

By Faith: Noah

Hebrews 11:7

I. What Noah did, he did by Faith

A. What did Noah hope for?

B. How Noah Condemned the World.

C. Noah believed in what he could not see.

v. 1 – Faith is the evidence of things not seen.

Gen. 2:5-6 *“For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.”*

II. Noah Built the Ark in Fear

III. Noah became Heir of the Righteousness which is by Faith

This is the only time in the Book of Hebrews that the word “righteousness” is used in the sense of “an alien righteousness”.

Romans 1:16-17; 3:21-22

IV. Noah Was a Preacher of Righteousness

2 Peter 2:5

1 Peter 3:18-22 uses the flood as a picture of baptism.

The flood killed everybody.

The ark – and everyone in the ark was dry – and everyone was saved.

By baptism we show death to self – and our resurrection in Christ.

We, as Christians are baptized.

We are the ones who go into the water because we are saved.

Peter reminds us that baptism does not wash away our sins, but is the answer of a good conscience toward God.

According to the non-inspired collection called The **Sibylline Oracle**, here is a sample of Noah's preaching:

(There is no proof this was his message – but it is likely part of a 2nd or 3rd century Jewish work on what they thought Noah was preaching.)

“Faithless men, maddened by passion, do not forget the great things God has done; for the immortal, all-provident Savior knows all things, and he has commanded me to be a messenger to you, lest you be destroyed by your madness. Sober yourselves, cease from your evil practices and from your murderous violence against each other, soaking the earth with human blood. Reverence, my fellow mortals, the supreme and unassailable Creator in heaven, the imperishable God who dwells on high. Call upon him, all of you to be merciful to you all. For this whole vast world of men will be destroyed with water and you will then utter cries of terror. Suddenly the elements will turn against you and the wrath of Almighty God will come upon you from heaven...”

V. Applications Gleaned from Noah's Preaching

1. Noah was in a small minority surrounded by a group of hostile unbelievers.
2. Noah proclaimed the truth boldly to those around him.
3. The Spirit of Christ was proclaiming the gospel through Noah, for 120 years, and the people were left without excuse. Likewise we can trust the Spirit of Christ to work through the true gospel proclamation today. For some, the proclamation is appointed for life – for others, it is appointed for their condemnation. 2 Cor. 2:12-16
4. In the days of Noah, God was very patient. God is still patient and longsuffering, but final judgment will assuredly come (2 Peter 3:9).
5. The mercy of God and His saving purposes do continue and will continue to be always at work in this world until the world ends.