

Noah: Saved By Faith

Ponder: Faith and obedience

Scripture: “By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith” (Heb. 11:7, NKJV).

Like his grandfather before him (Enoch), Noah walked with God (Gen. 6:9). People all around him became so corrupt that “every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (6:5), “But Noah found grace (favor) in the eyes of the Lord” (6:8). He “was a just man, perfect in his generations” (6:9).

God’s holy justice demanded punishment of the grossly sinful world. He determined to destroy the wicked in a world-wide flood. The Lord granted to the godly Noah, however, a way to escape the devastation along with his family. God instructed him to “Make yourself an ark of gopher-wood” (6:14). He gave detailed directions in the remainder of chapter six – dimensions, materials, rooms, stories, etc. And Noah complied with God’s directions without fail. “Thus Noah did: according to all that God commanded him, so he did” (6:22).

Was Noah being a legalist by carefully obeying God? For example, suppose Noah had found knotty pine more appealing than “gopher-wood”? (“Gopher” doesn’t refer to the rodents than ruin your lawn; it’s a Hebrew word that probably refers to Cypress or some similar tree.) Couldn’t Noah have made at least a small part of the ark from knotty pine – maybe the ceiling of the bedroom? After all, that portion wouldn’t be exposed to water continually like the area below the surface. Wouldn’t that be ok?

You already know the answer! Living “by faith” involves doing what God says. Substituting personal preferences for God’s commands is never an option. Obedience shows that we are trusting in God, not in our own wisdom.

Noah was saved from the flood because he walked by faith. “And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him” (Gen. 7:5).

Be like Noah! Walk by faith!

Song: “Faith is the Victory”

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we marvel at Your infinite wisdom. How foolish we are when we step aside from Your revealed will to satisfy our own desires! Please forgive us when we do, and guide us back to the right path. In Jesus’ name, Amen.