

The Faithfulness of Noah

Gen. 6:1-9:17

Introduction:

The story of the flood is a very familiar story to all who have grown up in the church. We have been told of it from the very beginning of our lives. We know, as we have read (Gen. 6:5-8), that there was great wickedness on the face of the earth. God is going to destroy the earth, but in the process, He is going to save Noah and his family.

There are many great lessons that we can learn from this story. Today, we will notice the story of Noah and look at three main lessons that we can learn from it.

I. God gives Noah very detailed commands and Noah obeys all of them.

- A. The command is given to Noah (6:14-22, esp. 22).
 1. Type of wood: gopherwood.
 2. Size of the ark (6:15)
 - a. 300 cubits long (450 ft.)
 - b. 50 cubits wide (75 ft.)
 - c. 30 cubits high (45 ft.)
 3. What animals to put in the ark
 - a. 7 each of the clean animals.
 - b. 2 each of the unclean animals.
 6. What humans were allowed on the ark (6:18, 7:7).
- B. Noah obeyed all the commands of the Lord (6:9, 22, fulfilled in 7:5, 7-9).
- C. Noah is faithful to those commands, and therefore he survives the flood.
 1. It was because of the faith of Noah that he obeyed these commands of God.
 2. Heb. 11:7 - By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

II. Notice some practical applications that we can learn from Noah.

- A. Even in a world in which there are few righteous people, we can still be faithful to God.
 1. Remember, God was going to destroy the world because man was evil (6:5-7).
 2. Even though Noah was surrounded by evil people, he was always faithful to God (6:8).
 - a. He obeyed in the type of wood and in the size of the ark.
 - b. He obeyed in taking the animals onto the ark with him.
 - c. He even obeyed in the people that he allowed on the ark with him.
 - d. It is because of the faith (and obedience because of his faith) of Noah that he was able to be saved.
 3. Today, we live in a world that is full of sin.

- a. **I Jn. 2:15-17** - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. {16} For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. {17} And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
 - b. **Js. 4:4** - Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
4. However, it is important for us to know that we can (and must) be different from the world.
- a. **Rom. 12:2** - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
 - b. If we are a disciple of Christ, we are sanctified (set apart).
 - c. **John 17:17** - Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

B. God is able to deliver us out of times of trouble.

- 1. No matter what comes upon us, we know that God is able to deliver us.
 - a. We must always remember to be faithful to God, just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.
 - b. **Dan. 3:17-18** - If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. {18} But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.
- 2. God promises to deliver us out of temptation (if we are willing to fight off the temptation).
 - a. **I Cor. 10:13** - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.
 - b. **II Pet. 2:4-5, 9** - For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; {5} and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; {9} then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

C. God is faithful and keeps His promises to man.

- 1. Notice what God does at the end of the flood (**8:1-5, 13-22, 9:8-17**).
- 2. God had promised Noah that He would take care of him.
 - a. God fulfilled that promise by allowing Noah to set foot on a dry earth after the flood.
 - b. The rainbow is a sign to Noah and to us that God will never destroy the earth with a flood again.

3. God has promised us eternal life if we are faithful to Him.
 - a. We can know that God will fulfill that promise.
 - b. **I Pet. 1:3-4** - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
 - c. **Rev. 2:10** - Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Conclusion:

Noah was faithful to God. It was because of that faith that he could be saved from the waters of the flood.

As we close notice one final observation that we have from Noah. We see the presence of Noah even in baptism. Notice what Peter says:

I Pet. 3:18-22 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, {19} by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, {20} who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. {21} There is also an antitype which now saves us-- baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, {22} who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.