

HEROES OF THE FAITH, THEN AND NOW

The Fearful Builder

TEXT: Hebrews 11:7

INTRODUCTION: We should begin by reviewing what was said in the opening verses of Hebrews 11. **Hebrews 11:1-6** ¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a *good* testimony. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. ⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, *"and was not found, because God had taken him"*; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 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.

We should remember that **Biblical Faith means believing God**. Not just believing, but believing God. Everybody believes someone or something. Some believe what the devil says. Some believe their friends. For some there's not much difference! Some believe the world. Some believe themselves. Some believe whoever says what they want to hear. Everybody believes. But **Biblical faith happens when you believe God**.

Last time we looked at some of the early examples of faith in the Scriptures: Abel and Enoch. Today we look at one of my favorites in the O.T. I have called him the Fearful Builder, and in a moment you will see why. But let me tell you that in this case, fear was a good thing and not a bad thing. He was not a coward. He was far from timid. In fact, he was bold, daring, brave, and strong. And on this Father's Day, Noah is a man commended by God to all of us fathers as a man who by faith saved his whole family. In a day in which all of us have family members in danger of perishing, physically and spiritually, God offers us a father's insight from the life of this man who was a hero to his own sons and wife and daughters-in-law, and no doubt in future years to his grandchildren as well.

His given name was Noah, and God instructed him to build an ark so that he, his wife, his three sons, and their wives, and at least a pair of every kind of land animal on the earth could survive the worldwide flood that God would send to wipe out the wickedness of men that had come to dominate God's creation. **The story of Noah and his faith is told in Gen. 6-9.**

Before we read our single verse of text about Noah today, let me just remind you that **Noah was a real man in history and the worldwide flood was a very real event of history.** Although so called enlightened men, who have unwittingly bought the devil's lie themselves, will try to relegate this story to the category of myth and legend, you cannot do so without great consequence.

Many other Biblical authors refer to the historicity of the world wide flood in addition to Moses: David, Isaiah, Jeremiah.

Six passages of the N.T. speak of it.

Jesus Christ Himself describes it as a real event of history. So unless you are willing to say that the Holy Spirit did not inspire this multitude of references throughout the Bible; and that Jesus was either mistaken, misled, or a liar, you have to come to the conclusion that the testimony of the Scripture concerning Noah, the ark, and the flood are absolutely true.

But while I would love to get bogged down in all the evidence God has left us of the truth of Noah's story from the fields of geology, hydrology, and paleontology, I must resist the temptation. Because our purpose today is to look at Noah, the fearful builder, and see what it is about his life that God wants us to imitate that prompted His Holy Spirit to list this man among the heroes of the faith.

Hebrews 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.

What is God showing us about Noah that is important today?

I. NOAH WAS MOTIVATED BY GODLY FEAR.

A. The task of building the ark was colossal.

1. It was 450 feet long x 75 feet wide x 45 feet high .
2. It was divided into 3 decks.
3. It was built by only 4 men over a span of 120 years,
4. amidst scoffing, scorn, and ridicule - "crazy old Noah"
5. There had never been a flood in history of the earth; it never even rained!

B. What kept Noah going? - The fear of the Lord!

C. God is an awesome friend.

1. 2 Kgs. 6:8-23 tells of the Syrian army's pursuit of Elisha at Dothan. Elisha prayed for his friend, "Open his eyes that he may see." When God opened

the spiritual eyes of Elisha's friend, he saw the angels comprising the army of the Lord, standing ready to defend Elisha!

2. Rom. 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can* be against us?

D. But God is a fearsome foe.

1. In the account of Elisha and the Syrians, you would want to be on Elisha's side.
2. Heb. 10:30-31 ³⁰ For we know Him who said, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*" says the Lord. And again, "*The LORD will judge His people.*" ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

E. The casual attitude of people today regarding God is a result of the deception of the devil.

1. God is not a great big granddaddy in the sky.
2. God is not just "the man upstairs."
3. God is not just a sentimental old man that loves everybody and everything.
4. Psalm 50 clearly shows the Lord, great and awesome, to both his children by faith and to the wicked who have not trusted Him.

Psalm 50 ¹ The Mighty One, God the LORD, Has spoken and called the earth From the rising of the sun to its going down. ² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth. ³ Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent; A fire shall devour before Him, And it shall be very tempestuous all around Him. ... ¹⁰ For every beast of the forest *is* Mine, *And* the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field *are* Mine. ¹² "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world *is* Mine, and all its fullness. ... ¹⁵ Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me." ... ²² "Now consider this, you who forget God, Lest I tear *you* in pieces, And *there be* none to deliver.

II. NOAH PREPARED AN ARK TO SAVE HIS FAMILY.

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.

A. Noah was not just saving himself by trusting and obeying God; he was providing a way for his family to be saved.

B. We need men and women who will build an ark of protection for their children in order to save them.

1. Save them from hell and eternal destruction by faith in Jesus Christ
2. Save them from drugs
3. Save them from pornography

4. **Save them from promiscuity**
5. **Save them from the occult**
6. **Save them from materialism and other destructive values**
7. **Save them from false religions that know not Christ**
8. **Save them from life destroying philosophies like evolution, liberalism, and hedonism**

Dads, what are you doing to save your family from these things?

C. The church needs to help parents build that ark of protection for our students.

1. In America - 88% of children of evangelical families leave the church when they go to college and never come back!
2. No parent and no church can make a student be saved nor guarantee all the right choices.
3. But we can build the arks or protection that will help prevent our students from being stolen away from us and the faith from right under our noses.

III. NOAH DEMONSTRATED THE GENUINENESS OF HIS FAITH BY HIS ACTION.

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.

- A. **Noah did not become a man of faith by building the ark.**
- B. **Noah believed God; he trusted in the Lord. He had faith.**
- C. **The result of his genuine faith was action, obedience.**

James 2:20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

D. Genuine faith always results in action.

Dads, if your children were deaf, and sometimes it seems they are, but if they never heard a word you say, could they tell by your life that you are a man who fears God and walks obediently with Him in faith?

CONCLUSION:. Have you come to a genuine, life changing faith in Jesus Christ? Because of a personal relationship with Him, do you live your life motivated by reverence for the great and mighty God that you have as your friend and protector? As a believer, are you building an ark of protection for your family?