

Intro: Jas 2:26b so faith without works is dead also. According to James, in order for faith to be valid, it must be seen in action. Good works, the way you live, speak, and what you do will be the evidence of faith. Satan has been confusing people about this for as long as people have been around. He causes some to believe that they can come to God by good works. If he is successful, they will be lost. With believers, he causes them to believe one of two extremes. He causes some to think that they need the good works to stay in good standing with God, (legalism). If he is successful, they will waste much of their life not walking in the Spirit and glorifying God. With others, he convinces them that works are not part of salvation, before or after and they can do anything, (license). Paul strongly taught the justification was by faith alone, but he also taught the we were saved unto good works. With Abel, we saw how one comes to God in worship. With Enoch, we saw how one walks with God. And now with Noah, we will see how one obeys God. Noah's faith was astounding in that he trusted God for around 100 years, in obedience building an ark for a flood, caused by rain that no one had seen to that point.

XXVIII. Noah: Obeying in Faith - vs 7

A. Noah responded to God's Word - vs 7a

1. The story of Noah's obedience is found in Ge 6

a. Judgment coming in 120 years - Ge 6:3b yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

b. Ge 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

i. Ge 5:32 And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

ii. Ge 7:6 Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.

c. Ge 6:10 And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

d. Ge 6:13 And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

e. Ge 6:14 "Make yourself an ark

f. Ge 6:22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

2. The command to build the ark

a. God letting Noah in on what was going to happen - Ge 6:13 And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

b. Letting Noah know how to be saved from judgement - Ge 6:14-16

i. "Make yourself an ark - vs 14

ii. From what material - vs 14

iii. Size - vs 15

iv. Additional info, window, door decks - vs 16

c. why - judgment coming, going to save you, yours, and animals - vs 17-20

i. Ge 6:17 "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.

ii. Ge 6:18 "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.

iii. Ge 6:19-20 "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. "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.

3. By faith Noah prepared an ark

a. being divinely warned of things not yet seen

i. Was there rain before this? - Ge 2:6, 10

ii. Would there have been a flood without rain?

iii. Was there boats or especially gigantic ships?

b. Noah had nothing to go on except God's word, which for him was sufficient

4. Noah moved with godly fear,

a. *eulabeomai* - to be circumspect, to be apprehensive; religiously, to reverence:-- (moved with) fear, showing pious care.

b. Obedience, before he was called to build the ark - Ge 6:9b Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

5. Lessons from the ark for future generations

a. pitch kept the waters of judgment from entering the ark

i. *kaphar* - to cover (specifically with bitumen); to expiate or condone, to placate or cancel:-- appease, make (an atonement, cleanse, disannul, forgive, be merciful, pacify, pardon, purge (away), put off, (make) reconcile(-liation).

ii. Same root for the word atonement which describes Christ's atoning blood keeping judgment from the repentant sinner

b. Cubit - unit of measure, not sure of exact measurement

i. minimum 17.5" making the ark 438' long; 73' wide; 44' high

ii. Total deck area—96000 sq feet; total volume 1.3 million cubic feet

iii. Ships are still made to the 6 to 1 (1 to w) ratio b/c of stability

c. perfect picture of salvation

i. there was plenty of room for any who wanted to enter - Jo 6:37b the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

ii. There was plenty of warning - 100 years - 2 Pe 3:9b not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

iii. The 8 who entered were safe from judgment - for the saving of his household,

iv. God makes a covenant with those who enter

- Ge 6:18 "But I will establish My covenant with you; - Ge 6:8

- Ge 9:16 "The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

v. Noah, though he was a just man, perfect in his generations, he walked with God. - Ge 6:9

- he was still a sinner as seen through his drunkenness in Ge 9:20-21

- his righteousness was imputed by faith - Ro 4:5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

B. Noah rebuked the world - vs 7b

1. his obedience meant listening to God, passing on what the world was telling him - Ro 12:2

a. Peter calls Noah a preacher of righteousness

i. 2Pe 2:5 but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

ii. The preaching to an unrepentant community was probably harder than the building of the ark

- Ge 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

- Demonic activity at a high point - Ge 6:2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. - 1Pe 3:19-20

b. God judgment was tempered by mercy

i. though grieved in His heart, God gave 120 years for people to repent

- Ge 6:6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

- Ge 6:3 And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

ii. God had warned them some 500 years previously through Noah's father

- Ge 5:29 And he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed."

- 1Pe 3:20b when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

- 1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

2. Being without excuse - having enough truth

a. natural revelation

i. Ro 1:19-20 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are **clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made**, even His eternal power and Godhead, **so that they are without excuse**,

ii. Ps 19:1-6 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. **There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard.** Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, And rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising is from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

b. divine revelation

i. they would have had the history of Cain and Abel, Enoch

ii. they would have had the work of the Spirit striving with them - Ge 6:3

iii. they would have had the preacher of righteousness, Noah

iv. they would have had the example of Noah's continued obedience in building of the ark under the pressures of 100 years of ridicule

c. God's mercy

i. in the warning - See B1b above

ii. in the judgment

- for the sake of the believing remnant, God cut off a malignant cancer

- for future generations, God gave an example of what sin brings - Mt 24:37-39 "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, "and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

d. Today's sinners are missing the same warnings (mercy)

i. 2Ti 3:1-5 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

ii. Judgment is coming

- not a flood - Ge 9:15

- but fire - 2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

iii. Mercy is found in God's ark, Jesus Christ

C. Noah received God's righteousness

1. and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

a. Ge 6:8-9 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

b. Noah is the first person to be called righteous or just in the Bible

2. All who come to God by faith receive imputed righteousness - Ro 3:22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

a. positionally, we are declared righteous

b. practically, we may not always act like it

c. Ro 4:4-5 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

3. In coming to God by Faith, God makes us a new creation - 2 Co 5:17. He gives us a new heart - Jer 31:31-34, a new man created like Him - Eph 4:24, a new desire to please Him - Col 1:10; 3:20; 1Th 2:4; 1Jo 3:22

4. Obedience helps us with our assurance

a. 1Jo 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

b. 1Jo 2:5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him

c. 1Jo 3:18-19 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.