The Way of Escape Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Genesis 6:9-22.

B. There are many questions that surround the flood, but the supreme question is why Noah survived the flood.

II. Scripture focuses on those who are strong in God, which is why Noah is the focus.

A. Things about Noah.

1. He was said to be righteous.

a. God made Noah righteous which resulted in Noah being good.

b. This righteousness came from believing God.

c. The only good deeds are those that God does.

d. If there is good in a man, it is the result of God's work in a person.

2. He was said to be blameless.

a. This means that he was a whole person in a wicked world.

b. Noah was whole because Noah was righteous.

c. The secret of control was the inner peace that came from righteousness by faith.

3. He walked with God. This means that he had daily contact with God.

B. Noah was a normal individual with a family.

1. Through Noah's faith, his three sons were saved.

2. The faith of the head of the family affects the whole family.

C. God warned Noah that He would destroy the earth because of corruption and violence.

1. The spread and intensification of corruption and violence marks impending destruction.

2. Man is by nature a wholly dependent being--he must depend upon God for everything he does.

- 3. When man rejects this destruction is inevitable.
- D. God provides the way of escape.

1. God's way is to hide wheels within wheels--the ark is symbolic pointing to Jesus Christ.

- 2. Body, soul and spirit--we are redeemed in Christ.
- 3. The trial of the ark also pictures the struggles we have daily. (I Corinthians 10:13)

4. God's agreement--His new way of living--really is what saves us.

5. What saved Noah is that he accepted from God a new basis for living.

6. Salvation comes from recognizing Jesus as Lord and recognizing His right in all that He commands us.

7. When we rest upon the covenant of God, we rest on the surest thing of the universe.

Application questions:

1. Why was it necessary that God provide His own righteousness to Noah?

2. How does the journey of the ark picture the salvation God provides through the cross?

3. How would you respond to someone who says that man was created to be an independent creature? Explain.