THE OPEN DOOR

(Genesis 6 New Living Translation) **13** So God said to Noah, "I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth! **14** "Build a large boat from cypress wood and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. **15** Make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. **16** Leave an 18-inch opening below the roof all the way around the boat. Put the door on the side, and build three decks inside the boat—lower, middle, and upper. **17** "Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing that breathes. Everything on earth will die. **18** But I will confirm my covenant with you. So enter the boat—you and your wife and your sons and their wives. **19** Bring a pair of every kind of animal—a male and a female—into the boat with you to keep them alive during the flood. **22** So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

GOD SENDS WARNING BEFORE JUDGEMENT

1. God spoke to Noah and chose him to warn the people of the approaching disaster.
   a. Noah was a just, righteous man, blameless, who walked in close fellowship with God - **Gen 6:9**
      - Noah recognized God's voice because he fellowshipped with Him (prayer, worship, relationship)!
   b. My sheep hear my voice (listen to my voice), and I know them, and they follow me - **John 10:27**
      - In ancient times, a single sheep pen held multiple flocks, so the sheep had to know and recognize their own shepherd's voice and follow that voice.
      - It is now enough to know and hear the voice of God; we must hearken (listen with the intent to obey)
   c. Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God… - **1 John 4:1 KJV**
      - God's voice will not contradict His written Word.

2. God called Noah a preacher of righteousness.
   a. **(2 Peter 2:5 KJV)** And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;
   b. Many scholars believe Noah warned the people for 100 – 120 years.
   c. He warned the people of rain and flood waters that would destroy the Earth, and only 8 listened.

3. God's plan will challenge our logic (our understanding)
   a. These events (massive rain and flooding) had never been experienced on Earth before.
      - **(Genesis 2 KJV)** **5** ….the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. **6** But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.
   b. Building a large 3-story boat on dry land would seem foolish (imagine being laughed at by unbelievers)
      - **(1 Cor. 1:27 KJV)** But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise…
      - God never changed the dimensions of the boat: 450 ft long, 75 ft wide, and 45 ft high.
      - God never changed the dimensions of the cubic Holy City of New Jerusalem **(Revelation 10:10-27)**
      - God knows the number who will hearken to the warning and be saved (our choice, God's fore-knowledge)
      - I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life…. – **Deut 30:19**

4. Noah feared God (reverenced and believed God) and followed God's plan (follow God's instructions)
   a. **(Hebrews 11:7 KJV)** 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….
   b. God gave Noah the plan to save himself, his loved ones, and the animals.
   c. God gave Noah the wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and provision to complete the plan.
   d. God gave Noah specific dimensions of the ark, the material to use, and how to seal the ark.
   e. God did not build the ark for Noah! God can do ANYTHING but will not do EVERYTHING for us!
   f. Everyone must PARTICIPATE in their own DELIVERANCE!

5. Noah could not possibly collect all the animals – the animals came to the ark (**Genesis 6:20**)
   a. **(Genesis 6:20 NLT)** Pairs of every kind of bird, and every kind of animal, and every kind of small animal that scurries along the ground, will come to you to be kept alive.
   b. Noah did what God had commanded. GOD PROVIDED FOR WHAT NOAH COULD NOT DO!

GOD CLOSED THE DOOR (delivers Noah, his family, and animals)

(Genesis 7:13-16 NLT) **13** That very day Noah had gone into the boat with his wife and his sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth—and their wives. **14** With them in the boat were pairs of every kind of animal—domestic and wild, large and small—along with birds of every kind. **16** A male and female of each kind entered, just as God had commanded Noah. Then the Lord closed the door behind them.

6. God's deliverances may not come how we expect them to come.
   a. Noah and those on the ark were saved, but they also experienced great loss.
      - Lamech (Noah's father) had other sons and daughters - **Genesis 5:30**
      - Noah's brothers and sisters, his wife's family (his in-laws), his son's in-laws, and all their acquaintances and friends perished in the flood.
      - Some transitions in life may come with heartache.
   b. The conditions inside the ark may not have been the most favorable.
      - Imagine the noise and the smell from various animals and their waste.
      - Imagine all the work associated with caring for these animals in a limited space and with limited ventilation.
      - Imagine remaining in these uncomfortable conditions for approximately one year.
        - **(Genesis 8 AMPC) (13)** In the year 601 [of Noah's life], on the first day of the first month, the waters were drying up from the land…. **(18)** And Noah went forth, and his wife and his sons and their wives with him [after being in the ark one year and ten days].
   c. God would not allow the door to be opened until the waters subsided and the massive decay of plant, animal, and human remains was no longer harmful to them.
      - **(Exodus 14:21-22 NLT)** **21** …The wind blew all that night, turning the seabed into dry land. **22** So the people of Israel walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on each side!
      - **(Joshua 3:17 NLT)** Meanwhile, the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Lord's Covenant stood on dry ground in the middle of the riverbed as the people passed by. They waited there until the whole nation of Israel had crossed the Jordan on dry ground.
      - God will keep some doors closed until some harmful things have been removed (His protection)

THE DOOR IS OPENED

(Genesis 8:15-17 NLT) **15** Then God said to Noah, **16** "Leave the boat, all of you—you and your wife, and your sons and their wives. **17** Release all the animals—the birds, the livestock, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—so they can be fruitful and multiply throughout the earth."

7. The spiritual church is the New Testament Ark
   a. There was one door into the Ark. There is one door (who is Christ) through which we can be saved.
      - **(John 10:9 AMP)** I am the Door; anyone who enters through Me will be saved [and will live forever], and will go in and out [freely], and find pasture (spiritual security).
   b. God has opened a door of faith (for Jews and Gentiles)
      - **(Acts 14:27 AMP)** Arriving there, they gathered the church together and began to report [in great detail] everything that God had done with them and how He had opened to the Gentiles a door of faith [in Jesus as the Messiah and Savior].
   c. It takes faith in Christ and repentance to enter the door.
      - **(Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)** (**8**) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (**9**) Not of works, lest any man should boast.