

Noah, a Man of Faith

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.

²For by it men of old gained approval.

⁶And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

⁷By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence **prepared an ark** for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. (Hebrews 11:1-2, 6-7)

Today, we come to the third of God's heroes of faith - Noah. Noah is famous for building an ark by which both man and animals survived the Flood.

Previously the author of Hebrews mentioned **Able** who is honored by God for his faithful worship- he offered "a better sacrifice." Then there is **Enoch**, who was honored for his faithful walk. "Enoch walked with God and he was not for God took him." (Gen. 5:21). **Noah** is honored for his faithful work – he built an ark in obedience to God's command.

- I. Noah's Peril
- II. Noah's Project
- III. Noah's Prize

The Details surrounding the times of Noah's are contained in Genesis chapter six. Verse four shows the harsh society in which Noah lived:

"Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart." (Gen. 6:5-6).

A bleak description of the unchecked nature of man is given: "every intent of the thought of his heart was only evil continually."

Sin is an internal matter, not merely outward acts such as adultery, stealing, murder or other crimes. God looks at the heart. We say "He is a murderer because he murders." God says, "He murders because he is a murderer."

Sin is pervasive. Because sin comes out of the heart which controls what we think and do, sin necessarily affects every part of our being so that nothing we

thing, do, plan, or are is unaffected by it. “Every inclination of the thoughts of [man’s] heart was only evil all the time.” – Theologians call this “Total Depravity”. Men are not as bad as they could be but their best is always tainted by evil within. Like taking a drink of water in a contaminated glass. – so sin contaminates.

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”

Ps. 5:9 “The heart is filled with destruction their throat is an open grave; with their tongue they speak deceit.”

Ps. 14:3 “All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt.”

Romans 3:10-18 “There is none righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands. No one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one”

Boice writes,

“It is not only that sin is internal as well as external, nor that it is pervasive in that it affects everything we can possibly think or do. It is also continuous, for in God’s judgment we all so “only evil all the time.”

This statement is made from God who sees all things and sees the hearts;
And God is truthful.

In the following verses God declares His intention:

The Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; For I am sorry that I have made them.” (v. 7).

A few verses later:

Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth.

(Vs. 11-12).

The Contrast of Noah: “Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.” (Gen. 6:8)

Noah was a righteous man, living in the midst of a totally evil society.

“Noah was a righteousness man, blameless in his time; ...walked with God.
(Vs. 8-10).

Lit. Noah found grace – Heb. “hen” God’s unearned favor at a time when the evil of society was at its zenith.

– the work of Jesus Christ dying for his people’s salvation. – that future work of Christ.

First God tells Noah what He is going to do.
Then God tells Noah what He wants him to do.

The Flood

Then God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.”

The Ark

¹⁴Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood...¹⁷Behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark – you and your sons and your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female”...Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did. (Gen. 6:14, 17-19, 22)

II. Noah’s Project

“...in reverence [Noah] prepared an ark for the salvation of his household
Heb. 11:7

Noah responded in faith to God’s message.

Faith is recognizing God’s will in a given matter and acting upon it.

Why was the ark a challenge Noah’s faith?

The sheer immensity of the project must have been hard to grasp.

The ark was 438 feet long, 73 feet wide, and 44 feet high. – nearly one and a half times the length of a football field, nearly four stories high. Since it had three decks, the total deck area was almost 96,000 square feet and the total volume within the decks was about 1.3 million cubic feet.

One author wrote, “Naval engineers have discovered that the dimensions and shape of the ark form the most stable ship design known. The ark was not designed for maneuverability, but for stability. In order to best protect those within it.”¹

▪ **Noah’s Response of faith**

“*in reverence*” Noah prepared an ark.

- (eulabeia) – “pious care, or concern,”

He built the ark with great respect and awe of God

- Noah probably wasn’t a boat builder; and as an individual building a massive ark; he, no doubt, had to swallow hard as he began to cut down trees. Noah’s children weren’t born until after he was 500. They were unable to help until long after the project had begun. In a real sense Noah was alone in the beginning.

⁷By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen,

Noah’s faith. Faith is sight ...the conviction of things not seen...

Since Noah probably lived in Mesopotamia, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, far away from any oceans or large bodies of water, he would be building a large ark in the middle dry land without hope of any water to float it on or float it away.

Noah’s faith seemed to be genuine and without flaws since 1). he responded to God’s word with obedience. 2). He also rebuked the world of wicked men for over 120 years as the project continued. 3). He also received God’s righteousness by his true faith.

III. Noah’s prize

Noah ...prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

The flood was the greatest event since creation. In a sense it was a recreation, using the remnants of the old for spare parts.

¹ John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Hebrews*, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1983), p. 320.

The writer to the Hebrews included,

he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Noah's faith, which gained pure expression in obedience, was rewarded by God. He received: salvation for his household and righteousness.

His family would have been destroyed in the flood, but having built the ark they were saved, along with enough of the animals to insure each species' survival.

The ark was a type of Christ and symbolized many of God's future dealings with men.

MacArthur writes

The Hebrew word for *pitch*, for example, has the same root (kpr) as that used for *atonement*. The pitch kept the waters of judgment from entering the ark just as Christ's atoning blood keeps judgment from the sinner.²

The ark was a picture of salvation. Not only were all the animals in the ark saved from the flood but also eight people – all who were willing to come into the ark for safety. Only eight were willing to be saved on God's terms.

Peter writes,

“God is not willing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”
(2 Peter 3:9).

Jesus said that “no one who comes to Him will be cast out.” (John 6:37).

Jesus spoke of the days of Noah, comparing them with the end times:

For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Not entered the ark. And they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.” (Matt. 24:37-39)

What about your calling? The judgment for our times is yet future, but it is coming. You have an ark to build.

What will your response be?

² MacArthur, p. 319.

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us,
let us also lay aside every encumbrance
and the sin which so easily entangles us,
and **let us run with endurance** the race that is set before us,
fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith,
who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the
shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of
God.

For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against
Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” (Heb. 12:1-3).

A coming judgment is promised, and we are warned to come into the ark of Christ
and to bring others. Will you receive Jesus Christ and be saved from the coming
destruction?