

Series: Biblical Heroes and Zeros – week 4

CDOBC – beginning on 10/17/10

Title: “Noah”

November 14, 2010

Genesis 6-9

OBJECTIVE: To help us have faith in God – especially when His commands are counter-culture.

Announcements

- Welcome / guests – communication cards
- Annual Mtg. – next Sunday after 2nd service – 2011 budget and election of church officers
- Lunch at Golden Corral on Thornydale—Thursday, November 18th @ 11:00 a.m.—everyone invited.
- Thanksgiving Potluck—Saturday, November 20th @ noon—*EVERYONE* is invited...just bring a dish to share.
- Thanksgiving Eve Service – pie fellowship to follow – 6:30 p.m.

In the coming weeks, we will look two Biblical “zeros” - David’s wife Michal, and David’s son Absalom. After those two sermons, we’ll return to another Biblical hero - Joseph. This morning, we are looking at another great hero in Scripture – that person is Noah. We find the account of Noah in Genesis 6-9, and we have a great deal of information in these chapters. Much of the information deals with the flood itself – and as interesting as that would be to discuss, our focus this morning is not on the details of the flood. Instead, our focus will be on God’s view of sin – and on His grace and judgment regarding sinners and we can see these things in the account of Noah.

In the account of Noah, we see many things that foreshadow Jesus Christ and the Gospel message. Through the account of Noah, we should all be reminded of God’s holiness, righteousness, and justice, along with His mercy, grace, and longsuffering.

Turn to Genesis 6 -

Let’s begin by looking at:

God’s attitude toward sin. 6:5-6

Read 6:5-6

Sometimes we forget that God has feelings. Now when I say that, I cringe a bit in a theological sense. It's always a delicate and difficult topic to say that God has feelings because we interpret that to be in kind with our own feelings – and we the problem with that is we realize how our feelings often influence our actions – usually in a sinful or unwise direction. However, when we see Scripture ascribing feelings to God, we must remind ourselves that God is without sin – which means His feelings are not tainted with sin like ours. So, God's feelings are pure and holy – they are always right – they are always in the correct proportion. Personally, I have a tendency to get very angry at things that are minor issues – when the situation probably calls for a small amount of anger or even something less than anger altogether. But God is perfect in all His character. The text says “The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.” (vs. 6). What an amazing statement about God's awareness and involvement with humanity! God is not a transcendent, uncaring God who created the world and left it to its own demise. He is our Creator who cares deeply about our life – He cares deeply about our choices – He cares deeply about our decisions, and our actions. Not just everyone collectively as a whole, but each one of us in a personal, intimate way.

When we sin, we normally think of how our sin affects the people in our life and how it affects our own life. However, we need to realize that our sin affects God also. Our sin grieves Him – it pains His heart.

The details that caused God's heart to be “filled with pain” are listed in vs. 1-5. Basically, the heart of man was “evil all the time” and His attitude toward it was one of sorrow and pain.

God's action toward sin. 6:7, 13 (Don't read vs. yet...)

How do you respond to your own sin?

Typically, we excuse it – we rationalize it – we justify it. Most of us tend to blame others for our actions – as if they forced us to say / do something.

How do you respond to someone else's sin?

Usually we condemn them – ridicule them – accuse them. We tend to be gracious toward ourselves, and unmerciful to others.

How does God respond to sin?

In an ultimate way, He judges all sin. However, it's important for us to also realize that God is patient and long-suffering with sin. He is not flippant, reactionary, or a “hot-tempered” God.

Read 6:7, 13

To understand these verses, we must take into account the fuller testimony of Scripture to understand that God was not only grieved and pained by the evil on the earth at this time, but He was patient for hundreds of years - trying to warn humanity to change their ways – and He was making His message known through Enoch, Noah, and probably others who were faithful in the midst of the wickedness of the day. Jude 14-15 (words of Enoch) ““See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

2 Peter 2:5 “Noah, a preacher of righteousness...”

We read in Genesis 6:3 that God gave humanity a final warning of 120 years to repent and change their evil ways. The judgment of God on sin is never swift, but always long-suffering and merciful.

1 Peter 3:20

“...who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water...”

2 Peter 3:9 “He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

But eventually, God must apply His justice to sin. He cannot ignore our sin because of other good things we do. Our sin demands payment (“For the wages of sin is death...” Rom. 6:23) and God always acts in a holy, just way toward sin by judging it.

So we see God’s attitude toward sin...the pain it causes Him. In this passage we also see God’s action toward sin...He must judge it. So, what are we to do? We are all sinners...and God’s justice and holiness lead Him to judge sin...what are we to do?

God’s response to faith 6:8; 8:1

Noah was a sinner. Scripture definitely tells us that Noah was righteous, blameless, and that he walked with God (6:9). He was a man of honorable character – and compared to his peers, his character was godly – but comparison to his peers was not a high watermark! These descriptions do not imply he was sinless...he was human, he died (the result of sin), and we see his sinfulness in the account given in chapter 9 where we see Noah’s drunkenness. But Noah found favor in the eyes of God. Favor = Grace, which is what makes a relationship with God possible. The key to Noah’s life was his faith. He’s a Biblical hero because of his faith – and because he walked with God and obeyed the Lord’s commands when it was contrary to the culture to do so.

Faith is the only logical response to the truth of our sinfulness, God's holiness, and the certainty of God's impending judgment on sin. Faith means that you give up trying to make yourself acceptable to God. Faith means you realize there is nothing you can do to make yourself acceptable to God. Even our best works are tainted with sin – and even if they weren't tainted with sin, they would never satisfy the requirements of a holy God who demands absolute perfection and righteousness! Faith means you put your trust – your faith – in God's work on the cross. Faith means you believe that Jesus died for your sins – that He paid the penalty for your sins through His death. Obviously, Noah lived thousands of years before Jesus was born on earth, so his faith was not in Jesus specifically, but it was in God and the promises of God.

But we have the clarity of knowing Jesus – knowing about His life, His teaching, and the Gospel message that He died to pay the price for our sins. He came to rescue us – just like a boat can save a drowning person. In this manner, the ark is a great symbol and foreshadow of Jesus. There was only one way onto the ark – through the door. There is only one way to have your sins forgiven – through Jesus (“So Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.” John 10:7). God's response to our faith is to give us His grace – to forgive our sin.

Noah's faith led to obedience 6:9, 22; 7:5, 9, 16

In both the O.T. and N.T., salvation is always through faith – not by works. Noah had faith in God – and the text tells (6:8) us that God favored / was gracious toward Noah. This does not mean that Noah deserved to be the recipient of God's

grace...it simply means that God sovereignly chose to favor Noah.

Heb. 11:7

“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.”

The writer of Hebrews helps us to understand Noah’s obedience. Faith was the starting point for Noah, and his faith and “walking with God” (Gen. 6:9) produced a holy, reverential fear. It was the reality of God’s holiness and righteousness that caused Noah to understand the impending judgment of God upon the sinful, evil world (“...warned about things not yet seen...”). So, instead of doubting God’s Word and living to please the world, Noah feared God’s judgment more than the rejection of friends and neighbors, so he built the ark. His faith motivated him to preach righteousness (2 Peter 2:5), which was a message of condemnation to those who rejected the message. Notice that his righteousness is due to his faith – not his works! God never looks upon you as righteous without faith...but when you have faith, He sees you as righteous.

Gen. 15:6 “Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.”

This is what we call “justification” in theological terms. This means that *God declares in a legal way, that our sins are forgiven, that we have the righteousness of Christ, and that we are righteous in the sight of God.* (See Systematic Theology by Wayne

Grudem, p. 723)

Rom. 3:26b – God is “...the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”

Rom. 3:28 “For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.”

Rom. 5:1 “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”

Gal. 2:16 “...know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.”

Rom. 4:5 “However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.”

Phil. 3:9 “...not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.”

So to be justified before God means not only forgiven of sin (*which would leave us morally neutral*) but fully righteous before God (*due to the imputed righteousness of Christ*)! And the N.T. is clear – this justification – the forgiveness of sin and credited righteousness is not because of works...not because of obedience...but due to the grace of God that we access through faith alone! AMAZING!!!

Yet, one of the by-products of our justification is that we should begin living a life of obedience. Faith produces a changed life – and Noah’s life was changed! His obedience to God’s commands were not to earn God’s forgiveness and deliverance, but in response to the forgiveness of his sins and the relationship he had with God. We obey because God is holy, righteous, and just – and we obey because His commands make sense! Noah was the laughing stock for sure as he built the ark over 120 years. The idea of a flood that would require a ship of this size was ridiculous! He labored at building the ark...he preached about righteousness and never had a convert (except maybe his own family?). But after the rain began to fall, Noah was no longer seen as a fool! Obedience to God’s word many times seems contrary to reason – it is often opposite the direction and attitudes of

the culture – it may produce ridicule toward you when you obey God – but God loves you and wants to care for you – which is why He commands us how to live our life.

God's covenant to all humanity. *Chapt. 9*

God promises in 9:11-12 to never again destroy the earth by a flood.

Isaiah 54:9

“To me this is like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah would never again cover the earth.

New Covenant – Jer. 31:31-34

“The time is coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant ...For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

God wants to include you in the New Covenant!

Application

Do you have faith?

Admit your sin to God

Believe that Jesus died to pay the price for your sin

Choose to follow Him – live as Jesus commanded us.

Are you faithful to God?

Noah was obedient – because of His faith. God's commands are due to His righteousness – but also for our protection and to rescue us from the world of sin.

Close in prayer