When God Says, Come Out of the Ark

Genesis 8:16

“Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you.”

There is something about this moment in Noah's story that I don't want to rush past.

For more than a year, Noah and his family had been inside that ark.

Think about that.

A year of waiting.

A year of uncertainty.

A year of wondering what was happening outside.

A year of trusting God without knowing exactly when the waiting would end.

And then, finally, God spoke:

“Go out of the ark.”

The storm was over.

The waters had receded.

The ground was dry.

It was time to leave the place that had protected them and step into the world God was giving them.

I imagine there had to be an incredible mixture of emotions.

Relief.

Joy.

Gratitude.

Excitement.

But probably sadness too.

The world Noah had known was gone.

The people he had known were gone.

Everything familiar had been washed away.

And now he was standing at the beginning of something completely new.

Sometimes God Calls Us Out

I think we often talk about getting *into* the ark.

We talk about finding refuge in God when the storm comes.

And we should.

But Noah's story doesn't end with God keeping him safe inside the ark.

Eventually, God told him to **come out.**

There are seasons when God calls us into a place of protection, waiting, healing, and preparation.

But there are also seasons when God says,

“It's time to come out.”

And sometimes that can be just as frightening as getting into the ark.

Because the ark was familiar by then.

Noah knew what it was like inside.

He knew where his family was.

He knew where the animals were.

He knew how to survive there.

But outside?

Outside was an entirely different world.

And sometimes we can become comfortable in places that were only meant to be temporary.

God may have protected us there.

He may have healed us there.

He may have taught us there.

But that doesn't mean He intends for us to stay there forever.

There comes a time when He says,

“Come out.”

The World Was Different

Imagine Noah stepping onto dry ground for the first time.

The air probably felt different.

The landscape looked different.

The world was different.

And Noah was different.

He had walked through something that would forever change him.

He couldn't go back to the life he had before the flood.

There are seasons in our lives like that.

We go through something, and when we come out on the other side, we realize we're not the same person who went in.

Some storms change us.

Some losses change us.

Some seasons of waiting change us.

Some encounters with God change us.

And although we may wish we could go back to the way things were, sometimes God has brought us through the storm because He is preparing us for something new.

The goal wasn't simply to survive the flood.

There was a purpose waiting on the other side.

A New Beginning

God told Noah and his family to be fruitful and multiply.

They had a responsibility to rebuild.

The world had been devastated, but God was giving humanity a new beginning.

And I think there is something important here for us.

When God brings us through something, He doesn't always bring us out just so we can say, *"Thank goodness that's over."*

Sometimes He brings us through so we can **do something with what we learned.**

The pain can become compassion.

The waiting can become patience.

The brokenness can become a testimony.

The healing can become a ministry.

The storm can teach us how to help someone else survive theirs.

God doesn't waste our experiences when we surrender them to Him.

But There Was Still Grief

I don't want to overlook something else.

Noah had reason to rejoice, but he also had reason to grieve.

The world he knew was gone.

Sometimes a new beginning comes with grief attached to it.

We can be grateful for where God is taking us and still mourn what we lost.

We can be excited about the future and still miss the past.

We can know God has answered a prayer and still feel the weight of everything that happened along the way.

Those emotions can exist together.

Joy and grief can occupy the same heart.

Noah didn't have to pretend the flood hadn't happened.

He simply had to trust God with what came next.

What Is God Asking You to Do Now?

Maybe you've been in your own “ark” season.

Maybe God has had you waiting.

Maybe He has been protecting you from something.

Maybe He has been healing parts of you.

Maybe you've been in a quiet season where it feels like nothing is happening.

Don't assume that because you're waiting, God is doing nothing.

Noah spent over a year waiting.

But when the time was right, God spoke.

And when God said, **“Come out,”** Noah came out.

Maybe you're entering that season now.

Maybe God is saying:

“You've rested long enough. It's time to move.”

Maybe it's time to forgive.

Maybe it's time to step into a new calling.

Maybe it's time to serve.

Maybe it's time to trust again.

Maybe it's time to stop looking behind you and start looking at what God has placed in front of you.

The ark was a place of safety.

But it wasn't the promised destination.

Dry ground was waiting.

Don't Be Afraid of the New Ground

Sometimes we pray for God to change our circumstances, and then when He does, we're afraid of what comes next.

We know how to survive the old season.

The new season feels unfamiliar.

But Noah didn't know what the new world would look like either.

He simply knew God had told him to step out.

And sometimes that's all we need.

We don't need to know everything that comes next.

We just need to know that God is the One telling us to take the next step.

The same God who protected Noah inside the ark was the God who was waiting for him outside of it.

The God who carried you through the storm will also guide you into what comes next.

So when He says, “Come out,” don't be afraid.

Step onto the dry ground.

Take a breath.

Look around.

Thank God that you made it through.

And then ask,

“Lord, what do You want me to do with this new beginning?”

Because surviving the storm wasn't the end of Noah's story.

It was the beginning of a new chapter.

And maybe it is the beginning of yours too.

Reflection Questions

1. **What season have I recently come through that changed me?**
2. **Am I holding onto something God is asking me to leave behind?**
3. **Could I be in a season where God is saying, “Come out of the ark”?**
4. **What did God teach me during my season of waiting?**
5. **How can I use what I experienced to encourage or help someone else?**
6. **Is there something from my past that I need to grieve while still trusting God with my future?**
7. **What is one step God may be asking me to take into this new season?**

Carry This With You

The ark was where God protected Noah, but it wasn't where Noah was meant to stay. Sometimes God brings us through the storm so He can lead us into a new beginning.

Closing Prayer

Father,

Thank You for being with me through every storm.

Thank You for the seasons when You have protected me, carried me, and taught me while I waited.

And when You tell me it is time to come out of the ark, give me the courage to step onto unfamiliar ground.

Help me not to be so afraid of what comes next that I miss what You are doing now.

Give me wisdom to know what I should leave behind and courage to embrace what You are placing in front of me.

Help me grieve what I've lost without allowing my past to keep me from my future.

Take everything I've learned through the storms and use it for Your glory.

If my pain can help someone else, use it.

If my testimony can encourage someone else, let me share it.

If my healing can help someone else find hope, don't let me keep it to myself.

Thank You that the storm was not the end.

Thank You that there is dry ground on the other side.

And when I step into this new season, remind me that the same God who carried me through the flood is the God who will lead me forward.

**Show me what to do next, Lord.

I'm ready to come out of the ark.**

In Jesus' name,

Amen.