

- ***Read Hebrews 11:7*** From this one verse, we can come to know a lot about the man Noah and how God saw him. Noah was obviously a man of great faith seeing as how he is mentioned here in this great hall of faith of **Hebrews 11**. He was found to be righteous in God's eyes and God warned him of the impending doom of the great flood. Noah was faithful to God, obeyed His commands, and prepared the ark for the saving of his family. Basically, **Genesis 6 & 7** are given to us in a nutshell here in **Hebrews 11:7**.
- These are the bare bones of **Genesis 6 & 7**, but I would suggest to you that there are many more lessons that we can learn from this text that we often refer to as Noah's Ark. In fact, I would suggest that there are a flood of lessons that can be learned from Noah's Ark. Interestingly enough, the lessons that we can take from Noah's Ark are extremely applicable to our lives and the world that we live in today. Let's consider this daily Bible reading lesson on the flood of lessons from Noah's Ark.

I. God really hates the presence of sin.

- A. This whole story begins with what God sees on the earth. About 1,500 years after Creation, our God looks down upon the earth and He sees nothing but wickedness and the evil intentions of the hearts of mankind. **(6:5,6)**
- B. This causes God to feel great remorse. He feels remorse to the extent that He is sorry that He even made mankind. Could you imagine that for just a moment. Parents, take a moment and think about just how mad you would have to be to even think about being sorry that you brought your children into the world....That is what God is feeling in this text.
- C. Here's the kicker though, God's hatred wasn't for His creation. He did not hate them....but He hated their sin. The presence of sin was the root of God's remorse and anger. God's will for mankind had been ignored, and He was not being honored by His creation through their behavior. Because of this, God decided to cleanse the earth. Through this cleansing, the overwhelming wickedness would be taken away.
- D. God has always been consistent when it comes to His hatred for sin and rebellion against His will. Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden because of God couldn't stand their sin. Israel was continually cut off from God because of their sin. They were eventually sent into captivity and away from the presence of God because of their sin. The Jews were cut off as God's people because of their unfaithfulness.
- E. The words of Isaiah were true before his day, during his day, and they are true even today. "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear." **(Isa. 59:2)** God cannot be in the company of sin.

II. God will punish those that live in sin.

- A. God's hatred for sin led Him to punish those who were living in sin. The flood was not only a means of cleansing the earth, but it was also a punishment for sin. The sins of mankind were to be punished by death in this instance. **(6:7,11,12,17)**
- B. Again, God was consistent with His punishing of sin. Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden for their sin. Cain was banished from his land because of his sin. The Israelites were kept out of the land because of their sin. The Old Testament is full of evidence that those who sin against God will feel His wrath.
- C. Even moving into the New Testament we learn that God will not tolerate those who continue to live in sin. They might escape OT type punishment, but they will be held accountable in the long run. Those who practice sin will not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. **(I Cor. 6:9, 10; Gal. 6:19-21; Rev. 21:8)**
- D. If we learn anything from the story of Noah's ark, it must be that God hates sin, and those who decide to live in it will be punished by a Righteous God. **(II Pet. 2:4,5)**

III. God wants people to turn from their sins.

- A. Even in His justified anger and disappointment, God still wanted for His creation to repent and turn back to Him. Notice something else that Moses records concerning God's feelings at this time. Moses writes that God "was grieved in His heart." **(6:6)** Why would God be grieved? I'll suggest that God was grieved because He wanted His creation of mankind to love and respect Him through righteous living. He had not written man off completely, but instead He sent them someone to warn them of the coming judgment.
- B. That someone would be Noah. Noah, as we read in **Hebrews 11:7** was a righteous man, and because of his righteousness he and his family were spared from the punishment of the flood. **(II Peter 2:5)** You might also notice a particular way that Noah is described in this text. Notice that Peter refers to him as a "preacher of righteousness." This says to me that during that many years it took to complete the building of the ark that Noah was also busy trying to get people to turn from their sins and do those things that were righteous so that they might be saved, as well.
- C. You see, God didn't want men to die in their sins, but instead He longed for them to repent and turn to Him in righteousness. He wanted as many righteous people to live as there could be, but sadly only 8 righteous souls entered the ark and were saved.

- D. God's love for man hasn't diminished at all. In fact, his love for man and His desire for them to return to Him is still very evident today. It is evident through the giving of His Son. "God so loved the world" that He gave Jesus Christ as the perfect sacrifice for their sins. **(John 3:16)** His desire for the sinful to repent could not be anymore obvious. God loves us all, and He desires for us all to turn from our sins and turn to Him in righteousness. **(II Pet. 3:9)** It was true in Noah's day and it is just as true today.

IV. The righteous must warn those in sin.

- A. Notice back in **II Peter 2:5** that it was the righteous man who gave the efforts of warning those who were in sin of the coming judgement. It is the responsibility of those who are righteous to warn those in sin that they need to repent and turn or else judgement would be in their future.
- B. Noah was the first "preacher" that we read of in Scripture. To preach is simply to persuade someone to do something. In the case of Noah, he was preaching for those in his day to repent of their continual wickedness and turn to God before He destroyed the world.
- C. Noah was the first, but he certainly wasn't the last man to go out from God and warn people to turn and repent. From this point on, we see God continually sending men to those in sin to persuade them to turn back to God. Moses and Aaron. The Prophets such as Samuel, Nathan, Elisha, Elijah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, & John the Baptizer. And even Jesus and His Apostles begged the masses to repent. Time and time again, God provides a person or people who will warn those in sin to turn and repent.
- D. The same is true, today. It is the duty of God's people to warn those around us of the coming judgement. One day all people will have to stand before the judgement seat of God and give an account for their actions in this life. **(II Cor. 5:10)** The Apostles were busy sharing the Gospel with all those around them **(I John 1:3)**, and in following their example and Noah's example we ought to do the same.

V. God provides a way of safety.

- A. As Noah warned those to turn from their sins, He would've been urging them to turn towards God who was providing the way of escape. It was God who originally warned Noah of the destructive flood that would be coming **(6:13)**, and it was God who sealed the door shut once everyone and everything was on the ark as it was supposed to be. **(7:16)** Without the help of God, all things would have been lost.
- B. This is just as true in our time as it was for Noah. Peter makes this very point in **I Peter 3:20,21**. Noah was saved through his construction of the ark, and we are saved through baptism into Jesus Christ. We'll dive a bit deeper into these verses next Sunday morning, but it will suffice us for this morning to recognize that we are saved by our God and not on our own accord.
- C. We must recognize that if it were not for the grace of God then we would have no hope. God's grace was at work with Noah through the ark and His grace is just as active today through Jesus Christ. **(Eph. 2:8,9)**
- D. Our only way of escape from the punishment of sin is through the grace of God. **(Rom. 6:23)**

VI. God wants things done His way.

- A. That way of safety that was provided for Noah came with some stipulations. God told Noah how it was that he and his family would be saved, and that way was through the building of an ark...which just happened to come with some strict guidelines for its building. (I think we're starting to sense a theme here...) Noah was to build the ark out of gopher wood. It was supposed to be a specific height, length, and depth. It was to house a specific number of each animal, and the list goes on. **(6:14-21)**
- B. I wonder...I wonder what would have happened if Noah would've thrown God's instructions out and tried his own thing? Sadly, I think we know exactly how that would've ended up. Just go and ask Adam and Eve what happens when you go against God's will. Things don't tend to end up well for you.
- C. But Noah did exactly as God commanded. We know that because the Scriptures tell us that multiple times. **(6:22; 7:1; 7:5; 7:16)**
- D. Let's conclude this flood of lessons from Noah's Ark by considering that God still wants things done His way today. If we want to be saved today, then there is only one way to do that. Salvation is only found in Jesus Christ. **(Acts 4:11,12)** Many would tell us that there are many different roads that lead to heaven, but Jesus would suggest otherwise. The road of obedience to God is quite narrow and it is His way or the wide highway which leads to destruction. **(Matt. 7:13,14)** If we want to be saved, then the story of Noah teaches us that we must follow the direction of our God. He is the one who gives eternal life, but it must be accessed through His terms and His terms alone.

Each person here might be able to add another lesson that is learned from the story of Noah's Ark, but these will suffice for this evening. It's funny how years and years pass, but many of the same principles that we find in Scripture are so applicable for our lifetime. Those things written before hand surely are good for our learning, and may God help us to diligently study and come to be familiar with the lessons that we can learn from them through reading and studying on a daily basis. May God be glorified as we strive to grow stronger in our service to Him through our learning in His Holy Scriptures.