

Noah: The Cargo

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[0 : 00] Well, if we could, with the Lord's help and the Lord's enabling this evening, if we could turn back to that portion of Scripture that we read. Genesis chapter 6.

Genesis chapter 6, and we read again verse 19, where God commands Noah and says, Of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female, of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind.

Two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them.

Noah did this. He did all that God commanded him. And so on. Now I've mentioned to you before the familiar children's hymn, Mr. Noah Built an Ark.

[1 : 13] But what I love about that hymn is that it's, when you read it and even when you sing it with children, you'll see that it's based upon the biblical account of Noah and the flood. Mr. Noah Built an Ark.

The people thought it's such a lark. Mr. Noah Pleaded So, but into the ark they would not go. Then the next verse is, The animals went in two by two. The elephant, giraffe, and the kangaroo.

All were safely stowed away on that great and awful day. Down came the rain and torrents. Down came the rain and torrents. Down came the rain and torrents. But only eight were saved.

Then there's another verse. The animals were safely stowed away before that great and awful day. And after the judgment hour was passed, they all came safe to the land at last.

It's a biblical children's hymn. Sadly, however, there's ones that are not so biblical. There are many rip-off nursery rhymes, you could call them.

[2 : 13] Rip-off nursery rhymes that don't follow the biblical account of Noah and the flood. Where children, they are taught that the animals went into the ark not to escape the flood of God's judgment, but to just get out of the rain.

Maybe you've heard the children's nursery rhyme. Of course, the unbiblical version would have to be pushed and promoted by the BBC, and it's pushed upon our children. What's worse is that it actually mocks and even misconstrues the biblical account here in Genesis.

Because when you read the nursery rhyme, and maybe you can look it up when you go home, the first verse is, The animals went in two by two, the elephant and the kangaroo. Then it says, The animals went in three by three, the wasp, the ant and the bumblebee.

The animals went in four by four, the great hippopotamus got stuck in the door. The animals went in five by five, hugging each other to keep alive. The animals went in six by six, they left out the monkey because of his tricks.

The animals went in seven by seven, the little pig thought that he was going to heaven. The animals went in eight by eight, the turtle thought he was coming late. The animals went in nine by nine, marching up in a long straight line.

[3 : 26] The animals went in ten by ten. The last one in was the little red hen, and in the chorus. And they all went into the ark for to get out of the rain.

It's not what the Bible tells us. But as you know, the rain wasn't the reason the animals went into the ark. Neither did the animals go aboard the ark ten by ten.

That's not what we read. Which is why this evening I want us to think about the cargo. The cargo in the ark. I want us to think about the cargo. Last week we looked at the construction, and this week we're looking at the cargo.

And I'd like us to think about it under three headings. So three headings, the capacity, the cargo, and the command. The capacity, the cargo, and the command.

So we'll think first of all about the capacity of the ark. The capacity. Look at verse 14, just to remind ourselves. Verse 14 of chapter 6, where God says, Make yourself an ark of gopher wood.

[4 : 28] Make rooms in the ark and cover it inside and out with pitch. This is how you are to make it. The length of the ark, 300 cubits. Its breadth, 50 cubits. And its height, 30 cubits.

Make a roof for the ark and finish it to a cubit above. And set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.

Now as you know, so far in our study of the days of Noah, we've considered the context of Noah's day. That it was a contaminated context. We've considered the culture of Noah's day, which was a confused culture.

What made matters worse was that the contaminated context and the confused culture of Noah's day, it was completely, and as it says there in the beginning of Genesis 6, completely and continually corrupt.

Where the depravity of man was such that it grieved God in his heart that he had made man. It grieved God in his heart that he had made man.

[5 : 27] I don't know if there's any, there's a sadder verse in Scripture than that. It grieved God in his heart that he had made us. That God, he, God was so grieved, we're told, that God decided and God determined to blot out humanity by bringing judgment.

But then we read there in verse 8 of chapter 6, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. And Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, not because of who he was or what he did or how he lived his life.

Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord because the grace of the Lord found Noah. Which is why when we considered the captain and his crew a couple of weeks ago, we saw that the grace of God had such an impact and such an influence upon Captain Noah that we saw that his character, his conduct, and his conversation was so different and so distinct from this confused context and contaminated culture of his day.

Because Captain Noah, we're told there in verse 9, he was a righteous man. He was blameless in his generation. And he was a man who walked with God. And that's why Captain Noah was respected by his small crew.

The small crew on his ark consisting of only seven others. There was Captain Noah and his wife.

There was chief mate Shem and his wife. There was second mate Ham and his wife.

[6 : 52] There was Bosun, Japheth, and his wife. It was a small crew. But they were a crew that respected their captain. And then we considered last week, Noah was not only the captain, but he was also the man who had to construct the ark.

Which wasn't going to be an easy task for the company, the new company that was set up, Ark Construction and Sons. Because we considered their location. The location wasn't Ferguson's shipyard along the River Clyde.

It was miles away from water somewhere in the Middle East. More than that, Captain Noah, he didn't have the financial funding of 400 million for his ferry. All Noah had to go on was faith.

And at the age of 500 years old, we worked out that it would take Ark Construction and Sons up to anything up to 75 years to build the ark.

Because they didn't have all the trades. They didn't have all the tools. They didn't have all the cranes. They didn't have all the construction workers that they had to build the life-size ark that's found in Kentucky that I'm going to visit one day.

[7 : 59] And yet by faith, Noah had to search and source all the men, all the means, all the methods, and all the materials for building the ark.

All that God had given Noah with the measurements. This is how you're to make it. The length of the ark, 300 cubits. Its breadth, 50 cubits.

And its height, 30 cubits. And last week we worked out, and I'm sure the children remember, we worked out that a cubit, the cubit that Noah used was the royal cubit.

It was the distance from your elbow to the tip of your middle finger plus four fingers. So a royal cubit was about 20 inches. And when you work out the dimensions of the ark and convert it into feet, the ark was about 500 foot long, 85 foot wide, and about 50 foot high.

So 500 foot long, 85 foot wide, 50 foot high. When you actually stop and think about it, it was a massive box that needed a massive amount of material to build.

[9 : 04] Especially if it was going to have rooms, we're told there, and it's going to have a roof. It's going to have a door, and it's going to have three decks. But as you know, the measurements for the ark, it all needed to, you needed also to measure the capacity.

Was the capacity enough to carry the cargo? And we'll consider the cargo of the ark in a moment, what went inside the ark. But I want us to think about the capacity of the ark.

I suppose this is the thing that sort of fascinates me when I stop and think about it. I was thinking about the capacity of the ark. How big was this ark, and how much could it actually carry? Because nowadays, we see all these container ships.

I'm sure some people you know have worked on these container ships. And these container ships, they're absolutely ginormous. They're much, much, much bigger than the ark. And when you look it up, there are over 50,000 container ships in the world, and they're all transporting these shipping containers.

There are actually 17 million shipping containers being taken to different places and different ports throughout the whole world. Now, some shipping containers, they're 40 foot long.

[10 : 18] But other shipping containers are half that size. They're 20 foot long. So to give you an example, an example that's just outside the church door, the steel containers that Gamekeeper Angus has, it's a green steel container.

You'll see it as you walk out the door. Then you just turn to your right, you'll see a red steel container that's 20 foot long. That belongs to Captain Martin. And if you head along the road, you'll see a blue steel container that belongs to Stephen.

And they're all 20 foot containers. They're 20 foot steel containers. And I mention this because that's how container ships measure their capacity. It's not by gross tonnage, but by TEUs.

Boys and girls, that's the word. TEUs, 20 foot equivalent units. TEUs, 20 foot equivalent units.

Because TEUs, they refer to the number of shipping containers that a vessel will typically carry or be typically able to load onto it.

At present, the largest shipping container or container ship currently in operation is the MSC Arena. She has a capacity of 24,346 TEUs.

[11 : 35] That means she can carry at one time 24,346 of those 20 foot containers. Which ought to show us why the shipping industry is such a huge business.

Massive business. So big, you remember back in 2021, the large shipping container called the Evergreen. I think there was a documentary made about it on BBC.

It was a shipping container that ran aground in the Suez Canal. And it blocked one of the world's busiest trading routes. And it cost the global economy \$400 million an hour while it was stuck there in the Suez Canal.

And yet the Evergreen was smaller than the MSC Arena. The Evergreen only has a capacity, only I should say, 20,124 TEUs.

But all these figures and facts, you know, it got me thinking, what was the capacity of Noah's Ark? What was the real capacity of Noah's Ark? Because if Noah's Ark was this box-shaped ship that was 500 foot long, 85 foot wide, and 50 foot high, then it could carry, and I was sitting there doing my maths, and I hope Stephen will check it for me, it could carry 25 20-foot steel containers end-to-end.

[13 : 03] It could also have 10 of them across the way, and then 5 steel containers high. Therefore, Noah's Ark, the capacity of the Ark, would have 1,250 TEUs.

1,250. That's 1,250 20-foot steel containers inside the Ark, which is quite impressive for a biblical shipbuilder.

This means that there was enough space on board the Ark for 500 steel containers on deck one, 500 steel containers on deck two, and 250 steel containers on deck three.

And the whole point of saying this is that it would be more than enough capacity to carry the cargo, which is often what people question and query when it comes to Noah's Ark.

There was more than enough capacity to carry all the cargo. You know, even though it's good to know the capacity of the Ark, as you know, the cargo in the Ark, they weren't, the cargo wasn't inside 20-foot steel containers.

[14 : 13] The cargo is what often grabs people's attention, because the cargo was animals and insects and birds. And so that's what I want us to think about, secondly. So we see the cargo.

So the capacity, 1,250 steel containers. That's how big it was. Then the cargo. The cargo, secondly. Look at verse 2 of chapter 7.

God says to Noah, You know, when we consider the capacity of Noah's Ark, the issue wasn't so much the shape or the size or even the space needed for the cargo.

Because as we worked out, the shape was accommodating, the size was ample, and the space was abundant. Because if Noah's Ark was this box-shaped ship, 500 foot long, 85 foot wide, 50 foot high, then the capacity was more than enough.

1,250 20 foot steel containers. Therefore, the issue isn't so much the shape or the size or the space needed for the cargo.

[15 : 38] The issue that people often have is the cargo itself. The issue people often have is the cargo itself. Because the cargo in the Ark, well, as we said, it wasn't in 20-foot steel containers.

The cargo was animals, birds, reptiles, and insects. And as we said, this is what often grabs people's attention. This is what often causes people to grapple with the biblical account here in Genesis.

Because most skeptics and most cynics use the argument of the capacity and the cargo. And they use these arguments of the capacity of Noah's Ark and the cargo in Noah's Ark to try and disprove and discredit the biblical account all together.

And they do it by presenting the query and posing the question. And maybe you've heard the question before, but this is the question that's often asked.

It's estimated that there are 8.7 million species in the world. Therefore, if the Ark existed at all, how could all the species fit onto the Ark?

[16 : 49] It's estimated that there are 8.7 million species in the world. Therefore, if the Ark existed at all, how could all the species fit onto the Ark?

And the simple answer to the question is, Noah wasn't commanded to put 8.7 million species onto the Ark. Because what most skeptics and most cynics don't tell you is that included in those 8.7 million species that are estimated, included in that number, 8.7 million, is plant life.

So all the plants, Noah wasn't commanded to bring any plants onto the Ark. Then also included in that number, 8.7 million species in the world, are insects.

In fact, there are over a million species of insects, including 400,000 species of beetle. But Noah wasn't commanded to bring every species of insect onto the Ark, because it's believed that many of them would have survived the flood anyway.

It's also included in amongst that 8.7 million number, included in the number is all the marine life, which is actually the vast majority of life on Earth.

[18 : 07] So, and the vast majority of life on Earth is actually not on dry land, it's actually in the sea. And as you know, Noah wasn't commanded to bring marine life onto the Ark. He didn't take the whales and the fish and all these things into the Ark.

And so following the experience of experts and the maths of great minds, when you subtract the number of species of plant life, insects, and marine life from the estimated number, 8.7 million, you're left with about 40,000 land-dependent species.

40,000 land-dependent species. But as we read, and I'll admit, this is where it gets a bit confusing, so try and stay with me. Because Noah, he wasn't commanded to bring 40,000 species of animals or insects or birds onto the Ark.

Noah was commanded there in verse 19 of chapter 6, Of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort of the Ark to keep them alive with you.

They shall be male and female. And notice the words here, Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, and of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every sort shall come into you to keep them alive.

[19 : 32] Noah wasn't commanded to bring animal or bird species onto the Ark. Noah was commanded to bring animal or bird kinds.

He wasn't commanded to bring species, but kinds. That's what we read there. Every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to keep them alive.

All the birds according to their kinds, all the animals according to their kinds. And you know, it might seem like a subtle difference, but it's a significant difference. And it's a significant difference.

And this should have been one of the kids' questions. What is the Hebrew word for kind? Min. The Hebrew word for kind is min. And there are scientists, and I found preparing this sermon

fascinating.

There are scientists who study what's called baraminology. I don't know if you've ever heard of that word. I had never heard of it until this week. So every sermon I preach to you, it's something I've learned this week.

[20 : 34] So baraminology, it's taken from the Hebrew word bara, which means to create, the word min, the Hebrew word min, meaning kind. And so baraminology is a study of created kinds.

Baraminology, a study of created kinds. Or a baraminologist is someone who studies created kinds. And we need baraminologists because when we read the creation account in Genesis chapter 1, which is where it all began, we're told that God created all living creatures according to their kinds, not according to their species.

He created all living creatures according to their kinds. And this is important because animal kinds are animals that can interbreed to produce different species.

It's fascinating, really, when you look into it. It might be complicated to understand. I find it very complicated. But animal kinds are animals that can interbreed to produce species. Therefore, the subtle and significant difference between species and kinds is species are varying expressions of a particular kind.

Species are varying expressions of a particular kind. So, for example, horses, donkeys, and zebras are different species.

[22 : 02] But they're all related to one kind, the horse kind. They all look similar. They're all varying expressions of a particular kind.

Another example is dogs, wolves, coyotes, dingoes, foxes. They're all different species. And there are species within species of these particular animals. But they're all related to one particular kind, the dog kind, because they're all varying expressions of one particular kind.

Now, I don't pretend to understand it completely, and I think you should study it more yourself. Look up the Ark Encounter website. It's fascinating. But, you know, by reading and listening to the experience of experts and the maths of great minds, it's estimated that there are 1,400 different kinds of animal on board the Ark.

And if there were to be seven pairs of every clean animal, male and female, and seven pairs of every bird, male and female, and one pair, we're told there at the beginning of chapter 7, one pair of every unclean animal, male and female, it's estimated, boys and girls, it's estimated that the total number of animals on board the Ark was less than 6,800.

The total number, estimated total number of animals on board the Ark was less than 6,800.

Highlighting that there was more than enough room on the Ark for all the cargo.

[23 : 40] More than enough room on the Ark for all the cargo. But of course, having proved the probability and the possibility of all these animals going into the Ark, the next question that the skeptic or the cynic will ask is how did Noah get them onto the Ark?

Okay, you say they'll all fit. You say there'll be so many going into the Ark. How on earth does a man get all these animals onto the Ark? And some will even joke, they'll even jest, they'll question if Noah was, they'll say, was Noah this biblical Dr. Doolittle that could speak to all the animals and tell them to go into the Ark two by two and you're not, you're going on but you're staying out.

You know, personally I think it was much, much simpler than all that. Because you know, we've had the description of Noah, what Noah was like, who this Noah was.

And we're told that Noah was a righteous man who found grace in the eyes of the Lord and who walked with God by faith. And so what is a righteous man who has found grace in the eyes of the Lord and who walks with God by faith, what does he do when he's confronted with such a situation that he needs all these animals to get into the Ark?

Well, he prays. That's what a righteous man who has grace in the eyes of the Lord and who walks with God, that's what he would do. He prays.

[25 : 08] And when Noah prayed, the Lord sent the animals. Verse 8 of chapter 7, The Lord sent of clean animals and of animals that are not clean and of birds and of everything that creeps on the ground.

Two and two, male and female, went into the Ark with Noah as God had commanded Noah. Now if you have animals such as sheep or cattle, particularly cattle, I want to test your faith.

I remember years ago trying to get my father's cows into a trailer and it just wasn't happening. I spent ages trying and trying and you know it was always when my father was away offshore.

Trying and trying and trying and yet the cows, they were going everywhere but the trailer. Everywhere but the trailer and so in the end I stopped and I did what I should have done in the first place.

prayed and you know what I prayed and I still prayed. Lord, put them into the trailer like you put them into the Ark.

[26 : 19] Lord, put them into the trailer like you put them into the Ark and I kept praying it and you know as I walked the cows up beside the fence towards the trailer after trying and trying and trying and trying they walked straight into the trailer and I shut the door.

And you know ever since then I've always thought that's how Noah must have done it. He would have prayed ask the Lord to get them into the Ark.

And you know I've always prayed since then when shifting cows anywhere Lord, put them into the trailer like you put them into the Ark. I'll be honest as well though and say that there are times I forgot to pray and it was always a disaster until I prayed.

Always a disaster. So if you have sheep or cattle and you're trying to move them in the next few weeks and you need help get them into the trailer follow Noah's example. Pray, Lord, put them into the trailer like you would put them like you put them into the Ark.

I always think of Noah every time I'm dealing with animals. Lord, put them into the trailer like you put them into the Ark. And so we've considered the capacity we've seen the cargo that went into the Ark but now lastly and briefly the command.

[27 : 41] The capacity, the cargo and the command. The command. Look at verse 5 of chapter 7 or even look at verse 22 and then look at verse 5.

So chapter 6 verse 22 Noah did this. He did all that God commanded him. Then chapter 7 verse 5 Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.

We mentioned before that a phrase which is repeated and a phrase which we've just read is repeated throughout the chapters of chapter 6 and 7 of Genesis. It's a phrase that emphasizes and explains to us that the Christian character, conduct, conversation and commitment of Noah is one where he did all that God commanded him.

We know and we've studied we've seen that Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. He was a righteous man. He was blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God and because he was that kind of man we're told again and again and again Noah did all that God commanded him. Noah did all that God commanded him. He found grace in the eyes of the Lord. He was righteous blameless and walked with God. He had a close walk with the Lord and so he did all that God commanded him.

[28 : 58] Noah was committed to the Lord. He was committed to the Lord in his Christian character, his conduct and his conversation and for that reason Noah did all that God commanded him not only in relation to constructing this great ark but also in relation to the cargo going into the ark because as we've seen and as we said in these chapters we've learned that Noah followed the Lord's command down to the last detail.

Noah followed the Lord's command down to the last detail and with the Lord you know details matter because whether it was the shape or the size or the structure of the ark Noah followed the Lord's command down to the last detail and whether it was the number of clean animals or the number of unclean animals to go inside the ark Noah followed the Lord's command down to the last detail because with the Lord details matter details matter and you know that should show us and even stress to us that Noah was someone who had grace in the eyes of the Lord he walked with God he was righteous but more than that Noah was someone who didn't act according to his wants and his whims Noah acted according to the Lord's clear and concise commands Noah didn't act according to his wants and his whims Noah acted according to the Lord's clear and concise commands because Noah knew that the Lord was not a God of chaos and confusion but a God of order and organization

Noah took God at his word and to the human eye it seemed absolute madness to do what Noah was doing but Noah knew that the Lord was not a God of chaos or confusion he was a God of order and organization which is why Noah did all that God commanded him in his work and in his witness and in his worship Noah did all that God commanded him in his work in his witness and in his worship and you know we'll see this more next week Noah boys and girls he was a type of Christ he was a type of Christ he was a saviour in many ways we'll see this more next week but in conclusion I want us to see that Noah shows us and sets before us an example to follow he was a righteous

man he walked with God he had grace in the eyes of the Lord he's an example to follow because like Noah we are to display as Christians we are to display and demonstrate our Christian character conduct conversation and commitment to the Lord we're not to act according to our own whims and our own wants when it comes to our work our witness or our worship we are not to act according to our whims and our wants it's not about me it's about him he must increase

I must decrease I am not to act according to my whims and my wants when it comes to work witness and worship we're to follow his word because like Noah you know this is the thing if like Noah we found grace in the eyes of the Lord then we're to live a righteous and blameless life we're to walk with God that's our calling as Christians and we're to do all that God commands us we're to do all that God commands us because the God of the Bible is not a God of chaos and confusion he's a God of order and organization do you know we will look at this more even on Wednesday evening when we're looking at Paul's letter to the Ephesians and walking worthy of the calling to which we have been called we are to walk with God we're to do all that God commands us because God is not a God of chaos and confusion but a God of order and organization and you know I was thinking you know every Lord's Day we gather in this way it's the first day of a new week first day of a week that we don't know what lies before us and you know I was thinking well at the beginning of a new week the Lord has called us to worship that's why we're here this evening he's commissioned us to work in his kingdom for his glory and he's commanded us to witness that's what we're to do this week God the Lord has called us to worship he's commissioned us to work and he's commanded us to witness for his glory this coming week and you know wouldn't it be amazing to be said of all of us as it was said of Noah that we have found grace in the eyes of the Lord we are righteous in his sight through Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone that we are a people who walk with God and we do all that God commands us that's the people that God calls to himself he's called us to do all that he commands us so well may the Lord bless these thoughts to us let us pray

[34 : 54] O Lord our gracious God we give thanks for thy word thy word that is so true and help us to see it and help us to be sanctified by it for as Jesus prayed for his church sanctify them through the truth for thy word is truth and Lord even when as we come to these passages passages that are often questioned by many and queried by others and yet Lord help us to see by faith what the Lord has done what the Lord is doing and what the Lord continues to do he continues to use his people for his glory and so Lord even as we begin this new week we pray that thou wouldst use us as we go into a new week Lord we give thanks that we've been called to worship today on the Lord's day and help us to see that we have been commanded even to witness for his glory and commissioned to work in his kingdom and help us Lord we pray to do it to do it all so that Jesus would have the glory that he would have the preeminence and that we oh Lord would know blessing not because we deserve it not because we are worthy of it but solely because the word of God who is gracious so hear us Lord we pray part us with thy blessing and lead us and guide us into this week that lies ahead and go before us every step of the way that we would know the Lord going before us walking beside us and following behind us with his goodness and his mercy cleanse us we ask for we ask it in Jesus name and for his sake

Amen we're going to bring our service to our conclusion this evening we're going to sing again in Psalm 119 we're going to sing right at the end of Psalm 119 so page 415 of the blue psalm book Psalm 119 we're seeing from verse 172 down to the end of the psalm so we said this psalm is a psalm that emphasizes and explains the importance of God's word in our life that says there in verse 172 of Psalm 119 oh I didn't do questions you didn't remind me we'll do questions and then we'll do the psalm okay question one what unit do ships use to measure capacity T E U's yep 20 foot equivalent units

I'm sure you'll remember that but you think about it every time you go outside you'll see the big huge 20 foot container that's outside and you'll think yep so how many of those 20 foot shipping containers fitted on the ark 1250 yep how many animals were on the ark well done so less than 6800 and question four complete the sentence Noah is a type of type of Christ okay good job and what is the Hebrew word for min kind well done Hebrew word for min is kind well done for the English translation of the word Hebrew word min is kind so we're singing Psalm 119 from one verse 172 my tongue of thy most blessed word shall speak and it confess because of thy commandments are perfect righteousness that thy strong hand make help to me thy precepts are my choice

I longed for thy salvation Lord and in thy law rejoice and we'll sing down to the end of the Psalm I like a lost sheep went astray thy servants seek and find for thy commands I suffer not to slip out of my mind so these verses in conclusion and we'll stand to sing if you're able to God's praise my tongue of thy most blessed word shall speak and it confess praise because of thy commandments are perfect righteousness let thy strong hand make help to me thy peace are my choice
I long for thy salvation Lord and in thy glory rejoice O let my soul live on this child give praises unto thee and let thy judgments glit glit just be helpful unto me I like a lord she went astray thy servant and see can fight for thy commands
[41 : 25] I suffer not to step out of my mind the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ the love of God the Father the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all now and forever more Amen