

FOCUS FOR THE UNFORESEEABLE
“Noah”



Heb. 11:7

Heb. 11:7 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**.

Our theme for this year is...

VISION

20/20

HIS VISION.

OUR FOCUS.

During these challenging days of the present pandemic, many people, including believers, are facing issues that a few months ago were simply **unforeseeable**. **Life is, unfortunately, a series of unforeseeable events.** For the next few weeks we will observe what the Bible says about how to handle such trying events, “*how to focus on the unforeseeable*.” We began three weeks ago with the principles found in 1 Jn. 5:1-5:

Last week, we considered the unique embrace of the unforeseeable by Enoch. Enoch’s faith produced the most unique transformation in history! Enoch faced the unforeseeable by having close fellowship with God.

Another unique transformation happens when a person places faith in Christ:

- When a person is born-again, an unforeseeable radical change takes place!

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; **behold, all things are become new**.

This morning we will consider another man who met a most unforeseeable challenge – Noah. He faced the end of one age and the beginning of a new one. During this “pandemic,” some will face the end of a career, perhaps the end of health, or the end of a loved one, yet, by the grace of God, will face the beginning of many new things. Let’s look at the life of Noah and see how he approached it – by faith.

Noah's father and grandfather could have been very well acquainted with Adam, and passed first-hand testimony to Noah about creation and the Creator. Grandpa Methuselah, son of Enoch, could have had 243 years with Adam and 600 years to influence his grandson, Noah.

When Methuselah was born, his godly father, Enoch, must have prophetically known of coming things for his son's name means "**when he dies, judgment**," and interestingly enough, Methuselah died in the same year God judged the sinful world with the great Flood of Noah's day, 1656 years after creation.

<https://www.icr.org/article/how-did-methuselah-die>

- Noah lived during a time of great spiritual darkness.

Gen. 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: **yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.**

5 And **GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.**

6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And **the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air;** for it repenteth me that I have made them.

8 **But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.**

9 These *are* the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man *and* perfect in his generations, *and* **Noah walked with God.**

13 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. ...

22 **Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.**

Gen. 6:11 **The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.**

12 And God looked upon the earth, and, **behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.**

- In the midst of the spiritual darkness, Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD, preached and warned his generation, and patiently built an ark. This background takes us to Heb. 11:7.

I. THE INITIATIVE TO FACE THE UNFORESEEABLE – “By faith Noah... moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house...”

A. The Reason Noah Acted – “By faith Noah...”

B. The Respect Noah Acquired – “...moved with fear...”

Prov. 1:7 **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge:** *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Prov. 9:10 **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:** and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.

Prov. 15:33 **The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom;** and before honour *is* humility.

Eccl. 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole duty of man.**

- In spite of his fear, perhaps of the unforeseeable, he continued on his mission – “...prepared an ark...”

Psa. 56:3 **What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.**

- The Scriptures in Heb. 11:7, do not elaborate on the 120 years of patient building of the ark.

C. The Reaction Noah Accomplished – “...prepared an ark to the saving of his house...”

- Consider the cost of the “ark building project” – the material, the time, the ridicule, the patience needed, the UNFORESEEABLE!
- The motivation of Noah’s obedience was also the destiny of his family – “...to the saving of his house...”
- “Family” security in the midst of a godless community is worth the time and effort to protect those you love.

Gen. 7:1 And **the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark**; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

...

5 And **Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.**

- Noah's patience was matched by the longsuffering patience of God.

1 Pet. 3:20 Which sometime were disobedient, **when 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**.

II. THE INEVITABLE FACT OF THE UNFORESEEABLE – “being warned of God of things not seen as yet”

A. Fellowship with the Creator included Discernment –
“...being warned of God...”

Prov. 10:27 **The fear of the LORD prolongeth days**: but **the years of the wicked shall be shortened**.

- The Lord often reveals the unforeseeable to those who are faithful.

Deut. 29:29 **The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever,** that we may do all the words of this law.

1 Cor. 2:10 But **God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.**

- When the Lord reveals spiritual truth, He expects a decision be made to follow His directions.

B. Fellowship with the Creator included Decisiveness

Gen. 6:13 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.**

14 **Make thee an ark** of gopher wood...”

15 And **this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of...**”

22 **Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.**

- Perhaps the Coronavirus is a worldwide wake-up call from God, warning of judgment.
- Noah received the warning, heeded it, walked with God, and was obedient in following God's commands.
- We need to receive the warning, heed it, walk with God, and be obedient in fellowship of God's commands.

III. THE INFLUENTIAL FUTURE FOR THE UNFORESEEABLE – “...by the which **he condemned the world**, and became heir of **the righteousness which is by faith.**”

A. The Influence of a Godly Testimony – “...by the which **he condemned the world...**”

- ❖ Within a believer's lifetime there may be an individual occurrence or event that will require a life-changing decision – “Make thee an ark...”

Gen. 6:13 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.

14 **Make thee an ark** of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

- The Lord commanded Noah – “Make thee an ark...” – the ark was for God’s glory, but it was Noah and his family’s benefit.
- A consequence of one’s walking by faith may be to incur the ridicule or hate from others, because they are plagued with unbelief.

Jn. 15:18 **If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.**

22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but **now they have no cloke for their sin.**

1 Jn. 3:13 **Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.**

- Noah's obedience, by faith, preserved his family, and all future generations on the earth.

Gen. 7:1 And **the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. ...**

5 And **Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.**

B. The Inheritance via a Godly Testimony – “...became heir of **the righteousness which is by faith.**”

- Noah faced an unforeseeable future more challenging than anything the pandemic may produce.
- Noah faced the unforeseeable future by FAITH. He, literally, started over from scratch.
- The Holy Spirit moved the prophet Ezekiel to commend three men:

Ezek. 14:14 Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, **they should deliver *but* their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD.** ...

20 Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, *were* in it, *as I live*, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; **they shall *but* deliver their own souls by their righteousness.**

- Noah, Daniel, and Job were the excellent examples of righteousness during the days in which they lived.
- Though we may live during the dark days of God's pouring out a pandemic on the earth, remember how spiritually dark it was during the days of Noah:

Gen. 6:11 **The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.**

12 And God looked upon the earth, and, **behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.**

- Many today, during the “pandemic,” are more concerned about going to the beach rather than the old-fashioned mourner’s bench.
- The apathetic world today is similar to Noah’s days – unconcerned about the Flood.

Mt. 24:37 But **as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, **until the day that Noe entered into the ark,**

- Judgment ignored does not eliminate the inevitable – The Lord is at hand!

2 Pet. 2:5 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;

Conclusion

Heb. 10:37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

38 Now **the just shall live by faith**: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But **we are not of them who draw back unto perdition**; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

- Be ready for the unforeseeable future – walk by faith...EVERY DAY!