

The Ark & The Church

Types and shadows for Christ and His church abound in the Old Testament. This should not be surprising to anyone, since "whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15:4), and "the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Gal. 3:24). Abraham was a type for Christ in the promise that all the families of the earth would be blessed in him (Gen. 12:3), which prophecy was fulfilled in Christ (Gal. 3:26-28). Further examples would be that of Isaac and Israel as types for the church, Melchisidek, Joseph and David as types for Christ, and the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah as types for the apostasy that was prophesied for many in the church (2 Thess. 2:1-12).

One of the richest Old Testament types fulfilled in the New Testament is that of the ark and the church. The similarities are too many to be coincidental, and too many to be ignored.

- There was one man called to build the ark, as there was One who would build His church (Mat. 16:16).
- There was but one ark, as there is but one church (Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23).
- There was but one pattern for the ark, as there is but one pattern for the church (Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 1:13).
- There was but one covenant mediated only between God and Noah, and there is but one covenant mediated by Christ between God and the church (Heb 9:15).

These are but a few of the similarities. It is difficult to imagine Noah suggesting that the covenant providing the ark and salvation from a world doomed by sin was too narrow. It is equally difficult to imagine anyone who is serious about being saved and going to heaven suggesting that the New Testament gospel is too narrow. The facts are that at the end of the flood only those on the ark were saved, and at the end of the world it will be only the church.

– Randy