



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A2038 ~ The Animals Enter the Ark.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

In the pre-flood times, the people had become so wicked that God was sorry that He had made them. He decided to destroy them with a great flood. However, Noah found favour in the sight of the Lord and the Lord told him to build an Ark to protect himself, his three sons and all their wives. The godly line of promise for a Messiah to save the world from their sin through Adam's son Seth, had now decreased to just one family.

This wasn't the only time in the Old Testament history that the godly line of promise was reduced to just one person. In 2nd Kings, Chapter 20, the godly king of Judah, Hezekiah, became very sick. The prophet Isaiah went to tell him to put his affairs in order as he was going to die. Hezekiah was very distressed about this and prayed bitterly to the Lord. Hezekiah asked the Lord to remember that he had walked before the Lord faithfully with a loyal heart and had done what was good in the Lord's sight.

Hezekiah had ruled Judah for 14 years and was only 39 years old at the time. Hezekiah didn't have a son or heir to replace him on the throne or keep the kingly line of David going. God heard Hezekiah's prayer and granted him 15 more years as king. When Hezekiah died, he was replaced on the throne by his 12-year-old son Manasseh.

In today's *Bible Adventure* drama, Noah was finishing the last few things on the Ark.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

The Ark was possibly the biggest ship ever to be built in history until the 1800s. Apart from housing thousands of kinds of animals, birds and reptiles, the Ark also had to have room for food storage for all these animals for more than year. God supernaturally had the animals come to the Ark in pairs, male and female, so that when the flood had passed, they'd be able leave and reproduce and replenish the earth.

Many of the animals God selected to come to the Ark may have been young and not ready to reproduce. Others may have eaten a good feed on the Ark and with the dark rain clouds in the sky and cooler air temperatures, fallen asleep for months in hibernation. Such behaviours would have made it easier for Noah's family to care for so many animals. It was estimated that there were 18,000 species of mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs that still live today. Add to this all the insects and all the other species that are now extinct and that number on the Ark may well have been double.

Have you noticed how God does things in an orderly way? What a blessing it was to Noah to have God tell him that all the animals would come to him. They came in an orderly manner and went into the Ark. The people standing by watching this steady procession of animals and birds coming along without any person managing them would have changed their mocking to astonishment. It was a miracle.

We have to ask the question: Does a miracle change a person's attitude towards God? There are many places in the Scriptures where a miracle was given but the people who saw it remained unbelievers.

The Lord Jesus in Matthew, Chapter 12, had some teachers of the Law and Pharisees come to Him and demand that He do a miracle for them. They wanted Jesus to give them a sign from heaven that He was actually the Messiah. Of course, they'd seen Jesus do many miracles of healing for suffering sick people but they also remained unconvinced. So Jesus told them that it's evil and godless people who seek after signs.

Jewish tradition in Jesus' time held that a sign done on earth could be a counterfeit from Satan, but signs done from heaven (that came in or from the sky) were assumed to be from God. They wanted Jesus to do something like call fire down from heaven. God does everything for a purpose and when needed. He doesn't amuse arrogant and unbelieving people with miracles.

Jesus said no sign would be given to them except the sign of the prophet Jonah, which was a sign that *would* have power to bring people to faith in Jesus as a resurrected Messiah. We remember that Jonah sacrificed himself by being thrown over the side of a sinking ship so that all the others would be saved, and Jonah disappeared under the waters from all human view in doing this. However, after being saved by a huge fish, Jonah arrived back after three days, as though back from the dead to preach repentance. Jesus too would do these things in the fullness of time.

In contrast to the Jews, when the Lord Jesus healed many sick people in front of a large crowd of Gentiles in Matthew, Chapter 15, the Gentiles praised the God of Israel. What made the difference? Those people were very thankful to see blind people receiving their sight, dumb people speaking and injured people made whole, so they could work and care for their families again.

Outside the Ark in Noah's time, the crowd watching the animals go inside must have thought that they might have made a mistake in mocking Noah. There was still room inside for anyone willing to place their faith in the God of the Ark and the story that Noah gave them.

In 1859, a gifted French acrobat and tightrope walker by the name of Charles Blondin crossed the Niagara Falls on a rope strung 55 metres above the water. He crossed the Falls while pushing a wheelbarrow. The crowd went wild cheering him on. Then he asked the crowd if they believed that he could cross to the other side pushing the barrow with a person in it. The crowd shouted: "Yes, of course you can."

Charles spoke to the nearest man and he asked him to get into the wheelbarrow. The man considered the distance across the Falls and how far it was down to a certain death if they fell. It was easy to tell Charles that they had faith in him to take someone across. But to have complete faith in the tightrope walker, the test was whether anyone was really willing to trust Charles with their life and get into that wheelbarrow.

As we all know, none of the people watching the animals entering the Ark two-by-two decided to change their minds about Noah; no one asked for admission to enter the Ark as well. Noah and his family packed food for themselves before God told them all to come into the Ark. God would be with Noah and his family in the Ark and keep them all safe. Then God shut the door.

Noah and his family had lived their lives for at least the previous 120 years trusting God and obeying His instructions. Nobody had ever built a big boat before, so Noah needed to rely on God's ways of doing things and not on his own natural instincts.

The Apostle Paul in 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 5, taught believers in Christ to live their physical lives here on earth by faith in God. He reminded them that followers of Christ mustn't build their lives around the things that have no eternal value. Rather than chasing after the same things that the world wants, a Christian should focus on the unseen realities such as Jesus, heaven and their eternal reward. We must choose to live according to what God reveals to us by His Word and the Holy Spirit, rather than trusting in our own ideas, opinions, dreams and desires.

Our natural instincts may be to hoard money, but walking by faith says we should 'give to those in need'. Society may say that sexual immorality is acceptable, but those who walk by faith base their standards on the unchangeable nature of God's Word, which says sex outside of marriage is sin.

Rather than loving the things of this world, Christians should spend their lives glorifying God in everything they do. It requires faith to live this way because we cannot see, hear or touch anything that we claim to put our confidence in. To walk by faith is to: fear God more than people, obey the Bible even when it conflicts with man's commands, choose righteousness over sin, no matter what the cost, trust God in every circumstance and believe God rewards those who seek Him, regardless of those who says otherwise.

Living by faith in God may not always look like the smartest thing to do. Consider Joseph being sold to slave traders by his jealous brothers. It didn't look like Joseph was being groomed to be Prime Minister in Egypt at the time or ever could be. Think of Pharaoh and his army closing in on Israel, as they were trapped beside the Red Sea. It didn't look like Israel could be delivered from such a hopeless situation or the Egyptian army may be so completely destroyed.

The cross of our Lord Jesus is undoubtedly the greatest example of things not always being what they appear to be. As Jesus hung on the cross, it appeared that godless men had defeated the most godly man that had ever lived. The Apostle Peter told the crowd in Acts, Chapter 2: "Jesus of Nazareth was a Man approved by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs which God did through Him in your midst ... you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified and put to death". Yet in fact, God was at work in Christ's death, preparing a resurrection victory over sin and death for all who would believe.

Walking by faith requires a willingness to suffer now, knowing that there'll be no suffering later. Those who walk by faith are keenly aware of the fleeting nature of this life and world, and so their focus and hope is fixed on heaven. Although it is true that Noah and his family saw God's faithfulness to them throughout their lives, they had to wait until heaven to see that they were wise and correct to follow God by obeying His leading, standing for God's truth and dealing with the ridicule that came from doing so. But as believers, they like believers today, desired heaven where we will live as eternal citizens.

Even though in this life, God and heaven are unseen, those who believe God and His Word still choose to alter their lives for the sake of eternal priorities. However, walking by faith isn't only marked by suffering and sacrifice – it's also marked by service for the Lord. In Hebrews, Chapter 11, it speaks of the many things that the saints of old were able to accomplish, from winning wars and shutting the mouths of lions to performing miraculous acts of righteousness, because they walked by faith.

The fact of the matter is that in and of ourselves, we can do nothing of eternal value. Only by faith can we accomplish true spiritual victories in and through Christ's power and authority. It is those who are willing to suffer and sacrifice, and believe and obey, who will be used powerfully by God to do the work of the kingdom by advancing the truth, being ministers of light and love, and proclaiming the gospel to a world that is desperately in need.

If we want to truly be those who make a difference by doing eternal things rather than temporary things, we must do as these faithful saints of old did and choose to walk by faith. In 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 4, Verse 18, it says: "For we fix our attention, not on things that are seen, but on things that are unseen. What can be seen lasts only for a time, but what cannot be seen lasts forever."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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