

GENESIS 6:14 – 8:22

FAITH BUILDS FOR THE FUTURE

Heb. 11:6,7

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

7 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.

Noah is the first person mentioned in the “Hall of Faith.” And there is good reason for that. There weren’t many from which to choose in the pre-flood world. Of course we read of Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech and others, but by the time we reach this portion of history, Noah’s branch of humanity was fading.

Methuselah means, “When he dies, it comes” speaking of the worldwide judgment of God. The things that were occurring at this time are almost too fantastic to believe. There were giants roaming the earth. Many of the city-states which existed were ruled by demi-gods; the progeny of fallen angels and mortal women which had exalted themselves to the status of local deities. All sorts of genetic engineering were taking place to the extent that even the animal kingdom had been corrupted. Blood rites and human sacrifice were common. Paganism had gained a foothold that was so strong that even a global flood wouldn’t ensure that a relapse of these practices wouldn’t take place. The whole planet was engrossed with a false system of religion, evil and violence.

This is the world in which we find Noah and his family; the only humans on the planet that had yet to be corrupted by this evil. Were they in the middle of it? Were they vexed by it? Did it wear on them? Did it affect their walk? The answer to all of these questions is yes. They were no different than we. Noah had no halo. He was a man that walked in a sin-sick world just as we do. His feet were polluted by the world as are ours. In fact, he walked in a world that was much worse than ours, if you can believe that. However, we read that he was a man of faith. He didn't live by what he saw. He believed in what wasn't seen. He believed God. He knew that God had a plan and that he played a part in that plan.

Noah was divinely warned. He wasn't ignorant of God's plan. He was warned due to his relationship with God.

John 15:14,15

14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

Noah was a friend of God, as I pray we all are. We know what our master is doing. Do we have all the details? No. But we have the outline. Did Noah have all the details? No. He had the plans for a ship, the logistics to build it and care for a great many animals and the rest he had yet to see. He took it on faith.

Put your place in this man's shoes. For 120 years he had been building a ship that was not equaled until the 19th century. Why? Because a flood was coming that would cover the globe. What was rain? He endured the jeers of his neighbors. In fact you could say he was the laughing stock of the entire planet. But in the end, he would be proven right, as will we.

The British expositor Alexander Maclaren put it this way:

For a hundred and twenty years the wits laughed, and the “common-sense” people wondered, and the patient saint went on hammering and pitching at his ark. But one morning it began to rain; and by degrees, somehow, Noah did not seem quite such a fool. The jests would look rather different when the water was up to the knees of the jesters; and their sarcasms would stick in their throats as they drowned.

So it is always. So it will be at the last great day. The men who lived for the future, by faith in Christ, will be found out to be the wise men when the future has become the present, and the present has become the past, and is gone forever; while they who had no aims beyond the things of time, which are now sunk beneath dreary horizon, will awake too late to the conviction that they are outside the ark of safety, and that their truest epitaph is, “Thou fool.”

2 Peter 2:4 -9

4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) — 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

God knows how to deliver His people from His wrath/ judgment. Noah and his family were delivered through the flood in the ark. And it was no minor under-taking.

14 Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. 15 And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. 16 You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks. 17 And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. 18 But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

There were many different measurements for a cubit. In general, a cubit was the length between the tip of a man's middle finger and his elbow. This was a floating measurement and the basic cubit was eventually standardized to 18 inches. However, different peoples had different cubits. Some were over 20 inches in length. If we take the conservative figure of 18 inches, we wind up with a ship that was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. These dimensions give the ark a 6 to 1 ratio, which allows it to be self-righting.

God then warns Noah of the coming destruction, but comforts him with the fact that He (God) would establish a covenant with him and his family. The details of the covenant are given later. However, we need to realize that this covenant was mono-geric. That is, it has nothing to do with Noah. The entire covenant rests upon God. Noah has nothing to do on his end. He simply gets off the boat and God pronounces the covenant.

19 And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. 20 Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind,

two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. 21 And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.” 22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

When trying to explain the flood and the ark to unbelievers, several logistical questions are raised.

1. How did Noah capture all those animals?
2. How did he fit them all on the ark?

Concerning the gathering of the animals, some time before the flood, pairs of animals began to migrate from all over the land mass. (Pangea) Noah didn't have to capture the animals God brought them to him.

As for the issue of fitting all the animals in the ark, We need to take a few things into account. The ark was capable of holding the equivalent of 500 livestock railroad cars. That is enough space for 125,000 animals. Two of every “kind” of animal were taken into the ark. Therefore, there was plenty of room. In order to maximize the breeding potential of the animals, younger, smaller animals would have been taken aboard. So room was not an issue.

There was still enough room for stores of food.

It is also my opinion that it was during the flood that many of the animals began to hibernate. This would not have been necessary prior to the flood because the entire earth had a tropical climate. It would however be necessary after the flood. Therefore many of the animals would not require any feeding nor would their cages need cleaning.

In verse 22 we see once again that Noah was obedient.

The Great Flood

1 Then the Lord said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. 2 You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; 3 also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. 4 For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made." 5 And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him.

We can see here that burnt offerings were already in affect. Even though the Law has yet to be revealed, the categories of clean and unclean already exist.

Verse 5 – Once again Noah is obedient. This repetition is making the point of Noah's obedience in contrast to the rest of humanity.

6 Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.

Gen. 5:32

32 And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

The boys are not triplets.

Japheth is the oldest. ***Gen. 10:21 And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder.***

Ham was the youngest. ***Gen. 9:24 So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him.***

Therefore Shem is the middle son. He is listed first most of the time because he was the one through Jesus would come.

So Adam's boys were fairly young when they got off the ark. (For pre-flood people)

7 So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. 8 Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, 9 two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. 12 And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

13 On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark— 14 they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. 15 And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. 16 So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.

17 Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18 The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. 20 The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. 21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man.

22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. 23 So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. 24 And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

Chapter 8

Noah's Deliverance

1 Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. 2 The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. 3 And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. 4 Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. 5 And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

6 So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. 7 Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. 8 He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. 9 But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. 10 And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. 11 Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. 12 So he waited yet another seven days

and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.

13 And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry. 14 And in the second month, on the twenty- seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.

15 Then God spoke to Noah, saying, 16 “Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. 17 Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” 18 So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him. 19 Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.

FLOOD CHRONOLOGY

- The rain fell for forty days
40
- The waters prevailed on the earth for another 110 days
(7:24) 110
- The waters began to assuage. Flood waters ran down into
The basins that became the ocean depths for 74 days
74
- Forty days elapsed before Noah sent out a raven
40
- Seven days elapsed before Noah sent out the dove for the
first
time
7

- Seven days passed before Noah sent the dove for the second time 7
- Seven more days passed before the third sending of the dove 7
- Up to this point 285 days are accounted for, but the next episode
Is dated the 1st of the month in the 601st year. From the date in
7:11 to this point in 8:13 is a period of 314 days; therefore an
interval of 29 days elapses.
29
- From the removal of the covering of the ark to the very end
of the
experience was a further 57 days (8:14)
57
- -----
- TOTAL 371
- Flood Geology
- Fossilization

We have read time and again about Noah's obedience. He is listed as a man of faith in the book of Hebrews.

Heb. 11:7

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.

But everyone that boarded the ark had to have faith in the Word of God. They could not get by on Noah's faith. Noah prepared his family. He stepped up to the plate as the spiritual head of the household.

Men, can we say the same for ourselves?

We are all to have a personal walk of faith. How did Noah come by this faith?

Rom. 10:17

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Noah also attempted to warn others but they wouldn't listen. Why?

Lk. 14:16-24

16 Then He said to him, " A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, 17 and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready. ' 18 But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused. ' 19 And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused. ' 20 Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. ' 21 So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind. ' 22 And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room. ' 23 Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel

them to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper. ””

2 Peter 3:1-9

3 knowing this first:that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” 5 For this they willfully forget:that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.

1 Thes. 5:1-10

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

- Do we have our own walk?
- Are we busy with things of this world?
- Are we trying to piggy-back off of someone else’s faith?

- Would we have made it onto the ark? (Into the Body of Christ?)

“It wasn’t raining when Noah built the ark.”