

# “Real Faith Really Works”

Hebrews 11:7

January 20, 2019

**INTRO:** Let me ask you a couple of questions...

- When you think of Noah, what comes to mind?
- What if anything does Noah have to do with you?

**VIDEO:** *Noah #1*

**CONTEXT:**

- **Noah...** (he’s all about **the Flood** & **the FAITH**)
- You’ll see today... **Noah is all about the Gospel!**
- **Hebrews:**
  - Whole letter = **God’s loving exhortation...**
  - Chapters 1-10 (**Jesus is better & worth it**)
    - 4 of 5 warnings...
    - Ch.10 = “**Divine Divider**”

## Hebrews 10:36-39 (ESV)

*<sup>36</sup> For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. <sup>37</sup> For, “Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; <sup>38</sup> but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” <sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.*

- Hebrews ch.10 sets the stage & context for ch.11

- Chapter 11 = Hall of Fame & Faith!
  - ***Faith Defined***
  - ***Faith Described***
  - ***Faith Displayed***

**T/S:** ***Today...*** I'm going to show you the keys to the kingdom - being ever mindful of the fact that ***only Jesus can give the kingdom keys to you***

**BIG IDEA:** **Real faith REALLY works!**

**PREVIEW:**

- A. Faith's **ATTRIBUTES**
- B. Faith's **ACTIONS**
- C. Faith's **ATTITUDES**

- I. Faith's **ATTRIBUTES** (what faith ***looks*** like)
  - i. **First things first...** let's read Hebrews 11:1-6

*1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the people of old received their commendation. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. 4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts.*

*And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. 5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

➤ **NOTE the progression of faith w/ each verse!**

1. God's **Word** defines faith

***Faith is...***

- **F Foundational Faith** (**Heb. 11:6 is undeniable!**)
  - **Personal Grace Gift** – Ephesians 2:8-10
  - **Proclamation Gift** – Romans 10:17
  - **Producing Gift** – Galatians 5
  - **Protective Gift** – Ephesians 6
  - **Power Gift** – 1 Corinthians 12
- **A Assertive Faith** – Luke 14:27 & Acts 1:8
- **I Inspirational Faith** – Hebrews ch.11
- **T Tested Faith** – Hebrews' 5 warnings...
- **H Holy Faith** – John 14:15 & 20:21

2. God's **Witness** commends faith

3. God's **Worldview** explains faith

4. God's **Worship** validates faith

5. God's **Walking-With us** exemplifies faith

6. God's **2-way-Witness** requires faith

- See amazing **sequence/substance** in God's Word
  - Watch how both Noah & Scripture jump out
  - Watch both **Message & Mission** jump out!

### **VIDEO:** *Noah's Genealogy*

**T/S:** I show you that in hopes of inspiring you to:

- Read your Bibles better (study vs. skim)
- See that God is revealing so much more here...
- Grow both your reverent fear & responsive faith

#### **Matthew 5:16**

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

**T/S:** *Whereas Abel exemplified worshiping by faith—which must always come first—Enoch exemplified walking by faith which comes next, followed by Noah, whose fruit reminds us that real faith is really working faith.*

*<sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.*

➤ **ATTRIBUTES** of Faith seen here:

- Faith **INITIATES & EMPOWERS** (Acts 1:8)
  - *“By faith”* = faith was the key!
    - Philippians 4:13 & 2 Peter 1:3
    - **Jericho walls & Jerusalem wall**
  - Faith is like God’s GPS... guiding us back
  - Faith is like God’s battery pack...

**Titus 2:7**

*Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works...*

- Faith is **PERSONAL & Personally-APPLIED**
  - Noah was an ordinary guy... w/ big God
  - ***Faith turns ordinary people into extraordinary prophets!*** - JDP
  - Any difference between you & Noah???
  - Where’s your faith stand today?
  - **Fill in the blank:** *By faith, I \_\_\_\_\_...*

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,  
do all to the glory of God.*

- Faith **HEARS & HEEDS** God’s Word/warning
  - *Real faith really walks & talks with God!*
  - No lazy, lukewarm, libertines here...
  - No compromising cheap-gracers here...
  - ***Christians are walking warnings!***

- Faith trusts what **God SAYS** over **man SEES**
  - Real faith walks by faith not by sight...
  - When God says it... that settles it!
  - *Real faith knows that God's Word has 20/20 vision!* -JDP
  
- Faith lives **REVERING & FEARING** God
  - Faith lives in ongoing AWE of God!
  - Faith knows fear of God starts wisdom
  - Faith exposes both fools & folly
  
- Faith exemplifies **COURAGE & CHARACTER**
  - Faith is courageously Christ-like!
  - *Faith stands where feelings fall.*-JDP
  - Faith says: 'Yes Lord' no matter what!
  - Faith & faithful men can be counted on!
  
- Faith "**PLODS,**" **PLOWS & PERSEVERES...**
  - The Lord gave Noah 120 years to plod...
  - Noah's faith defined perseverance!
  
- Faith **SERVES SELFLESSLY & SACRIFICIALLY**
  - *Faith seeks the salvation of others!*-JDP
  - Faith cares about theirs & God's family.
  - *Faith fights for the gospel at home!*JDP

## II. Faith's **ACTIONS** (what faith *lives* like)

*By faith, Noah...*

*constructed an ark for the saving of his household.  
By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.*

### i. Faith **CONSTRUCTS**

*A wrong understanding of work will wreak havoc  
on & wreck your faith!*

1. Faith obeys! (cross-carrying)
  - a. *Faith without works is dead.* - James
  - b. *Faith that doesn't faithfully follow is a dead-lie & oxy-moron!*
2. Faith builds! (ark-constructing)
3. Faith accepts the improbable...
4. Faith accomplishes the unthinkable.
5. Faith completes the impossible!

#### **1 Corinthians 15:58**

*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable,  
always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the  
Lord your labor is not in vain.*

### ii. Faith **CONDEMNS**

1. Faith *challenges* corruption & culture

## Contrast Noah to “now-a-days”

- *By faith* vs. by feelings...
- *Noah* vs. not-my-job, non-committed
- *Warned by God* vs. walking with blinders on...
- *Things not seen* vs. living for today (YOLO)
- *Reverent fear* vs. banking on cheap-grace
- *Constructed* vs. compromised in complacency
- *(OBEYED)* vs. deceptively-disobeys
- *An ARK* vs. take cruises vs. building arks
- *To save oikos* vs. spoiling or ignoring the oikos
- *By faithfulness* vs. hypocritical, lying lip-service
- *Condemns* vs. caters-to & complies-with...
- *The world* vs. the natural ways of things...
- *Becomes heir* vs. continues on as an enemy
- *Righteousness* vs. wrongful sinfulness
- *Comes by faith* vs. D.I.Y. guidelines...

2. Faith *condemns* corruption & culture

3. Faith *changes* corruption & culture

## *Jesus confronted & condemned the Temple (2X)...*

### iii. Faith **CONVERTS**

1. Faith converts sinners to saints!

2. **Faithful obedience validates faith!** -JDP

3. *Faithful obedience is the righteous fruit of a true child of God.* - JDP

4. **Biblical faith is a DIVINE-DIVIDER!**

\* NOTE: *All of faith's fruit is found in faithfulness.* - JDP

### Jeremiah 31:16

*Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the Lord.*

*Faithful obedience serves as the finger prints of saving faith. -JDP*

- III. Faith's ATTITUDES** (what faith *loves* like)
- i. Supernaturally confident, loving, & humble
  - ii. Missionally minded & Eternally engaging
  - iii. Compassionately Confrontational
  - iv. Ambassadorally Christ-like
  - v. Righteously & redemptively-Reverent
  - vi. Faithfully God-Fearing
  - vii. ABRAHAM = willing to Abandon All...
  - viii. SARAH = confident in God's miraculous grace
  - ix. MOSES = eternally focused & motivated
  - x. MARTYRS = sold-out, all-in, *no matter what!*

#### **REVIEW:**

- Hebrews 11:7 is a great portrait of biblical faith!
- Faith's attributes, actions & attitudes are united!

*Faith knows with the head, loves with the heart and works with the hands... -JDP*

*Faith informs, faith inspects & faith inspires....*-JDP

**T/S:** *Noah's faith involved the whole person: his mind was warned of God; his heart was moved with fear; and his will acted on what God told him. – Wiersbe*

**CLOSE:**

For those who may have found today to be “a bit much,” let me leave you with a refreshing reading of the biblical texts:

**Hebrews 11:6**

**...without faith it is impossible to please God...**

**2 Timothy 2:15**

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*

***Biblical obedience is the fruit of biblical faith.*** – JDP

**Biblical Faith distinguishes the lovers from the liars!** – JDP

***“Faithful followers of Christ are used by God to convict, convert, or condemn rebellious sinners.”*** – JDP

## John 9:4

*We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day;  
night is coming, when no one can work.*

**Faith = hearing + understanding + obedience.** - JDP

- *How you live reveals who/what you love.* - JDP
- *What you believe... determines how you behave...*
- *How you behave... reveals what you really believe!*

***Making disciples worldwide is ark-building!*** - JDP

Now... by faith, having heard God's warning, go  
condemn the world & build your ark... to save your  
oikos & display your heir to righteousness that comes  
by faith.... Amen & AMEN!

# Let's Pray

**INTRO:** Let me ask you 3 questions as we begin...

What is the most presumptuous expectation anyone has ever thrust upon you?

➤ Petty... Prejudice... Performance... Perseverance?

What can we presume of... Christian truth, love, & faith?

**(Remember... the “fall” was a failure of faith!)**

Last week I asked you what your life would look like if you had “bullet-proof” faith... Today I’d like you to consider a different perspective.... What would your life look & love like if you had a “hard working” faith?

**BIG IDEA:** *God wants you to KNOW that real biblical faith really WORKS!*

**CONTEXT:**

A. Macro: Bible... New Testament... New Covenant

B. Micro: Hebrews... 5 Warnings... ch.10 & ch.11

1. Biblical faith is a divine divider...

2. Biblical faith is a personal grace-gift

3. Biblical faith is a faithful fruit producer

C. Missional:

➤ 11:1 = Word (definition & description of faith)

➤ 11:2 = Witness (family of faith)

➤ 11:3 = Worldview (fullness of faith)

➤ 11:4 = Worship (foundation of faith)

➤ 11:5 = Walk-with/Witness of God (faithfulness)

➤ 11:6 = Won’t/Without (force of faith)

➤ 11:7 = **Works** (functionality of Faith)

2 Timothy 2:15 (connects the Word with the works)

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*

## PREVIEW:

- A. **Wonder of Biblical Faith**
- B. **Working of Biblical Faith**
- C. **Winning by Biblical Faith**

# I. Our WONDER of FAITH

*<sup>6</sup> without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

## **Faith is...**

- **F Foundational Faith**
  - **Personal Grace Gift** – Ephians 2:8-10
  - **Proclamation Gift** – Romans 10:17
  - **Producing Gift** – Galatians 5
  - **Protective Gift** – Ephesians 6
  - **Power Gift** – 1 Corinthians 12
- **A Assertive Faith** – Luke 14:27 & Acts 1:8
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- **T Tested Faith** – Hebrews' 5 warnings...
- **H Holy Faith** – John 14:15 & 20:21

- a. Faith begets our **WORSHIP**
- b. Faith births our **WORLDVIEW**

*(Biblical faith is a “worldview,” NOT a neighborhood view!)- JDP*

- c. Faith builds through our **WORKS**
- d. Faith brings out Divine **WITNESSING!**

**VIDEO:** “Actions of Faith” – Erik Ludy

*To believe that "He is" means much more than assenting to the fact of a "First Cause" or... "Supreme Being"; it means to believe in the character of God as He has revealed Himself in His... Word and in Christ. God must be conceived correctly, or... we are only pursuing a phantom of our own imagination.*

**T/S:** *Whereas Abel exemplified **worshiping** by faith—which must always come first—Enoch exemplified **walking** by faith which comes next, followed by Noah, whose fruit reminds us that real faith is really **working** faith.*

- Abel’s faith started sacrificial atonement/cov...
- Cain’s religious unbelief started all false religions
- Enoch’s faith foreshadowed the gift of eternal life
- Now Noah’s faith reveals... real faith really works

## II. Our WORKING of FAITH

*<sup>7a</sup> By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household.*

*By faith Noah...*     **VIDEO:** "Noah 1"

*Noah was righteous & blameless in corrupt & violent world!*

The only things guiding Noah's work were God's Word &  
Noah's worship. - JDP

**Noah was:**

- **Purposeful** (clarity, character & constructive)
- **Poised** (ready... with missional "margin" in his life)
- **Passionate** (focused & faithfully obedient)
- **Prepared** (equipped &/or equipping)
- **Proactive** (like Jesus in Genesis James & Jude)
- **Prioritized** (1st things 1st... no dilly-dallying)
- **Proclaimer**/Preacher of righteousness
- **Producer...**
- **Persevered...**
- **Proof** - *Witness to God, Witness from God, Witness of God!*

*being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen,*

**VIDEO:** "Names In Genesis"

*in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his  
household.*

**A wrong understanding of work will wreak havoc on & wreck your faith!**

*Grace and reward are no more inconsistent than the high  
sovereignty of God and the real responsibility of man, or  
between the fact that Christ is and was both "Servant" (Isa.  
42:1) and "Lord" (John 13:13).*

**VIDEO:** "Duncan - Blessing of Work"

*“God’s reward is NOT a ticket to heaven! It’s NOT a self-centered, world-absorbing, faithless & flesh-satisfying, comfortable-couch for self-proclaimed lazy & lukewarm church-goers to relax on, as though it were promised to the spiritually superficial, and then set up in some privileged, emotionally-soothing, candle-lit, religiously-decorated, waiting-room - or holding tank for heaven.*

***No.... NO! Never... Never. NEVER!***

*Instead... by STARK, ETERNAL contrast... God & His Word promises that restoration & redemption’s reward is the gift of a personal job to DO... you WILL, by His grace, PERSONALLY PARTICIPATE in God’s perfect & prioritized plan to bring Him glory... by personally finding & personally growing more glorifiers (aka making disciples who make disciples who make disciples - Matthew 28:18-20 & 2 Timothy 2:2), locally, regionally, & globally (Acts 1:8 & Mark 16:15)... Amen! -JDP*

**T/S:** *Noah's faith involved the whole person: his mind was warned of God; his heart was moved with fear; and his will acted on what God told him. – Wiersbe*

**I don’t think people oppose the idea of “work” near as much as they oppose the work’s call for obedience.**

***"Faith without works is dead"*** ([James 2:20](#))

**The question is... is yours a Work OF God or work FOR God?**

- ***Work OF...*** = you are ***surrendered***
- ***Work FOR*** = you are the ***supervisor***

T/S: *Biblical obedience is the fruit of biblical faith.* – JDP

### III. Our WINNING by FAITH

*<sup>7b</sup> ...By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.*

Biblical Faith distinguishes the lovers from the liars! – JDP

*“Faithful followers of Christ are used of God to convict, convert, or condemn rebellious sinners.”* – JDP

#### **VIDEO:** “Noah 2”

*Now such obedience to God’s commandments in the ordinary relationships of life are necessary unto salvation. If this staggers the reader, let him contemplate the opposite... Unless our wills have been broken, unless our hearts have been brought into subjection to God, we have no scriptural warrant for concluding that God has begun a good work in us (Phil. 1:6)... The only path which leads to heaven is that of faithful obedience...*

#### **Romans 1:16-22** (ESV)

*<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their*

*unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools,*

## **REVIEW:**

- A. Working biblical faith overcomes impossibilities
- B. Working biblical faith hears & heeds God's warnings
- C. Working biblical faith works in faithful obedience
- D. Working biblical faith confronts & condemns...
- E. Working biblical faith is rewarded w/ righteousness!

***Salvation is both a "gift" & a "reward."***

*Heaven, or completed salvation, is spoken of as a "reward" to intimate the character of those to whom it is given, namely, the diligent laborer. Second, because it is not bestowed until our work is completed: 2 Timothy 4:7, 8. Third, to intimate the sureness of it: we may as confidently expect it as does the laborer who has been hired by an honest master: James 1:12.*

**CLOSE: Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)**

*we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

**Faith = hearing+understanding+obedience. - JDP**

- *How you live reveals who/what you love. - JDP*
- *What you believe... determines how you behave...*
- *How you behave... reveals what you really believe!*

*The real Christian, like Noah, is a heavenly-man living on earth as a heavenly-man... he is governed by spiritual and Divine principles, and not by fleshly motives and worldly interests.*

***By faith, Noah heard & heeded God... and as a result/reward:***

- **Constructed a colossal ark**

Noah did the IMPROVABLE, IMPOSSIBLE & IRREFUTABLE

- **Condemned a wicked world**

Noah PURSUED God, PLEASED God & PROCLAIMED God!

- **Collected a righteous-reward**

Noah BELIEVED, CONCEIVED & RECEIVED... Amen!

- |                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| ➤ Are you worshipping like Abel? | Sacrificing?  |
| ➤ Are you walking like Enoch?    | Witnessing?   |
| ➤ Are you working like Noah?     | Ark building? |

***Making disciples worldwide is ark-building!*** - JDP

**Let's Pray!**

Study Notes:

## Hebrews 11:7

*By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.*

*By faith*

*Noah,*

*being warned*

- God's "witness" to us can come as a warning to us!
- What is a warning?
  - Are they good or bad?
  - What are the defining components?
  - What's the difference between warning/threat?
    - ANSWER: **the HEART!**
- Hence, our witness is to be a warning at times...
  - God's Word was given, in part, as a warning
  - Hence, God's people are walking warnings - JDP

## *by God*

- This warning comes from the One we worship!
- God's Word, love, gospel, & grace share His timely warnings, long before His eternal wrath is suffered.  
- JDP
- When was the last time you took God's warning(s) to heart?
  - Take that question in via His global warnings...
  - Take that question in via His family warnings
  - Take that question in via His personal warning
- Which of God's warnings are most poignant to you?
- Which of God's warnings scare you the most?
- Which of God's warnings tend to offend you?
- Which of God's warnings are you sick & tired of?
- Which of God's warnings are you in denial over?
- Which of God's warnings were key to your saving?
- Which of God's warnings are sanctifying you now?
- Which of God's warnings do you need to share?
  
- How committed to ark-building are you?

## *concerning events as yet unseen,*

- One's "yet unseen" future is the very fodder of their faith (cf. Hebrews 11:1). - JDP
- Stop here and look at Noah's "yet unseen"

- God's apocalyptic warning - global destruction
- A flood in a world without

*in reverent fear*

*constructed an ark*

*for the saving*

*of his household.*

*By this*

*he condemned the world*

*and*

*became an heir*

*of the righteousness*

*that comes by faith.*

God called & Noah answered  
God ordered & Noah obeyed  
God led & Noah followed  
God warned & Noah worshipped  
God witnessed & Noah witnessed!

By faith, Noah:

- A. Did... By grace through faith Noah:
  - a. Constructed a colossal ark
    - i. Noah did the IMPROVABLE
    - ii. Noah did the IMPOSSIBLE
    - iii. Noah did the IRREFUTABLE
  - b. Condemned a wicked world
    - i. Noah PURSUED God
    - ii. Noah PLEASED God
    - iii. Noah PROCLAIMED God
  - c. Collected a righteous-reward by becoming a holy heir
    - i. Noah BELIEVED
    - ii. Noah CONCEIVED
    - iii. Noah RECEIVED
- B. Was... By grace through faith Noah was:
  - a. Warned by God
    - i. He heard God
    - ii. He heeded God
  - b. Reverently fearful
    - i. He was in awe of the Almighty
    - ii.
  - c. Saving his household
  - d. Righteous
  - e. Faithful

### **It Is Set Forth by Instances From Abel to Noah ([11:4-7](#))**

Here follow some illustrious examples of faith from the Old Testament. Abel brought a sacrifice of atonement from the firstlings of the flock, acknowledging himself a sinner who deserved to die, and only hoping for mercy through the great Sacrifice. Cain's proud rage and enmity against the accepted worshipper of God, led to the awful effects the same principles have produced in every age; the cruel persecution, and even murder of believers. By faith Abel, being dead, yet

speaketh; he left an instructive and speaking example. Enoch was translated, or removed, that he should not see death; God took him into heaven, as Christ will do the saints who shall be alive at his second coming. We cannot come to God, unless we believe that he is what he has revealed himself to be in the Scripture. **Those who would find God, must seek him with all their heart. Noah's faith influenced his practice; it moved him to prepare an ark. His faith condemned the unbelief of others; and his obedience condemned their contempt and rebellion.**

***Good examples either convert sinners or condemn them.***

This shows how believers, being warned of God to flee from the wrath to come, are moved with fear, take refuge in Christ, and become heirs of the righteousness of faith.

- Matthew Henry Concise Bible Commentary.

**11:7** In **v. 7** the author speaks of the faith of Noah from [Gen 6:9-21](#). Noah received an oracle concerning things "not yet seen," a reference back to [11:1](#). A lexical *inclusio* marks off this paragraph unit. What was not yet seen was the flood. The Greek verb translated "he condemned" can be either imperfect or aorist. Alford takes it as aorist indicating a single act; Ellingworth takes it as imperfect, implying continuation. See also [2 Pet 2:5](#) where Noah is called a "preacher of righteousness," which further explains the phrase "he condemned humanity." Noah is an "heir," which recalls [Heb 1:2](#), where Christ is the heir of all things; [Heb 1:14](#), where believers "inherit salvation"; and [Heb 6:12,17](#); [9:15](#). What Noah inherited was righteousness. The phrase *kata pistin*, (lit.) "according to faith," can be adjectival, describing "righteousness" (NIV "that comes by faith"), or equivalent to a dative of means: "righteousness obtained by means of faith."

- The New American Commentary

**Verse 7. *By faith Noah.***

**It is less difficult to see that Noah must have been influenced by faith than that Abel and Enoch were.**

**Everything which Noah did, in reference to the threatened deluge, was done in virtue of simple faith or belief of what God said.**

It was not because he could show from the course of events that things were tending to such a catastrophe; or because such an event had occurred before, rendering it probable that it would be likely to occur again; or because this was the common belief of men, and it was easy to fall into this himself. **It was simply because God had informed him of it, and he put unwavering reliance on the truth of the Divine declaration.**

**Being warned of God.**

[Genesis 6:13](#). The Greek word here used means **divinely admonished**.  
Comp. [Genesis 8:5](#).

**Of things not seen as yet.**

**Of the flood which was yet future.** The meaning is, that there were no visible signs of it; there was nothing which could be a basis of calculation that it would occur. This admonition was given an hundred and twenty years before the deluge, and of course long before there could have been any natural indications that it would occur.

**Moved with fear.**

Marg. *Being wary*. The Greek word *εὐλαβηθεῖς*—occurs only here and in [Acts 23:10](#): "The chief captain *fearing* lest Paul," etc. The noun occurs in [Hebrews 5:7](#): "And was heard in that he feared," [Hebrews 5:7](#)) and [Hebrews 12:28](#): "**With reverence & godly fear.**" The verb properly means, to act with caution, to be circumspect, and then to fear, to be afraid. So far as the word is concerned, it might mean here that Noah was influenced by the dread of what was coming, or it may mean that he was influenced by proper caution and reverence for God. The latter meaning agrees better with the scope of the remarks of Paul, and is probably the true sense. **His reverence and respect for God induced him to act under the belief that what he had said was true, and that the**

calamity which he had predicted would certainly come upon the world.

**Prepared an ark to the saving of his house.**

In order that his family might be saved, [Genesis 6:14-22](#). **The salvation here referred to was preservation from the flood.**

**By which.** By which faith.

**He condemned the world.**

That is, **the wicked world around him.**

The meaning is...

*By his confidence in God, and his preparation for the flood, he showed the wisdom of his own course and the folly of theirs.*

**We have the same phrase now in common use, where one who sets a good example is said to "condemn others."**

*He (the faithfully obedient follower) shows the guilt and folly of the disobedient unbeliever's life by the contrast between his conduct and theirs. The wickedness of the sinner is condemned not only by*

*preaching, and by the admonitions and threatenings of the law of God, but by the conduct of every good man. The language of such a life is as plain a rebuke of the sinner as the most fearful denunciations of Divine wrath.*

*And became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*

The phrase, "heir of righteousness," here means, properly, that he acquired, gained, or became possessed of that righteousness. It does not refer so much to the *mode* by which it was done, as if it were by inheritance, as to the *fact* that he obtained it. The word *heir* is used in this general sense in [Romans 4:13,14](#), [Titus 3:7](#), [Hebrews 1:2](#), [6:17](#). Noah was not the *heir* to that righteousness by *inheriting* it from his ancestors, but in virtue of it he was regarded as among the heirs or sons of God, and as being a possessor of that righteousness which is connected with faith.

The phrase "righteousness which is by faith" refers to the fact that he was regarded and treated as a righteous man. [Romans 1:17](#). It is observable here, that it is not said that Noah had specific faith in Christ, or that his being made heir of the righteousness of faith depended on that, but it was in connexion with his believing what God said respecting the deluge. *It was faith or confidence in God which was the ground of his justification, in accordance with the general doctrine of the Scriptures that it is only by faith that man can be saved, though the specific mode of faith was not that which is required now under the gospel.*

In the early ages of the world, when few truths were revealed, a cordial belief of any of those truths showed that there was real confidence in God, or that the *principle* of faith was in the heart; in the fuller revelation which we enjoy, we are not only to believe those truths, but specifically to believe in Him who has made the great atonement for sin, and by whose merits all have been saved who have entered heaven.

*The same faith or confidence in God which led Noah to believe what God said about the deluge would have led him to believe what he has said about the Redeemer; and the same confidence in God which led him to commit himself to his safe keeping in an ark on the world of waters, would have led him to commit his soul to the safe keeping of the Redeemer, the true Ark of safety.*

As the *principle* of faith, therefore, existed in the heart of Noah, it was proper that he should become, with others, an "heir of the righteousness by faith."

**In regard to the circumstances which show the strength of his faith, we may make the following remarks.**

**(1.) It pertained to a very distant future event. It looked forward to that which was to happen after a lapse of an hundred and twenty years. This was known to Noah,** ([Genesis 6:3](#);) and, at this long period before it occurred, he was to begin to build an ark to save himself and family-to act as though this would be undoubtedly true. **This is a much longer period than man *now* is required to exercise faith before that is realized which is the object of belief.** Rare is it that three-score years intervene between the time when a man first believes in God and when he enters into heaven; much more frequently it is but a few months or days; not an instance now occurs in which the period is lengthened out to an hundred and twenty years.

**(2.) There was no outward *evidence* that what Noah believed would occur.**

**There were no appearances in nature which indicated that there would be such a flood of waters after more than a century had passed away.**

There were no breakings up of the fountains of the deep; no marks of the far-distant storm gathering on the sky, which could be the basis of the calculation.

*The word of God was the only ground of evidence; the only thing to which he could refer gainsayers and revilers. It is so now. There are no visible signs of the coming of the Saviour to judge the world. Yet the true believer feels and acts as if it were so-resting on the sure word of God.*

**(3.)** The course of things was much against the truth of what Noah believed. **No such event had ever occurred. There is no evidence that there had ever been a storm of rain** half sufficient to drown the world; or that there had ever been the breaking up of the deep, or that there had ever been a partial deluge. For sixteen hundred years the course of nature had been uniform, and all the force of this uniformity would be felt and urged when it should be alleged that this was to be disturbed, and to give place to an entire new order of events.

Comp. [2 Peter 3:4](#).

**The same thing is now felt in regard to the objects of the Christian faith. The course of events is uniform. The laws of nature are regular and steady. The dead do not leave their graves.**

Seasons succeed each other in regular succession; men are born, live, and die, as in former times; fire does not wrap the earth in flames; the elements do not melt with fervent heat; seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter follow each other, and "all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." How many probabilities are there now, therefore, as there were in the time of Noah, against that which is the object of faith!

**(4.) It is not improbable that when Noah proclaimed the approaching destruction of the world by a deluge, the possibility of such an event was strongly denied by the philosophers of that age.**

The fact that such an event could have occurred has been denied by infidel philosophers in our own times, and attempts have been gravely made to show that the earth did not contain water enough to cover its surface to the height mentioned in the Scriptures, and that no condensation of the vapour in the atmosphere could produce such an effect. It is not improbable that some such arguments may have been used in the time of Noah, and *it is morally certain that he could not meet those arguments by any philosophy of his own*. There is no reason to think that he was endowed with such a knowledge of chemistry as to be able to show that such a thing was possible, or that he had such an acquaintance with the structure of the earth as to demonstrate that it contained within itself the elements of its own destruction.

*All that he could oppose to such speculations was the simple declaration of God; and the same thing is also true now...*

...in regard to the cavils and philosophical arguments of infidelity. Objections drawn from philosophy are often made against the doctrine of the resurrection of the body; the destruction of the earth by the agency of fire; and even the existence of the soul after death. These difficulties may be obviated partly by science; but the proof that these events will occur does not depend on science.

*It is a matter of simple faith; and all that we can in fact oppose to these objections is the declaration of God. The result showed that Noah was not a fool or a fanatic in trusting to the word of God against the philosophy of his age; and the result will show the same of the Christian in his confiding in the truth of the Divine declarations against the philosophy of his age.*

**(6.) It is beyond all question that Noah would be subjected to much ridicule and scorn, he would be regarded as a dreamer; a fanatic; an alarmist; a wild projector.** The purpose of making preparation for such an event as the flood to occur after the lapse of an hundred and twenty years, and when there were no indications of it, and all appearances were against it, would be regarded as in the highest degree wild and visionary. The design of building a vessel which would outride the storm, and which would live in such an open sea, and which would contain all sorts of animals with the food for them for an indefinite period, could not but have been regarded as eminently ridiculous. When the ark was preparing, nothing could have been a more happy subject for scoffing and jibes. In such an age, therefore, and in such circumstances, we may suppose that all the means possible would have been resorted to, to pour contempt on such an undertaking. They who had wit, would find here an ample subject for its exercise; if ballads were made then, no more fertile theme for a profane song could be desired than this; and in the haunts of revelry, intemperance, and pollution, nothing would furnish a finer topic to give point to a jest, than the credulity and folly of the old man who was building the ark. It would require strong faith to contend thus with the wit, the sarcasm, the contempt, the raillery, and the low jesting, as well as with the wisdom and philosophy of a whole world. Yet **it is a fair illustration of what occurs often now, and of the strength of that faith in the Christian heart which meets meekly and calmly the scoffs and jeers of a wicked generation.**

**(7.) All this would be heightened by delay.** The time was distant. What now completes four generations would have passed away before the event predicted would occur, Youth grew up to manhood, and manhood passed on to old age, and still there were no signs of the coming storm.

*That was no feeble faith which could hold on in this manner for an hundred and twenty years, believing unwaveringly that all which God had said would be accomplished. But it is an illustration of faith in the Christian church now. The church maintains the same confidence in God from age to age-and, regardless of all the reproaches of scoffers, and all the arguments of*

*philosophy, still adheres to the truths which God has revealed. So with individual Christians. They look for the promise. They are expecting heaven. They doubt not that the time will come when they will be received to glory; when their bodies will be raised up glorified and immortal, and when sin and sorrow will be no more. In the conflicts and trials of life, the time of their deliverance may seem to be long delayed. The world may reproach them, and Satan may tempt them to doubt whether all their hope of heaven is not delusion. But their faith fails not; and though hope seems delayed, and the heart is sick, yet they keep the eye on heaven. So it is in regard to the final triumphs of the gospel. The Christian looks forward to the time when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters cover the sea. Yet that time may seem to be long delayed. Wickedness triumphs. A large part of the earth is still filled with the habitations of cruelty. The progress of the gospel is slow. The church comes up reluctantly to the work. The enemies of the cause exult and rejoice, and ask, with scoffing triumph, Where is the evidence that the nations will be converted to God? They suggest difficulties; they refer to the numbers, and to the opposition of the enemies of the true religion; to the might of kingdoms, and to the power of fixed opinion, and to the hold which idolatry has on mankind; and they sneeringly inquire. At what period will the world be converted to Christ? Yet, in the face of all difficulties, and arguments, and sneers, faith confides in the promise*

*of the Father to the Son, that the "heathen shall be given to him for an inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession," Psalms 2:8. The faith of the true Christian is as strong in the fulfilment of this promise, as that of Noah was in the assurance that the guilty world would be destroyed by a flood of waters.*

(\*) "Noah" [Genesis 6:14-22](#)

(\*) "moved with fear" "being wary"

(\*) "house" "household"

- Barnes' Notes on the New Testament.

**11:7 events as yet unseen.** Although faith perceives things that are invisible because they transcend the physical universe ([11:3](#), [27](#)), **in this section the emphasis is on faith concerning things that are future but nevertheless certain because God has promised them.**

The coming flood of judgment was not yet visible when God's word of warning came to Noah.

**Noah built the ark in reverent response to God's warning, and through his active faith his family received salvation.**

*The unbelieving world was condemned for its preoccupation with the present, and Noah inherited the righteousness that comes by faith ([10:38](#); [Rom. 4:13](#)).*

**11:7 Noah.** See [Genesis 5:28-9:29](#); [Ezekiel 14:14](#). *things not yet seen.* See notes on [verses 1, 6](#). The world had not seen anything resembling the great flood (not even rain; see notes on [Gen. 7:11](#)), yet Noah spent 120 years ([Gen. 6:3](#)) fulfilling God's command to build the massive ark ([Gen. 6:13-22](#)). *godly fear.* **Noah treated God's message with great respect and awe (cf. 5:7). His faith was expressed in obedience** (cf. [Gen. 6:22](#); [7:5](#)).

***condemned.*** **Noah warned the people of his time about God's impending judgment (cf. 1 Pet. 3:20), and is called "a preacher of righteousness" (2 Pet. 2:5).**

*heir of the righteousness.* See notes on [6:12](#); [9:15](#).

He who was a preacher of righteousness ([2 Pet. 2:5](#))  
also became an heir of righteousness.

***He believed the message he preached.***

**Like Enoch before him (see notes on [v. 5](#)), Noah walked with God in faith and obedience ([Gen. 6:9](#)).**

**11:7** In [v. 7](#) the author speaks of the faith of Noah from [Gen 6:9-21](#). Noah received an oracle concerning things "not yet seen," a reference back to [11:1](#). A lexical *inclusio* marks off this paragraph unit. What was not yet seen was the flood. The Greek verb translated "he condemned" can be either imperfect or aorist. Alford takes it as aorist indicating a single act; Ellingworth takes it as imperfect, implying continuation. See also [2 Pet 2:5](#) where Noah is called a "preacher of righteousness," which further explains the phrase "he condemned humanity." Noah is an

"heir," which recalls [Heb 1:2](#), where Christ is the heir of all things; [Heb 1:14](#), where believers "inherit salvation"; and [Heb 6:12,17](#); [9:15](#). What Noah inherited was righteousness. The phrase *kata pistin*, (lit.) "according to faith," can be adjectival, describing "righteousness" (NIV "that comes by faith"), or equivalent to a dative of means: "righteousness obtained by means of faith."

- The New American Commentary – Volume 35: Hebrews.

*Noah—faith working ([v. 7](#)).*

*Noah's faith involved the whole person: his mind was warned of God; his heart was moved with fear; and his will acted on what God told him.*

Since nobody at that time had ever seen a flood (or perhaps even a rainstorm), Noah's actions must have generated a great deal of interest and probably ridicule as well.

*Noah's faith influenced his whole family and they were saved. It also condemned the whole world, for his faith revealed their unbelief.*

Events proved that Noah was right! Jesus used this experience to warn people to be ready for His return ([Matt. 24:36-42](#)). In Noah's day, the people were involved in innocent everyday activities and completely ignored Noah's witness ([2 Peter 2:5](#)).

- Bible Exposition Commentary – Be Confident (Hebrews).

*The Faith of Noah*  
([Hebrews 11:6, 7](#))

The verses which are now to engage our attention are by no means free of difficulty, especially unto those who have sat under a ministry which has failed to preserve the balance between Divine grace and Divine righteousness.

*Where the free favor of God has been strongly emphasized and His claims (commands) largely ignored, where privileges have been stressed and duties almost neglected, it is far from easy to view many Scriptures in their true perspective (context).*

*When those who have heard little more than the decrying of creature-abilities and the denunciation of creature-merits are asked to honestly and seriously face the terms of [Hebrews 11:6, 7](#), they are quite unable to fit them into their system of theology.*

*Where such be the case, it is proof positive that something is wrong with our theology. Often those who are least cramped by sectarian bias find that the truth of God is too large, too many-sided, to be squeezed into human definitions and creeds.*

Others of our readers are probably wondering what it is we have reference to above when we say that our present portion of [Hebrews 11](#) is by no means free of difficulty. Then let us raise a few questions upon these verses.

**If the exercise of faith be pleasing to God, does this signify that it is a thing meritorious? How is this concept to be avoided in the light of the statement that God is a Rewarder of them that diligently**

seek Him? How does a "reward" consist with pure grace? And what is the doctrinal force of the next verse? Does the case of Noah teach salvation by works? If he had not gone to so much expense and labor in building the ark, would he and his house have escaped the flood? Was his becoming "heir of righteousness" something that he earned by his obedient toil? How can this conclusion be fairly avoided?

We shall endeavor to keep these questions before us in the course of our exposition.

**"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him"** (verse 6).

**There is a threefold "coming to God": an initial, a continuous, and a final.**

**I believe the Bible teaches that there is a 5-fold coming: -JDP**

- **Attention** *God is real to us...*
- **Attraction** *God is reeling us in...*
- **Justification** *God really redeems us...*
- **Sanctification** *God really refines us...*
- **Glorification** *God really receives us!*

The first takes place at conversion, the second is repeated throughout the Christian's life, the third occurs at death or the second coming of Christ. **To come to God signifies to seek and have fellowship with Him. It denotes a desire to enter into His favor and become a partaker of His blessings in this life and of His salvation in the life to come. It is the heart's approach unto Him in and through Christ: [John 14:6](#), [Hebrews 7:25](#).**

*But before there is a conscious access to Him, God has to be diligently sought.*

*None come to God, none truly seek Him, until they are made conscious of their lost condition. The Spirit must first work in the soul a realization that sin has alienated us "from the life of God" ([Eph. 4:18](#)). We have to be made to feel that we are away from God, out of His favor, under His righteous condemnation, before we shall really do as the*

*prodigal did, and say "I will arise and go to My Father, and will say unto Him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before Thee" ([Luke 15:18](#)). The same principle holds good in connection with the repeated "coming" of the Christian ([1 Pet. 2:4](#)); it is a sense of need which causes us to seek Him who is the Giver of every good and every perfect gift. There is also a maintained communion with God in the performance of holy duties: in all the exercises of godliness we renew our access to God in Christ: in reading of or hearing His Word, we come to Him as Teacher, in prayer we come to Him as Benefactor.*

But to seek God aright, He has to be sought in faith, for "without faith it is impossible to please Him," therefore, "he that cometh to God *must* believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." There has to be first a firm persuasion of His being, and second of His bounty.

*To believe that "He is" means much more than assenting to the fact of a "First Cause" or to allow that there is a "Supreme Being"; it means to believe in the character of God as He has revealed Himself in His works, in His Word, and in Christ. He must be*

*conceived of aright, or otherwise we are only pursuing a phantom of our own imagination.*

Thus, to believe that "God is" is to exercise faith upon Him as *such* a Being as His Word declares Him to be: supreme sovereign, ineffably holy, almighty, inflexibly just, yet abounding in mercy and grace toward poor sinners through Christ.

Not only is the heart to go out unto God as His being and character is revealed in Scripture, but particularly, faith is to lay hold of His graciousness: that He is "a Rewarder" etc. The acting of faith toward God as a "Rewarder" is the heart's apprehension and anticipation of the fact that He is ready and willing to conduct Himself to needy sinners in a way of bounty, that He will act in all things toward them in a manner suitable unto the proposal of which He makes of Himself through the Gospel. It was the realization of this (in addition to his felt need) which stirred the prodigal to act. Just as it would be useless to pray unless there were an hope that God hears and that He will answer prayer, so no sinner will really seek unto God until there is born in his heart an expectation of mercy from Him, that He will receive him graciously. This is a laying hold of His promise.

*In Scripture, privileges are propounded with their necessary limitations, and we disjoint the whole system of Truth if we separate the recompense from the duty. There is something to be done on our part: God is a "Rewarder," but of whom? Of those who "diligently seek Him."*

"The wicked shall be turned into Hell, all the nations that forget God" ([Ps. 9:17](#)): not only "deny," but "forget" Him; as they cast God out of their thoughts and affections, so He will cast them out of His presence. What is meant by "diligently seek Him"?

*To "seek" God is to forsake, deny, go out of self, and take Him alone for our Ruler and satisfying Portion. To seek Him "diligently" is to seek Him early ([Prov. 8:17](#)), whole-heartedly ([Ps. 119:10](#)), earnestly ([Ps. 27: 4](#)), unweariedly ([Luke 11:8](#)). How does a thirsty man seek water? The promise is, "And ye shall seek Me and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart" ([Jer. 29:13](#) and cf. [2 Chronicles 15:15](#)).*

**And how does God "reward" the diligent seeker? By offering Himself graciously to be found of them who penitently, earnestly, trustfully approach Him through the appointed Mediator. By granting them access into His favor: this He did not unto Cain, who sought Him in a wrong manner. By actually bestowing His favor upon them, as He did upon the prodigal. By forgiving their sins and blotting out their iniquities (Isa. 55:7). By writing His laws in their hearts, so that they now desire and determine to forsake all idols and serve Him only. By giving them assurance of their acceptance in the Beloved, and granting them sweet foretastes of the rest and bliss which awaits them on High. By ministering to their every need, both spiritual and temporal. Finally, by taking them to heaven, where they shall spend eternity in the unclouded enjoyment of the wondrous riches of His grace.**

But does this word "Rewarder" have a legalistic ring to it? Not if it be understood rightly. Does it signify that our "diligent seeking" is a meritorious performance which is entitled to recognition? Of course it does not. What, then, is meant? First, let us quote from the helpful comments of

**John Owen:** "That which these words of the apostle hath respect to, and which is the ground of the faith here required, is contained in the revelation that God made of Himself unto Abraham, 'Fear not: Abram: I am thy shield, and they exceeding great reward' (Gen. 15:1). God is so a rewarder unto them that seek Him, as that He is Himself their reward, which eternally excludes all thoughts of merit in them that are so rewarded. Who can merit God to be his reward? Rewarding in God, especially where He Himself is the reward, is an act of infinite grace and bounty. And this gives us full direction unto the object of faith here intended, namely, God in Christ, as revealed in the promise of Him, giving Himself unto believers as a reward, (to be their God) in a way of infinite goodness and bounty. The proposal hereof, is that alone which gives encouragement to come unto Him, which the apostle designs to declare."

"Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt" ([Rom. 4:4](#)): is not the implication clear that *grace* itself also "rewards"?

*Grace and reward are no more inconsistent than the high sovereignty of God and the real responsibility of man, or between the fact that Christ is and was both "Servant" ([Isa. 42:1](#)) and "Lord" ([John 13:13](#)).*

**The language of [Colossians 3:24](#) makes this clear**

as a sunbeam: "Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." The "inheritance" is Heaven itself, salvation in its consummation.

**But is not salvation a free gift? Yes, indeed; nevertheless it has to be "bought" by its recipients ([Isa. 55:1](#)), yet "without money and without price."**

*Salvation is both a "gift" & a "reward."*

**While it be true that Heaven cannot be earned by the sinner, it is equally true that Heaven is not for idlers and loiterers. God has to be "diligently sought." To enter the strait gate the soul has to agonize ([Luke 13:24](#)).**

We are called upon to "labor" for that meat which endureth unto eternal life ([John 6:27](#)) and to enter into the heavenly rest ([Heb. 4:11](#)). Such efforts God "rewards," not because they are meritorious, but because He deems it meet to recognize and recompense them.

**There are those who teach that in serving God we ought to have no "respect unto the recompense of the reward" ([Heb. 11:26](#)), but this verse refutes them, for the apostle explicitly declares that this forms a necessary part of that truth which is to be believed in order to our pleasing God.**

*Heaven, or completed salvation, is spoken of as a "reward" to intimate the character of those to whom it is given, namely, the diligent laborer. Second, because it is not bestowed until our work is completed: [2 Timothy 4:7, 8](#). Third, to intimate the sureness of it: we may as confidently expect it as does the laborer who has been hired by an honest master: [James 1:12](#). This "reward" is principally in the next life: [Hebrews 11:16](#), [2 Corinthians 4:17](#)—it is then that all true godliness shall be richly recompensed: [Mark 10:29, 30](#).*

It only remains for us now to add that the *ground* on which God bestows the "reward" is the infinite merits of Christ, and out of respect unto His own promise. *That which* He "rewards" is the work of His own Spirit within us, so that we have no ground for boasting.

*"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" (verse 7).*

*The apostle now presents a concrete example which illustrates what he had said in verse 6.*

God's dealings with Noah and the world in his time were plainly a sample and pledge of His dealing with the world in all ages, particularly so when its history is finally wound up.

*Inasmuch as God is the Rewarder of those who diligently seek Him, it necessarily follows that He is also the Revenger of all who despise Him.*

**In the destruction of the old world, God showed His displeasure against sin ([Job 22:15, 16](#)); in the preservation of Noah, He made manifest the privileges of His own people ([2 Pet. 2:9](#)). That the whole was a *pledge* and type is clear from [2 Peter 3:6, 7](#).**

In the verse which is now before us three things claim attention. First, Noah's faith and its ground, namely the warning he had received from God. Second, the effects of his faith, namely, internally, the impulse of "fear"; externally, his obedience in making the ark under God's orders. Third, the consequences of his faith, namely, the saving of his house, the condemning of the world, his becoming heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

But ere taking up these points, let us face and endeavor to remove a difficulty which some feel this verse raises. Let us put it this way: was Noah saved by his own works? We believe the answer is both Yes, and No. We beg the reader to exercise patience and prayerfully ponder what follows, and not cry out rank heresy and refuse to read further.

If Noah had not "prepared an ark" in obedience to God's command, would he not have perished in the flood? Then was it his own efforts which preserved him from death in the great deluge? No indeed; it was the preserving power of God. That ark had neither mast, sail, nor steering-wheel: only the gracious hand of the Lord kept that frail barque from being splintered to atoms on the rocks and the mountains. Then **what is the relation between these two things? This: Noah made use of the means which God had prescribed, and by His grace and power those means were made effectual unto his preservation. Must not the farmer toil in his fields? yet it is God alone who gives him the increase. Must I not observe the laws of hygiene and eat wholesome food? yet only as God blesses them to me am I kept in health. So it is in spiritual things: salvation by grace alone does not exclude the imperative necessity of our using the means which God has appointed and prescribed.**

The temporal deliverance of Noah from the flood is undoubtedly an adumbration of the eternal deliverance of God's elect from the wrath to come: and here, as everywhere, the type is accurate and perfect. Nor can any sophistical quibbling honestly get rid of the fact that Noah's building of the Ark—a most costly and arduous work!—was a means towards his preservation. Then does the case of Noah supply a clear example of salvation by works? Again we answer boldly, Yes and No. But the difficulty is greatly relieved if we bear in mind that Noah was *already a saved man* before God bade him build the Ark! A reference to [Genesis 6:8, 9](#) and a comparison with [Hebrews 6:14](#), 22 makes this unmistakably plain. But does not this fact overthrow all that has been said in the previous paragraphs? Not at all.

*The Christian's salvation is not only a past thing ([2 Tim. 1:9](#)), but a present ([Phil. 2:12](#)) and future ([Rom. 13:11](#)) thing too!*

We trust that the solution of the difficulty will be more evident as we proceed with our exposition of the verse.

As we have before pointed out, the first three verses of [Hebrews 11](#) are introductory, their design being to set forth the importance and excellency of faith. Then, in verse 4-7, we have an outline of the life of faith: the beginning of it is seen in verse 4, the nature of what it consists in verse 5, a warning and encouragement is supplied in verse 6, and the end of it is shown in verse 7. Before bringing before us the glorious goal which the life of faith reaches, verse 7 gives us the other side of what was before us in verse 5: there we saw faith elevating above a world of death, carrying the heart of its favored possessor into Heaven. But we are still in the world, and that is the place of opposition, of danger, and hence, of testing. Thus in verse 7 we are not only shown what faith obtains, but *how* it obtains, it.

Now as we found it necessary to go back to [Genesis 3](#) and [4](#) to interpret [Hebrews 11:4](#), and to [Genesis 5:24](#) to get the meaning of [Hebrews 11:5](#), so now we have to consult [Genesis 6](#) in order to discover what is here adumbrated. Let the reader turn back to [Genesis 6:5-22](#). There we find unsparing Divine judgment announced (verse 13), a way of deliverance presented to one who had "found grace" in the Lord's eyes (verse 14), faith's obedience called for if escape was to be had from judgment (verse 14), the Divinely prescribed means to be used (verse 15); by employing those means deliverance was obtained.

**Now in like manner, a most solemn warning has been given us, an announcement of coming judgment: see [2 Thessalonians 1:7, 8](#); [2 Peter 3:10-17](#)—let the reader duly observe that both of these passages are found in epistles addressed to God's children.**

In saying above that [Hebrews 11:7](#) gives us the other side of what is spiritually set forth in verse 5, we mean that it gives us the *balancing* truth. It is most important to observe this, for otherwise we are very liable to entertain a mystical concept of verse 5 and become lopsided.

**Satan is ready to tell us that verse 5 presents to us a beautiful ideal, but one which is altogether impracticable for ordinary people—alright for preachers, but impossible for others.**

After reading our article on verse 5, many are likely to exclaim: We cannot be thinking of heavenly things all the time, we have our daily duties to attend to here on earth: the only way we could reach the standard of verse 5 would be by entering a monastery or convent, entirely secluding ourselves from the world; and surely God does not require this of us. No, indeed; that was the great mistake of the "Dark Ages."

*"By faith Noah being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house." This gives us the other side of verse 5. It shows that we have duties to perform on earth, and intimates how they are to be discharged—by faith, in the fear of God, implicitly obeying His commands. And more: our present verse insists on the fact (now so little apprehended) that, the performing these duties, the rendering of faith's obedience to God, is indispensably necessary to our very salvation. The "salvation" of the soul is yet future: note "saving" and not "salvation" in [Hebrews 10:39](#), and also compare [1 Peter 1:5](#). In order to be saved from the destructive power of sin, the ruinous allurements of the world, and the devouring assaults of Satan, we must tread the path of obedience to Christ ([Heb. 5:9](#)), for only there do we escape these fatal foes. Let the reader prayerfully ponder [Mark 9:43-50](#); [Luke 14:26, 27, 33](#); [Romans 8:13](#); [1 Corinthians 9:27](#); [Colossians 3:5](#); [Hebrews 3:12, 14](#).*

**Hebrews 11:5 and 7 supplement each other.**

*Verse 5 shows us that by the exercise of faith our affections are elevated above the earth and set upon things above. Verse 7 teaches us that our lives on earth are to be regulated by heavenly principles.*

*The real Christian is a heavenly man living on earth as a heavenly man; that is to say,*

*he is governed by spiritual and Divine principles, and not by fleshly motives and worldly interests.*

The Christian performs many of the same deeds as the non-Christian does, yet with a far different object and aim. All that I do should be done in obedience to God, in joyous response to His revealed will.

Let us be specific and come to details. Let the Christian wife read [Ephesians 5:22-24](#) and the husband [5:25-31](#), and let each recognize that in obeying the husband and loving the wife, they are *obeying God*. Let Christian employees ponder [Ephesians 6:5-7](#), and recognize that in obeying their masters they are obeying the Lord; contrariwise, in sulking or speaking against them, they murmur against the Lord!

*Now such obedience to God's commandments in the ordinary relationships of life are necessary unto salvation. If this staggers the reader, let him contemplate the opposite. Those precepts and commands have been given us by God, and to disregard them is rebellion, and*

*to refuse compliance is defiance; and no rebel against God can enter Heaven. Unless our wills have been broken, unless our hearts have been brought into subjection to God, we have no scriptural warrant for concluding that He has begun a good work in us (Phil. 1:6). "He that saith I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:4). The only path which leads*

*to heaven is that of walking in obedience to God's commands.*

Now the salvation of the soul lies at the end of that path. Does the reader exclaim, I thought it was at the beginning of it, and that none but a regenerate person could or would walk therein. From one standpoint that is quite true. When genuinely converted a sinner *is* saved from the eternal penalty of his sins, and *is* "delivered from the wrath to come." But is he there and then removed to Heaven? With very rare exceptions he is not. Instead, God leaves him here in this world. And this world is the place of danger, for temptations to return unto its ways and pleasures abound on every side. Moreover, the judgment of God hangs over it, and one day will

burst upon and consume it. And **who will escape that destruction?**  
**Only those who, like Noah, have a faith which is moved with fear and produces obedience.**

But it is now high time that we considered more closely the details of verse 7.

*"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house."* Ah, here is the key to our verse, hung right upon the very door of it. Like every other one of God's elect...

**Noah was saved by grace through faith; and yet not by a faith that was inactive—[Ephesians 2:10](#) follows verse 9!**

*Faith was the spring of all his works: a faith which was far more than an intellectual assent, one which was a supernatural principle that sovereign grace had wrought in him.*

*God had determined to send a flood and destroy the wicked world, but ere doing so, He acquainted Noah with His purpose. He has done the same with us: see Romans 1:18. That Divine warning was the ground of Noah's faith.*

He argued not, nor reasoned about its incredibility; instead, he believed God. The *threatening*, as well as the promise of God, is the object of faith; the justice of God is to be eyed, as well as His mercy!

[What's the difference between a warning & a threat? Answer: the heart. – JDP ]

Human reason was altogether opposed unto what God had made known to Noah. Hitherto there had been no rain ([Gen. 2:6](#)), then why expect an overwhelming deluge? It seemed utterly unlikely God would destroy the whole human race, and His mercy be thus utterly swallowed up by His avenging justice. The threatening judgment was a long way off (120 years: [Genesis 6:3](#)), and during that time the world might well repent and reform. When he preached to men ([2 Pet. 2:5](#)) none believed his message: why then should he be so fearful, when every one else was at ease? To build an ark of such huge dimensions was an enormous undertaking, and, as well, would involve the scoffs of all his fellows. And even if the flood came, how could the ark float with such an immensely heavy burden—it had no anchor to stay her, no mast and sail to steady her, no steering-wheel to direct. **Was it not quite impracticable, for Noah was quite inexperienced nautically. Moreover, for him and his family to dwell for an indefinite period in a sealed ark was far from a pleasant prospect unto the flesh and blood. But against all these carnal objections faith offered a steady resistance, and *believed God!***

***"Moved with fear."*** This evidenced the reality and power of his faith, for saving faith not only "worketh by love" ([Gal. 5:6](#)), but in "fear and trembling" ([Phil. 2:12](#)).

## *Reverential awe of God is fruit of saving faith.*

That "fear" acted as a salutary impetus in Noah and operated as a powerful motive in his building of the ark. "His believing the word of God, had this effect on him... a reverential fear it is of God's threatenings, and not an anxious solicitous fear of the evil threatened. In the warning given him, he considered the greatness, the holiness, and the power of God, with the vengeance becoming those holy properties of His nature, which He threatened to bring on the world. Seeing God by faith under this representation of Him, he was filled with a reverential fear of Him. See Habakuk [3:16](#), [Psalm 119:120](#), [Malachi 2:5](#)" (John Owen).

"Prepared an ark to the saving of his house." As [Matthew Henry says](#), *"Faith first influences our affections and then our actions."*

*"Faith without works is dead"* ([James 2:20](#)), particularly works of obedience.

"Thus did Noah: according to all that God commanded him, so did he" ([Gen. 6:22](#)). Privilege and duty are inseparably connected, yet duty will never be performed where faith is absent. Faith in Noah caused him to persevere in his arduous labors amid many difficulties and discouragements. Thus his building of the ark was the work of faith and patience, a labor of Godly fear, an act of obedience, a means to his preservation—for God's covenant with him ([Gen. 6:18](#)) did not preclude his diligent use of means; and a type of Christ. As it was by faith-obedience he prepared the ark, so by faith's obedience came the "saving of his house."

## *God always honors those who honor Him.*

This temporal salvation was a figure of the eternal salvation unto which we are pressing forward for note that the destruction of the and-deluvians was an *eternal* one—for their spirits are now "in prison" ([1 Pet. 3:19](#))! ***Observe it is our responsibility to seek after our own salvation and those committed to us: see [Acts 2:40](#), [2 Timothy 4:16](#).***

"By the which he condemned the world." The reference is to all that precedes.

*By his own example, by his faith in God's warning, his reverential awe of God's holiness and justice, his implicit and unflagging obedience in preparing the ark, Noah "condemned" the unbelieving, unconcerned, godless people all around him.*

One man is said to "condemn," another when, by his godly actions, he shows what the other should do, and which by doing not, his guilt is aggravated; see [Matthew 12:41, 42](#). The Sabbath-keeper "condemns" the Sabbath-breaker.

*He who abandons a worldly church and goes forth unto Christ outside the cultural camp, "condemns" the compromiser. Noah's diligent and costly*

*labors increased the  
guilt of the careless,  
who rested in a false  
security. Though we  
cannot convert the  
wicked, yet we must be  
careful to set before  
them such an example  
of personal piety that  
they are left "without  
excuse."*

*"And became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."* The "righteousness" here referred to is that perfect obedience of Christ which God imputes unto all who savingly believe on His Son: [Jeremiah 23:6](#), [Romans 5:19](#), [2 Corinthians 5:21](#).

This righteousness is sometimes called, absolutely, the "righteousness of God" ([Rom. 1:17](#), etc.), sometimes the "gift of righteousness... by one, Jesus Christ" ([Rom. 5:17](#)), sometimes "the righteousness which is of God by faith" ([Phil. 3:9](#)); in all of which our free and gratuitous justification by the righteousness of Christ reckoned to our account through faith, is intended.

In saying that Noah "became heir" of this righteousness, there may be a double significance. First, by faith's obedience he *evidenced himself to be* a justified man ([Gen. 6:9](#)), as Abraham did when he offered up Isaac ([James 2:21](#)). Second, he *established his title* to that righteousness which is here spoken of as an "inheritance": this is in contrast from Esau who despised his.

**That righteousness which Christ purchased for His people is here denominated an "inheritance," to emphasize the dignity and excellency of it, to magnify the freeness of its tenure, to declare the certainty and inviolability of it.**

The actual entrance upon our Inheritance is yet future. "That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the *hope of eternal life*" ([Titus 3:7](#)). **The great question for each of us to settle is, Am I an "heir"? To help us do so, let me inquire, Have I the *spirit* of one? Is my main care to make sure that I have *the birthright*? Am I putting the claims of God and His righteousness ([Matthew 6:33](#)) above everything else? Have I such thoughts of the blessedness of my portion in Christ that nothing can induce me to sell or part with it ([Heb. 12:16](#))? Is my heart wrapped up in that inheritance so that I am groaning within myself, "waiting for the adoption" ([Rom. 8:23](#))?**

**Am I walking by faith, with the fear of God upon me, diligently attending to His commandments, thereby condemning the world? If so, thrice blessed am I: and soon shall I be saved "to sin no more."**

## 5 Lessons from the Story of Noah that We Still Need Today

By Bobbie Schaeperkoetter

*“And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him. And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood.” [Genesis 7:5,7](#)*

If you aren’t convinced that God’s word still matters to you in your life today, let’s go straight back to one of the oldest accounts in the [Bible](#), the story of Noah and the ark, and see if it’s truths stand the test of time. You are going to be shocked at how the living, breathing Word of God can speak into your life today.

### **1. We can grieve the heart of God with our sin.**

God is a good Father and He loves His children. Just like any good Father, our disobedience and sin grieve the heart of our Heavenly Father. In Noah’s days, the people were so sinful that God’s heart was deeply grieved. God was grieved by sin then and He’s grieved by our sin now. He can’t just ignore it because He is a holy and righteous God.

*“The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.” [Genesis 6:5-6](#)*

\*\*\* The author’s 2<sup>nd</sup> point was invalid & thus removed. – JDP

### **3. We will not always understand God and His ways, but we can trust Him.**

God had an eternal plan in mind. He knew the sinful state of the world was self-destructive and loved the world enough to intervene.

His plan ultimately provided a way for you and me to come to salvation. God sees the bigger picture, so we must trust Him even when we don’t understand His ways.

In [Isaiah 55:8-9](#) we are reminded that God says, *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

#### **4. We can obey God even if the world thinks we are crazy.**

Speaking of things that are hard to understand, Noah must have faced lots of opposition. People must have been unkind and laughed as he built a massive ark when it had never rained like God told Noah that it would. Yet, Noah obeyed and held fast to what he knew was right, and God rewarded his obedience.

Sometimes obeying God means believing and doing things that the world won't understand, but we know that God honors our obedience to him.

*“And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him. And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood.”* **Genesis 7:5,7**

#### **5. All things are possible with God.**

As Christians, we believe that the Bible is 100 percent true, and that means that we believe in a flood that covered the whole earth. We believe in a God that warned, instructed, and protected Noah and his family and loved creation enough to send animals into the ark to protect them.

God is able to do far above what we know, expect, and even understand. That was true of Him then and it's still true of Him today. He did it in Noah's situation and He can do it in yours.

As if there weren't proof enough, [Ephesians 3:20-21](#) reminds us of that truth. It says that He “is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.”

*This devotional was taken in part from [10 Theological Truths from the Story of Noah \(That Still Matter Today\)](#).*

## **1. Noah - Walking in Obedience**

The story of Noah and the Flood is a well-known Bible story. Children's nurseries are decorated with a Noah's ark theme. Artists craft wooden arks with pairs of animals and Noah standing on the deck. Paintings and pieces of jewelry also depict this biblical narrative. Since this story is so familiar, a visual image probably comes to mind when Noah is mentioned.

As we look at the story in more detail, refine that image and at the same time try to put yourself in the story. Narratives are meant to be experienced, not merely studied. Imagine the sounds of building and the smell of freshly cut wood as Noah built what God had designed. Try to imagine what it would be like to be married to Noah. Would your faith be as strong as his was?

### **Conditions on the earth before the Flood.**

Read [Genesis 6:1-22](#)

1. Why was the Lord grieved as He considers the condition of the people on the earth? (v.5-6) What did He determine to do? (v.7)
2. The word “but” in v.8 introduces a contrast. Against the backdrop of the wickedness of the world, how is Noah described? (v.9)
3. What words does the author use to describe the earth in v.11-12? Notice that one word is used repeatedly. What is it?
4. What did God tell Noah to do? How specific were His building plans? (v.13-16) How large was the ark?
5. Why did God bring the Flood upon the earth? (v.17)
6. Notice in v.18 the word “but” which introduces another contrast. Although God was going to destroy the earth and its inhabitants, what did He promise Noah and his family? (v.18)
7. What would Noah take on the ark according to v.19-21? How did Noah respond to God’s instructions? (v.22)
8. How would you describe the world we live in today? Could you use any of the same descriptions that are used in this passage?
9. Could that description of the world today be followed by the contrast made in verse 8? In other words, could someone describe the world situation today and then follow it with the words “but (fill in your name here)?” Are you an exception to the rule of what the world

thinks about, values, and pursues? [Are you willing to be different or do you just want to fit in with the rest of the world?](#)

*Fearing people is a dangerous trap,  
but to trust the Lord means safety.*

[Proverbs 29:25](#) NLT

Read [Genesis 7](#) and [8](#). As you read, notice the answers to the questions who, what, where, when, why, and how. Also read [Genesis 9:8-17](#) to see the significance of the rainbow.

1. Write a summary of the Flood narrative for a newspaper article a few years after the Flood. Write a creative headline and then report the story as it might appear on the front page of the *Biblical Times*.

OR

2. Write out the story of the Flood as you would tell it to your child or grandchild who is a pre-schooler. Begin your story with “A long, long time ago” or “In the days of the Bible” as opposed to “Once upon a time.” This will help a young child distinguish it from a fairy tale or from a story that is merely a story and not a historical fact. In your summary, you might want to include answers to questions like these.

How old was Noah when the Flood occurred?

How many people survived the Flood?

Who closed the door when the Flood was about to begin?

Was the Flood caused only by rain?

How long did it flood?

What animals helped Noah know when it was time to leave the ark?

What was the first thing Noah did after he left the ark?

## Journey through the Principle:

*Noah was a righteous person who followed God and obeyed Him in a world where everyone else was being disobedient.* Noah was able to stand for righteousness in a wicked, corrupt culture.

**1. Try to put yourself in Noah's place (or in Mrs. Noah's place). How do you think you would feel being married to someone who was building a boat the size of a small two or three story building? Would you be thrilled to know that your husband stood for righteousness and obedience or would you wish he were "normal"?**

2. Is Noah's example one we can follow? Look up the following verses and observe what Scripture says about being different, being obedient, and not blending in with the world system. Write out a command or principle you discover in each verse.

[Matthew 5:16](#)

[Philippians 2:14-16](#)

[1 Peter 2:11-12](#)

[Romans 12:2](#)

## Walk It Out in Life:

What can we, as women (and men) in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, learn from the example of Noah and his family? As I reflected on Noah's example of obedience, I thought about the things God has told me to do. To walk with God I need to obey Him. I need to be "light" in a dark world. I need to submit to my husband. I need to rear my children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Although God has not asked me to build an ark, He has asked me to do something that is very challenging. He has asked me to be faithful day by day in being a godly wife. He has asked me to persevere and to trust Him as a godly mother. How many times have I wanted a place to escape to in order to take a break from the responsibilities of being a wife and mother! Being obedient and faithful is a daily commitment. Although the greatest joys in my life have been derived from these two roles, some days I was just hanging in there without much joy.

I remember when our sons were young—three years old and a baby. The youngest son had ear infections—two by the time he was a month old and many more to follow. When his

ears hurt, he cried. He didn't sleep. I didn't sleep. Are you getting the picture? One day my husband came home at lunch time and I was still in my robe. I hadn't put on any makeup and I was pretty discouraged. My three-year-old son informed my husband that I was going to the "funny farm" because I had told him that in my great frustration. I remember telling the Lord one day that if He would tell me how long this would last that I could make it. I just needed a timetable. Two weeks. Two months. Six months. (I didn't go into years in my discussion). Almost as soon as that thought was expressed, I sensed the Holy Spirit reminding me that there was no timetable. I could not check days off the calendar and know that there was an end in sight. I would have to trust God. I would have to faithfully obey Him even when I didn't feel like it and even when I was extremely tired.

**Will you choose to obey God in whatever He has called you to do? Will you follow Him instead of following and conforming to the world's standards? (Note: being countercultural may cause you to live differently from the church subculture, also.)**

To walk with God, we must obey Him.

Otherwise, we depart from His path for our lives.

**Write a prayer of commitment to the Lord expressing your desire to obey Him.**

### **Walk It Out in Parenting:**

Just as Noah was obedient to God in a wicked world, we are called to be obedient in the world in which we live. Not only do we as women want to stay on the right path, we also want our children to be obedient. A pressing concern for moms is that their children are being negatively influenced by peer pressure. Although we want our children to stand up to peer pressure, we often face the same temptation of wanting to fit in, to be like everyone else. Are you willing to be God's person even if it means you will differ from the world? What if doing right means you don't fit in very well, even with other Christians? Let's look at the book of Proverbs to see what it has to say about peer pressure.

1. Read [Proverbs 1:10-19](#).

A. What specific negative commands ("do not") does the father give?

B. Do you think it would be beneficial to help your children "pre-think" possible situations where they might be pressured to go against what they have been taught?

C. Notice that the father even gives a dialogue that might take place when someone might try to pressure his son into doing wrong.

2. Look up the following verses to see some kinds of people both we and our children should avoid as companions.

[Proverbs 13:20](#); 14:7; 20:19; 22:24-25

### Hold His Hand

We saw in Proverbs some specific things we can do to help both us and our children remain obedient to God. Another key to being obedient is found in knowing the character of the One who has called us to be obedient. Although Noah does not make a verbal declaration about what he believes about the LORD, the narrator tells us something about God's character – something which Noah would experience and something we can experience as we are obedient to God.

In [Genesis 8:1](#), we read that although the water had prevailed for 150 days, “God remembered Noah...” As you look around and as you observe the world we live in, do you need to be reminded that God has not forgotten His promises? Not only has God not forgotten His promises, but He also has not forgotten His children. God not only remembered Noah, He also remembers you. Regardless of how desperate the situation seems, God remembers His children. Knowing that He is the God who remembers can encourage you to be obedient to Him, especially when it is difficult.

Recall that God did not deliver Noah *from* the Flood but *through* the Flood. Have you asked God to deliver you *out of* a situation? I certainly have. Perhaps God wants to bring you *through* the trial rather than deliver you out of the trial. Knowing God and knowing who He is brings great encouragement in difficult times. Kidner states that “when the Old Testament says *God remembered*, it combines the ideas of faithful love and timely intervention.”<sup>4</sup>

**Do you need to call on the God who remembers as you strive to obey Him? Will you choose to thank Him today for His faithful love and timely intervention in your life?**

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<sup>4</sup>Derek Kidner. *Genesis: An Introduction and Commentary*. (Leicester: Inter-Varsity, 1967), 92

## 2: Noah - Hebrews 11:7

**Reflection:** What aspect or lesson from last week's study or lecture most encouraged or challenged you? Why?

Noah was warned by God about things never before seen. Noah's obedient faith is recorded, and he is remembered by God as an heir of righteousness. Pray for the Lord to enable you to emulate the faith of Noah in your circumstances this week.

### Obedience:

**Obedience** is pictured with two different words. First, [Gk *hupokoe*—a compound word meaning “under” and “to hear”] obedience is a prompt response to hearing an instruction or command. Second, [Gk *hupotasso*— a compound word meaning “under” and “to order”] obedience is submission to authority, as is evidenced in the military. **Faith dwells in the inner heart, but obedience is the multifaceted observable external manifestation of faith.** Steadfast obedience over time within difficult and incomprehensible circumstances, despite the opposition and rejection of others, follows the example of Christ and will ultimately result in incredible blessings from God.

*True faith steadfastly obeys God!*

Read [Hebrews 11:7](#) and [Genesis 6–9](#).

1. Describe the moral conditions of the world at the time of the flood ([Gen. 6:1, 5, 11, 12](#)).

Why did Noah find favor with God? ([Gen. 5:22; 6:9](#))

2. What word would you use to explain *walk with God*?

A. Use a concordance to look up the word *walk*, especially in the NT. Make a list of what is required to walk with God.

B. What additional insights do you gain from any of the cross-references on steadfast obedience in the Optional Studies for Personal Enrichment?

3. What were some of the things *not yet seen* ([Heb.11:7](#)) that Noah believed? (See [Gen. 2:5](#))
4. How did Noah demonstrate that he believed God? ([Gen. 6:22; 7:5](#)) If living by faith leads to perseverance, use your imagination to describe what Noah must have endured while building the ark ([2 Pet. 2:5](#)). How do you think he was affected socially, emotionally and materially because of his obedience?
5. Note how literally God's Word came true regarding judgment for sin and the adequacy of His provision for Noah's deliverance. Does this cast any light on the literalness of verses like [John 3:36](#)?
6. Jesus Christ used the *days of Noah* to describe the time of His second coming ([Matt. 24:36-42, Luke 17:26-27](#)). What similarities do you see in our world today? How does Christ's mention of Noah validate the flood?
7. [Romans 1:16, 17](#) describe the righteousness that comes by faith.

A. What was the content of Noah's faith?

What is the content of ours? (1 Cor. 15:3, 4)

Is there any similarity?

B. What additional insights do you gain from any of the cross-references on becoming an heir of righteousness in the Optional Studies for Personal Enrichment?

8. What do you learn about God's character from reading [Genesis 6-9](#)?

### Application Questions for Discussion

1. Can you think of one area in your life where you are not walking with God by faith?

A. Can you find a verse of Scripture to help you?

B. What will you do to get on track?

C. Why not start by memorizing the verse!

2. Do you suffer socially in your family, friendships, or work relationships because you are a believer? Does this sometimes make you want to "cool it"?

3. How can Noah's example encourage us to persevere when we seem to be standing alone? Write down specific observations and apply them personally.

4. When you see a rainbow, do you remember what it represents ([Gen. 9:14-16](#))? How would remembering this strengthen your faith?

A. What kinds of things can we have and do as *memorials* to God's faithfulness to us?

B. How would this help us in teaching our children about God? (See Exodus 13:3-10)

5. What one insight or lesson do you hope to remember from your study of Noah's obedient faith? Write it below to share it...

### NOAH—[HEBREWS 11:7](#)

Noah obeyed God faithfully for 120 years—building an ark many miles from the nearest body of water, warning others about a worldwide flood—and his steadfast obedience was rewarded by being proclaimed an heir of righteousness. Utilize your word-study tools to examine the meaning of the following words, and list the insights you learn from the related scriptural cross-references. How do these insights enhance your understanding of the response of faith in steadfast obedience and the reward of faith of being an heir of righteousness?

### RESPONSE OF FAITH: STEADFAST OBEDIENCE

Prepared [[Heb. 11:7](#)]

[2 Tim. 2:21](#)

[Eph. 2:8-10](#)

[1 Cor. 2:9](#)

[Heb. 11:16](#)

Condemned [[Heb. 11:7](#)]

[John 3:17](#)

[John 16:8](#)

[1 John 3:20-21](#)

[Rom. 8:1](#)

### REWARD OF FAITH: HEIR OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Heir [[Heb. 11:7](#)]

[Heb. 1:2](#)

[Heb. 1:14](#)

[Rom. 8:16-17](#)

[Gal. 3:29](#)

[Gal. 4:7](#)

Righteous [[Heb. 11:7](#)]

[Matt. 5:10](#)

[Matt. 5:20](#)

[Matt. 6:33](#)

[2 Cor. 5:21](#)

How are you seeking His righteousness?

### **3. Noah, The Man Who Stood Alone**

What do you think of when you see a rainbow? Is it the “pot of gold” at the end? Is it the sunshine and rain and beautiful colors? Or does it remind you of God’s covenant with Noah?

Noah was a man who stood alone in a godless culture, a man whom God chose to be the father of the “new world,” a man who found favor in God’s sight, a man who walked with God. He was most likely ridiculed for building the ark, especially since it had not rained before. Can you imagine what people must have thought about Noah? We don’t know all that went through Noah’s mind, but we do know that he was faithful to do what God asked of him. By faith, he stood alone in obedience to God and refused to listen to the world. How would you have responded in that situation? My prayer for you as you study the life of Noah is that you would be encouraged to stand firm for Christ, regardless of what the world is saying around you.

*“Lord, open my heart. Take away the distractions that so easily hinder me from focusing on your Word. Teach me fresh truths from the story of Noah. Help me focus on you and not on the world around me.”*

## DAY 1: Noah's Reverence

### LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD

#### [HEBREWS 11:7](#)

1. Noah built an ark in "reverence" (NASB) or "holy fear" (NIV). What is involved in being reverent?
2. Why would reverence or holy fear be necessary to carry out the task that God had given Noah? In other words, why is reverence necessary for obedience?
3. What three things were evidence of Noah's faith?
4. How did Noah's faith condemn the world?

### LOOKING UPWARD

5. What is the relationship between faith and reverence?
6. In what ways do you show reverence to God?

### LOOKING DEEPER

- Continuing to look at [Hebrews 11:7](#), what does the author mean when he says that Noah "became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith" (NIV)?
- What is the opposite of "righteousness that comes by faith"?
- What insight does [Romans 9:30-33](#) give concerning righteousness by faith?

### LOOKING REFLECTIVELY

***"The life of faith is not a life of mounting up with wings, but a life of walking and not fainting... Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading."*** – Oswald Chambers

- When God leads you to step out in faith and obedience, what questions run through your mind? How do you respond?

- o Do you have an attitude of reverence toward God? If not, why?

## DAY 2: Man's Corruption

### LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD

#### [GENESIS 6:1-12](#)

1. Describe the moral climate of the earth at this time.
2. Verses 1-4 are highly debated concerning the interpretation of the "sons of God" and the "daughters of men." (You will have the opportunity to look at this further under "Looking Deeper.") Regardless of how you interpret these phrases, we know that their intermarriage displeased God greatly. Describe God's response to the moral climate of the culture at that time.
3. How does [Matthew 24:37-39](#) compare the time of the coming of Christ with the situation in Noah's day?
4. Describe how Noah's life contrasted with the "world" at that time.
5. In [Genesis 6:3](#), God told Noah that man's days would be 120 years. What did He mean by this? Why would God give a timeframe?

### LOOKING UPWARD

6. God was grieved by what He saw in Noah's day. We are told in [Ephesians 4:30](#), "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God." How do we grieve the Spirit of God today?

### LOOKING DEEPER

- o Using a Study Bible or Commentary, look at the different interpretations of the "sons of God" and "daughters of men."
- o Who are the "mighty men of old, men of renown" referred to in verse 4?

### LOOKING REFLECTIVELY

*"True faith involves the whole of the inner person: the mind understands God's warning, the heart fears for what is coming, and the will acts in obedience to God's Word."*

**True faith is found in the biblical "following"  
of one's Head, Heart, & Hands! - JDP**

- How does today's moral climate compare to Noah's day? How does it impact your life? Has your heart become apathetic or complacent toward God and the consequences of sin?
- Have you grieved God's heart in any way recently? If so, how and why? What has been the result?

### DAY 3: God's Response

#### LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD

##### [GENESIS 6:13-22](#)

1. God chose to destroy the earth and all flesh with a flood. What are some possible reasons why He chose a flood over other ways to destroy the earth? (What insight might verse 17 give?)

2. Read the account of the flood in [Genesis 6:13-8:22](#). Note the literary structure of this passage.

**A** God resolves to \_\_\_\_\_ (6:13).

**B** Noah builds \_\_\_\_\_ according to God's instructions (6:14-22).

**C** God commands the remnant to \_\_\_\_\_ (7:1-9).

**D** The flood \_\_\_\_\_ (7:10-16).

**E** The flood \_\_\_\_\_ 150 days; water covers the mountains. (7:17-24).

**F** God \_\_\_\_\_ Noah (8:1a).

**E** The flood \_\_\_\_\_ 150 days; the mountains are visible (8:1b-5).

**D** The earth \_\_\_\_\_ (8:6-14).

**C** God commands the remnant to \_\_\_\_\_ (8:15-19).

**B** Noah builds \_\_\_\_\_ (8:20).

**A** God resolves not to \_\_\_\_\_ (8:21-22).<sup>3</sup>

3. What is the focal point of this structure and how does that encourage you?

#### LOOKING UPWARD

4. Is there a situation in your life where you feel that you are standing alone for God? How are you handling it?

5. In [Genesis 8](#), we see Noah's patience and waiting on God to leave the ark. In what areas do you struggle with waiting on God's timing in your life?

#### LOOKING DEEPER

- What are some indications from Scripture that this was a universal flood and not a local flood?
- According to [2 Peter 2:5](#), what did Noah do during the time he built the ark and waited for the flood to come?

#### LOOKING REFLECTIVELY

**In order to stand alone for God, you must know Him, trust Him, and walk with Him.**

- “Noah did according to all that the Lord had commanded him” ([Genesis 6:22; 7:5](#)). How would you evaluate your obedience to Christ?

#### DAY 4: Life After The Flood

#### LOOKING TO GOD’S WORD

##### [GENESIS 8:15-9:29](#)

1. What was the first act of Noah following the flood (8:20) and what was God’s response?
2. [Genesis 6:18](#) and 9:8-17 is the first mention of a Covenant in the Bible. What is the promise of the Noahic covenant?
3. Why is the sign of the rainbow appropriate for this specific covenant?
4. In [Genesis 9:20-28](#) we read about an occurrence in Noah’s life in the “new world.” How was sin still evident in life after the flood and why did Ham’s behavior bring such strong words from Noah?

**NOTE:** Noah’s words here have direct reference to the nature and destiny of the Canaanites, who would later be Israel’s antagonists.<sup>4</sup>

#### LOOKING UPWARD

5. How did life change for them after the flood?
6. What difference (if any) does the Noahic covenant make in your life, knowing that God will never again destroy the earth and all flesh with a flood?

#### LOOKING DEEPER

- In [Genesis 9:3](#), God gave Noah permission to eat animals but prohibited the eating of animal blood (v. 4). What are some possible reasons for this prohibition?

- In [Genesis 9:6](#), God told Noah, “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man.” What is the connection between the severity of punishment for murder and being made in the image of God?

#### LOOKING REFLECTIVELY

**God could have destroyed the earth and all flesh and ended everything then, but He gave us a second chance.**

- How do we compare today with the pre-flood generation?
- Take some time to reflect on all God has done for you.
- When is the last time you saw a rainbow? What did you think of?

#### DAY 5: God’s Character

#### LOOKING TO GOD’S WORD

1. As you review [Genesis 6-9](#), how do you see...

- God’s justice?
- God’s love?
- God’s patience?
- God’s faithfulness?

#### LOOKING UPWARD

2. How have you seen these attributes of God in your own life recently?

3. What are some lessons for life you can learn from the life of Noah?

#### LOOKING DEEPER

Note the parallels between the creation narrative and Noah’s story.

God’s action ([Gen. 2:7](#) and 7:23)

God’s blessing ([Gen. 1:28](#) and 9:1-2)

God’s prohibition ([Gen. 2:16](#) and 9:3-4)

God’s warning ([Gen. 2:17](#) and 9:5)

## LOOKING REFLECTIVELY

Noah, like Abel, had a righteous heart. Like Enoch, he walked with God. Noah was a man who was not influenced by the pull of the world, but listened to God's voice instead of man's voice. Even though he was not perfect, God still considered Noah a man of faith, worthy to be included in the chapter of faith in Hebrews. He obeyed God in the midst of a disobedient society, and he never wavered in his obedience to God's instructions. He is a great example to us of someone who stood alone for God.

- How are you doing in the area of standing firm regardless of what is going on around you?
- Can you tune out what the world is saying around you and listen foremost to what God is telling you? (Sometimes this may mean tuning out what other Christians are telling you to do when God is clearly leading you to take an unpopular stand.).

**“So stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.”**

### [Phil. 4:1](#)

**1** Barton, et al., *Life Application Bible Commentary on Hebrews* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1997), 182.

**2** Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary: Pentateuch* (Colorado Springs: Cook, 2001), 43.

**3** Allen P. Ross, “Genesis” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament* (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1985), 39.

**4** Ross, “Genesis,” 40-41.

## 4. Noah Listens to God (Genesis 6:9-8:22)

**Main Point:** God loves people and wants to rescue them.

### **Key Verse:**

The Lord is not slow to keep His promise. He is not slow in the way some people understand it. He is patient with you. He doesn't want anyone to be destroyed. Instead, He wants all people to turn away from their sins. - [2 Peter 3:9](#)

## Background

**Ask:** Who can tell me what this is? *Noah's Ark* **Say:** It's interesting that nearly everyone in the world could point to that picture and name it as Noah's Ark. It's so familiar and so well known. Nearly every tribe—even in remote areas—has a story about a worldwide flood. Anthropologists have collected between 250 and 300 such flood stories.

Because stories of Noah's Ark have been passed down in many different versions, it is actually rare to find people who know the TRUTH and the real message of the Ark. If you think you've heard this story 100 times, think again! God's Word is so rich and deep. The more we study the Bible, the more truth we learn from God.

**Ask:** Who were the first two people that God created? Adam and Eve. **Say:** Everyone in the world is a descendant of Adam and Eve. Noah came nine generations after Adam and Eve. You could say that Noah was the great, great, great, great, great, great, grandson of Adam and Eve. Let's learn more about Noah by turning to [Genesis 6:9](#).

## Noah

This is the account of Noah.

*Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.* Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. - [Genesis 6:9-10](#) NIV

**Ask:** What two words in that verse describe Noah? *Righteous & Blameless*. **Say:** Righteous means to be pure in heart in God's sight. Notice what else was said about Noah: He walked with God. WOW! In just one sentence, look what has been written about Noah! He was righteous, blameless, and a man who walked with God.

**Say:** What does it mean to walk with God? Think back to the beginning of Genesis when God created Adam and Eve and had sweet fellowship with them in the Garden of Eden. Every day, Adam and Eve walked with God in the cool of the day. Can you just imagine what it would be like to take a walk through a perfect garden with the Creator?

To walk with God doesn't just mean to walk physically beside God, but rather to be aware of His presence every moment in your life. Walking with God means listening to Him. Noah was obviously listening to God! **The Bible says that God promises to bless those who listen to God and walk in His ways (Proverbs 8:32, Psalm 128:1).**

It is very important to listen to God! Back in the Garden of Eden, God clearly told Adam and Eve that they could eat the fruit from every tree—except for one: The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God said that if they ate from that one tree, they would surely DIE! ([Genesis 2:16-17](#)) Satan, who came to Adam and Eve in the form of a snake, told them that God was lying, and if they ate from that tree, they would be like God ([Genesis 3:4](#)). Adam and Eve listened to Satan instead of listening to God. They chose to sin, and everything changed! ([Genesis 3:7](#))

When sin came into the world, things were no longer “good”. **Sin always spoils things**, and by Noah’s day, nine generations later, the world was in terrible shape!

*Now the earth was **corrupt** in God’s sight and was full of violence.* - [Genesis 6:11](#) NIV

**Ask:** What two words are used to describe the world? *Corrupt & Violent* **Say:** This means that the earth was very sinful in God’s eyes. It was full of mean and harmful acts. People were making many bad choices. Is that how God created our world to be, corrupt and full of violence? *No!* In Genesis chapter one, the Bible says that everything God created was GOOD. But here we are in Genesis chapter 6, and already God sees the earth as corrupt and full of violence.

*God saw how sinful the earth had become. All of the people on earth were leading very sinful lives.* - [Genesis 6:12](#)

**Say:** All the people had chosen to sin. They had ruined the good world God had created.

**Ask:** What are some ways that we can actually ruin our own lives? *Listen for answers*  
How would you describe our world today? How do you think God sees our world? *Listen for answers*

**Say:** While God saw the world as corrupt and full of violence, He saw Noah as a righteous and blameless man. Noah listened to God, and because he listened, God told him some BAD NEWS and then some GOOD NEWS:

**BAD NEWS:** God was going to send punishment to the earth.

*So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people. They have filled the earth with their harmful acts. You can be sure that I am going to destroy both them and the earth.”* - [Genesis 6:13](#)

*“I am going to bring a flood on the earth. It will destroy all life under the sky. It will destroy every living creature that breathes. Everything on earth will die.”* [Genesis 6:17](#)

PPT CUE

GOOD NEWS: God had a rescue plan! God gave Noah EXACT directions.

*“So make yourself an ark out of cypress wood. Make rooms in it. Cover it with tar inside and out. Here is how I want you to build it. The ark has to be 450 feet long. It has to be 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. Make a roof for it. Leave the sides of the ark open a foot and a half from the top. Put a door in one side of the ark. Make lower, middle, and upper decks. - [Genesis 6:14-16](#)*

*“But I will make my covenant with you. You will enter the ark. Your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives will enter it with you.*

*“Bring two of every living thing into the ark. Bring male and female of them into it. They will be kept alive with you. Two of every kind of bird will come to you. Two of every kind of animal will come to you. And two of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you. All of them will be kept alive with you.*

*“Take every kind of food that you will need. Store it away. It will be food for you and for them.” - [Genesis 6:18-21](#)*

**Say:** Notice that God said, two of every kind of bird **will come to you**. [Genesis 7:8-10](#) tells us that is exactly what happened! A male and a female of each animal **came to Noah** and entered the ark. The animals obeyed God! Everything happened exactly as God had commanded Noah. God ALWAYS keeps His promises! God sent a male and a female of each animal, so there would be a mommy and a daddy of each kind of animal. One day, they would have baby animals.

Isn't it interesting that Noah didn't have to figure out a way to get all those animals on the ark by himself? He didn't have to search for them or trap them or bring them in on a rope. **God** had those animals **come to Noah!** Think about that! When is the last time you saw that many animals willingly come to a person? It is not natural for animals to come, two by two, to a person—much less line up to get on a boat! God did a mighty miracle here!

**Say:** God gave Noah specific directions to follow while building the ark. God told Noah exactly how big it should be and what type of wood to use. God told Noah to cover it with tar to make it waterproof. God told Noah to bring food for his family and the animals. And God told Noah to make ONE door—and through that **ONE** door, all who entered would be saved.

The best part is that **Noah listened to God!** All throughout the Bible, we see that when disaster is about to happen, God always sends a warning. It took Noah 120 years to build this ark, and all the while, he was preaching God's truth to the people around him. The problem isn't that God didn't send a warning; the problem is that the people didn't listen. Noah's neighbors had 120 years to trust and believe in God, but they would not listen! Noah DID listen, and he followed the directions that God gave him.

PPT VERSE

*Noah did everything exactly as God commanded him. - [Genesis 6:22](#)*

**Say:** After Noah had followed all of God's instructions, and after the animals, Noah, and his family were safe in the Ark, GOD SHUT THE DOOR. And SEVEN DAYS later, it began to rain. **Ask:** Do you think it was hard for Noah and his family to stay in that ark for 7 days before the rain even began? *Yes, they probably wondered if it would ever rain.*

**Say:** Noah LISTENED to God; Noah TRUSTED God. When God said it was going to rain in 7 days, Noah BELIEVED God! This is what it means to have FAITH—to believe and trust what God says. ([Romans 10:17](#) says that faith comes by hearing, or listening.)

And think of this: it had never rained before! It may have seemed strange to Noah that God would tell him that big drops of water were going to fall from the sky. We see rain all the time, but Noah had NEVER seen rain before, and he was 600 years old! But whether Noah had seen rain or not, Noah chose to LISTEN TO GOD and to BELIEVE GOD!

**Application:** It is very important for us to listen to God as well! God may tell you to do something or to go somewhere. He may tell you to be kind to an unfriendly child at school. He may tell your parents that your family should move to a new city. It's very important that you listen to God and trust Him. Obeying God is the key to God's blessing in your life. [Luke 11:28](#) says, "Blessed are those who hear God's word and obey it."

**Ask:** What if Noah had not listened to God? *Noah and his family would have been destroyed in the flood. There would have been no more people!* **Say:** There would not have been "another chance" for mankind. Because Noah listened and obeyed, the human race could continue.

Then the rain began to fall.

*Rain fell on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. - [Genesis 7:12](#)*

*For 40 days the flood kept coming on the earth. As the waters rose higher, they lifted the ark high above the earth. The waters rose higher and higher on the earth. And the ark floated on the water.*

*The waters rose on the earth until all of the high mountains under the entire sky were covered. The waters continued to rise until they covered the mountains by more than 20 feet. Every living thing that moved on the earth died. The birds, the livestock and the wild animals died. All of the creatures that filled the earth also died. And so did every human being.*

*Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in it died. Every living thing on the earth was wiped out. People and animals were destroyed. The creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped out.*

*Everything was destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark were left.*

*The waters flooded the earth for 150 days. - [Genesis 7:17-24](#)*

**Say:** The waters flooded the earth for 150 days ([Genesis 7:24](#)) then went down over a few months. Five months after the flood began, the ark landed on the mountains of Ararat ([Genesis 8:4](#)). It took a long time for the waters to recede and for the ground to be dry enough to walk on. It was a little more than a year that Noah and his family spent on the ark. And when it was safe and God told them to leave, they got off the ark.

The earth and all its filth had been washed away by the big flood, and Noah and his family came out of the ark into a clean, brand new world with new life all around them!

Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark. Bring your wife and your sons and their wives with you.

*"Bring out every kind of living thing that is with you. Bring the birds, the animals, and all of the creatures that move along the ground. Then they can multiply on the earth. They can have little ones and increase their numbers."*

*So Noah came out of the ark. His sons and his wife and his sons' wives were with him. All of the animals came out of the ark. The creatures that move along the ground also came out. So did all of the birds. Everything that moves on the earth came out of the ark. One kind after another came out.*

*Then Noah built an altar to honor the Lord. He took some of all of the "clean" animals and birds. He sacrificed burnt offerings to the Lord on the altar.*

*Their smell was pleasant to the Lord. He said to Himself, "I will never put a curse on the ground again because of man. I will not do it even though his heart is always directed toward what is evil. His thoughts are evil from the time he is young. I will never destroy all living things again, as I have just done. - [Genesis 8:15-21](#)*

**Say:** God made a promise that He would never again destroy the earth with water. He set a rainbow in the clouds as a sign of His promise ([Genesis 9:12-17](#)). God told Noah and his sons to go out and have many children to fill the earth with people ([Genesis 9:1](#)).

Jesus: Our Rescue Plan

In the story of Noah, we see two very evident characteristics of God. God is **just** and God is **merciful**. These two characteristics may seem like opposites, but they are really not at all. They are much like two sides of the *same* coin.

First, God is **just**. Another word for just is fair. Like a good judge, He must punish sin. It would not be fair for a judge to allow someone to break the law and not punish him. In the same way, God must punish sin. But this does not make God happy. [Genesis 6:6](#) tells us that God's heart was filled with pain.

Secondly, God is **merciful**. This means He is compassionate and kind, not wanting to punish. God loves His people very much. Therefore, He had a rescue plan for Noah and his family. And, God allowed Noah to warn those around him for 120 years.

God never changes! He is still perfectly **just** and **merciful** today. He must still punish sin, but He has provided a rescue plan for all who will listen. The Bible says that each of us has sinned and will be punished for our sin ([Romans 3: 23, 2:23](#)). But, in His mercy, God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to become our substitute. When Jesus died on the cross, He met God's punishment requirement. All who place their trust in Jesus will be saved from eternal punishment, and given eternal life in God's kingdom ([John 3:16](#)). Just as there was only **one door** to enter the ark and be saved from destruction, trusting Jesus is the **only way** to enter God's kingdom and be saved from eternal punishment.

**Say:** God loves people. He wanted Noah's generation to listen to His Word and be rescued! There came a time, however, when it was too late. We can only imagine that when the rain started falling that the people suddenly wanted to listen, but at that point, it was too late. Just as God gave the people in Noah's day a lot of time to trust in Him, He has given you many opportunities to trust and believe. It is important to listen to God NOW - TODAY!

#### PPT MAIN POINT

**Main Point:** God loves people and wants to rescue them.

**Teacher Note:** We can see similarities in God's rescue plan for Noah, and His rescue plan for us.

**The door:** There was only one door on the ark. Anyone who trusted in the ark that God provided would enter through that door and be saved from the flood.

*Jesus said, "I am the Door. Anyone who goes in through Me will be saved from the punishment of sin." - [John 10:9a](#)*

**New Life:** When the waters receded and Noah's family came out of the ark, the sinful world they had left was washed away. They entered into a brand new world with new life budding all around them.

When Jesus died, was buried, and then rose from the dead, He took away the power of sin and death. Anyone who trusts in Him has a completely NEW LIFE! God has made a way for us to have a clean, brand new life in Him.

*Anyone who believes in Christ is a new creation. The old is gone! The new has come! - [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)*

**The Light:** God placed a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His promise that He would never flood the earth again. A rainbow is made from seven colors of light.

Jesus said, I am the LIGHT of the world ([John 8:12](#)). Even in the rainbow, we can remember that God keeps His promises and that Jesus is the LIGHT! Those 7 colors of light are ALWAYS in the same order: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, and Violet. God is orderly and deliberate in everything He does! We can always trust Him and depend on Him.  
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## Noah's Ark

Everything I Really Need to Know I Learned from Noah's Ark:

1. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
2. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone might ask you to do something Really big.
3. Don't listen to critics. Do what has to be done.
4. Build on the high ground.
5. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
6. Two heads are better than one.
7. Speed isn't always an advantage. The cheetahs were on board, but so were the snails.
8. If you can't fight or flee-float.
9. Take care of your animals as if they were the last ones on earth.
10. Don't forget that we're all in the same boat.
11. When the doo-doo gets really deep, don't sit there and complain-shovel!
12. Stay below deck during the storm.

13. Remember that the ark was built by amateurs and the Titanic was built by professionals.
14. If you have to start over, have a friend by your side.
15. Remember that the woodpeckers INSIDE are often a bigger threat than the storm outside.
16. No matter how bleak it looks, there's always a rainbow on the other side.
17. DON'T MISS THE BOAT !!!!

**Question: "What can we learn from the life of Noah?"**

**Answer:** We first hear about Noah in [Genesis 5](#), which begins with “this is the book of the generations of Adam.” This is a recurring phrase in Genesis, and chapter 5 details the godly line of Seth as opposed to the worldly line of Cain ([Genesis 4:17-24](#)). Assuming no generational breaks, Noah represents the tenth generation from Adam. The genealogical account of Noah reads, “When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. He named him Noah and said, ‘He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD has cursed’” ([Genesis 5:28-29](#)).

Right from the start, we see that Noah is going to be special as he is the only member of this genealogy whose name is explained. His father, Lamech, states that his son, Noah, will bring relief (“Noah” sounds like the Hebrew word for “rest or relief”). We learn quickly what Noah was to relieve them from in [Genesis 6:1-8](#), where we see the unfettered results of the fall as unrighteousness increases throughout the world. God indicts mankind with these words: “The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time” ([Genesis 6:5](#)). God determined to “wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them” ([Genesis 6:7](#)). Yet, even in this situation, there is hope: “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD” ([Genesis 6:8](#)). Despite the rampant wickedness that was increasing exponentially upon the earth, there is one man who stands out—a man whose life was characterized by the hand of God’s grace upon him. Noah found favor with the Lord. God was about to send judgment upon the world for its wickedness, but He extends His saving grace to Noah and his family.

[Genesis 6:9](#) marks the beginning of the flood narrative, and it is here that we learn the most about Noah's life. We learn that Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation, and that he walked with God. One can almost see a progression of spirituality in this description of Noah's life. By saying Noah was righteous, we know that he was obedient to God's commands (as best as he was able and understood them at that time). He was blameless in his generation, standing out among the people of his day. While they were engaging in debauchery, Noah was living an exemplary life. Finally, Noah walked with God, which puts him in the same class as his great grandfather, Enoch ([Genesis 5:24](#)); this implies not only an obedient life, but one that has a vibrant and intimate relationship with God.

We see Noah's obedient life demonstrated in his willingness to obey without question the Lord's commands regarding the ark ([Genesis 6:22](#); [7:5, 9](#); [8:18](#)). Consider that Noah and his generation more than likely had never seen rain before, yet God tells Noah to build a large seagoing vessel nowhere near a body of water. Noah's trust in God was such that he promptly obeyed. Noah's blameless life is made manifest as he obeys the Lord in light of the approaching day of wrath. The apostle Peter tells us that Noah was a "herald of righteousness" ([2 Peter 2:5](#)), and the author of Hebrews says that he "condemned the world" ([Hebrews 11:7](#)) through his righteous actions. Throughout the long delay of the coming judgment, Noah continued to faithfully obey the Lord. As evidence of his walk with God, after the flood, Noah built an altar and offered sacrifices to God ([Genesis 8:20](#)). Worship was a central part of Noah's life.

Aside from the flood narrative and the vignette of his drunkenness recorded in [Genesis 9:20-27](#), we don't know much about Noah's life. Surely, the drunkenness wasn't the only instance of impropriety in Noah's life. Like all of us, Noah was born with a sin nature. The episode of his drunkenness was included in the narrative, more than likely, to explain the animosity between the Canaanites and the Israelites. Despite this incident, we do see that Noah was revered as one of the few exceptionally righteous men in the history of God's people. Twice in [Ezekiel 14](#), God says through the prophet that even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were present in the land, God would not spare the people from judgment. That's some righteous company to be in (Daniel and Job). We also know that Noah is included as an example of faith in [Hebrews 11](#), another indication that Noah was considered a model of faithfulness and that he had the kind of faith that pleases God ([Hebrews 11:6](#)).

With all that said, what can we learn from the life of Noah? Practically speaking, Noah is an example of a life of faith. [Hebrews 11:7](#) says of Noah, "By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith." Noah didn't need to "test" God before going into action; God commanded, and he obeyed. This was typical of Noah's life. Noah was part of the godly line of Seth, of whom it was said, "At that time men began to call upon the name of the LORD" ([Genesis 4:26](#)). Noah was the result of generational obedience and faithfulness toward God. If we were to model our lives after Noah, there is no better rule to follow than

to be “righteous, blameless in our generation, and to walk with God.” In other words, be right with God, be right with others, and have a reverent and worshipful relationship with God. You can almost hear the words of Jesus echoing here when He responds to the lawyer’s question regarding the greatest commandment ([Matthew 22:37-39](#)).

Theologically speaking, we can also draw some lessons from Noah’s life. First and foremost, Noah’s life shows us the eternal truth that we are saved by grace through faith ([Ephesians 2:8](#)). Noah wasn’t an exemplary individual because he was somehow able to bypass the fallen sin nature we all possess. God’s grace was upon him, aside from which Noah would have perished with all of the other wicked sinners in the flood. Noah is also a prime example that God saves His elect. We see that God was patient concerning the coming judgment while Noah built the ark ([1 Peter 3:20](#); [2 Peter 2:5](#)). The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials. This truth is explicitly stated in [2 Peter 3:8-9](#), as we learn that the Lord will postpone final judgment until all of the elect reach repentance.

Finally, Noah’s life serves as a reminder that judgment on sin will come. The Day of the Lord will come ([2 Peter 3:10](#)). Jesus uses the life of Noah as a foreshadowing of what it will be like when the Son of Man returns in final judgment ([Matthew 24:37-38](#); [Luke 17:26-27](#)). As such, we need to follow Noah’s example and be a “herald of righteousness” and heed the words of Paul: “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God” ([2 Corinthians 5:20](#)). Like Noah, we are Christ’s ambassadors in these last days. God’s judgment is coming, but He offers reconciliation through Jesus Christ. We must take this message of reconciliation to others.

**Recommended Resource:** [The Great Lives from God's Word Series by Chuck Swindoll](#)

#### **MISC:**

#### **Context:**

11:1 = Word (definition & description of faith)

11:2 = Witness (family of faith)

11:3 = Worldview (fullness of faith)

11:4 = Worship (foundation of faith)

Abel’s worship talked & still does

11:5 = Walk-with/Witness of God (faithfulness of)

Enoch walked & talked  
11:6 = Won't/Without (force of faith)  
11:7 = Works (functionality of Faith)  
Noah worked & talked

\*\*\* Add "No matter what!" (Eagle) to Noah!

Work OF God vs. work FOR God...  
Of = you are surrendered  
For = you are the supervisor

Faith without Works is dead! - James

Reward: (it's more than a ticket...)

- "God's reward is NOT a ticket to heaven! It's NOT a self-centered, world-absorbing, faithless & flesh-satisfying, comfortable-couch for self-proclaimed lazy & lukewarm church-goers to relax on, as though it were promised to the spiritually superficial, and then set up in some privileged, emotionally soothing, candle-lit, religiously-decorated, waiting-room - or holding tank for heaven.

No.... NO! Never... Never. NEVER!

Instead... by contrast... STARK, ETERNAL contrast... God & His Word promises that restoration & redemption's reward is preparedness and a personal job to DO... you WILL, by His grace, PERSONALLY PARTICIPATE in God's perfect & prioritized plan to bring Him glory... by personally finding & personally growing more glorifiers (aka making disciples who make disciples who make disciples - Matthew 28:18-20 & 2 Timothy 2:2), locally, regionally, & globally (Acts 1:8 & Mark 16:15)... Amen! & AMEN." - JDP

- Think about it... Is it possible to give someone the gift of

enrollment & equipping... Could that be a gracious gift. Again, think about it... because said “gift” would come with responsibilities and accountabilities... Hence, grace works!

ie. I pull you into a lifeboat & show you how to help to pull others in...

- Work IS the blessing! - Ligonier Duncan!

Hebrews 11:6-7

\*\*\* Don't look at v.7 without v.6... in the same way that you cannot (rightly/righteously) look at chapter 11 without remembering that you are standing on the foundation of chapter 10. - JDP

Illustrate by reading v.7 alone, then with v.6  
Ditto... overview ch.11 alone, then after ch.10

Intro: Revisit the fact that the fall was the fruit of unfaithfulness... (see Hold On 37)

Making disciples worldwide is ark-building! -JDP

Noah (cf. Genesis 6:9!!! & 6:11!!!)

- Person (nothing special except his faith)
- Peaceful
- Purposeful (clarity, character & constructive)
- Poised (ready... with missional “margin”)
- Passionate (focused & faithfully obedient)
- Prepared (equipped &/or equipping)
- Proactive (like Jesus in Genesis James & Jude)
- Prioritized (1st things 1st... no dilly-dallying)
- Proclaimer/Preacher of righteousness

- Producer
- Persevered
- Proof

Witness to God  
Witness from God  
Witness of God

Look at Hebrews 11:7

Genesis  
Hebrews  
2 Peter 2:5ff  
Matthew

- Hearing
- Heeding
- Holy whole-heartedness!

“Pitch” = Great Word Study!

Ark & Gospel

- Salvation from damnation
- One door (cf. John 10)
- People:

Scoffers  
Skeptics  
Slippery  
Sold-out  
“Shut-in”

Shem defined = “name” or “renowned”

Ham defined = “hot”

Japheth defined = root meaning is “enlarged”

Key Contextual Scriptures:

- Genesis genealogies

Continuation of “foundations of faith/gospel”

Parallels to Enoch

List of names/meanings = Gospel

- Isaiah

- Matthew 24

- 2 Peter

CLOSE: = 2 Timothy 2:15... Eph. 2:8-10.... Romans 1:16-22!!!