

Noah: Obeying by Faith

Hebrews 11:7

“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; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”

INTRODUCTION:

- **Faith**
 - **Paul this whole chapter of his letter to address the subject of “faith”**
 - **These Hebrews had been so long caught into a religious system of works—where they felt that they had to keep certain rules and commandments to please God**
 - **And though they had been greatly exposed to the gospel**
 - **How that Jesus was the fulfillment of all the OT types and shadows**
 - **God verifying the message through signs and wonders and divers miracles**
 - **They were still clinging to the faith of their Old Life**
 - **And the main reason**

- **Was not that they were not convinced of the truths of Christ**
- **It’s that they weren’t willing to pay the high price to be a follower of Christ**
- **Even Jesus told His own disciples that the price would be high...**

Matthew 10:16-33—*“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. 17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; 18 and ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. 21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. 22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. 23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.”*

- **So Paul’s argument to these “On the Wall” Hebrews is that they don’t enter into this new covenant by a promise of obedience like they did with the Mosaic Covenant**

Exodus 19:4-6—“*Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles’ wings, and brought you unto myself. 5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.*”

- **It was covenant that they could never keep**
- **In fact, within a period of 40 days—they would be worshipping a golden calf—completely breaking the covenant that they made with God**
- **But in this new covenant—they don’t enter by their own deeds—but they enter by faith**
 - **Faith—not in themselves**
 - **Faith—not in someone’s made up opinion**
 - **Faith in Person and Work of Christ**
 - **Faith in His righteousness—apart from your own**
 - **Faith in His sacrifice—which paid our penalty for sin**
- **But faith in Christ doesn’t stop at salvation**
- **Paul is calling these Hebrews to enter into this Life of Faith**
- **Just like their forefather’s did**

- **They “by faith” looked to the coming Christ who would save them from their sins—and redeem them back to God**
- **And it was always demonstrated in their actions**

- **“By faith Abel offered unto God”**
- **“By faith Enoch ...pleased God”**
- **“By faith Abraham...obeyed”**
- **“By faith Abraham...offered up Isaac”**
- **“By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come”**
- **“By faith Moses... refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter”**
- **“By faith the harlot Rahab perished not”**

- **All of these saints of the past had put their trust in the true God of Israel—and his coming Messiah**
- **They were putting their faith in the “things hoped for”— and in the “things not seen”**
- **As mentioned before—all of these OT saints looked ahead by faith but “received not the promise”**
- **They never saw the promise of Christ**
- **come to pass in their lifetime**
- **The difference between these Hebrews of the OT—and the Hebrews that Paul is pleading is that they didn’t see the promises**

fulfilled—while the people that Paul is pleading with DID

- They had NO REASON not to put their trust in Christ—and begin a life of faith in Christ
 - They were eyewitnesses to these promises
- Paul, in our passage this morning gives us one of the greatest men of faith in all of the Bible—NOAH
 - He is going to show us how Noah demonstrated this kind of faith in his life
 - Faith in what God said—despite what men may have thought
 - Faith that saved his family—and 2 of every animal in the world
 - Faith that condemned the world to everlasting judgment
 - Faith that demonstrated that he was truly righteous

CIT: How Did Noah Demonstrate His Faith?

I. By Faith Noah Obeyed the Word of God (vs. 7a)—“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”

A. Noah’s Culture

1. The two lines: Cain and Seth

a. The book of Genesis shows how that the world—very shortly after the fall—began to be divided into two groups

i. The people of Cain—and the people of Seth

ii. After Cain slew his brother Abel the Scripture says that...

Genesis 4:16—“...Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.”

- Cain completely abandoned the Lord—and similar to Satan—went off to start his own family in opposition to God and his people
- And soon you see a whole lineage of people that come from the person of Cain
- That line represents the people of Satan

iii. Also, you’ll notice that another line rises up—that represents the people of God

Genesis 4:25-26—“*And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. 26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.*”

- In the stead of Abel—the one who was declared righteous by God—God raised up another man—who was the leader of those who “*called upon the name of the Lord*”
- The people of God

b. The prosperity of the wicked

- i.** One of the things the Moses makes note of in his writing is that the wicked seemed to be prosperous in that pre-flood world
- ii.** In Genesis 4 we are given just a little snippet of their worldly success

Genesis 4:17-24—“*And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch. 18 And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Methusael: and Methusael begat Lamech. 19 And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. 20 And*

Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle. 21 And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ. 22 And Zillah, she also bare Tubal-cain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah. 23 And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt. 24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.”

iii. But when you get into the line of the “*Sethites*” there’s no mention of the successes in this world

- It doesn’t mean that they didn’t have any success
- But it seems to make the point—that the people of God—those who were known for “*calling upon the name of the Lord*”—were not tied into the world, like the wicked were
- Their focus was upon the Lord

NOTE: I want to make a point. Lineage doesn’t guarantee spirituality. Just because you have people from one family line or the other doesn’t mean that they are locked into the spirituality of their forefathers. It’s very possible that some

of the line of Cain turned to God and vice versa for the line of Seth.

In fact, that seems to be what the text indicates—that wickedness was spreading rapidly over the earth. Soon, there were very few people who were calling upon the name of the Lord. Many were caught up in the wickedness of the world.

2. The wickedness of the world

- a. The wickedness of the world spread very quickly
- b. Genesis 6—God gives us a glimpse of how wicked man was becoming

Genesis 6:1-4—“*And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. 3 And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. 4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.*”

- i. Satan’s goal has always been to destroy man completely—to turn all of the human race against God

- ii. And the wickedness in men had become so rampant—that men literally were giving themselves over to demonic control
- iii. And it seems that they were convinced—that if they surrender to these demonic spirits—“*sons of God*”—that they could overcome the wrath of God that was promised to fall upon them
- iv. So you have “*the sons of God*”—through wicked men who have solicited them—marrying women—and raising up children completely given over to Satan
- v. And as a result you had these “*giants*” these “*mighty men*” these “*men of renown*”

NOTE: These aren’t cross breeds between men and fallen angels. God continually throughout the text calls them *men, flesh, man.*

The point is—that as a result of men’s wickedness—giving themselves completely over to Satan—that the world was becoming incredibly dark. And those in authority in that world—were men of great influence and power—persuading men to give themselves over to Satan’s power completely.

- vi. So the world that Noah lived in had become an incredibly wicked world

Genesis 6:5—“*And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*”

- The indication of that verse—is that the world had given themselves over to the complete control of Satan
- And they were beyond reconciliation
- God’s Spirit could not strive with them anymore

3. God’s patience being exhausted

vs. 6-7—“*And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7 And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.*”

- a. God’s broken heart over the wickedness of man
- b. God’s grief that He must judge man

NOTE: If someone ever gets the idea that God delights to judge the wicked—they need to read this verse again. God becomes incredibly grieved that He has to punish the wicked. So much so, that He said that He wished that He had not even created them.

Ezekiel 33:11—“*As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live*”

NOTE: It was in that wicked world that God called Noah to step out by faith.

B. God’ Man Noah

1. Noah’s standing with God

Vs. 7-8—“*And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*”

a. While there was a world that was completely given over to Satan—there was still one family that had not yet bowed the knee to the wickedness of the world

- i. Noah found “*grace in the eyes of the Lord*”
- ii. He was one of those Sethites that was a genuine follower of the Lord

2. God’s call upon Noah—“*being warned of God of things not seen as yet*”

Vs. 13-17—“*And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. 15 And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. 16 A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it. 17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.*”

a. The warning to Noah

- i.** The time for God to judge the world was near at hand
- ii.** The world was filled with violence
- iii.** The thoughts of men’s hearts were *only evil continually*
- iv.** Men were beyond the reach of God
- v.** God would be forced to judge the world—to stop the wickedness from completely taking over
- vi.** And the way He would do it—would be with the great Flood

- That would destroy all flesh off the face of the earth
- No living thing “*wherein is the breath of life*” would die
- Man and animals would die

QUESTION: *Now why is this a step of faith for Noah?*

“being warned of God of things not seen as yet”

The things that God warned Noah about had never been seen before.

b. The “things not yet seen”

i. There had never been a flood upon the earth before

- Even though the earth had been cursed—the world had not yet seen some of the natural disasters that we see today
- It wasn’t groaning and agonizing like it is today

ii. It hadn’t ever rained before upon the earth

iii. And the fountains of the deep (the waters under the earth) had never broken up and flooded the earth with water

iv. And it's possible—that Noah knew nothing about boat building

- And the boat that God tells Noah to build—will end up being—probably the biggest boat the world has ever seen
- Estimated to be 1 ½ football fields long and over 4 stories tall
- It is estimated that the total deck area would be around 96,000 square feet
- And the total volume that the ship could hold—1.3 million cubic feet
- Numbers are conservative (based upon the smallest measurement of the cubit)

v. It would take Noah over 100 years to build this ship

vi. And when God called Him—his sons (Shem, Ham, and Japheth) hadn't even been born yet

- So it's possible that the work—at least at its beginning—had only Noah
- He might have hired other men to help him—but consider—**none of these men ever believed**

3. Noah's response

Vs. 22—“*Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he*”

- a. It was a major step of faith—that would require the next 120 years of his life
- b. Noah's attitude

Hebrews 11:7a—“*By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, **moved with fear***”

- i. The word “*fear*” means reverence or respect
- ii. In other words—Noah's faith was motivated by a reverence and respect for God

- He feared God rather than men
- Jesus told His disciples whom He sent to preach the gospel—they were not to fear their enemies

Matthew 10:26-28—“***Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. 27 What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. 28 And fear not them which kill the***

body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

- That was what motivated Noah to obey by faith—it was a desire to honor God, and fear God—over wicked men of this world

4. The result of Noah’s faith

*“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**”*

a. Noah’s faith had real results

i. His faith—saved his family from the wrath of God

- Shem, Ham, Japheth, and their 3 wives
- And Noah’s wife

QUESTION: Someone may say, *“Why didn’t anyone else get saved from the wrath of God?”*

- Well, it wasn’t that Noah’s faith was hidden in some closet
- How are you going to hide a boat that is the size of 1 ½ football fields?
- No—his faith was very public

- **What it shows is that the world of Noah’s day was so corrupt that it was impossible for men to repent**
- **They were completely given over to Satan**

*“the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was **only evil continually.**”*

ii. But the amazing mark of Noah’s faith—was that **he saved his family**

- Despite all the wickedness around them—Noah was able to preserve that faith in his family
- To the saving of his house

NOTE: The sad thing in our time—that many men—whom God has trusted with children—are **LOSING THEIR CHILDREN TO THE WORLD.**

And thus they will lose them to God’s wrath.

Oh, let it never be said of any man in this room—that we didn’t have enough faith to save our family.

How Did Noah Demonstrate His Faith?

I. By Faith Noah Obeyed the Word of God—even when it was incredibly difficult to do

II. By Faith Noah Condemned the Wickedness of the World (vs. 7b)—“by the which he condemned the world”

A. Noah’s faith stood out in opposition to the World—and thus it Condemned the World

1. The Bible says that Noah was a “*Preacher of Righteousness*”

a. While Noah built this ark—that God had told him to build—he had a side job—*calling men to repentance*

b. For 120 years he called the people of that wicked world to repent of their sin and come into the ark and be saved from the wrath to come

i. And for 120 years no one listed

c. And you can guarantee that Noah faced harsh persecution and mockery for his faith

i. His family was the only family in the entire world that believed

ii. And every time Noah got up to preach—or he began to build upon the ark—he was saying to the world “**you are condemned**”

iii. People don’t like to be told they are condemned

iv. And especially in a world that was so given over to Satanic bondage

NOTE: Peter hints at some of the hardships Noah faced for his faith in that wicked world.

1 Peter 3:13-20—“*And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? 14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15 but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. 17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.*

18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 19 by which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; 20 which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”

NOTE: Notice that Peter—after he has been talking about being willing to suffer—he says Christ suffered, then he links it Noah who was “**saved by water.**”

Peter didn't say—he was saved by the ark—but by the water. The water saved him. From what? From the wickedness and persecution of that wicked world.

Noah suffered because of his faith. Why? Because he condemned the world **by his preaching**, and **by his building of the ark**.

2. The objection to preaching condemning messages

a. There are some people that object to preachers preaching harsh, condemning messages

- i. They say that the preacher shouldn't be so judgmental and harsh
- ii. He just needs to be loving and gracious
- iii. He shouldn't tell people about Hell, about their sin, about death

b. If a person is not persuaded that they are condemned already—they will not repent

- i. There is a need to tell people that they are lost and condemned
- ii. The scripture says that the devil had blinded the mind of those who are unbelievers
 - He's got them lulled to sleep
 - They don't know that they are in a dangerous position before God

- They don't know that the wrath of God abides upon them
- It's like they are in a house that is on fire—and they are asleep and don't even know it
- And too many Christians are too afraid to go and wake them up out of their sleep
- If they are never made aware of their condition before God—they will never be saved
- They will slip off into an eternal hell--asleep

c. Noah's faith condemned the world

- i. None of the people that knew of Noah—perished in the flood **in ignorance about their sin**
- ii. His life awoke everyone to their sinful condition before a Holy God
- iii. Any exposure to the person of Noah—made people aware of their sinfulness

NOTE: And it wasn't that Noah had a vengeful mean spirit—and wanted to make everyone feel guilty for the sake of feeling guilty. It was because he loved them. It was because he wanted them to be saved from the wrath to come. And the only way they could—was by repentance and trust in God's means of salvation—the ARK.

QUESTION: *Does your faith condemn the world? Or are you trying so hard to be like the world that no one knows any different?*

If no one knows any different—you REALLY DON'T LOVE PEOPLE?

THE ATHIST LETTER

Ray,

You are really convinced that you've got all the answers. You've really got yourself tricked into believing that you're 100% right. Well, let me tell you just one thing. Do you consider yourself to be compassionate of other humans? If you're right, as you say you are, and believe that, then how can you sleep at night? When you speak with me you are speaking with someone who you believe is walking directly into eternal damnation into an endless onslaught of horrendous pain which your 'loving' god created, yet you stand by and do nothing.

If you believe one bit that thousands every day were falling into an eternal and unreachable fate, you should be running the streets mad with rage at their blindness. That's equivalent to standing on a street corner and watching every person that passes you walk blindly directly into the path of a bus and die, yet you stand idly by and do nothing. You're just twiddling your thumbs, happy in the knowledge that one day that 'walk' signal will shine your way across the road.

Think about it. Imagine the horrors Hell must have in

store if the bible is true. You're just going to allow that to happen and not care about saving anyone but yourself? If you're right then you're an uncaring, unemotional and purely selfish (expletive) that has no right to talk about subjects such as love and caring.

James Franz

QUESTION: *Does your faith make lost people feel uncomfortable around you?*

Do you even have a desire to see people come to Christ?

Is your faith strong enough that you are willing to suffer persecution for it?

NOAH HAD SUCH FAITH

I. By Faith Noah Obeyed the Word of God—even when it was incredibly difficult to do

II. By Faith Noah Condemned the Wickedness of the World

III. By Faith Noah was Declared Righteous by God (vs. 7c)—“and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith”

A. Paul points us to Noah's righteousness

1. Noah was declared righteous because of faith

- a. Noah wasn't declared righteous the moment he stepped off the Ark into a new world
- b. Nor was he declared righteous the moment he put the last nail into the boat
- c. It wasn't his actions/works that saved him—it was his faith

- i. At some point in his earlier life—Noah came face-to-face with the reality that he was a sinner and that he needed the righteousness that only comes from God—because of the future work of the coming Messiah

- ii. He must have realized that God's wrath would soon come—and he needed to be ready before it was too late

- iii. And at that moment—he placed his faith in the coming Messiah—and was declared righteous

- iv. He became an heir of righteousness by faith

QUESTION: *How do we know that Noah's saving faith was real?*

The only way you can know

By his works

Noah's faith was demonstrated in his obedience to God's Word

And what faith it really was

Faith—that stood out in the midst of a wicked and perverse world

Faith that was willing to endure hardship—for righteousness sake

Faith that believed God—despite what reason and logic said

Faith that went against the grain of the culture

James 2:14-17—“*What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?*

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”

CONCLUSION:

I. By Faith Noah Obeyed the Word of God—even when it was incredibly difficult to do

II. By Faith Noah Condemned the Wickedness of the World

III. By Faith Noah was Declared Righteous by God

This is the kind of faith that Paul was calling these Hebrews to step out into

Do you have that kind of faith?