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# THE PLACE OF SAFETY.

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*“Come thou and all thy house into the Ark.”*

Gen. vii. 1.

The mercy of God to Noah and his family is recorded in the Bible, with a view to the instruction and benefit of mankind from generation to generation. A similar mercy is offered to the present race; and the voice of the Gospel addresses every one to the same effect as the Lord addresses Noah, “COME THOU AND ALL THY HOUSE INTO THE ARK.” Noah obeyed, and together with his family, was happily preserved from a deluge of waters, which swept away all the rest of the inhabitants of the world.

Now, my dear READER, a deluge infinitely more dreadful is about to break upon the world to destroy the rebellious and impenitent children of men. An ARK is also provided against this deluge, which, though not a deluge of water, is one of the wrath of God revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men. The Ark in which Noah was saved is a type of the Ark which God has provided against the last deluge, even his Son Jesus Christ who was crucified, in and through whom all who come to Him are to be preserved from the wrath to come, and to be made

eternally happy with him. The Ark was prepared by Noah at the divine command; for God had forewarned him of the flood which was to drown the world, and had both enjoined and instructed him to build his vessel, as being the only means of security from the general calamity. So Christ is prepared for all who are willing to take refuge in Him. Noah believed God; and "moved with fear" followed the direction thus kindly given, and so escaped a *temporal* destruction. "By faith, Noah prepared an ark to the saving of his house." But it is *spiritual* deliverance that man now stands in need of as a sinner; it is *eternal* destruction that an awakened soul desires above all things to avoid; and to save himself in this sense, he has not the least power. But God who knows his utter helplessness, hath provided for him an ARK to flee to, in the person of the Son of his love. Hear the gracious invitation! "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Jesus Christ, so graciously provided for the safety and salvation of sinners, is in the scripture described as the one who is "able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by him." And of this his ability to save, we may take an illustration from the Ark of Noah, which completely answered the end for which it was made. The Ark was faithful to its trust. As soon as the eight persons were secured in that well-constructed vessel, the flood rose and dashed furiously against it; yet it was proof against all the violence of the waters, effectually sheltered from harm the little company which had repaired to it for refuge. In like manner, when the floods of divine vengeance will overtake a guilty world, those in the true ARK will successfully outride the fury of the storm, and be landed on the shore of the renewed creation in triumph and glory.

When we observe the Lord Jesus slighted, and His blood and righteousness undervalued by the world, we

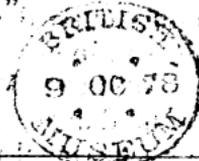


see a repetition of the same folly which was acted in the days of Noah. Who, except that righteous man and his family, consented to enter into the Ark as the only means of deliverance? Who did not despise the contrivance, and ridicule the patriarch for trusting to it? Yet how soon did it appear, how dreadfully was it evinced, that all the wisdom in the world resided with those few persons who believed and obeyed God; and who were mocked for so doing, and reproached for an act which was a proof of their superior prudence! Why did the multitude perish by the flood, but because they held in contempt the only possible refuge, and therefore did not avail themselves of its friendly protection? And it is precisely for the same reason that men perish still with respect to their souls: they despise Jesus Christ the true ARK, and neglect his great salvation, and they have no other way to escape the "damnation of hell."

We may suppose that many cutting reflections aggravated the miseries of the multitude in Noah's time, when they found themselves in a drowning condition. Let the reader picture to himself the thoughts of one of these as he saw the deluge rising—"Yonder is the ark which I derided as the production of insanity; it rides in safety, and bears its precious charge on the surface of this desolating element, while I am left to sink beneath it, and to expire in agonies. How lately did I witness the entrance of the good old man into the asylum, which he had so prudently prepared! Woe is me! instead of yielding to his solicitations, instead of following his example, I scoffed! I madly disputed the truth of the Divine revelation, of which he kindly apprized me, and stoutly demanded, 'Where is the promise of his coming? Where the sign of the threatened devastation? Where, ridiculous enthusiast? where is the danger from which thou wouldst flee? Ah! he is safe, but I perish! and my destruc-

"tion is the fruit of my own pride and presumption!"  
 READER, this is also a picture of a lost sinner whose conscience upbraids him with the folly of having rejected the "redemption which is in Christ Jesus." Do you shudder at the bare recital of so much wretchedness? how sad beyond expression must be the actual experience thereof! If you ardently desire a better lot, consider that you are personally accosted with that gracious invitation, "COME, THOU AND ALL THY HOUSE INTO THE ARK." Respect the authority of that God who hath commanded all men every where to "repent and believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ." Be persuaded yourself, and if possible persuade all who are near and dear to you, yea, all who are round about you, to come without delay to him in whom alone is salvation, and who will as infallibly preserve from the floods of vengeance the whole household of faith, as the Ark preserved Noah and his family from the deluge of water. "COME, *therefore*, AND ALL THY HOUSE INTO THE ARK."

But if ye will not hear, if you will not take refuge in the ARK, CHRIST JESUS, which is open to receive you, then hear the word of the Lord. "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed, for as in the days that were before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the Ark, and knew not until the flood came and took them all away, SO SHALL THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN BE." "Watch, therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." "Be ye therefore ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh."



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