

Noah and Faith That Influences the World
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Soul Structuring Arts
Hebrews 11:7
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Read Hebrews 11:7.

Noah's ark was a stupendous engineering and construction project for eight souls to undertake.

Read Genesis 6:14-16: So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks.

Noah's faith was stupendous. What he did doesn't make sense to the rational mind.

- SLIDE #18: Think about it. This is a really big boat. 1 football field and a half. 45 feet tall—three decks. It was enormous.

By the way, it was stable: Naval engineering test show square box 1:6 stability, most stable proportions possible—but Noah did not know that.

- SLIDE #15: Besides that, he lived in the desert between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers—he was over 100 miles from any large body of water.

- SLIDE #16: Besides that, good conjecture that Noah had never seen rain... “Warned of things not yet seen.”

According to Genesis 2:5-6 everything before flood was watered by a mist over the earth and a system of springs, rivers with evaporation and condensation.

Question of cosmology: Some think there was a water canopy that helped maintain a uniform temperature over the land mass, with the coming of the flood the canopy was dispensed as rain and the flood gates of the sky was opened (Genesis 70).

Some speculate this is why people lived so long before the flood . . . wonderful environment—fewer damaging rays from sun—900 plus years.

Gene for aging begin fought today—We are reversing aging. Children being born today will all live well into the 22nd century—life span 120 years—getting back to Abraham's and Moses' ages.

God said, “I am going to send water from the sky. It is going to rain.” Noah had never seen rain. It would be like God saying to you, “I am going to make it gleek.” What is gleek..rain? Noah probably thought a lot about that for 120 years.

- SLIDE #17: Besides that, it seemed so unlikely that a loving God would be so cruel as to destroy all the human race. Besides, it was going to take 120 years to build the ark, surely in that much time the people would repent and get right with God and there would be no need for a flood.

- SLIDE #19: Besides, he looked at that boat and wondered how it would ever float! Besides, it had no anchor, no mast, no sail, no rudder.

- SLIDE #20: Besides how will we get all those animals in there? How will we handle the stench? A church committee would have scratched the whole project on the basis of the clean up problem

alone!

But, against all objections, his faith raised steady resistance—Noah did what God told him to do.

When the sun was shining, Noah must have looked like a fool. He believed in something neither he nor anyone else could see—then one day the rain began to fall—then who looked like the fool?

A man with a sandwich board sign over his shoulders was walking the sidewalks. On the front the sign said, “I am a fool for Christ.”

People would laugh and snicker as they went by. On the back, the sign said, “Whose fool are you?” They stopped laughing.

Everybody is a fool for somebody. Think about it—it might just be for yourself.

The person of faith long ago decided, “I don’t mind looking like a fool for Christ when the sun is shining—because Christ will stand with me when the raindrops begin to fall.”

I want to know WHY? What happened to convince Noah to commence this epic undertaking? The answer is simple; he had a deep, deep experience with God.

We know from a word in Hebrews 7 that Noah had a deep emotional encounter with God.

•SLIDE #7: Hebrews 11:7: “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 comes by faith.”

•SLIDE #8: εὐλαβηθεῖς = multiple shades of meanings= fear

Participle demonstrates the reason he built the ark: He was afraid of God.

Read Genesis 6: 5-7: The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth-- men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air-- for I am grieved that I have made them."

Read Genesis 6: 13: So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

Read Genesis 6: 17-18: I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. 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. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you.

Read Genesis 6: 22: Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

Why? The writer to the Hebrews tells us that he was scared.

Fear is a powerful motivating force.

When is the last time you were really scared? There are different levels of scared;

•SLIDE #1: roller coaster?

•SLIDE #2: intruder at night?

“He’s in here” affected my behavior; instantaneous and all over.

•SLIDE #3: Sitting in Doctor's office waiting for the diagnosis?

•SLIDE #4: Scary movies, Scream, Shining, Jurassic Park

Does this scare you? God says that another world-wide judgment is coming to the earth: 1st by flood
2nd by fire

Luke 17:26-30: "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.

Luke 17:37: "Where, Lord?" they asked. He replied, "Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather."

Listen to this litany of judgment verses.

Hebrews 9:27: Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

2 Peter 2:9: The Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

2 Peter 3:7: By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

Jude 1:14-15: Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8: This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Matthew 24:37-39: As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Read John 3:16-18.

Girl at Gathering, talking about fear of God's judgment at second coming. Felt badly that she came to Christ out of Fear.

"Don't! Just be glad you came!"

•SLIDE #9: Which is higher motive for coming to Christ? Love? Or Fear?

It doesn't matter, just come. Then grow into sense of love. Fear is not the best long-term motivator.

When I came to Christ, I was afraid of going to Hell. Preacher talked about lost sheep. I realized that I was a lost sheep. Jesus was looking for me. I gave my life to Christ. I did not want to be lost and on the way to hell. I was overwhelmed with the love that Christ had to die on the cross for me.

Some of you need to come to Christ. Be warned. God will judge the world again. Come to Christ today.

There is another dimension to

•SLIDE #10: εὐλαβηθεῖς = “to hold something carefully with awe and reverence”

Like we would treat precious gems.

Go to the mall, look at wedding rings. Pullout 4 carat diamond ring—just looking: “Here, dear, let’s play catch!”

No. You hold on to it with hands cupped. Can’t wait to get it back in the box before you dropped it or somebody came in the store and grabbed it away from you. You hold it very, very carefully.

This is Noah and God’s will.

Hold on to your experience with God very carefully.

•BUILD SLIDE #11A: Last coronation service of an English monarch took place on 2 June 1953 at Westminster Abbey in London for Queen Elizabeth:

•BUILD SLIDE #11B: “Receive this kingly sword, brought now from before the altar of God. With this sword do justice, stop the growth of iniquity, protect the holy church of God, help and defend the widows and orphans, restore the things that have gone to decay, punish and reform what is amiss, and confirm what is in good order . . .”

•SLIDE #12: Let me give you something to take home: We all need a coronation service with God which gives us marching orders for the rest of our lives.

Marker moments in life, life changing events.

People hungry for memorable, life

“Survivor” duplicates Abraham’s covenant with God, walk through poles of fallen comrades, walk through coals, touch an idol totem: “We want you to take a little part of the island home with you.”

We all need a coronation moment of dedication before God.

This is what our baptism experience is to be. “Confess me before men.”

Explain Baptism, Solidify an internal experience. Forever hold it carefully in our hands.

Plan a time of coronation and dedication with friends—don’t do it alone.

Get some of your Christian friends together and write out your vows to God. Make a ceremony of it with your small group. Pray and worship and take turns sharing vows to God.

You can have a coronation experience today, alone—just you and God.

Spiritual growth principle, “Some of the most precious moments with God occur on the back side of the desert when no one else is around.

Then hold that moment precious.

When is the last time God spoke to you?

He doesn't, or it's been a long time...

•SLIDE #6: You have a Bible –sit down and listen for Him to speak. Hold it precious. Ukraine and putting it near foot. “Don’t do that.” “Why?” Bible is dear and holy. *Story of things you don't do overseas: Rio and double Oks.*

Many still afraid to bring Bibles to church. It is where they hear from God. In the age in which we live we have to hang on to it tightly.

One of the ways you know you are really a Christian and not just playing games is that you love the Bible as God's revealed Word, and listen to its teachings, and live by what it says—like Noah.

Review Soul structuring Lifestyle arts. Get tapes and catch up.

Add today a new lifestyle art:

•SLIDE #5: My faith means a long-term commitment to God's will in spite of circumstances or criticism.

Long time: He worked on the ark for 120 years: It is one thing to see him ordering the lumber. It is quite another to see him putting on the finishing touches 120 years later.

Criticism: You know Noah was laughed at and ridiculed.

Kids in High school; whose fool are you?,

LOOK AT THE RESULTS OF HIS FAITH AND ACTIONS.

•SLIDE #22: He saved his family.

Hebrews 11:7: “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 comes by faith.”

Noah's faith was not transferable. It was contagious.

Flood began when Noah was 600 years old. God spoke to Noah when he was 480 years old. His first child was not born until he was 500. Talk about faith. God promised to save his children 20 years before he even had any.

Genesis 7:6-7 tell us Noah, Mrs. Noah, Shem, Ham, Japheth and their three wives all entered the ark and were saved.

There is a frightening contrast between Noah and Lot when it comes to their families.

Lot was a believer, but he did not walk with God. When he tried to warn his family of coming judgment, they only laughed at him. Son-in-laws refused to follow him. Mrs. Lot turned back and was destroyed instantly. His two daughters involved him in drunken incest and gave birth to the two great enemies of Israel: the Ammonites and the Moabites.

Lot's compromise destroyed his family. Noah's convictions saved his family.

The first place we ought to have spiritual influence is with our own families.

When our faith is filled with the love of Jesus Christ in mind, body, and will we will influence the

people around us.

Parents spend time with your children:

Charles Swindoll: “Do you want a football or soccer ball for Christmas?”

“It depends on you, dad. If you are going to spend time with me, then I want a football so I can play catch. But, if you’re not going to spend time with me, then I want a soccer ball so I can play by myself.”

•SLIDE #23: He condemned the world.

Hebrews 11:7: “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 comes by faith.”

Noah’s faith condemned the world because it illustrated what people lacked.

This is why it is often dangerous to be a Christian. It is not that the Xn is self righteous, censorious, or goes about finding fault with other people. It is not that the Xn says, “I told you so.”

It often happens that just simply by being himself, the Christian is passing judgment on other people.

Alcibiades, the brilliant, wild, young man of Athens used to say to Socrates: “Socrates, I hate you, you life shows me what I really am.”

•SLIDE #24: He became the heir of all righteousness.

Hebrews 11:7: “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 COMES BY FAITH.”

The ark symbolized many of God’s future dealings with mankind.

The Hebrew word of pitch, for example, has the same root, *kpr*, as that used for atonement. The pitch kept the waters of judgment from entering the ark just as Christ’s atoning blood keeps judgment from the sinner.

As Noah and his family were brought safely through the flood by the ark because of faith, so we may today escape God’s judgment through faith in His son.

Noah became an heir of righteousness right on the earth. Everyone else on earth was an heir of unrighteousness—terrifying and horrible judgment. When Noah stepped out upon the earth on dry ground, he was master of all he could see.

God’s children by faith today are heirs of all things in Christ.