

We Can Have What Noah Had

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Thousands of years after the global flood of Noah's day, the Holy Spirit inspired the writer of Hebrews to take the readers' minds back to the days of Noah: *"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"* (Hebrews 11:7). These words should encourage us to be the kind of faithful followers of God that Noah was. If we are faithful Christians today, we are blessed in many ways similar to Noah:

Noah had a warning from God - *"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet..."* God had warned Noah about the coming flood: *"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood..."* (Genesis 6:11-14). Just as God had given Noah a warning about the forthcoming judgment in the form of a global flood, God has also given us warnings about the second coming of Christ and the judgment to follow: *"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be... Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh"* (Matthew 24:36-39, 44; cf. Acts 17:30, 31; 2 Peter 3:10, etc.). It is also interesting to note that Noah did not keep this warning to himself - Noah preached the Word of God to warn others also: *"And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly"* (2 Peter 2:5). We should be warning others of the judgment to come, just as Noah warned those of his day: *"Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus"* (Colossians 1:28). It is truly a blessing from God to have warnings about the judgment to come.

Noah had a fear of God - Noah was *"...moved with fear..."* Noah had a deep respect for God Almighty, and he knew that God was going to do exactly what He said He would do. This fear of the Lord *"moved"* Noah to action, and thereby separated him from those who despised the instruction of the Lord: *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction...For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof"* (Proverbs 1:7, 29, 30). We would be wise to fear the Lord and be *"moved"* to actions of obedience just as Noah was.

Noah had obedient faith in God - *"By faith Noah...prepared..."* Notice that Noah acted upon his faith in God with obedience! When we go back to the account recorded in Genesis we read: *"Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he"*

(Genesis 6:22). Noah could have believed the words of God, and then refused to build the ark; however faith without obedience would not have saved him. We cannot be saved without obedience any more than Noah could have been saved without building the ark (Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:9; James 2:14-26, etc.). Important also is the fact that Noah did not have to see the flood with his own eyes to believe the flood was coming. It was *"by faith"* that Noah prepared for the coming flood. The writer of Hebrews told us in this same chapter that *"faith is...the evidence of things not seen..."* (Hebrews 11:1). Noah had never seen a flood before, but he believed the Word of God (Romans 10:17). He was walking *"by faith, not by sight"* (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Noah had a place of safety - *"By faith Noah...prepared an ark to the saving of his house..."* Because Noah believed and obeyed God, Noah was given a place of safety - a refuge from the wrath of God. The ark lifted Noah and his family above the destructive waters of the flood, and this was the only safe place available. Today there is only one safe place available to avoid the wrath of God, and that is in the church which Christ built. When a person obeys God *"by faith,"* being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of his sins, he is added to the Lord's church: *"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost...Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added [unto them] about three thousand souls...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved"* (Acts 2:38, 41, 47). Paul wrote that we are *"baptized into one body"* (1 Corinthians 12:13), and Christ is the Savior of that one body: *"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body"* (Ephesians 5:23). Peter compared the salvation of Noah and his family to the way we are saved today: *"...once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us..."* (1 Peter 3:20, 21). Just as Noah and his family could be confident of their safety as long as they remained in the ark, we can be confident of our spiritual safety as long we remain in the Lord's church.

Noah had family - Noah's *"house"* is mentioned by the writer of Hebrews. This is referring to Noah's family, who apparently believed the Word of God also. Today if a person is a Christian, he has family. He may not have any earthly family members, but if he is a Christian he has a Father and a multitude of brothers and sisters. The true followers of Christ all have the same heavenly Father, and we are the siblings of Christ by adoption: Jesus said, *"...go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God"* (John 20:17). *"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons"* (Galatians 4:4, 5). *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God..."* (1 John 3:1).

Noah had faithfulness - *"...by the which he condemned the world..."* The fact that Noah faithfully obeyed God proved that it was possible to serve God faithfully! This was a testimony against all those of Noah's day who refused to serve God (cf. Matthew 12:41, 42). No matter what dispensation of time under which one may have lived, it has

always been possible to be a faithful servant of God. Being faithful does not mean being perfect. Noah was not perfect, but he was faithful. Those who have obeyed the Gospel and have become children of God can be faithful today as well, if we will truly repent when we sin, confess our sins to God, and pray to God for forgiveness (Acts 8:22-24; 1 John 1:7-9).

Noah had an inheritance - Noah "...became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Noah became the heir of the righteousness and blessings that are obtained through obedient faith in God. These blessings would later be fully realized because of the sacrifice the Son of God would make for Noah's sins and ours (Hebrews 2:9; 1 John 2:1, 2).

Noah was blessed because "...Noah walked with God" (Genesis 6:9). Let us also walk in the light with God, and through Christ we will have access to the greatest blessings ever known to man!

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