

NOAH

We do not know how much time elapsed between creation and the time of Noah. However, we do know that women and men were beginning to multiply at a rapid rate. People were living to be over five hundred years old, and their procreative powers persisted over an extended number of years. Their families must have been large. The human race was expanding rapidly, distributing itself over a wide geographical area. It was into this period of history that Noah was born.

Review your memory verse: Hebrews 11:1.

Read Hebrews 11:7 and Genesis 6:5-9:17.

1. From Hebrews 11:7 we see Noah described as a man of faith, of "reverence" (NAS) and an heir of righteousness. That is his legacy. List some things you would like to be remembered for.

Read Genesis 6:5-12.

2. a. From verses 5, 11 and 12 describe the condition of "man". (Remember "man" represents all of mankind.)

b. Contrast this with what you learn about Noah from verses 8-9.
3. We know that Noah did not live a life of sinless perfection (Genesis 9:20-21). Yet he is referred to as righteous and blameless before we see him acting in any way. From Hebrews 11:7b what was the basis of Noah's righteousness?
4. What more do you discover about true righteousness from the following verses:
 - a. Romans 3:20-24

b. I Corinthians 1:26-31
5. Like Enoch in last week's study, Noah is referred to as a man who "walked with God" (Genesis 6:9b). What does this description tell you about Noah?

6. What was God's reaction to the wickedness of man (verses 5-6)?

Read Genesis 6:13-22

7. Hebrews 11:7a says that God warned Noah about things not yet seen. From Genesis 6:13-21:

a. What did God warn Noah about?

b. Describe God's plan for Noah and his family.

8. Remember that Noah lived in an arid region, far from lakes or rivers. What might have been Noah's thoughts as he considered God's message?

9. a. According to Genesis 6:22 and Hebrews 11:7a what action did Noah take?

b. What attitudes did Noah demonstrate as he acted in obedience to God? (Hebrews 11:7 will help.)

10. How does the truth of Hebrews 11:1b relate to Noah's situation?

11. Considering the corrupt and violent society that Noah lived in, what obstacles might Noah have faced as he began to build the ark?

12. Now let's get personal. Like Noah, there will be times in our life when, faced with the unknown, we are asked to obey by faith. What is God asking you to do today?

What are some obstacles you face as you seek to obey God?

13. What help do you find in the following passages as you obey by faith?

a. Jeremiah 29:11

b. Proverbs 3:5-6

c. Philippians 4:6-7

Read Genesis 7:1 - 8:14

Think of the length of time it would have taken Noah to build the ark. Then consider the time he spent in the ark before the rain fell (Genesis 7:4a, 10). Also remember that Noah and his family were in the ark for over a year. This all involved a lot of "waiting".

14. What might have been some of Noah's thoughts and feelings during this time?

15. How does this time of Noah's "waiting" relate to something God is asking you to wait for?

16. What do the phrases "then the Lord shut him in" (7:16b-NIV) and "but God remembered Noah" (8:1) tell you about God?

How does this help as you wait?

Note: Hebrews 11:7b says that by his faith Noah condemned the world (NIV). Against the wicked and dark world, Noah's life shone in condemnation. As a man of faith he rebuked the world just by his way of living. A young man of Athens told Socrates, "I hate you, because every time I meet you, you show me what I am." Noah was such a man.

Read Genesis 8:15-9:17

17. a. What was the first thing Noah did after coming out of the ark (Genesis 8:20)?

b. What attitudes was Noah demonstrating by this action?

c. How might Noah's example make a difference in how you respond to God's work in your life?

18. In Genesis 9:1-7 God gave Noah and his family another opportunity to obey his instructions. What were these instructions?

19. The sign of the rainbow was given to assure Noah (and us!) of God's faithfulness to keep His promise not to flood the earth.

a. What things do you think Noah would have remembered when he looked at a rainbow?

b. How does God's faithfulness to Noah help you as you face the "things not yet seen" in your life?

c. Give an example of how God's faithfulness to you in the past can be an encouragement to you in the present.

20. In this study we've seen Noah obeying by faith, waiting by faith, and worshipping as he remembered God's faithfulness. What have you learned from this study that you most want to incorporate in your life?

What steps will you take (with God's help) to do so?

Diane Herdegen