

SHUT IN WITH GOD

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Gen 7:11-16 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark; They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort. And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.

Have you ever stopped to think about how Noah must have felt being shut in the ark for over one year? More than a year of not being able to step foot outside the ark and walk around on the face of the earth. The reason Noah couldn't go outside was because Noah was inside by the command of the Lord. Noah went into the ark because God told him to go there and once he was inside the ark, God himself shut the door. Noah became a shut in.

There are many people today who are shut-ins. Shut in because of Covid-19. Shut in because of sickness, disease, old age, trouble and misfortune. Regardless of why you might be shut-in, I want to remind you today that you are not alone. God knows exactly where each of us is at and He is still in control of every situation.

God sometimes allows us to be shut in to cultivate patience in our lives. Sometimes it's to strengthen our faith. Sometimes it's to give us some time off. At other times it's to get people's attention. Regardless of the reasoning, the most important thing is that whenever we find ourselves shut in, that we are shut-in with God.

Many of the great people of God have spent time shut in with God. Joseph was shut in a cold dark prison cell. Ezekiel, Daniel, Jeremiah, Peter, James, John and the great Apostle Paul, all these knew what it was like to be a prisoner but in their darkest night, God was still providing them with light. Although they were shut in and shut off from the rest of the world, God was right there with them.

I'm sure that Noah grew tired of only seeing dark clouds and falling rain but eventually the clouds lifted and the sun came out again.

I want to encourage all that are shut in, to keep the faith. The rain will stop, the clouds will go away, the pain will disappear, exhaustion will fade, loneliness will pass and your mind and soul will someday find the peace that you are hoping and praying for.