

## BY FAITH - NOAH

We're on week 3 of our 'By Faith' series. Today we're looking at a man named Noah. The story of Noah is an interesting one. It's full of interesting verses and stories.

Take Gen 6:4 for instance.. one of the hardest verses in the Bible to make sense of. I'm not even going to go there today...maybe you want to check it out

**We see the meticulous sorting out the animals**, interesting that it wasn't a pair of every animal species, but the Bible actually says that God instructed Noah to take seven pairs of every clean animal and one pair of every unclean animal...

**We see the wonder of this amazing Ark that was built...**

**To the way in which the world flooded**, Gen 6 tells us that: *All the underground waters erupted from the earth*, this wasn't a light drizzle...

**Finally fast tracking** to the end of Noah's account where Noah cultivates a vineyard and ends up getting drunk...

Noah spans through 4 chapters and we can't get through that all today but we are going to look at how Noah walked by Faith and trusted God. Even though he messed up at times, God used him.

### Hebrews 11:

*<sup>7</sup>By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith*

⇒ **When I look at the story of Noah**, I see how much obedience plays a role when it comes to faith. It was through Noah's obedience that his faith shone brightly. **He was literally warned of things not yet seen**, a flood of the whole earth, heavy rain, an Ark. God saw his faith!

So let's give some background here.

**Out of all the human** beings alive during Noah's time, the Bible teaches us that only righteous ones were Noah and his family. Out of all of humanity!

**It's easy for many of us to belittle a story like this** and assume that the world must have been quite small, maybe a village? Well, actually, most scholars believe that the world's population could have been in the tens of millions at the time. We don't know for sure, but it wasn't the case of a little village worth of people.

Imagine the level of depravity and Evil!

Gen 6V: 5 says: *The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.*

There was no hope, and yet you find one family devoted and committed to God.

**I'd like us to read Gen 6:9 because it gives us such insight into Noah's walk with God.**

<sup>9</sup> *This is the history of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless man living on earth at the time. He consistently followed God's will and enjoyed a close relationship with him. NLT*

**We see that Noah had an inner strength.** He walked with God. The amp says he walked in habitual fellowship with God. This is what set him up for what God was about to do. Let's read from verse 13...

#### Recap of the story:

God calls Noah to build an Ark because he was going to put an end to all people because of their sinfulness and depravity. He establishes a covenant with Noah to protect him and his family. He instructs them to gather either a pair, or seven in some cases of all animals to go on the ark so they will be spared.

Check out verse 22: *Noah did everything just as God commanded him.*

⇒ **God was in essence, hitting reset on the world. Things had gone so horribly wrong!**

#### **Noah showed great faith in building the ark**

We think Noah just built an ark...but think through the process and requirements. God asks a lot of Noah - no power tools or trucks to move timber. **Noah said YES to the ARK. He said yes to a massive ask. We see his obedience.**

#### **Noah Remains faithful right up to actually climbing on the ark**

Remember that right up to the rain starting everything is normal. He's trading with people. Living his life to get this ark built. Life was normal and people must have questioned Noah. **The construction of the ark** most likely took decades, if not a century. Estimates are between 60-120 years at most. That's a life-time today! We know people lived much longer back then, but it was still a big chunk of their life. Can you see the commitment level here!

**And so on the 600<sup>th</sup> year of Noah's life (The poor guy) The Flood begins and Noah and his family** are on the boat for 150 days. 5 months! I'm sure it wasn't all rosy. Animals are smelly. I'm sure there were floating bodies all around them.

Noah persevere and he was full of faith.

⇒ **So what can we draw from Noah's faith? What can we take from this? Lets look at a few things.**

#### **1) THERE IS ALWAYS A PROMISED WORK OF GOD**

**In verse 7 Noah** was warned that a flood was coming. God promised them protection through this. <sup>18</sup> *But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you*

- David was anointed to be King, long before he was actually King
- Joshua was promised that he would receive the land that he stepped on

- God promised Abraham and Isaac a land of inheritance

**When God calls us to faith**, there is always a promise..and remind yourself of that promise. Remind yourself of Gods promises.

⇒ **Story: One of Gods word's to me has been these words: If you take risks and step out in faith for me I will extend your territory. I will give you every place where you set your foot. (Josh 1:3)**

**We need to keep a record of Gods promises to us.** Of those things that he's spoken so dearly over our lives. Why, because in the midst of the storm, if we don't record them, we'll forget them, and we'll wonder why we're going through the storm.

**Get this:** God arms us with purpose by giving us a **promise** instead of the answer. Because if we get the answer up front, we won't need to have faith. And we won't grow in our reliance.

**What promise has God spoken to you?** Maybe you aren't sure, maybe you need to ask him? to seek him out. What dreams are on your heart, what things seems bigger than you can achieve. **Everything we do in life**, is determined by our relationship with the Holy Spirit. Everything is connected.

Remember the promise is the promised work of God, it's not for your glory, it's for his.

## **2) THERE IS ALWAYS AN INNER RESPONSE TO FAITH**

The inner response comes before the outer response. The outer response is the fruit of the inner response. **Verse 7** says that Noah 'In reverence prepared the ark' This is the inner life of faith bowing humbly and trembling with joy before the awesome word of God. **Verse 8b** describes Abraham's faith as "**not knowing where he is going**" when he set out.

- The inner response of faith includes uncertainty about the details of God's call on our lives. It comes with a process of doubting, questioning, wondering, and God's promise reminds us to keep on the road of faith! That's normal. God is in the wrestling...

**STORY:** When we were called to move to Cape Town and come and minister here. I didn't want to hear God at first. Life was good! It was peachy. I couldn't just say yes at first. That's why I said no. But then God started working on the inner self. This process took time and was hard..but good

The problem is when we become engrossed in the inner response and we can't move past it. You'll try and reason and put steps in place so that no faith is required. At some point you need to jump into faith!

## **3) FAITH REQUIRES AN EXTERNAL RESPONSE**

Noah had to agree and say: Ok I'll build the ark.

**Faith changes the way you live.** Your life takes on a dimension that can only be explained God's wisdom. People must have slated Noah for building that Ark.

**Only God makes sense out of an ark in the desert,** That's the way the life of faith is: it doesn't make sense without God. But with God, it is utterly reasonable. And that's what you hold onto.

For many of you right now, you've been forced to hold onto faith. Don't let go.

God is not finished, he's working in the chaos.

- Whether its trusting God to keep staying in the house you're in, Or being obedience in blessing someone who God has laid on your heart.
  - As a church, we felt led to take a leap of faith to put a big banner outside the church speaking of Gods hope, but the lockdown happened to early
  - You have to risk
- ⇒ **When Em Studied Interior Design,** I remember us taking the risk knowing we couldn't afford the 2 years of study. Within 4 months, God came through. Because we believe that we heard God and we acted on it.

Bill Johnson:

- *Fear looks like wisdom to those without risk.* Don't step back from faith. Common Sense in good, but don't justify fear as common sense.

#### **4) A FAITH-FILLED LIFE LOOKS FORWARD TO A FULL MEASURE OF GOD'S REWARD ONE DAY**

After the flood, Noah was saved with his family, but the Bible says he is *only an "heir" of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.* He was still awaiting the full blessing of righteousness when he died. **Faith tastes the blessing of God's goodness now in this age, but not most of it. There is so much yet to come. Our faith is only part of the story. Our full inheritance is wrapped up in eternity.**

**Sino touched on this last week,** but it's good for us to be reminded. Let's live with an eternal mindset!

This all comes back to Gods covenant with Noah. God enters into a promise with him. And Noah's role is one of obedience. Part of the promise was that God would never flood the earth again, and the Rainbow reminds us of that.

**Today we walk in a new covenant, one in which our sins are forgiven.**

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

One in which we can have direct access to God. One in which we luckily don't need to build an Arc. But one in which God still calls us to faith. One in which this life is only the start. Jesus paid it all for us! And he calls us to have faith in his plans and purposes for our lives.

- What are Gods promises to you?
- Work through the inner response
- Respond in Faith
- Set your eyes on eternity