

## **Chapter Eight**

### **NOAH**

**Hebrews 11:7.** *"By FAITH Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, took heed and constructed an ark for the saving of his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith."*

This story of Noah and the ark is found in Genesis 6: 5 - 7:24

Here we have an example of a man who found **grace** in the eyes of the Lord. *He was a righteous man, blameless among his generation, who walked with God. Gen.6:9.*

God *spoke* to Noah. (6:13). It is not hard to know what the Lord wants from you when He speaks to you. It was not hard to believe God. But Noah did more than just believe, he obeyed, doing all that God commanded him. This is faith, **belief demonstrated in obedient action.**

The instructions given to Noah were very strange but he still obeyed **all**. He had never seen a flood nor a boat, but at God's command, he started work and did not rest until the work was complete. We do not read that anyone, including his sons, helped Noah in this gigantic project, but they and their wives were to benefit from Noah's obedience. In all, eight people would owe their lives to God's grace and Noah's obedience.

What Biblical Principle can we learn from this example of faith?

One clear answer is given by Jesus Himself in Matt 24: 37 - 39 where He teaches the Jews concerning His return to set up His Messianic kingdom.

*As it was in the days of Noah so it shall be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.*

People will be mindless of the things of God so great judgment shall come upon them, only a few, a remnant being saved.

There is the principle of the certainty of a coming judgement upon this world.

However, another truth would be seen in the provision God has made for us through His Son, Jesus. He has prepared the means whereby we might be saved from the judgment coming on all who refuse to walk with Him. An ark has been prepared **in Jesus** and the invitation given for *'whosoever will'* to enter in. We thank the Lord that He was obedient to the Father's will, even though it meant the agony of Gethsemane and a cross on Golgotha's hill. Because of the Father's **grace** and the Son's **obedience**, all who enter in find salvation. As God closed the door of Noah's ark when all eight were inside (Gen.7:16) so He has *'sealed us'* in His Son by the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13). Not only is there security in our ark Jesus, but there we are blessed with every spiritual blessing (Eph.1:3). Indeed, all of Ephesians chapter one, speaks of such blessings.

**In Him:**

- v 4 We are made holy and blameless.
- v 5 we are made God's children.
- v 6 we receive God's abundant grace.
- v 7 we have redemption (bought back from bondage).
- v 7 we have forgiveness of our sins.
- v 9 God shows us the mystery of His will.
- v 10 God will unite all creation.
- v 11 we are appointed to live for the praise of His glory.
- v 13 we are sealed with His Holy Spirit.

Chapter 2: 6 we have been raised up to be seated in heavenly places in Him, so that God might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Our security is not in our ability to build our own ark, nor in our good works. Our own righteousness will not avail. We cannot escape by our own inventions or schemings. It is all by grace, through faith. God has planned and prepared a way of salvation. He invites us to enter in. We may believe but if we are not obedient to His invitation, we shall not be saved. Saving faith requires obedient response.

Further, everyone who lived near to Noah would be aware of this amazing vessel he was building. All would know what he preached but none were willing to respond to his invitation. The world were condemned by their refusal to accept what was evident before their eyes. Similarly, the good news of salvation in Jesus is not hid from the world today, but men choose not to respond to the invitation. Hence the presence of the church is still a condemnation of the world

**Summary**

The story of Noah as an example of faith teaches us the following principles:

- 1. There is a judgement coming upon the world.**
- 2. God, in grace, has made a way of escape in His Son, Jesus, and salvation is found in none other.**
- 3. Grace is a fundamental attribute of God.**
- 4. Salvation demands obedient response to God's invitation. That is saving faith.**