

GLEANINGS

Article GE- 73

JESUS CHRIST THE ATONEMENT

¹²*God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. (Genesis 6:12-14 – New International Version)*

Why did God instruct Noah to coat the ark inside and out with pitch? Without the coating of pitch, the water would have leaked into the ark through the cracks. God knew that He was going to use water as an instrument to bring destruction to the earth and He meant for Noah and his family to be safe from the instrument of His wrath.

The Hebrew word that was translated “pitch” in the English translations is pronounced “*kaw far*’ . It is found in 96 other verses in the Hebrew Old Testament and in every other verse was translated atonement, purged, purge, reconciliation, merciful, reconcile, appease, cleansed, disannulled, forgave, forgive, forgiven, pacified, pacify, pardon, put off or reconciling. In almost every other passage the word is used to give details about an offering to the Lord and in most passages it is used to clarify an offering for sin in a person’s life.

Noah’s ark was used by God to protect those eight people from the destruction and to transport them to a place where they began a new life. That place of safety (Noah’s ark) was coated inside and outside with pitch. The pitch was seen but those inside the ark could not be seen.

Do you see one of the pictures God is revealing to us about the work of Jesus Christ? When God the Father looks at those of us in Christ, He does not see us for the sinful creatures that we are. God only sees the reconciling blood of Jesus Christ and His righteousness covering us and saving our spiritual bodies from the wrath that is coming upon those who are not properly prepared (John 3:14-36).