

Noah (Hebrews 11:1–7)

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Introduction

1. In the last message we noted that considerable truth hidden by God is *selectively* and often *cryptically* revealed. Why?
 - a. The Lord wants His people to walk by faith.
 - b. This does not mean that we should not search out truth or speculate on facts evident, but in the final analysis, we must simply trust the Lord and follow His instructions.
2. Hebrews begins its listing of biblical examples of faith in the beginning of human history.
 - a. Abel, the second son of Adam, had a faith of *worship*.
 - b. Enoch, the seventh generation in the line of Seth, had a faith of *walking*.
 - c. Noah, the last generation before the flood, had a faith of *witness*.
 - d. Abel demonstrates the truth that sin's curse is nullified by the blood-shedding of an innocent lamb (John 1:29).
 - e. Enoch demonstrates the truth that sin's penalty is nullified by the resurrection from the dead (1 Cor. 15:50–58).
 - f. Noah demonstrates the truth that sin's power is nullified by sanctifying obedience.
3. Jesus came to reverse three great problems in the earth:
 - a. The fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden and the sin problem affecting the human race (Gen. 3:1–7)
 - b. The incursion of the Watchers and the corruption of the human race to prevent the seed of the woman (Gen. 3:15; Gen. 6:4)
 - c. The rebellion of Nimrod and the tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1–9; Abraham is the beginning of this reversal)

I. Background

1. The faith of Noah is given to illustrate verse 6.
 - a. The sinner is to seek God for the repair of his alienation from God (Eph. 4:18; Luke 15:18) as the Spirit initiates this sense of need.
 - b. God must be sought in faith, as He has revealed Himself to be in His Word, His works, and in Christ.
 - c. God is to be sought in all the perfection of His character and in His gracious rewarding (His power to grant all things necessary so that full repair is achieved in the relationship).
 - d. The only requirement is that one must diligently seek *Him* (early, Prov. 8:17; wholeheartedly, Psa. 119:10; earnestly, 27:4; persistently, Luke 11:8). Our nature is to forget God (Psa. 50:22; Deut. 8:11ff). To seek Him is to forsake self and take Christ alone as one's whole satisfying portion.
2. The faith principle is clearly seen in Noah.
 - a. Noah heard God's warning concerning something outside his experience.
 - b. Noah believed God about what he heard and responded correctly (*"moved with fear"*).
 - c. His response involved obedience (building the ark) by which he accomplished the will of God in the deliverance of his family from destruction.

3. There is a clear connection between Enoch and Noah.
 - a. Both are connected to the judgment of God on the Watchers and their children (2 Pet. 2:4–10).
 - b. Both “*walked with God.*”
 - c. Both were righteous in a world of increasing wickedness.

II. Mystery

1. Why was Noah chosen for this task?
 - a. Noah was prepared both spiritually and physically.
 - b. Noah was (*tamiym*) unimpaired—genetically uncorrupted in his generation—his bloodline free of Nephilim contamination.
 - c. How did he condemn the world? Simply by his obedient faith.

III. Witness

1. The ark was a type of salvation in Jesus Christ—deliverance, not from, but through the judgment.
2. The flood was a preview of the final judgment that awaits the earth (2 Pet. 3:5–7; 11, 12).

What This Means for Us

1. Our walk in the world is a witness about the true desires of our hearts.
2. We cannot say that we walk with God when our hearts are married to the world.
3. Walking with God by faith signals both our differences from the world and testifies to the condemnation of the world.