

## John Bivol - By Faith Noah

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I don't know about you, but every time when I read through Hebrews 11, it just makes me think how this ancient word is how these people have got with so little faith that they had, with so not so little faith, with so few promises that they had from their parents, from their grandparents. They were so faithful, and it just makes me think and wonder with the amount of knowledge that we have, with the amount of prophecies that fulfilled and so many things that we are blessed. It just makes me feel so little when I read about their great faithfulness. Thank you for introducing us to to this subject.

We really miss brother Matt because he was the bridge, so called from able to Noah. But we hope to cover a little bit in our now presentation. So let's look by faith Noah. So we start reading in Hebrews 11, 7. By faith.

Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen in reverence, prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness, which is according to faith. So we'll look very briefly at the time that he lived in. We'll look at Noah's acts of faith. What exactly was it that he proved his faithfulness and definitely will try to take some lessons for us. I really like how brother David today, while speaking about the parables and how they apply to the Pharisees, but he draw a lesson for each one of us.

And I think that's important as well, and brother Arbor did that as well, and then very briefly see if look at some prophetic applications, applications as well. So we read in Genesis 6, 5, then the Lord saw that the wickedness of men was great on earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. We read that in the time where Noah was living, the angels saw that the daughters of men were beautiful.

They materialized, they married and then took them as wives. So as a result we ended up with giants in the land, and that was a complete different race that our heavenly Father created. Complete different DNA and biologically and everything. So that's why God wanted to of course put an end to that race.

And I think it's so interesting to realize how nowadays we reach the point in society where mankind is trying to look at different ways. How to prolong life, how to clone certain things, even probably cloning animals or people or whatnot, and we know that God will not permit that to happen, as he did not allow that to continue, and God said that I will blot out men whom I have created from the face of the land. From men to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky.

Of course he chose a man through whom mankind would continue to live, and that man was Noah, and Noah means rest, and we read that in Genesis 5, 29 that he called his name Noah, saying that this one will give us rest from our work and from the toil of our hands arising from the ground which the Lord has cursed. How providential was it that he actually lived up to his name and even despite and being rejected of the people around him.

And I'm sure he. People laughed at him. He really had rest. He really saved his family, and through him the race of mankind was saved as well.

And he brought. He brought mankind through the flood. So cold. If we look at this chart, if we look at this chart and I think it's good to see where Enoch stood, stands as well here. Enoch lived only

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365 years.

He was the grand grandfather of Noah and Methuselah and his grandfather and Lamech his father, and we can see how probably through Methuselah and Lamech, that's how the promises of God were translated and went on all the way to Noah, and probably Methuselah and Lamech helped him to build the ark as well. Of course, they didn't make it through the flood. Lamech, his father died a little bit before Methuselah died, probably in right of the year of the flood.

But I think it's very providential for us to see how important it is to pass on and to not underestimate that we can pass on those promises to the children and so on and how powerful it was for him after the flood. We see that Noah didn't directly meet Abraham, but of course his son Shem met Abraham, and we know that probably he would be the Melchizedek that was mentioned. But just looking at this, it just makes us appreciate a little bit more the fact that how the seed of faith and how the seed of the promises were passed on from generation to generation. So let's look at a few acts of faith in Noah's life.

So one was that he was not conformed to that world, and we read in Genesis 6,9 that Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation, and Noah walked with God. So we see that even before God gave instruction to Noah about the ark, Noah was different from the people of his time, and when he read that he was blameless and a righteous man probably indicates that he was not from the seed that the angels produced or from the Angels that mixed with women, and we know that he did not compromise with sin, nor did he give in the peer pressure.

And we'll look more into that later. But he stood out from the ground, from the crowd. He stood up for God, and he was not ashamed of his faith, nor he was afraid of the consequences, and we read the same about us as well. Do not be conformed to this world.

Romans 12:12 2 and our world, as we know, is very similar to Noah's world as well. Actually, our Lord Jesus says, as it was in the times of Noah, so we'll be in the times of Son of Man. So can we imagine just to look a little bit more at this expression that Noah walked with God, how deep this expression is? Amos 3:3 says, can two walk together? Unless they agreed, it just really shows that he agreed.

He stayed close to the words that God told him. Now the same expression, Noah walked with God, we see it one more time. It appears only tw in the Bible. One more time. It's applied to Enoch and to Enoch.

It's actually mentioned twice with him. But I think it's very precious and it just makes us think after we finish our course, or can this be said about ourselves that Brother so and so or Brother John walked with God? That's probably not an expression that we use. We use probably different ones, but when I use this, it makes me a little bit more humble. It makes me think a little bit more about my walk with our Heavenly Father.

May our Lord help us so we can really walk like Noah walked with him. Next act of faith, as we know, was he built an ark. Now this is a story that we learned about it growing up. It's a story well known. But just to think about this, Noah believed in God's word when it seemed impossible and unreasonable.

When God told him that there would be rain coming down from heaven and he needed to build an ark, this was probably one of the most unreasonable things he would have heard in his life, and of

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course he didn't know what rain was. Just probably to estimate or to think or what he was. But he believed and he acted and he did something upon it. A lot of times we're thinking about our lives as well.

We try to do what it feels reasonable to our human mind. But we need to let the spiritual mind, the mind, the Holy Spirit work through us, the wisdom from above to work and not to let our normal reasoning, our human reasoning, to do the decisions we know. In Hebrews 11:7, being warned by God about things not yet seen of course, things not yet seen was the flood and the rain in reverence, prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, and knowing him what, knowing what he have to do, what he has to do, and knowing what God told him, he continued and he built that ark indirectly. Brethren, as we think about ourselves as well, we are proud to build a spiritual ark as well.

In Hebrews 3. 6 we read that we are his house, and if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory, and read in 2nd Corinthians 6:16, for you are the temple of the living God. We pray that the vision, how Noah had the vision, that he believed that whatever God said, he will happen.

We pray that that vision and that belief that the kingdom, that we have the vision of the kingdom would be so real in our lives that we would do what we are told as well to do. The next act of Noah's faithfulness was that he preached righteousness, and we read this in second Peter 2. 5, and he did not spare the ancient world, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness with seven others when he brought the flood upon the world of the ungodly.

I was reading about this scripture because of course we have the details filled in in the New Testament, like about Enoch, as we don't read a lot in the Old Testament, but it's actually Jude that tells us a little bit more about the faith of Enoch. So the same here as well. It's a period that fills in about Enoch, about Noah, and I was thinking why did Peter called him a preacher of righteousness? Was it because of the large amount of people that he converted or was it because of the sermons or how well spoken person he was or how his message was received?

And definitely was none of those. We remember that after 120 years of preaching, the only people that believed and followed him was his family, and we know that he was called a preacher of righteousness because in extreme circumstances, while nobody was listening to his message, he continued to preach the righteousness of God, and it was not the results that the Lord looked at, but he looked how ready he was, how willing, how zealous in proclaiming God's message, and he was very faithful in what he did.

And I think brethren, the lesson is very obvious for us as well, and this is so well expressed in manna for the 30th, November 30th, and that's from reprint 2811. Surely he who was careful in to supervise the sowing work will not less well, is not less interested and careful in respect to the reaping. Let us then trust in the sickle of truth with energy and courage, remembering that we serve the Lord Christ, remembering that we are not responsible for the harvest, but merely for our energy in gathering what ripe wheat we can find. If the labor be great for the finding of a few grains of ripe wheat, we are to rejoice the more in those we do find and learn to love and appreciate that which is scarce and precious.

Let us remember too, while using all the wisdom we can in this service, that the Lord's object in giving us a share in his work is not so much what we can accomplish as in the blessing that the labor will bring upon us. How beautiful and how encouraging is the last sentence that it is not what

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we can accomplish, but it is the blessing that the labor will bring upon us, and I think most of you, all of you can testify how many times you were involved in a certain project, in a certain service, in a certain public activity or a Bible class or whatever might be, and writing a book booklet article the most, and the blessing that you received was the one that you received probably many times. The results that came as a result of that was now what you expected.

But I think what the Lord wants us to do and what he's looking at is how much we put into that. Did we give everything? Did we put everything into that? And if we look at Noah, he definitely for everything what he had and didn't necessarily look at the results. We'll read one more quote from Volume 3, page 209 and suffering with Christ we have seen is not the ordinary suffering common to all in the fallen state, but only such sufferings as are the results more or less directly of the following of Christ's example in advocating unpopular truths and in exposing popular errors such were the cause of the suffering of Christ.

And such will be the causes of persecution, suffering and loss to all who will follow in his footsteps. They will have fellowship in his suffering now and in the end will be accounted worthy to share in the reward of such faithfulness to the principle. This was really the experience of Noah that he preached something that was not popular, something that people didn't believe, and I'm sure he received a lot of rebuke, a lot of not support and everything, and he did.

But he continued and I think that's a very it was a privilege for him and it is a privilege for each one of us to be his ambassadors. Another act of faithfulness that as I was looking through Noah's life After he passed through the flood, he built an altar, and we read in Genesis 8, 20 and 21, then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every kind of clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offering unto the altar. The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, and now we see the reason why he had to bring more clean animals.

So he offered some as a sacrifice. But as we look at this, how is this an act of faith? And as we look at the elements of faith, faith is not only trusting in the unknown or walking on shaking ground, or like Peter walked on the water. Faith is also in the fact of showing appreciation and realizing that we could have not done that on our own, and this is what Noah did with this sacrifice, with this building the altar.

He looked back and he was able to trace every providence of God, what God told him, and he was able to trace how everything fulfilled. I was thinking, as he worked on the Ark for 120 years, and finally he got in the ark and he saw the first drop of water. What an encouragement it was for him to see that, yes, what God said, that it's coming true, and I'm sure that he heard of Abel's sacrifice like we learned earlier.

And those memories were in his mind that God accepted Abel's sacrifice and he has to do the same, and we remember that God made a covenant with him right after he did this, and the lesson for us, I think is very pronounced as well, that faith will make us thankful for what we have. We'll look at the bright side. We'll look at the blessings that we have rather than looking at what we are lacking.

And we'll look at how many things our Heavenly Father have done for us and also will help us to look back and trace his hand in our lives, and as we look and we count our blessings, I'm sure we will rededicate ourselves daily, and we know that God makes a covenant. He invites us to join in a covenant with him as well, and I think that's a very beautiful promise for us as well.

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We read in 1st Peter 2, 4 and 5, as you come to him, the living stone, rejected by humans, but chosen by God and precious to him. You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house, and we've seen earlier about the spiritual house that probably a symbol of the ark to be holy, to be a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Let's look at a few other lessons from Noah's life, and we remember that our Lord Jesus in the great prophecy of Matthew 24 and in Luke 12, 17, 21, where we read about the great prophecy, he brings this up and he says, as it has happened in the days of Noah, so we will be also in the days of the Son of man. They were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage until the day that Noah entered the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all. Now, as Jesus goes through the great prophets, he makes this parallel, and I'm sure there are a lot of parallels between the days of Noah and our days that we can make. But our Lord Jesus refers to a specific one here.

Of course, the evil in the day can be compared to the evil in our day and many others. But he stops and mentions about one that probably we would have, not that he says that they were eating, they were drinking, and they were marrying, and they were given in marriage. Something that's at the first look, it's not sinful or probably not as sinful as we would think. Definitely eating and drinking. They didn't have alcoholic beverages before the flood.

So. But our Lord wants to give us an important lesson, and we read in volume four, page 606, the comparison made is similarly ignorance. Only Noah and his family knew. The people knew not, but proceeded as usual, marrying, planting, building, eating and drinking.

Similarly, during the time of Christ's presence, in the end of his age, and while the great time of trouble is impending, the only ones who will know of his presence or have a clear apprehension of what is coming or why, or the outcome will be the Lord's people. Others will know, not now, how important it is. Our Lord is teaching and telling us to be alert, to look around, to watch, and we know that ignorance is a sin in itself. A lot of times we might think, look at sin, it's something that we have done.

But we know that if we can do something and if we can do a good and we don't do it, that's a sin as well. So the same here as well, that this ignorance that, that it was in his time was a sin that was applicable to them, and another beautiful lesson we have is in Ezekiel 14:14, even if it was, even if these three men, Noah, Daniel and Job were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness, says the Lord God. So Ezekiel prophesied about the destruction that was going to, that was going to come, and he brings Noah as an example.

He brings Daniel and Job as well. But he says that if they would have lived here, God knew. Of course it Was God's prophecy given to Ezekiel? God was confident that they would have been faithful in his day as well, and we remember about Job.

Job, we read that there was nobody like Job on the earth, and also he proved his faithfulness and Daniel as well. So the fate of Noah was left as a memory, of course, in God's memory, but also throughout the ages about how faithful he was and definitely being brought as an example here, and not only that, but just to see the confidence of God, that God was so confident in Noah, that if he would have been there, he would have been able to stay faithful, and it just makes me think, if our Heavenly Father, as we go through life experiences, does he have that confidence in us that, that brother and sister, I know for sure that he or she will go through that experience.

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And we know that he doesn't give us more than we can carry. We read in Romans 8, 38 and 39, for I'm convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord, and the psalmist says, those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken, but endureth forever. Definitely the example of faith that Noah had is an example for each one of us. Let's look at another lesson that it is Apostle Peter that in his first epistle he makes a very beautiful connection when he speaks of the evil days of Noah.

And of course Jesus, after he was resurrected, he went to the preach. He went to preach to the spirits in prison, and he brings up the days of Noah, and he says that Noah, who built an ark and eight people were saved, and it says in 1st Peter 3.

21 from RVIC, it says that this picture, which is also an antitype, does now save you even the baptism. Not a putting away of the filter of the flesh, of a good conscience toward God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. So Apostle Peter says that this ark represents Christ, and we remember that the word Noah represents means rest, and if we.

We know that we do enter into rest through the baptism, and what. That's what Jesus says here, that's what Jesus represents, and I really like how Brother Arbor connected that sacrifice of Abel with Jesus, and here with Noah, we see again a picture of salvation as well.

We see a picture of the great plan of salvation, and I think it's so beautiful to see throughout Genesis and throughout the Old Testament, all these pictures that lead to salvation, and if we enter into restroom baptism, and if we walk with God and stay on the ark like Noah did, we will receive the salvation of our souls, and what a beautiful picture of salvation we have that is offered during the gospel age. So brethren, in conclusion, we know that we saw that Noah was faithful to the end.

He was faithful in the evil world until the door to the ark was closed, and we read that it was God, God who went and closed the door, and what a beautiful picture we have that we have to be faithful to the end until the door to the not away will come to an end, and we read in Revelation 3:7 that it is him that opens, and nobody can close and close and nobody will open.

He will close the door to the narrow end. What a privilege it is to walk on this narrow way, and let us be faithful until the door will be closed. He proved his faithfulness to God by doing what he was asked. He was not conformed to their world.

He built the ark, he preached righteousness and he showed his thankfulness by building the altar, and brethren, you and I, we don't have to build an ark, but each one of us, we have something. We have something that we have to do. We have at least one talent that our Heavenly Father, if he invited us, he saw something in each one of us. Us.

Let's use what he had so we can be faithful to the end, and may this example of faith encourage us to count all things to be lost in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them by by rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, and may the Lord bless each one of us. Follow the examples that were mentioned today.