

God does not ‘dangle the rope of choice’; but rather he gets down into that pit and he opens our heart and changes it to have ‘life’ - ‘resurrection life’! We are ‘quickened’; ‘drawn’... (John 6).

Jesus is coming back or death will get you first.

The Gospel is an urgent rescue plan. God sends Jesus to be offered for our sins, then credits your sins to Jesus and credits God’s righteousness to us so as to adopt those who will believe into a heavenly family, into a righteous Heaven.

Jesus died, went into the grave and into the underworld declaring his victory over sin and death and then rose from the dead to prove it!

4. The Rescuer’s Call

The boys were in total darkness and suddenly a rescuer comes out of the deep with light to a dark world.

2,000 years ago Jesus Christ came into a dark world with light and hope in order to rescue those who will believe ...from their spiritual darkness.

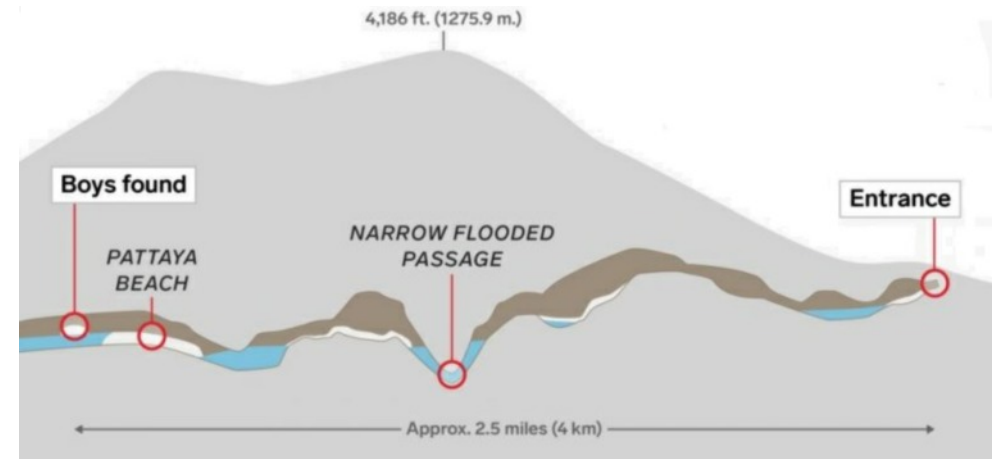
The boys had to totally put their trust in another.

Jesus died in my place. He offers a satisfactory sacrifice for my sin to a sinless Holy righteous God who cannot look upon sin.

Have you been rescued from yourself?

Today believe in Jesus; repent to God for your sins. He will send the Spirit of the rescuer into your heart.

He has the power over death and Hell (Revelation 1:18)



Out of the Cave of Death

by

Terry Arnold

Introduction:

In July 2018 the world watched and waited as 12 boys and their coach were trapped in an underground flooded cave needing to be rescued.

1. The Way To Death

The boys were on their way deep into a dark and cavernous place of no return. When the boys went in it seemed relatively easy; but as water flooded in, the way back was narrow, constricted, impossible.

The Bible warns of a 'way of destruction'. The '*broad road*' (Matthew 7:13,14)

The boys were merrily going on a path of certain death but totally unawares; oblivious to danger.

This cave adventure was nothing compared to eternity! In that eternity there is either life or death. The death is an eternal death of souls in the Lake of Fire at the end.

Romans 6:23; 8:2; John 5:24; 2Corinthians 1:9,10 This is much bigger than 12 boys in a cave!

2. The Need to be Rescued

The boys - Total inability to save themselves. There was no hope unless a rescuer came miraculously.

The Bible states there is no return from the 'broad road' unless someone rescues us. Romans 3:10-18

The boys could do no work to save themselves. No diving experience. Could not swim. Sure death. They needed a rescuer; a deliverer; a miraculous intervention. Ephesians 2:8,9

The plight of every human is the same - we need a deliverer who can miraculously deliver us from what began with Adam and Eve - God's law broken through the devil tempting against God's clear commands. We were separated from God, yet God deemed he would send a deliverer in the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The boys needed a rescuer from outside. We needed a deliverer from another world. Death and judgement are inevitable for every human being - we were trapped in sin and its consequences

3. The Rescue Plan

The boys needed to be delivered from darkness, through stormy waters to light and freedom.

John 8:32-36; Luke 19:10

God's plan: He deemed to send His only Son to offer a perfect final sacrifice for all sin - sin which we could not pay because we are sinners and keep sinning (Ephesians 5:2; Hebrews 10:12)

The boys would not be able to boast in anything they did; but in the rescuers.

Today Christians use all sorts of illustrations to show God's rescue plan for mankind... here is typical: '*The lost person is in a pit and cannot escape; God dangles a rope down and asks the person to grab onto it. If they choose to grab hold of the rope they will be saved. If they refuse they will perish*'. But this is unbiblical! It rejects the fact that the person in the pit has no ability/desire to even grab the rope. It makes God out to be an impotent saviour depending on man's will which we cannot be born again by (John 1:13)

The boys were *convinced* to be rescued. We are not in the pit crying out for rescue. We were not seeking. We were dead in our sins! (Ephesians 2:1-6; 2Corinthians 4:4)