



December 9, 2007

Noah

We don't often think of Noah as a prophet but his life certainly fits the definition. As the world grew in population it was filled with wickedness to the point that "...it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart." (Gen 6.6). Because of this God decided to destroy the creation with the exception of Noah. The scriptures speak of Noah's faith and character stating, "**But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.**" (Gen 6.8) and "**Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.**" (Gen 6.9). We defined two aspects of prophecy and the work of prophets. This included forthtelling, declaring the word of the Lord, and foretelling, predicting future events revealed by God. Noah fits both of these descriptions. Peter, writing of the days of Noah and the preparation of the ark, describes Noah as a "**preacher of righteousness**". One of the ways in which we declare the word of the Lord is through the lives that we lead. Noah was such a person as stated above in that he "**walked with God**". His life was a testament to the character of God as Noah followed the Lord in spite of the evil that existed in the world. This stands as an encouragement to us as we live our lives as Christians. We are faced with many situations and attitudes in the world that defy the word of the Lord and the image or remembrance of the creator. Noah lived in a world that had cast God aside, choosing to follow a path that led to destruction. The story of Noah also demonstrates that during this dispensation of time, referred to as the patriarchal period, God was available if one sought him. Noah obviously did that and desired to be right in the sight of the Lord. The overwhelming peer pressure and influence of evil at that time was to a degree that we do not encounter in our day. In the second sense, Noah was one who had received the knowledge from God that the world was to be destroyed. As a preacher of righteousness we can conclude that Noah warned those around him that they needed to repent of their deeds but to no avail. The end result was that the world was destroyed by the flood just

as God promised. The faithful actions of Noah we find made a distinction between himself, his family and those around him. The writer of Hebrews brings this out stating, "**By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.**" (Heb 11.7). Faith is more than just stating that we believe in God. Those who are characterized as faithful in the scriptures are those who carried out the commands of God, living in such a way that they were justified by their adherence to the things which God commanded. In our time we can do the same. It seems that those around us are increasingly defiant of the idea of obedience to God. Even those who claim to be Christians have adopted ideas and doctrines that are not found in the scriptures. Although we may not always have the opportunities to teach, we will stand out in our manner of conduct if we are living as we should. Noah's life and faithfulness condemned the world around him as they chose to disregard the warnings that were given. Today people avoid dealing with the truth as it is written in the Bible and seek to find religious organizations and doctrines that will appeal to their sense of what they want, not what the Lord commands. Noah therefore stands as an example of a preacher and a prophet by his attitude and wish to be justified by the Lord. Peter states that the word of the Lord came to prophets who were faithful to God. "**For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**" (2 Pet 1.21). Noah found grace in the sight of God because of his faith and faithful actions. We have been warned of the coming judgment, and we seek to warn others of this in the hope of leading them toward salvation through obedience.

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