

## Noah: Faith that Works

### Hebrews 11:7

The writer of Hebrews, continuing his illustrations of grace, moves to one of the most famous and familiar stories in the Old Testament, the story of the Noah and the flood. As we have already seen, God's attributes are clearly demonstrated in His created world, but we often forget that God's glory and power are also demonstrated in the judgment of sin (the destruction of wicked sinners through the flood), as well as His grace extended to sinners (the sparing of Noah and his family).

- **Noah was warned by God. (11:7a)** What was God doing during the evil days before the flood? It is important to remember that God was not passively inactive between Genesis 3 and Genesis 6; God was warning and waiting! God raised up prophets and preachers such as Enoch and Noah. (Jude 1:14, 2 Peter 2:5, & 1 Peter 3:20, "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.")

**What do you think God is doing in the midst of our present moral decay? Warning and waiting**

- **Noah exercised faith, moved by reverential fear. (11:7b)** The writer of Hebrews reminds us that Noah believed God concerning something totally "yet unseen" (the very definition of faith given in verse one). He also emphasizes Noah's fear of the Lord. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom!"
  - **Noah was saved by grace. (Gen. 6:8)** Although it may not always be evident to us at the time, grace always precedes faith. (Eph. 2:8-9)
  - **Noah was saved by faith. (Gen. 6:9; 22 & Heb. 11:7)**
- **Noah's faith was demonstrated by his works. (11:7c)** Noah obeyed God and went to work! God spoke the Word to Noah, and the Word creates faith. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." (Rom 10:17) Faith in the Word spoken by God caused submission and obedience. Genuine saving faith will always produce works, therefore glorifying God and witnessing to man.
- **Noah's faith was accounted to him as righteousness. (11:7d)** When we truly believe, we act upon our faith! Noah acted upon the Word God had spoken, and thereby he was counted among the righteous ones and was saved!

When Scripture says that he "condemned the world," it means that the rest of the unbelieving world was without excuse! They too could have heeded the warnings, believed the Word, and been saved. Yet they refused to repent, because they loved the darkness. This is true today!

**Application: Alexander MacLaren, "So the great question for us all is - do we trust God? Do we believe Him, and therefore accept His words? Do we believe Him? Do we trust Him with our whole hearts?"**

**Will we heed God's warning and flee to Jesus, the only ark of salvation?**

**Will we warn others to flee from the coming judgment?**