

**TUTORIAL**  
**2.4**

# We have security because of the sacrifice of Christ

This tutorial looks back at Noah and Abraham, and their lives of faith in God. We then see what their lives show us about our security in Christ, because of His sufficient sacrifice for us.

The portions of Scripture referred to in this tutorial are: **Genesis Chapters 6-12, 22, Luke 2:10.**

## Last time

We reviewed how, after creating Adam and Eve *in His image*, God gave them a position of real responsibility and authority. When they sinned, they - and we - lost the caretaker role over the earth. But God appointed a second man - Jesus - to represent the human race. Through His obedience and sacrifice, Jesus won the victory over God's Enemy and has been granted all authority in Heaven and earth. He delegates His authority to us, His children, to be His witnesses in the world.

We also remembered God covering Adam and Eve's nakedness with the skins of animals and were reminded that He has dealt with our guilt and shame once for all, by covering us in the righteousness of the Lord Jesus.

## A way of escape for Noah and family

Ten generations, spanning a millennium or so, came and went after the Fall...with everyone born outside the special place, the garden, God had made for Adam and Eve. Each generation had passed on to the next their sin and innate rebellion against God. Each person was designed to bear the image of God, but was now marred and corrupted by sin. And each endured difficulties in life, pain, and eventually experienced physical death. Tragically, only a handful turned to God in faith and approached Him humbly in the way He had graciously given to them to come to Him as sinners. Eventually, broken hearted and sickened by the evil and corruption He saw in the race He'd made to bear His image, God had had enough. He decided to destroy every human and all the other living things He'd originally given into the care of the human race.

Then, in God's Narrative we see one of the amazing instances when the word "but" is interjected, bearing great significance and hope. It's like the sign used

in mathematical formulas for *doesn't equal to*. On one side is a scenario that all evidence and logic lead to hopelessness, impossibility, no solution. Then comes the word "*but*" or the phrase "*but God*", followed by some incredible act of His grace and wisdom that provides a solution only He is capable of.

The Narrative describes, on the one hand, the imminent and fully deserved destruction that is coming for every single person, without exception. But, breaking into that otherwise dark and grim picture we see God's grace shining like a beam of light. It picks out one man and his family, a man who is committed to knowing and following God, his Creator. He humbly approaches in the way God demands that sinful humans come to Him. He learns to walk in *close fellowship with God*, the text says (Genesis 6:9). God delights in this rare relationship with one of His image-bearers. This is what God created humans for in the first place. Yes, Noah is a sinner, a son of Adam, but God has established a way for people to relate on His terms, and by faith Noah has submitted to that. God is determined to preserve this relationship. He's under no obligation. Noah has absolutely no way of earning it. There's nothing God *needs* from Noah.

There's no light, as it were, emanating from Noah and his family, they are sinners like the rest, and deserving destruction. The light of God's grace always originates with Himself. But it finds those who turn to Him in faith and as God provides a way for them to be saved and to relate to Him, that light is reflected from them. So that's what happens here. God designs the ark to provide a way of escape for Noah, his family and representatives of each animal species. (Note the echo here of the caretaking responsibility and authority Adam had been given and then disqualified himself from. God's grace, yet again.) The rest of the population is warned, but they're dismissive, indifferent. The time comes; those to be saved are told to enter, the one door is shut tight. When the flood comes and God's judgement is raining down, Noah and his family are safe. It beats down from above and lifts the boat up from below. Those inside can hear it hammering above their heads, and feel the waves beneath their feet. But the devastation outside doesn't threaten them. They are protected by the means of rescue God provided. Safe in the warmth and light of God's grace when all around is chaos and destruction.

## **We are safe because of Jesus**

This is a powerful picture of Jesus and the way of salvation that was provided for us. Hanging on the cross, He took our sins on Himself. We have believed in Him, accepted Him as the only Way...the only Door through which we can escape from God's judgement that we deserve.

Then, like with the Ark, God's punishment poured down on Jesus. His terrible, righteous anger against our rebellion and sin beat down on His Son. But we, who actually deserve to be annihilated, are kept completely safe. God showed that His righteousness and justice had been completely satisfied by bringing Jesus back to life.

These are amazing and incredibly important things for us to understand, or at least *begin* to understand. We are safe. God doesn't want us to waste our time and obscure our relationship with Him now by agonizing over this issue. His judgement for our sin *has* come, and it was borne by the Lord Jesus.

## God's promises to Abraham

A few centuries after the great Flood humans were well on their way to repopulating the earth. God had scattered the people of the culture who'd attempted to build an enormous tower in the Babylonian plain in defiance of Him. Different extended family groups, now speaking their respective languages, were moving out in the global dispersion that has resulted in the complex ethnic picture we see today.

God had not forgotten His promise to send One who would break the hold Satan had over people. Despite the ongoing rebellion of the human race as a whole, God was committed to providing a way to bring them back into a permanent relationship with Himself. He had chosen a man, Abraham, to be the patriarch of a family line through which the Rescuer would come. God made promises to Abraham about the future and instructed him to move with his family, eventually leading him to Canaan...this was to be the homeland of his family line, which would eventually become a nation. Later, after Abraham and his family were settled there, God renewed those promises. Understandably, Abraham was puzzled about how those things could happen, given that he and wife Sarah were by now past childbearing age.

These promises are among the most dramatic ever made to a man...through Abraham and the son that would be born to him and Sarah, God said He would bless all the families, or clans, of the earth. In other words, all the different people groups (Genesis 12:2-3). Some 2000 years later, when the ultimate fulfillment of those promises was born to a young virgin, Mary, an angel told some nearby shepherds that this wonderful event would *bring great joy to all people* (Luke 2:10). That has certainly been the case for you and I, and for millions of people down through history. The Saviour did come through Abraham's family line, exactly as God promised. We have been incredibly blessed.

So as we know, a son, Isaac, was born to Abraham and Sarah, exactly as God promised. And through him a nation was born. But much later, one of God's designated storytellers under the New Covenant will write to a group of Jesus' followers in the Roman province of Galatia - in modern day Turkey. He will make the point that Abraham also has a spiritual lineage which they, the Galatians, belonged to. And in fact, so do we, another 2000 years later. Because, Paul said, the real children of Abraham are those who put their faith in God...those who come to the point of no longer trusting in themselves and

who put their faith in the Way that He provides - His Son, Abraham's descendant.

As we've noted before on our first time through the Narrative, God put His righteousness - His own absolutely perfect moral standing - to Abraham's account. Abraham didn't earn this in any way; it was an act of grace. But God did it when He saw that Abraham trusted Him for salvation. The same thing applies to us; God has declared us righteous because we've trusted Him for that provision. Today and forever, He states unequivocally that we stand without any stain of sin about us. Absolutely amazing, but absolutely true, because it is Jesus Christ who guarantees it.

## Abraham is told to sacrifice Isaac

But before any of that began to unfold, Abraham's faith in God would, of course, be tested once more...and in the most dramatic way. God told Abraham to take his much loved son, Isaac, and sacrifice him as an offering. We know the story well. How they make the journey to the top of the mountain, Isaac carrying the firewood. How Isaac asks his father what they will sacrifice and Abraham's words - prophetic and full of faith - *God will provide* (Genesis 22:8). Then the moment of incredible drama...The young man bound, on the altar. The father, still believing implicitly in God who he's known and followed for so many years, about to plunge the knife down. And the command to stop at the last possible moment. A substitute is provided. In the nearby bush a ram, caught by the horns, put there by God to take the place of Isaac. What a wonderful picture God embedded for us in His Narrative, through this astonishing series of events! We know that like Isaac, we had no way out. Like his physical life, our eternal destinies were hanging in the balance.

We were completely helpless and unable, on our own, to avoid the inevitable consequences of our sin. But God, in mercy and grace, provided a replacement. The Lamb of God. The perfect substitute. The thing that had trapped us and made escape impossible - our own sin - now was put on Him. It was His obedience to the Father and His love for us that compelled Him to take our place.



### DISCUSSION POINT

*We have security because of the sacrifice of Christ*

1. Imagine a friend - a new believer - who is concerned after hearing a well known preacher on TV insist that there's no way a person can know if they're saved or not...that we'll only know when God judges us after death. How will you try to help your friend if:
  - a) Their only knowledge of the Bible comes from studying God's Narrative with you up to the point we've now reached.
  - b) They have grown up in a church and heard lots of sermons and Bible studies at youth group over the years.