

NOAH—A PREACHER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Text: 2 Peter 2:5

INTRO: From an inspired N.T. writer, we learn something about the O.T. patriarch, Noah, that the O.T. did not record: Noah was a preacher of righteousness. But to whatever extent Noah was successful as a preacher of righteousness, we must acknowledge, it was because he was also a practitioner of righteousness.

I. NOAH'S QUALIFICATIONS.

A. Noah had found grace, Gen. 6:8

1. No man is very well equipped to lead others to the Lord until he himself has embraced & experienced the saving grace of God.
2. Most radio & TV preachers have never obeyed the gospel themselves, thus in no condition to lead others to Jesus.

B. Noah was just, fair, Gen 6:9

1. A preacher who is just will apply the same principles to himself & his family that he applies to others.
2. Not like the Pharisees, MT 23:1-4
3. The preacher who is fair will give everyone a chance—not “size them up & rule them out” without even giving them a chance to hear & obey the truth.

C. He was “perfect.”

1. The Hebrew word primarily carries the thought of integrity, basic honesty.
2. It is obvious that Noah was not sinless, either before or after the flood.
 - a. He found grace. Would not have needed grace if he were sinless.
 - b. Sinned after the flood, Gen 9:20-21.
3. The preacher who is honest will preach both the bad news & the good news. Rom 3:10, 23; 6:23
 - a. Jesus died for the remission of your sins, MT 26:28
 - b. You need to respond in faith & obedience, Acts 2:36-38.

D. Noah walked with God, Gen 6:9

1. To walk with God is to have fellowship with God, 1 JN 1:7
2. Noah communicated with God thru acceptable worship, Gen 8:20-22

E. Noah listened to God, Gen 6:13-14, 22; 7:1, 7; 8:15-16, 18

1. In times past, God spoke to the fathers; Adam, Abraham, Noah, etc. Heb 1:1
2. Then He spoke thru the O.T. prophets, LK 16:29
3. Today He speaks to us thru His Son in the N.T. Scriptures, Heb 1:1-2; Gal. 1:11-12.

4. This is the most important qualification of all. If a preacher hasn't listened to God, he has nothing of value to preach to others.

II. NOAH'S AUDIENCE.

A. Compromisers, Gen 6:1-2

1. Physical attraction was more important than spiritual qualities.
2. They put their own choice & will above that of God.

B. Materialists, impressed only with physical power or might.

C. Wicked, corrupt & violent, Gen 6:5, 11-13.

III. HIS THEM—RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH, Heb 11:7.

A. Not a dead faith, JS 2:24, 26

B. But an active obedient faith.

C. The water of the flood was a type, N.T. baptism the antitype, 1 Pet 3:20-21.

IV. THE RESULTS OF HIS PREACHING.

A. His hearers remained disobedient & rebellious.

1. Even tho the preacher had the Spirit of Christ, 1 Pet 3:18-19.
2. Even tho they had ample time, Gen 6:3.
3. Measuring "visible results," Noah's preaching was not very successful.

- B. But within his own family, Noah's teaching & preaching was successful indeed, Heb 11:7
- C. But perhaps most important to us, as was said of Abel in Heb 11:4, "He being dead still speaks..."
1. Noah is one of a "great cloud of witnesses" that God can be served successfully in the midst of a crooked, perverse, violent world.
 2. He joins Paul in telling us that our labor is not in vain in the Lord, 1 Cor 15:58.
 3. He would remind us along with the apostle John that "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord" (Rev 14:13).

Exton, PA, August 2, 1988

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, June 7, 1989 (meeting)

Eastside, Indianapolis, IN, April 22, 1990 (meeting)

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 23, 2005