

God Sends a Flood

Genesis 7; Proverbs 18:10; Hebrews 11:6, 7

Lesson Objective: Reward – We should be faithful to God and He will reward us.

Key verses:

1. Hebrews 11:7; “By faith Noah, being warned *by God* about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”
2. Proverbs 18:10; “The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous runs into it and is safe.”

Introduction:

- A. “Noah’s actions model for later generations the obedience and the efficacy of faith when it is placed in the veracity of God’s word (e.g., Heb 11:7). Noah’s venture to build his vessel upon dry land while awaiting the impending floodwaters is exemplary of a person trusting in what cannot be seen or proven (Heb 10:38; 11:1–2). As is the case for many of the saints, God is calling upon Noah to accomplish a task that has no precedent, for an experience that had no counterpart. Ironically, the destruction by water that dooms all the living is the vindication of Noah’s faith and credits him with righteousness. Such persevering faith in the word of promise motivated Peter to challenge the scoffers of his day who disputed the eschatological conflagration heralded by the prophets and apostles. The divine word declaring the “day of judgment” (2 Pet 3:6–7; cf. 2:5, 9–10) is just as certain as the cataclysmic waters of Noah’s generation.”¹
- B. Noah is included in the hall of faith, an example of a quiet man of faith, a preacher of righteousness, a worker who, through his obedience condemned the whole world. (Hebrews 10:38; 11:7)
- C. Noah was surrounded with wickedness (Gen. 6:5).
 1. His heart must have been heavy.
 2. His heart must have hurt.
- D. Noah was called to build an ark (Gen. 6:14ff).
 1. No indication that it had rained before (Gen. 2:5-6).
 2. He had to recruit his family.
 3. It was an undertaking.
 4. It was an act of faith, and as Hebrews 11:7 states, once God warned Noah what He was about to do to the world and life on it, Noah obeyed out of “reverent fear.”

¹ Mathews, K. A. (1996). [Genesis 1-11:26](#) (Vol. 1A, pp. 369–370). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

- E. Noah's reverent fear and obedience teaches us that God will reward his children who obey Him.
- I. Command to enter the ark (1-10)
- A. 7:1 God's relationship with Noah
1. Patriarch (Heb. 1:1). What a privilege to speak directly with God.
 2. God shared tiny bits of his message with various people before Jesus in a wide variety of ways: direct speech, proverbs, prophecy, various laws, dreams, visions, guidance, testing, providential plagues, providential provisions, heightened abilities (to the Jews in general—Deut 8:17–18; and to tabernacle builders in particular—Exod 31:1–11; 35:30–36:1), sending good or bad spirits (1 Sam 10:9–13; 16:14), stirring one's heart by a noble theme (Ps 45:1), symbolic action or ritual (use of blood—Heb 9:16–25; cf. Ezekiel's many symbolic deeds), symbolic office (high priest, king, family structure, judicial deliverer), symbolic buildings and utensils (altars, ark, veil of tabernacle—9:8), miracles of healings and control of nature, etc. ***All of these were partial. By contrast, the message Jesus brought was full and final (1:1–2; 2:1–4).***²
- B. Noah was righteous (7:1)
1. Noah's family's spiritual status is not the focus.
 2. In Noah's generation, it is understood that he alone was righteous.
 - a. The covenant was not with his family (6:18), but him alone.
 - b. Noah is said to have found grace in the eyes of God (6:8).
 - c. Noah was found to be blameless (6:9).
 - d. Noah walked with God (6:9).
 - e. Noah embodied 1 John 1:6-7.
- C. Reward: God determined to blot out all mankind, yet waited patiently on Noah to construct the ark, this way he and his family would be saved.
1. 1 Peter 3:20, Noah's family benefitted from his faith.
 2. 1 Peter 3:21 for us today
- D. Animals on the ark
1. Animals for sacrifices (8:20)
 2. Animals for reconnoiters (ravens and doves – 8:7-9, 11, 12)
 3. Animals for reproduction (6:2-3, 8, 14-15)
 4. Only the animals in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life (7:22)
 5. Animals came to Noah (7:9-that in itself was a reward!)
- II. Grand parade (7:13-16)
- A. Imagine the scene:
1. Animals finding their places on the ship.
 2. Meat eaters become herbivores (?).
 3. No chaos...God is not a God of chaos.

² Girdwood, J., & Verkruyse, P. (1997). *Hebrews* (Heb 1:1). Joplin, MO: College Press.

4. Once all was in order and in place, Noah was the last one to enter the ark and the Lord closed it behind him.
 - a. Safely in the ark, now what?
 - b. What was happening that day?
 - c. Matthew 24:37-39
 - d. 2 Peter 3:5-7; Matthew 25:10
 - e. Just like today, even with Christians!
 - f. Cf. Is.24:18; Jer. 4:23-26; Amos 7:4
- B. Happy birthday, Noah! (6:11-12; 17-20)
1. 600th day of Noah's life, on the 2nd month, 17th day on **the same day**.
 2. Fountains of the great deep burst open.
 - a. Noah's work ended with a closing thud, the sound of the door being closed behind him.
 - b. What was once deep, dark, formless, void and without life (1:5) was now full of chaos, sin, evil and wickedness (6:6), and God was going to use the fountains from the deep (7:11) and the flood-gates from heaven to squeeze out the life from the nostrils of His own creation.
 - c. God unleashed His tidal waves of destruction upon the tidal waves of wickedness.
 - d. That day, as humanity fought for their spot on the highest peak of the highest mountain, throwing each other into the deeps of the water, everyone believed in God, but it was too late!
- C. The flood waters prevailed (17-24)
1. Repetition of words for illustrative purposes of God's powerful destructive judgment.
 2. Idea of complete and total wipe out, as when one wipes a dish clean (2 Kings 21:13).
- III. God will reward those who are faithful (God will make things work out for His purposes)
- A. Only Noah was left, together with his family.
1. To some this might not have seemed like a reward.
 2. To some, having to build an ark might have been too much of a chore and not an honor.
 3. To some having to become a zookeeper might not have been too honorable.
 4. But Noah was different!
- B. Noah was different.
1. He loved the Lord and working for the Lord in whatever capacity, doing whatever he was called to do, even if it meant shoveling dung, was an honor! How do I know? (6:8-9; Hebrews 11:7)
 - a. He loved the Lord.
 - b. He walked with the Lord.
 - c. He found favor in the eyes of the Lord.
 2. He was grateful that in the midst of an evil and wicked world... (8:20-21)
 - a. His life would be spared...

- b. His family would be spared...
 - c. He was chosen to be a remnant (9:7; Jer. 23:3; Is. 4:3; 10:20-23; Rom. 27-28).
3. God made sure all things worked out to His benefit and in the process remembered Noah and his family (8:1)

Conclusion:

- A. God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him (Heb. 11:6)
- B. Being faithful to God can help bless others as was the case with Noah's family.
- C. Millions missed the boat in Noah's day because they simply did not care, we care, and we should care to share the Gospel with others.
- D. We live in a wicked world but let us not convince ourselves that our world is "like in the days of Noah," if it were we would not exist. Let us get to the work before it gets that bad.