resurrection (John 3:16)

Application

So, what can we take home with us in our hearts this morning?

[PowerPoint 4-Application]

Application

1. *How is our faith? Is it great like the Roman Centurion or little like the disciples. Repent of our fear and replace it with faith!*
2. *Whatever storms we face in life; remember Jesus is in the boat with us!*
3. *Jesus saves us from drowning in our sin; salvation is found in no-one but Him!*

I'd like to give us 3 things:

1. First - How's our **faith**? Is it strong and great like the Gentile Roman Centurion with the sick servant who believed Jesus could heal his servant from a distance just by speaking? Or is our faith weak and little like the disciples in the boat who'd seen Jesus' miracles before yet they still doubted and were afraid.

Fear is the opposite of faith.

2 Timothy 1:7 says: - for God gave us a spirit **not of fear but of power and love and self-control (ESV).**

1 John 4:18 says - There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

What John is saying here is if our relationship with God is marked by continually being tormented by fear then it shows we haven't been made perfect - that is we are not complete and mature - **in His love for us and in our love for Him.**

So, a way forward this morning is - to **Repent of our fear and replace it with faith** - and put our faith in Jesus - believing He is in control

- **2nd** - Having repented of our fear - let us remember that whatever storm we are going through right now
 - maybe, the death of a loved one,
 - or a loved one who is sick or even dying;
 - or our own health crisis and having treatment which seems worse than the actual illness;
 - or we're having relationship problems;
 - or a financial crisis or loss of earnings;
 - or watching our ageing parents struggling;
 - or watching our kids or grandkids having trouble at school;
 - or if we're really hurting over something that has been said or done to us -
 - or really struggling with a problem that just never seems to go away

Whatever the storm - even this current COVID19 lockdown where there seems like there's no end in sight

Let us remember Jesus is in the boat with us in that storm - He's in control - don't hop out of the boat - just rest peacefully in His loving arms - and He will get us through the storm

- **3rd** - **Jesus saved His disciples** from drowning (well they thought they were going to drown) - **Jesus saved them** just by speaking to the storm.

Like the disciples we are in danger of drowning - drowning in our lake of sin and rebellion against God - and in danger of ending up in the Lake of Fire in Hell.

But out of God's love and grace and mercy, He sent Jesus to save us from the storm of sin that rages in our lives. As Acts 4:12 says - [Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.](#)

So, this morning - let's thank Jesus for saving us for Heaven - let's thank Jesus for always being in the boat and in the storm with us

Conclusion

To finish up then

[PowerPoint 5-Conclusion]

Conclusion

Noah's Ark was a vessel of salvation; there was only one way to enter the Ark and be safe

Likewise there is only one way to be saved for Heaven and that is through Jesus, our Ark.

Noah's ark was a vessel of salvation. Noah and his family had to enter into the ark by the one door and while the storms raged and humankind ceased to be, God kept Noah and his family safe. There was only one way to enter the ark, and

there is only one way to our ultimate safety in Heaven --through Jesus Christ.
Like Noah, we can run to our ark, Jesus, when the storms of fear seek to devour us and find safe refuge and all we need in Him.

As Proverbs 18:10 says: "The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; The righteous run to it and are safe."

Let's pray.