

April 14, 2020
What People in Scripture did when they were Isolated
Noah and the Ark

Noah did not find favor in the eyes of men. They hated and persecuted him, because both by his life and preaching, he condemned the world. But he did find grace in the eyes of the Lord, and this made him truly honorable. Let this be our chief desire, let us labor that we may be accepted by God. When the rest of the world was wicked, Noah kept his integrity. God's good-will towards Noah produced this good work in him. He was a just man, that is, justified before God. As such he had right principles and was made holy. And therefore Noah was righteous in his conversation. He was not only honest, but devout. It was his constant desire to do the will of God. God looks down favorably upon those who sincerely look up to him with an eye of faith. It's easy to be religious when religion is in fashion. But it shows strong faith to swim against the stream, and to appear for God when no one else appears for him. Noah did so.

All kinds of sin were found among men. They corrupted God's worship. Sin filled the earth with violence. This fully justified God's resolution to destroy the world. The contagion spread. When wickedness has become common, ruin is not far off. When there is a remnant of God's people praying in a nation, judgment may be held at bay. But when everyone is motivated by sin, and there is no one to stand in the gap, what can be expected but a flood of God's wrath.

Let's see what Noah did.

Genesis 7:1-16 (NIV)

1 The Lord then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. 2 Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, 3 and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. 4 Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made."

5 And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.

6 Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. 7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. 8 Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, 9 male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. 12 And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

13 On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. 14 They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. 15 Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. 16 The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the Lord shut him in.

The call to Noah is very kind, like that of a tender father to his children to come in-doors when he sees night or a storm coming. Noah did not go into the ark until God called him, even though Noah knew it was to be his place of refuge. It is very comfortable to see God going before us in every step we take. Noah had taken a great deal of pains to build the ark. It was to be his own place of refuge. What we do by faith in obedience to the command of God shall certainly bring to us comfort and assurance.

This call to Noah reminds us of the gospel. Christ is an ark, in whom we can be safe when death and judgment approach. Noah was accounted righteous, not for his own righteousness, but as an heir of the righteousness which is by faith (Hebrews 11:7). Noah believed the revelation of a savior, and sought and expected salvation through Him alone. Therefore he justified by faith.

After the hundred and twenty years, God granted seven more days for repentance. But these seven days were trifled away by the people, like all the rest. They had only one week more, one sabbath more to improve. But it's common for those who have been careless of their standing before God during the years of their health, when they have looked upon death at a distance, to be as careless during the days, the few days of their sickness, when they see death approaching. Their hearts had been hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. As Noah prepared the ark by faith in the warning that the flood would come. He went into it by faith. And did you notice that it was God who closed the door to the ark. On that day, Noah was securely fixed in the ark, while the fountains of the great deep were broken up. The waters within the earth, which at God's command, sprang up. The windows of heaven also were opened, and the rain was poured out upon the earth. It rained for forty days and forty nights, upon the whole earth.

Here is Point #1. Jesus Christ is your Ark. You are safe when you are "In Christ". That's the transaction of placing your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior. You give your life to Him and He comes to live within you. Pretty good deal if you ask me. When the rains came down, Noah went up! He was lifted, literally, above the judgment of God. Hallelujah!

Did you notice that there were some animals that were more than two which God brought to the ark? **Here is Point #2.** We teach songs to our children which say that the animals went into the ark, two by two. But scripture says that there were seven pairs of each kind of clean animal and one pair of each kind of other animals were taken on the ark (Genesis 6:19-20, 7:2-3). By "clean" the Bible means animals that were "acceptable for sacrifice." That is why seven pairs of the clean animals were taken because some of them could be sacrificed after the Flood was over without endangering their species. Jesus was and is the only acceptable sacrifice that God the Father will accept. And God provide the sacrifice for Noah before the flood ever occurred. That's what God did for us before the foundations of the world were created. Jesus was to be the Lamb of God that would take away our sins before anything was ever created. Praise God for He constant and never changing love for us and well as His provisions.

Here are a few other things Noah did that we would do well to duplicate in our lives, especially when we feel the we are the only ones who are serving God.

1) Faith was the First Principle Noah lived by.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, but with faith are pleasing to Him.

2) Noah believed God in his Ordinary Life.

Before the great test came, before he heard the oracle from the secret place, Noah believed in God. We know that he did, for we read that he walked with God, and in his common conduct he is described as being "a just man, and perfect in his generations."

3) Noah had faith in the Warning of God.

Noah had received a promise but, as the dark background to it, he had listened to the terrible threatening that God would destroy all living things with a flood. Noah's faith believed both the warning and the promise.

4) Noah believed what Seemed Highly Improbable, if not Absolutely Impossible.

That faith which believes in the probable is anybody's faith. Sinners can so believe. The faith which rests alone in the Word of the Lord, is the faith that God uses. God deserves such faith, "for with God all things are possible." Not probability, but certainty, is the groundwork of faith when God has spoken.

5) Noah believed God and Preached even though No One followed him.

There were no

other believers, if you except his wife and his sons and daughters. There were eight in all. Noah shone as a lone star.

6) Noah Obeyed the Lord Exactly.

Obey the Lord with all your mind and all your heart, in the way of faith. Prove that you have grace, by your accurate obedience.

7) Noah Obeyed at All Costs.

To build the ark must have cost Noah a great deal of money and labor. Noah was quite willing to put all his eggs into that one basket. God had instructed him build, and build he would, feeling that the divine command insured him against risk. Can we do the same?

8) And here is the Payoff. Results did Not Fail to Come.

One hundred and twenty years preaching, and no converts remaining! What did come of it? The first result was, He was saved along with his household. He believed God, and found grace in the eyes of the Lord. He received the righteousness which God gives through Jesus Christ to all them that believe. Wrapt in all this, Noah stood before the Lord, justified and approved.

And so in conclusion, while we are alone in our house because of COVID 19, make your house an ark. Make it a place whereby you find the presence of God. Share His love and provision with whomever you can. Preach the gospel whenever possible. Exhort all you can. And know this, when the judgment comes down, in due time, those in the ark will be raised above it all. Amen.

Praise God,
Pastor Dave