

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to Hebrews 11

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through the Book of Hebrews – a letter that was written to a group of Jewish believers who were seriously contemplating walking away from the Lord and return to Judaism

And so the writer of Hebrews sends this letter to them explaining to them – using the Old Testament – as to why Jesus is greater than anything they were contemplating going back to.

And so, we are in the portion of the letter where the writer exhorts these Jewish believers to endure

To not go back – to simply abide and continue to abide in Christ and mature in Christ.

And the way they were going to endure was to do it by faith

And so the writer begins to provide example after example of the heroes of faith who endured – not by their own strength but by faith.

And so this evening, we are going to look at the next example that the writer provides – and we are going to be looking at Noah.

Let's pray...

[Heb 11:7 NKJV] 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.

This is our 3rd study – in our study in chapter 11

And you might remember that two weeks, at the beginning of the chapter –

The writer provided us with a description of what faith is

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

(verse 1)

And then the writer began to give to us illustrations of faith in the lives of Abel and Enoch

By faith Abel worshipped -he offered a more excellent sacrifice

By faith Enoch walked with God

And in our text tonight – By faith, Noah worked, he warned the world of a coming judgment.

A judgment that would be so profound and so severe that it would result in the extermination of most of the human life on the planet and most of the animal life on the planet.

So not only by faith did Noah believe God – by faith, he acted on it

So just in these first three illustrations that are given to us – we see three distinct ways of looking at what faith in God actually looks like.

Look at the first three words in verse 7

By faith Noah –

Meaning that Noah had faith that led him to do the things he did

That is the thing about faith, if we don't have it – we can't understand it

And if we do have it – then no explanation is necessary

You try to explain to someone what the bible says about Creation, what the bible says about Noah and the flood or even Jonah and the giant fish – and they will look at you and ask you, “Do you actually believe that???”

Of course I do – by faith

God said it – that settles it

But someone without faith says, “I need evidence – I need to see to believe”.

Turn your bibles with me to Genesis 6

[Gen 6:5-8 NKJV] 5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man [was] great in the earth, and [that] every intent of the thoughts of his heart [was] only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

Noah lived during a time in history that was filled with great human debauchery.

It was a time of great sexual perversion

It was a shocking time of man's rebellion against God

So you had all this darkness, all this difficulty, all this sin, all this sin

And when it seemed that all is lost -

– look at verse 8 -

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

In the midst of the wickedness of the world

Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord –

not because he deserved it –

not because he was a perfect man (read ch 7 – you will see what he did after the flood)

Noah found grace –

By the way, this is the first mention of grace in the bible –

The first time we find this word in the bible is right here in Noah's life and we find it in the context of darkness and difficulty

Notice, up to this point we haven't read anything about Noah – no word yet - about what a good guy he is.

All that comes after he found grace in the eyes of the Lord

Same as you and me – we don't and we can't earn God's grace

Grace getting something we don't deserve

Many believers are constantly trying to earn God's favor

God's grace is unmerited

We respond to God's grace – not try to earn His grace

[Gen 6:9-22 NKJV] 9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

The word "perfect" can also be the word "blameless"

He had a steady life of obedience

10 And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. 11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13 And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14 "Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. 15 "And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark [shall be] three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.

500' X 75' X 50'

16 "You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it [with] lower, second, and third [decks]. 17 "And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which [is] the breath of life; everything that [is] on the earth shall die. 18 "But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark--you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. 19 "And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every [sort] into the ark, to keep [them] alive with you; they shall be male and female. 20 "Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every [kind] will come to

you to keep [them] alive. 21 "And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather [it] to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them." 22 **Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.**

That last verse is how Noah ends up in the chapter of faith –

faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

That was the description that the author gave us of what faith is

God revealed to Noah that He was going to bring judgment upon the earth.

Never happened before – **things not seen**

God revealed to Noah how He was going to bring the judgement upon the earth – He was going to flood the earth –

A global flood had not happened – **things not seen**

And to take it a step further – rain had not happened before – **things not seen**

[Gen 2:5-6 NKJV] 5 before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and [there was] no man to till the ground; 6 but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

No monsoons, no hurricanes, no El Ninos

And then God told Noah to build an Ark???

The Ark would save them and the Ark would save his family.

Noah must have been thinking – “what is an Ark?” – things not seen

“And Noah, this is the way you will build it and this is what you will put in it”

So by faith, Noah believed before the judgment came – he believed before the rain drops started falling

Not only did he believe –

Noah’s faith in God moved him to do something

He built the Ark and waited and waited and waited

By the way – that time waiting – that was God showing grace to anyone who would by faith, enter the Ark

We live in a world today where the majority of people don’t believe the flood story

There are even churches that teach the flood was not a literal flood or that the flood was a regional flood and not a global flood.

They don’t believe that Noah built an actual Ark or that anything like this ever happened.

But they forgot one thing –

And that is, that Jesus believed the flood story

You might say, "How do we know that Jesus believed it?"

Turn to Luke 17

[Luk 17:26-27 NKJV] 26 "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 "They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

Jesus says as it was in the days of Noah – indicating that there was such a time, there was such a person – so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man –

Does Jesus mention the flood ✓

Does Jesus mention a guy named Noah ✓

Does Jesus mention an instrument of salvation ✓

The answer is yes to all of them

Jesus describes the conditions of the pre-flood world

The world was conducting business as usual

The people during this time seemed oblivious to what was about to happen

They seemed oblivious to the judgment

They even seemed oblivious to the means of escape

Many people saw Noah working on the Ark

I am pretty sure that word got around to what he was doing – pretty sure many of them thought he was crazy.

Jesus is using this in the context of a second and a future global judgment

It is a reminder to you and to me that judgment will come to this earth

That Jesus Christ will return

And just like the days of Noah – we live in a time where the boundaries of evil are being erased, they are being moved and they are being redefined

And the sad thing is that it is happening among believers as well.

It is happening within this lukewarmness of many people that call upon the name of Jesus Christ

Where we are allowing the culture to affect us more than we are affecting the culture.

God gave Noah the revelation and the writer in Hebrews tell us that by faith, he moved with godly fear –

The word that is used here for fear means – reverence, it means standing in awe of God's warning, it means taking God at His word

It is not the fear that says – “Oh No! He is going to kill me”

It is a godly reverence that so overwhelms us – that all we want to do is obey and submit to Him

So Noah built the Ark and his household was saved.

The next thing that the writer of Hebrews tells us by faith, as Noah believes and acts upon God’s Word – and then it says, by which he condemned the world (speaking of Noah)

How did he condemn the world???

The answer is here in our text – it is because of his life of faith

His testimony condemned the world

You see, Noah tells a watching world that a judgment is coming and the moment that he initiates the act of building the Ark – it becomes a constant testimony to the fact that judgment will soon come.

Every board that he nails together – judgment is coming, judgment is coming

Think about the neighbors and the people that would come by and make fun of Noah – everyday they would see progress in the Ark, everyday they walked away rejecting the instrument of salvation and in doing so, condemning themselves.

For Noah, it was his life of faith

For Noah it was his testimony of faith

But what about you and me

[Jhn 3:16-18 NKJV] 16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

When Noah received from God that judgment was coming and to built the Ark – he condemns the world because they rejected Noah’s testimony, they rejected the only instrument of salvation, and they rejected his faith –

When people today look at us –

They see someone who is investing their time and resources into something that is never going to happen.

Just like they did to Noah

Church – don’t miss that Jesus used the illustration of the Ark because the Ark is a picture or a shadow that pointed to Him

After God revealed His plans to destroy the earth, He also revealed His plans to save Noah and his family – the world continued to plummet deeper into darkness until judgment came.

The Ark was going to be the only way to be saved in a world that was destined to die

And Jesus will be the only way, the only solution to another world that is destined to die.

The Ark was foreknown, and it was given supernaturally to Noah by the Word of the Lord

I want you to ask yourself this question?

Was the Ark safe or unsafe?

How do we know it safe? Because God designed it

He gave Noah the dimensions and gave him strict instructions to follow

But how do we know that the Ark was secure –

[Gen 7:1 NKJV] 1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen [that] you [are] righteous before Me in this generation.

The way that this sentence is structured in the Hebrew language, it implies that God is already inside the Ark waiting for them

He is inviting them to come in!

Why is it safe, because He designed it

Why is it secure, because He is inside it

The Ark can't sink, the Ark can't fail because God's presence is in the Ark

Remember in the gospels – Matt, Mark and Luke tell us the event of Jesus and the disciples on a boat – and a great tempest arose. The disciples are freaking out but Jesus was asleep in the boat

[Mat 8:25 NKJV] 25 Then His disciples came to [Him] and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”

The disciples did not learn the lesson that when the Lord is in the boat – it can't sink

This is why the Ark becomes a picture of Jesus

God is in the boat

God is in Christ making sure that you and I are going to weather the storm, that we are going to survive the judgment.

Noah remained safe in the Ark

And we remain safe in Jesus

Jesus is our ark of salvation

After Noah and his household go into the Ark – then all the animals came in

And later on in the chapter we read

[Gen 7:16 NKJV] 16 So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

Who shut the door of the Ark? God did

God's grace was rejected – therefore judgment came upon the people.

The last thing that the writer of Hebrews tells us about Noah is that by faith, Noah became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Noah's response to God's command to build the ark resulted ultimately in Noah's salvation.

God told Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the sand and the stars; when Abraham believed that promise, God counted it to him as righteousness.

The point is this – when a person's faith in God becomes a heart-felt and personal response to Him, this is the basis upon which He works to bring them to a complete faith in Him and His redemption.

I want to finish with this one thing

Last week we saw by faith Abel worshipped God and by faith, Enoch walked with God and today we saw that Noah acted upon God's promises or we can say that by faith, he worked for God

Notice the progression

Worship or devotion first

Walking with God or dedication is next

And then, it is working on God's behalf

One of the major obstacles that we encounter in the Christian life is when we start doing these out of order.

When we start working on God's behalf when there is little or no worship or little or no dedication.

Or we can try to make up for our lack of dedication with doing things for God.

And this is when we become discouraged and give up because we feel that we are not growing.

By faith, we approach Him with our devotion, by faith we walk with Him and then – by faith, we do works on His behalf.

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

