

Lessons from Noah

With the opening of the new Noah's Ark Experience theme park in Kentucky, the new movie "Noah" that came out last year, and other things, the Genesis story of Noah is a topic of conversation again. Those true believers, as well as the skeptics and nay-sayers, are debating the reality of the ark and the credibility of Noah himself.

We are introduced to Noah in **Genesis 6**:

"The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. So the LORD said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD." This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. (Genesis 6:5-9)

From this reading, we see a couple of things about Noah that set him apart from the rest of mankind: We see a couple of things about Noah:

He found **FAVOR** in God's eyes. The KJV uses the word "Grace" in place of favor in describing God's feelings toward Noah. His grace was extended to Noah. God determined to save Noah and his family because God considered him righteous. There was no hope for the rest of mankind whose thoughts were only evil all of the time.

Noah had lived his life filled with **FAITH**. Noah showed great faith by obeying God in what He said to do. This is what **Hebrews 11:7** says of him:

"By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith."

Noah serves as an example for all of us. Our lives, lived by faith and obedience to God's word will assure our inheritance also. **2 Peter 2:5** tells us that God destroyed the world in Noah's time because of sin. He later says this, though, words of encouragement to all of us:

"the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment."

Peter says this in **1 Peter 3:20-22**, comparing Noah and the flood to us and baptism:

“...to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.”

Noah wasn't saved **FROM** the flood by the ark—he was saved (separated, sanctified) from a sinful world **BY** the flood. Baptism sanctifies us – sets us apart from a sinful world. It saves us, just as Noah was saved. Those who dispute the essentiality of baptism need to learn that powerful lesson. ---Johnny Stephens

Kathy – if you want to use the following, you can--- :-)

- Don't miss the boat.
- Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- Build your future on high ground, which may not be ground you are familiar with.

- For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

- When you're stressed, float awhile.
- Remember, the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic was built by professionals.
- No matter how bad the storm is, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

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