Noah Sailor & Savior

Saved Through Water!

WATER embodies the environment of our created world, the natural order to which we are <u>subjected</u> and <u>limited</u>... our human milieu.

✓ original element (Gen. 1)

✓ natural/physical birth (Jn. 3)

"born of water and spirit" (Jn. 3:5-6)

flesh > flesh spirit > spirit > spirit

This is the one who came by water and blood – Jesus Christ... and the spirit testifies to it, a true testimony. So there are these testimonies and they all agree, the water, the blood, and the spirit. We accept the testimony of men, but God's testimony is greater... anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in their heart. (1 John 5:6-10)

Interpretation. Jesus was born with a human birth (water), but makes possible a divine nature birth (spirit) by his self-sacrifice for sin (blood). The blood of Christ transfers us from [merely] water to spirit.

BAPTISM. The sign that a <u>new order</u> of existence has taken place within our human lives is a sign that <u>involves water</u>.

JOHN (BAPTIZER) – repentance/forgiveness from sins.

PAUL – Personalizing and identifying with the **burial** and **resurrection** of Christ.

PETER – symbol of being washed/cleansed... heart (motive) and history (conscience)

PETER – an ancient <u>symbol</u> of this modern <u>symbol</u>... the water of Noah's flood! (1 Peter 3:20)

...TO THOSE WHO WERE DISOBEDIENT LONG AGO WHEN GOD WAITED PATIENTLY IN THE DAYS OF NOAH WHILE THE ARK WAS BEING BUILT. IN IT ONLY A FEW PEOPLE, EIGHT IN ALL, WERE SAVED THROUGH WATER,

The floodwaters...

- √ existential threat... an absolute end
 of their past life
- √ cut off all contact with <u>evil</u> <u>environment</u> in which they had lived
- √ forced a <u>clear choice</u> for each person "GET IN THE ARK OR DIE"

Noah's family was not saved by <u>avoiding</u> reality or <u>pretending</u> they were not threatened or <u>hoping</u> the would be OK.

We are not saved by **baptism**. We are saved by **Christ** THROUGH baptism.

He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.

This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led many captives in his train and gave gifts to men." (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)