

I certainly want Jesus' future to shape the way I'm living today.

Let us pray.
Jesus thank you for not leaving me in the dark, but revealing what you're doing. Help me to live today with your future in mind, so that I live according to your will, and that your kingdom comes through the way I walk faithfully with you.

Help me always to trust you and do what you say, even if it looks ludicrous and causes others to laugh. Jesus I know I can trust you with my life, and that what you say you do. Lead me this week to people who are open to be introduced to you and move from a hellish future to one that is full of your loving presence. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

1 August 2010

NOAH

Genesis 6:9b-22



Noah's Ark is a historical account I've heard many times. As I listened to God retelling this story I was struck by the thought; 'My future shapes my present'.

What do you think of that thought; 'Our future shapes our present'?

Noah wasn't building an ark to bring about a flood. He wasn't building his desired future, but he was responding to what he knew was going to happen. God's revelation of the future shaped Noah's daily action, it consumed his work building the ark, the flood was coming, now was the time to get ready. God's future shaped Noah's present.

What certainties do we know about in our future? What events in our future have the power to shape what we do today?

The flood was an act of judgement. And for a hundred years people saw Noah building the ark. It was a bit big to hide, and even a bit ludicrous, so I'm sure Noah was the talk of the town. 'Did you hear about the guy building a floating box and he's going to fill it with every species. How's he going to do that, learn all the animal languages'. And for a hundred years people kept on doing their own thing.

Jesus commenting on the flood said; "For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in

marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark." (Matthew 24:38) People were busily building their own lives, building their own futures, totally ignoring what God was doing, and all their hopes and dreams were washed away. All their activity, all their business and all their planning came to nothing.

Their lives weren't shaped by God's future. What was the result of these people trying to build their own future, ignoring what God had planned for the future?

What has God planned for our future?

I'm assuming we are all aware that another time of judgement is coming. When Jesus returns the earth will be destroyed by fire, and

Jesus will judge all people. There is nothing more certain. There was nothing more certain in Noah's day than that God was going to destroy all life through the flood.

Sadly only Noah and his family listened and built their lives around God's future.

Of course Noah was asked to do something ludicrous. He wasn't asked to build a ship, but a floating box. It had no rudder. It had no wheel house to control where it went. All Noah was asked to build was a big box that could float, and then fill it with animals.

That made me wonder what my response would have been to God if I had been Noah. There's no profit in an ark. There's not fame in building an ark, and it would have consumed Noah's life. Everything else would have had to

wait. But as it turned out everything else didn't need to be done anyway, the flood reshaped everything.

All that important action that was going on around Noah; people busily trading, people saving for their future, investing themselves in their hopes and dreams.

**Our Future shapes
Our Present.**

All that important action, where God could wait, was washed away and all that was left was God's future. God's will was done.

Noah and his ludicrous floating box didn't look so ludicrous after all. He lived, and so did his family and all the animals in the ark. This stupid thing proved to be the smart thing, because it was God's thing. And when God says he's going to do something, you can be

100% sure it is going to happen.

So how does God's future shape my life?

I know that Jesus will return to judge all people. I know his standard of judgement is based on the relationship he has made possible through

**Our Future shapes
Our Present.**

his death and resurrection. I know that what matters most to Jesus is building loving, vibrant relationships based

on his love for us. A love that was paid for on the cross. A love which paid the ultimate price, so when Jesus speaks they're not empty wishful words.

Jesus is passionate about growing disciples; people who follow him, and grow to love as they are loved by him. Building his character into their lives. Living passionately the Father's will, just as Jesus is.

When Jesus returns, and the world as we know it is burned up with fire, what will I have left?

By the way, do I have to like what God is planning for it to happen? No.

Would it be wise to build my life on what God is planning to do? Yes.

Is it wise to build my life according to God's plan and pattern? Yes.

When Jesus returns we know what we'll have left is Jesus and our relationship with him. We'll have those people we've introduced to Jesus, who have taken him at his word and built their life also around him. Everything else will be gone.

Well, everything else will be worse than gone, Jesus also talks about hell. In life we get a taste of heaven and hell. Those

wonderful times in life where we feel loved, appreciated, worthwhile, in sync with God. Those wonderful highs of walking with God in tune with his will, tasting his love. A glimpse of heaven.

Unfortunately we also get a glimpse of hell.

**Jesus will return;
to judge everyone.**

Those times when relationships sour, and we ache in the depth of our soul. Despairing of life, feeling crushed by those soul destroying episodes of life. Death isn't as bad as it gets, rejection by Jesus on judgement day will be truly horrific. No longer will we love as we are loved, because we won't be loved. We'll be left vulnerable, unloved in a violent and dangerous existence. I certainly pray that

nobody I meet ends up in such a hellish state.

Paul asks an interesting series of question; "How, then can *people* call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone *sharing Jesus* with them?" (Romans 10:14)

How is God's future shaping your present?

As God opens up the story of Noah I feel he is once again calling me to be passionate about telling others of the hope I have in Jesus, and his kingdom. Of loving other people as I am loved by Jesus, so that they get a taste of Jesus. So that they get the opportunity to accept his loving invitation to share life with him and enjoy being loved, and held precious by God.