

**Thursday, March 19, 2020**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

"The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters prevailed and increase greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters." (*Genesis 7: 17-18*)

Do you recognize this passage from the Bible? It's about Noah and his family and all the animals being in the Ark for about a year! Just imagine it ... being concealed from the world and from the life you once took for granted. Noah and his family were in a very large floating "ship." But this ship had no engines or guidance control. It simply went where the waters took it.

Noah and his family had no idea where or when the rains would stop, or where they would end up. We know the rains continued to fall on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights, and that Noah and his family and the animals remained on the Ark for about a year as they waited for the water levels to go down. We know that because the Bible reports these details to us. But they had no idea how long it would last, or where they would end up. All they knew was that God was in charge. And He knew all the answers.

Noah and his family also had no idea what their world would look like when it was all over. But again, they knew that one thing would not be different: God would still be Lord, and His love would still be present.

That's pretty much all we ever know, isn't it? As much as we tend to live our lives making plans and setting goals and having agendas, we never really know what tomorrow will bring. It's only in hindsight and through the value of history books that we are able to look back at events and see how things ended up.

As human beings we are not equipped to know the future. Who would have guessed 6 months ago that come March, the world would be battling a mysterious virus. But God knew! Just like He knew that the Ark would finally come to rest on Mt. Ararat. God not only knows all things, but He directs all things. And He never abandons those who place their trust in Him! He has way too much invested in us! He gave His Son for our sins, and we are His prized possession. He will never take His eye off of us.

I think we can kind of relate just a little bit to Noah and his family in that we are currently on a blind journey, not knowing exactly where things are going. But we know the exact same thing that Noah knew ... and that is that God is the God of promises. And He has promised to never forsake those who are trusting in Him!

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."**  
*(Proverbs 3: 5)*

God's peace.  
Pastor Jim