

The LORD Shut Him In: A 5-Day Devotional from Genesis 7:6-16

Day 1 – God’s Sovereign Preservation

Read: Genesis 7:6–9; Genesis 6:5, 11–13; Gen. 6:8; 2 Tim. 2:13; Rom. 8:28

Devotional:

At first glance, Genesis 7:6–9 looks like a boarding list — Noah, his family, pairs of animals entering the ark. But this is no ordinary passenger manifest. Behind every step into the ark is the unseen hand of God, working out His sovereign plan.

The backdrop of Noah’s day was bleak. Genesis 6:5 says, “Every intention of the thoughts of [man’s] heart was only evil continually.” Verses 11–13 add that the earth was “filled with violence.” It was a world marinated in sin. Yet, in that darkness, God preserved a family — not because they were sinless, but because “Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD” (Gen. 6:8).

God preserved both His covenant line (Noah’s family) and His good creation (the animals). This was not random survival; it was purposeful preservation to carry forward His plan of redemption. God’s providence governs every detail — the timing, the participants, even the animals’ arrival.

This truth still holds today. Our salvation doesn’t rest on our ability but on God’s grace and faithfulness. If you are in Christ, you are part of His covenant people, and He will preserve you until the day Christ returns.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does God’s preservation in Noah’s day encourage you in times of uncertainty?
2. Where have you seen God’s providence in your own life?

Practical Application:

Write down one specific way you’ve seen God work for your good in the past year, and thank Him for it in prayer.

Prayer:

Father, thank You that You are faithful to preserve Your people and fulfill Your promises. Help me trust Your sovereign hand, even when life feels uncertain. Keep me confident that You are working all things for my good and Your glory. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 2 – God’s Certain Judgment

Read: Genesis 7:10–12; Matt. 24:36–39; 2 Pet. 3:5–7

Devotional:

After a final seven days, the flood came — exactly as God said it would (Gen. 7:4, 10). This was no spring rain or regional storm. It was the Creator reversing His creation to execute judgment on a corrupt world.

In Genesis 1, God separated the waters above from the waters below, creating a safe, habitable world. In Genesis 7, “the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened.” The ordered world returned to chaos. This was sudden, global, and final.

Jesus connects this event to His second coming: “As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man” (Matt. 24:37). The flood is both a historic act of judgment and a prophetic picture of the final judgment to come. The same God who fixed the day of Noah’s flood has fixed the day of Christ’s return (Acts 17:31).

The difference? In Noah’s day, there was a seven-day warning. When Christ returns, there will be no warning. That’s why Jesus calls us to “stay awake” (Matt. 24:42). We must live ready — not drifting, not distracted, but obedient, repentant, and faithful.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does living ready for Christ’s return look like in your daily life?
2. How does the certainty of judgment shape your priorities?

Practical Application:

Identify one spiritual habit (prayer, Scripture, serving, evangelism) you’ve been neglecting, and restart it this week as an act of readiness.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to live awake and ready for Christ’s return. Keep me faithful in obedience and bold in warning others while there is still time. Let me be found prepared when You come. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 3 – God’s Secure Salvation

Read: Genesis 7:13–16; Eph. 1:13–14; 1 Pet. 1:4–5; John 10:28–29

Devotional:

The most important moment in Genesis 7 isn’t when Noah enters the ark or when the rain begins to fall. It’s when “the LORD shut him in” (v. 16).

Verse 16 uses two names for God. *Elohim* — the Creator and Sovereign Ruler — commands Noah, preserving creation according to His cosmic plan. *Yahweh* — God’s covenant name — personally secures His people inside the ark. The Creator who sustains the universe is the Covenant LORD who seals His people.

Noah didn’t shut the door. God did. That means the same God who calls His people to safety also keeps them secure. In Christ, we are as safe from God’s wrath as Noah was from the flood — not because of the strength of our hold on Him, but because of the strength of His hold on us.

Scripture says believers are “sealed with the promised Holy Spirit” (Eph. 1:13), destined for “an inheritance that is imperishable... kept in heaven for you... by God’s power” (1 Pet. 1:4–5). Once you are in Christ, you are secure forever.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does knowing God secures your salvation affect your daily confidence?
2. Where do you need to rest more fully in Christ’s finished work instead of your own efforts?

Practical Application:

Each morning this week, remind yourself: “The same God who called me in will keep me in.” Let that truth shape your thoughts, prayers, and actions.

Prayer:

Father, thank You that my salvation is secure in Christ. Help me rest in Your promise and rejoice in Your keeping power. Strengthen my faith to trust that nothing can separate me from Your love. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 4 – The Grace of an Open Door

Read: Genesis 7:16a; John 6:37; Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Matt. 11:28

Devotional:

Before the LORD shut the door, it stood open. For 120 years, Noah built the ark and preached God's warning. For seven more days, the ark sat ready, and the door remained open. Anyone could have entered, but no one outside Noah's family did.

This wasn't because God lacked mercy. It was because people refused to yield to Him. The same is true today. Jesus says, "Whoever comes to me I will never cast out" (John 6:37). The Spirit and the Bride still say, "Come" (Rev. 22:17).

God's grace is extravagant. He delays judgment to give people time to repent (2 Pet. 3:9). But grace unreceived is grace that will one day end.

Reflection Questions:

1. How has God shown patience in your life?
2. Who in your life needs to hear that the door of grace is still open?

Practical Application:

Reach out to someone this week who doesn't know Christ. Share your testimony and invite them to consider the gospel.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the grace that kept the door open for me. Give me courage to share that grace with others while there is still time. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5 – There Is an End to Grace

Read: Genesis 7:16b; Matt. 25:1–13; 2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 9:27–28

Devotional:

When the LORD shut Noah in, He also shut others out. The door of the ark became the dividing line between salvation and judgment.

God's grace is great, but it is not endless. There is a fixed day when His patience will give way to His justice (Acts 17:31). Jesus illustrated this in the parable of the ten virgins (Matt. 25:1–13). Five were ready when the bridegroom came; five were not. "And the door was shut." When the foolish virgins returned, it was too late.

Hebrews 9:27–28 says, "It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment..." Death closes the door. Christ's return closes the door. The time to enter is now.

Paul urges us: "Now is the favorable time... now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). The invitation is still open — but not forever.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does the reality of a coming end to grace shape your sense of urgency in evangelism?
2. If Christ returned today, would you be ready?

Practical Application:

Spend time today praying for the salvation of three specific people. Ask God for an opportunity to speak to them this week.

Prayer:

Lord, keep me mindful that the day of grace will one day end. Give me the urgency to live ready and to point others to Christ while there is still time. In Jesus' name, Amen.