

NOAH: A MAN WHO FEARED GOD

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Illustration: Mount Saint Helens, a volcanic peak in southwestern Washington, U.S., erupted on May 18, 1980. It has often been declared the most disastrous volcanic eruption in U.S. history.

About 57 people were killed, hundreds of square miles were reduced to wasteland, causing over \$1 billion in damage (equivalent to \$3.1 billion in 2021), thousands of animals were killed, and Mount St. Helens was left with a crater on its north side.

The final eruption of Mount St. Helens in May of 1980 was not a sudden event. For two months prior to the massive blast—the most deadly and destructive in American history—earthquakes and volcanic activity signaled a major event was underway. Authorities had plenty of time to sound the alarm and warn those living nearby of the looming danger. Yet despite the seriousness of the threat, some people chose to disregard the warnings.

Hebrews 11: 1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the people of old received their commendation.

► Abel, Enoch, and now...

Hebrews 11:7, By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear 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.

Who was Noah?

- Noah represents the tenth generation from Adam.
- Noah represents the godly line of Seth (the descendants of Cain were completely wiped off by the flood)
- **Genesis 5: [28]** When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son **[29]** and called his name Noah, saying, “Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.”
- “Noah” sounds like the Hebrew word for “rest or relief”

- Noah is profoundly known for “Noah’s Ark” and “Noah Flood”
- Every single human being today is one of Noah’s descendants since God restarted the human race through his family after the great flood.
- When people were scattered after the tower of Babel, the story of Noah spread across in different ways in different languages. In ancient Sanskrit, his name became Manu, based on the word “ma” for water and “Nu” of the waters. Manu was the name of the flood hero in the traditions of India. He, like Noah, is said to have built an ark in which eight people were saved. ‘Jal-plavan-Manu’, i.e., ‘Manu of the Great Deluge’.

1. NOAH’S DISPOSITION [CHARACTER]

The Days of Noah:

Genesis 6:3, Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” [these 120 years are a countdown to the Flood]

Genesis 6: “5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 So the LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

Genesis 6:11 Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13 And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

- How one sin of Adam and Eve brought the world to an end!

What does Noah’s flood speak about the nature of God? Holiness and Justice

A word of hope: Genesis 6:8, But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. [9] These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household...

- Noah was a **man of faith** [trusted God and His Word]
- Noah was a **righteous man** [did what is right in God's sight]
- Noah was **blameless in his generation**
 - His world of full of sin and evil [he didn't let it swallow him]
 - No godly example
 - No godly fellowship
- Noah, like his great-grandfather Enoch, **walked with God** [pleased God]
- Noah was a man who **feared God** (with reverent fear)

2. NOAH'S OBEDIENCE

Note: Who you are manifests in what you do.

Problem with us: We don't manifest what we say. And we don't accept who we are based on what we do.

Hebrews 11:7, By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household.

The warning of God: Warning is a prediction of trouble or destruction.

- We don't like the words "warning" "caution" and "threat". But they are important. Without that, Noah wouldn't have survived. God warns for our good.
- Warning is an expression of God's love and care for us.

In Genesis 6: God commands Noah to build the ark according to the prescribed measurement (It was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high)

- ❖ **Genesis 6:22**, Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

- ❖ **Genesis 7:5**, And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.
- ❖ We don't have a single sermon that he preached. But we know that he did all that God commanded.

Answers in Genesis: A tentative range of about 55 to 75 years for Noah to build the Ark.

Reverent fear: Noah had reverence for God, which led to his attentive care to the details of what God commanded.

“warned by God concerning events as yet unseen” — “Now faith is the conviction of things not seen.”

Two things Noah didn't see:

- The impending flood
- The impending salvation through the ark

Faith: What is unseen at present, faith perceives its reality and acts accordingly.

- Noah took God seriously and His word. He wasn't lighthearted. **Do you take God's Word seriously about heaven and hell?**
- If he hadn't constructed the ark, do you call Noah a man of faith and reverent fear?
- True faith and reverence always result in obedience.

Alexander Maclaren put it, “If faith has any reality in us at all, it works. If it has no effect it has no existence.”

Imagine: How Noah obeyed at all costs despite being mocked by the people of his day!

3. NOAH'S REWARD

Note: Faith leads to obedience and obedience leads to reward.

Hebrews 11:7, By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear 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**.

Genesis 7:1 Then the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation.

Genesis 7:16 And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. **And the LORD shut him in.**

Genesis 7: 22 Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. **23** He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. **24** And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

Blue Letter Bible: After counting the figures (raining, waters prevailing, waters receding), the entire duration of the Flood, from beginning to end, lasted some 371 days.

What did Noah do?

- Preserved his family (in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household)— (which included eight people; his wife, his three sons and their wives)
- Preserved the animals
 - What are the only animals that were not there in the ark and yet were saved? Aquatic animals (fish, jellyfish, sharks, whales and many more)
- Preserved the future humanity
- Preserved the earth

“By this **he condemned the world** and became an **heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.**”

Condemned: By his faith and obedience Noah condemned the world that did not believe and obey God’s warning. He condemned the world for not believing and obeying like him.

Heir of righteousness: Inherited righteousness by faith. Justified by faith.

1) A Message to Unbelievers

- ❖ **2 Peter 2:5** if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a **herald of righteousness**, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly...**9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment...**

Ungodly: Without Christ

God's Judgment: Flood [Justice]

God's ark of salvation: Christ Jesus [Grace]

2) A Message to Believers

- ❖ **Matthew 24:37-39**, “For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as 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 were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away**, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
- ❖ **2 Peter 3:4**, They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” **5 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, 6 and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.** **7** But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.
- ❖ **11** Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of **holiness and godliness**, **12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God**, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! **13** But according to his promise we **are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**