

In step with Jesus 210

August 16, 2026

KEY TEXT: God is our refuge and strength, a very present¹ help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, ³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. ⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. (Psalm 146: 1-4)

Introduction

Last week we identified God's unfailing love for all His creatures, including all the animals he created as portrayed in Genesis chapter seven. We saw how He preserved the lives of both clean and unclean animals and also preserved their relationship with their companions, thus sustaining His blessings for them to be fruitful and multiply. Today we shall reflect on the remaining verses of Genesis Chapter Seven. Again, we shall see a manifestation of God's unfailing love, protection and sustenance in the face of life's storms and adversities. Let us dig deeper into Genesis chapter seven verses ten to twenty-four and see what God will show us.

Genesis 7: 10-24

¹⁰And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth. ¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. ¹²And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, ¹⁴they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. ¹⁵They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. ¹⁹And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. ²¹And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. ²²Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. ²³He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and

animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. ²⁴ And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

Reflections

Among other things we can learn, today's reading highlights the patience of Noah under God's mighty hands. It is not very clear from the scriptures how long it took Noah to build the ark, but one can assume that it took a fairly long time. But after building and conveying all the animals into the ark, he had to wait for another seven days before the rain started. Seven days may not appear to be a very long waiting time in our reckoning but considering the fact that Noah had never seen anything like rain before, he needed a lot of faith to patiently wait upon God, believing that He will do what He said He will do. After Noah had done everything, God commanded him to do, He also needed to wait for God's perfect timing to fulfil His word. Noah's life in the ark exemplified what Paul counsels us to do in Hebrews 10:36. He says "Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised." However, we cannot fail to notice God's intervention in keeping Noah in the ark. The second sentence in verse sixteen says, "And the Lord, shut him in." It was God Himself that closed the door to the ark, not Noah. God sealed the ark in such a way that nothing could come in, and nothing could go out. God is, indeed, the author and finisher of our faith and we can draw a lot of comfort from Noah's experience as we near the end of time. It is not just our faith that will keep us till the end, God will shut us in.

Through God's help, Noah patiently waited for God's word to come to pass and when God's perfect time arrived, it did not just rain, the bible says that the fountains of the great deep burst open and the windows of heaven opened and it rained for over one month, none stop. Every land animal and bird was destroyed by the flood but Noah, his wife, his sons' wives and all the animals in the ark were safe. Notice that the same flood that destroyed everything upon the earth was the same flood that lifted the ark. Up to fifteen cubits high, the waters covered the highest mountains and drowned everything under heaven, except Noah's ark. Friends it matters where we stand during the storms of life and the best place to be is in Christ. Being in Christ will not stop the rain from falling, it will not also stop the floods from rising, and it will not stop the storms of life on this side of eternity, but it determines the effect of the storms upon us. When we are in Christ, God uses the storms of life to lift us high above the principalities and powers of this world and draw us closer to Himself, but the wicked shall perish on the evil day as they did in Noah's day. Today God invites us to enter and remain in His ark of salvation which is Christ. Please come in and invite others to come in too.