

OLD-TIME RELIGION
12 Fervent, Soul-Winning Sermons

By

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CHAPTER ELEVEN

DELIVERANCE FROM JUDGMENT

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"And the Lord saith unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation" (Genesis 7:1).

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" (Hebrews 11:7).

Noah's ark is a type of CHRIST, and the flood is a type of judgment. Not only is it a type of judgment but it was GOD's judgment upon the sin of that age, and is a type of the final judgment of GOD that shall close this age in which we live. For sin means judgment every time.

Do not deceive yourself, and do not let the Devil deceive you-there is no such thing as sin escaping judgment! GOD said, **'Every work shall be brought into judgment.'** And my only chance of deliverance from judgment is that my sins are charged to JESUS CHRIST and judgment for them fell upon Him on the Cross as He bare my sins there. There is no such thing as sin escaping judgment!

1. The Ark Was GOD's Provision for a Condemned World.

There are a number of ways in which the ark is a type of CHRIST; but I want to mention just a few outstanding ways tonight.

First, it was GOD's provision for a condemned world.

GOD said to Noah, **"The end of all flesh is come before me,"** and the sentence of death was passed then and there upon the whole world. This is also a condemned world in which you and I live. We hear a great deal on the part of some groups of Christians about saving the world, and with many missionary programs the idea is to win the world to CHRIST. Now GOD has never

promised that we will win the world to CHRIST. On the other hand, GOD has told us plainly that judgment awaits this world and that it is under the condemnation of GOD right now.

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." The sentence of death is upon all flesh and instead of saving the world, this age will close as others have, with judgment. We are waiting, said Paul, for the coming of CHRIST who **"shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ"** (II Thessalonians 1:7-8).

The hardest thing I have in my ministry is to get people to believe that GOD means what He says when He tells us that this world is lost - to get Christian people to believe it, to say nothing of the unsaved. If I could get unsaved people who hear me preach to face the fact that the Bible says they are lost, just to face the fact that they are really and truly lost and that they do not have a hope in this world, they would be saved.

The reason people are not saved is because they absolutely refuse to admit to themselves that they are lost. When you get a fellow to face the fact that he is lost, when he looks that awful truth right squarely in the face, I tell you, he is not far from the kingdom of GOD. But in spite of all that GOD says about it, even multitudes of professing Christians never have yet admitted the fact that everybody is lost until he is Born Again by the Spirit of GOD.

There are even great denominations that teach that all you have to do is just to bring a child up in the church and he is all right. In spite of the fact that the Bible says we are shapen in iniquity; **"behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me"** (Psalm 51:5); in spite of the fact that the Bible says, **"The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies"** (Psalm 58:3); in spite of the fact that the Bible says, **"in Adam all die."** (I Corinthians 15:22), still there are people who believe and teach that you can bring up a child in religion and make a Christian out of him - that children are born little angels.

Bless your life, my two were not born little angels. Yours might have been, but mine were not. This foolishness of the psychologists of the last generation that children are born little angels, and that you must not ever say no, and that you must not ever say don't, and that you must not put any restrictions on this little lad but just "let the rosebuds unfold of their own" (yes, they taught it. But you let a few of those little rosebuds unfold of their own accord and you will see what will happen.

Professor Henry Link was one of such teachers. He was head of the Department of Psychology of Chicago University. He taught that nonsense for years; but when a child came into his own home and he reared him according to that standard, he changed his mind. He wrote a book repudiating it all. The title is, *"The Return to Religion."*

In that book he treats of that subject and there he says, "We psychologists have been foolish enough to believe that a child is born a little angel, when the truth of the matter is, they are born criminals, every one of them. Every step upward a person takes from the cradle to the grave is by a deliberate effort and is the result of teaching and training. Character is developed by

restrictions."

And I say, if people only had enough sense to know it! GOD taught us that in the Book four thousand years ago: that we are born in sin, that the heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked and that no man can see GOD unless he is Born Again. **"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"** (John 3:3).

People are lost! Oh, I wish we believed it! This world is a condemned world; and I tell you, it is an awful thing to, think of being under the condemnation of GOD.

Condemned! Condemned! Hear the sentence! **"Cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth"; "He that believeth not is condemned already."** Lost! Lost! My friend, that means you, if you are without the Lord. That means every person on this earth, I care not how good he may be, I care not how clean, how moral nor how fine he may be; that means every person on earth who is not saved - **"he that believeth not is condemned already."**

2. The Ark Was GOD's Only Way of Deliverance.

Now I want you to see something else about this text. Not only was the ark GOD's provision for a condemned world, but it was GOD's only provision.

Some people have an idea there are a number of ways to be saved.

A woman said to me not so long ago, "I think it is just like going to a big city. There are many roads that go up to that city and it does not make any particular difference which road you take; they all lead you to the same city."

I said, "Lady, you were never more mistaken in your life. JESUS said that there is only one way to eternal life. There are two roads in life - just two. One is the broad road that leads to death; the other is the narrow road that leads to life, and everybody is on one of these two roads."

A lot of people think it does not make any difference what you believe just so you are sincere. But GOD has not promised to save anybody on his sincerity. GOD promised to save souls only upon the merit of the shed Blood of JESUS CHRIST. Just one way. I want you to see that tonight.

Everybody outside of that ark perished.

Not a single one - not a single one - not even an animal, not a creeping thing, not a bird, not a living thing that had breath was left upon the face of the earth. The only life that survived was on the inside of the ark. There were, no doubt, many good people on the outside. There were many children on the outside. There were splendid mothers on the outside, but it made no difference who they were nor what they were - everyone outside that ark perished.

Just as certainly as this Book is the Word of GOD, just as surely as JESUS CHRIST is the Son of GOD, just that surely everyone outside of CHRIST is going to Hell. There is no subject in the

Bible, no one thing in the Book that GOD has labored more diligently, more persistently to press home to the hearts of men than the fact that there is just one way to be saved.

When Adam and Eve sinned and GOD came down into the garden, GOD did not say to them, "If you will be good, and behave yourselves, and treat each other right, and not do this any more, and live like you ought, be good citizens and keep the Golden Rule, you will be all right." No, GOD held out just one hope.

The first thing you hear from GOD is judgment. And then GOD held out just one hope. GOD said, "**the seed of the woman**," that is your hope.

And then GOD gave one of the most beautiful and impressive illustrations of salvation that you will find in all the Bible. Adam and Eve had tried to make garments to clothe their nakedness with their own hands when they saw they were naked. That represents man's effort to provide a clothing of righteousness in which he can stand before GOD. No doubt when Adam and Eve finished those garments they were well pleased with them. Don't think they could not make a real dress, because there never were two people who ever lived on this earth with the ability of these two people.

Adam had so much ability that when GOD brought before him all the animals of the world, Adam called them by name one after another just as fast as GOD could bring them before him. They had ability.

They did their best to make dresses for themselves, and I can imagine when they had finished them, Adam looked Eve over and said, 'Say, Eve, you look swell,' and Eve walked up and down so Adam could get a good look. He said, 'That is stunning and fine.' And she looked at him and said, 'Why, Adam, you are perfectly handsome in your new outfit.'

They were well pleased and happy over their work until GOD came on the scene. When GOD appeared on the scene we see them immediately hiding themselves behind the trees of the garden, because they realized now what they had done. They had not covered their sin from GOD. Oh, yes, the clothes looked mighty good to them, and man's morality still looks mighty good to him. His good works still look mighty fine to him and please his vanity, but when he stands before GOD, he is going to realize that he is a naked soul. GOD called Adam out from his hiding place and Adam said, '**We were naked.**'

'Why, I thought you had just made you some garments and put them on!'

'Yes, but when we stand in the presence of GOD's holiness, we realize that our efforts have not covered our sins.'

Then what does GOD do? I want you to see this - GOD, with His own hands, killed some of the animals of the garden that He Himself had made. When GOD took the animals and slew them with His own hands, and shed the innocent blood, He was teaching Adam that there is no atonement for man's sin except through a substitute which must die in his stead.

"There is no remission without shedding of Blood."

And then, GOD did not say to Adam, "Now Adam, you take the animals' skins, and you and Eve make garments for yourselves." Had you ever thought about that? Neither did GOD say, "Help me make the garments."

Men say, "GOD will do part of it and we will do part of it." But now watch; GOD does not say, "Now you take those skins and make your own garments." GOD took His own hands and removed the skins from the animals which He had made and which He had slain. And then He did not offer the skins to Adam and Eve and say, "Make you some garments," but GOD took the skins Himself, and with His own hands GOD sewed every stitch. When the garments were finished, GOD gave them to those two sinners, completed, and they were clothed and their nakedness was covered.

Brother, that is salvation in a nutshell. We all must stand before GOD. The believer in CHRIST will stand before GOD clothed in the righteousness of JESUS CHRIST. I do not have a thing in the world to do with it, not a thing but to receive it after He has finished it.

Here is another illustration from GOD's Word.

In that awful night of the Passover in Egypt there was just one escape - just one. GOD told Moses to tell the children of Israel to take a lamb and slay it and put the blood on the lintels and on the doorposts of their houses and said, "**And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you**" (Exodus 12:13).

But somebody might have said, "I don't like blood; I don't like the idea of smearing blood over the door and on the side posts of my house - I don't like it. And anyhow, it seems like foolishness to me."

Listen: I care not what they might have done to those lintels and doorposts; they might have overlaid them with gold and set them with rubies and diamonds and decked them with lilies of the valley or the roses of Sharon - I care not what they might have done to them; if there was no blood, there was death. Just one way: "**when I see the blood,**" - not when I see how good those people are that are back there in the house, not when I see how wonderfully they have lived and what fine characters they are, but "**when I see the blood, I will pass over you.**"

When Israel was bitten by the fiery serpents in the wilderness, everyone, regardless of age, regardless of character, regardless of anything - everyone who was bitten by the serpent died.

They came to Moses and said, '**We have sinned, pray for us,**' and Moses went to GOD for them, and GOD said, "**And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live**" (Numbers 21:8).

They might have done anything else besides look at the serpent, and certainly many of them did. Can't you see them frantically getting remedies and putting on those remedies? Everybody who

comes along has a different remedy.

Here is a fellow who says, "Don't talk to me about looking at a serpent on a pole. I am going to use grandma's liniment. It has never failed. It is a sure cure." Brother, listen: you had better listen to GOD and let grandma's liniment alone. I care not what you use, or how much you use, or how earnestly you use it, you had better look at the serpent on the pole or you are going to die. There is just one remedy, just one way.

When Joshua and Israel conquered Jericho, (that day when they marched around her walls and the walls fell down and they walked in and laid waste that city) when night came there was just one house standing. There was a red rope hanging out of the window of that house, which is another symbol of the Blood of JESUS CHRIST. Look who was behind that rope. The best woman in Jericho? Not on your life! She was a harlot, the sorriest woman who ever walked the streets of Jericho - a public harlot. But her house was the only one that was left standing.

Why did GOD choose Rahab the harlot that day? I will tell you: to teach us once and for all that it is not by our merit that the grace of GOD is extended, that it is not upon the basis of our character. He chose a woman without any character. GOD said, 'Get behind that red rope, and stay there'; and she believed Him, and by faith, says the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, she perished not. Just one way, that is all.

- JESUS said, "**I am the way**," He did not say, "I am a way."

- JESUS said, "**I am the way**." He did not even say, "I am a good way," or "I am a beautiful way," or "I am the best way," or "I am the safest way."

- JESUS said, "**I am the way**."

And then, knowing how men would listen to the Devil and let the Devil deceive them in spite of what GOD had said, JESUS said, "**No man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**"

Again, in the tenth chapter of John, JESUS said, "**I am the door of the sheep.**" He did not say, "a door"; He said, "**the door**," the definite article. Then again, knowing how men would listen to the Devil's lies, JESUS said, '**He that climbs up any other way is a thief, and a robber.**'

I read the story sometime ago of Daniel Currie, a western cattle man.

In the last days of his life he was a great Christian. He had had a Christian wife all through the years. He was a fine moral man before he was saved, liberal with his money, an honest, upright gentleman, but unsaved. When his wife used to pray for his salvation he would laugh at her. He would tell her, "You had better be praying for some of these sinners, I am all right."

He gave money to the church to which his wife belonged; he gave money to the poor; he was doing a lot of good things as he went along the road of life, but his wife kept praying for his salvation.

One night, Daniel Currie said, "Along in the wee hours of the night I saw a vision. I saw myself trying to climb up to Heaven. I was making the ladder with my good works, and every time I

gave some money to the church or helped a poor struggler along the way, I would place another rung in the ladder and would climb a little higher. I would do something else good and climb a little higher still. It seemed that just one more rung in the ladder was all I needed. There was the ledge of the Holy City. And so I gave some more money to the church and when I did, the rung slipped into place. I climbed up and got hold of the ledge and pulled myself up.

I said, "Who said I could not do it? Well, here I am. I made it."

But, when I was straightened up, there was a Man standing facing me and on His head was a crown of thorns. His arms were outstretched in the shape of a cross; I saw the nail prints in His hands, and heard Him say, 'Daniel Currie, **I am the door of the sheepfold; he that climbeth up any other way is a thief and a robber.**' I awoke with a start. The dream was so real that I knew GOD was speaking to my heart. I woke my wife and I said, 'Sweetheart, get out of bed and pray for me;' She said, 'Pray for you! Why, you have been telling me all these years I had better pray for somebody who was lost. What is the matter?' I said, 'Sweetheart, this thing has become mighty serious with me. There is no time for jesting.' I told her what GOD had showed me; and I said, 'Get out of bed and on your knees with me right now. I want to settle this right now.' "

And on his knees there in his home, past the midnight hour, that moral man later said, "I opened the door of my heart to JESUS. GOD showed me there was but one way - just one way."

~ end of chapter 11 ~

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