

BY FAITH NOAH

Sunday Morning: January 13, 2002

Text: Hebrews 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."

Noah is a type of those who will go through the tribulation. They are the saints that will be added to harvest to the number that will rule and reign with Christ in his coming kingdom.

In the Old Testament we have an illustration of a harvest. When Israel harvested their crops, they had what is known as the first fruits. After the first fruits they had the main harvest. After the main harvest they had the gleanings.

Last week we looked at the life of Enoch. Enoch is a type of the harvest when God will take the called and elect that have qualified to rule and reign with Christ.

FIRSTFRUITS AND HARVEST

Leviticus 23:10 "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the **harvest** thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the **firstfruits** of your **harvest** unto the priest:"

The first fruits of the harvest is a handful of the main harvest. Again, it is not the harvest but just a handful of the harvest. When Jesus Christ was crucified the graves in many places were opened. When Jesus Christ rose from the dead, these rose from the dead as well. It seems to me that these were the first fruits of the harvest. We are studying the handful of saints in Hebrews 11 that live by faith in the Old Testament. We are studying the firstfruits.

FIRSTFRUITS

1 Corinthians 15:23 "But every man in his own order: Christ the **firstfruits**; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

This passage shows that there is a distinction between the firstfruits and those that are Christ at his coming, or the rest of the harvest.

NOAH THE GLEANINGS

Leviticus 19:9 "And when ye **reap the harvest** of your land, thou shalt **not** wholly **reap** the **corners** of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the **gleanings** of thy harvest."

This passage in Leviticus gives the law of the gleanings of the harvest. You do not harvest into the corner of your field, neither do you gather wheat that has been left in the field by oversight. The reason for this law was so that the poor of the land could glean the fields for food.

In the study of Noah we are studying the gleaning of the harvest. That is not the primary focus of our study this morning, but I want you to see that Noah was spared alive through a great tribulation that happened here on the earth. In contrast to Noah was Enoch who was spared the experience of going through the tribulation of the flood.

TYPE OF TRIBULATION SAINTS

Revelation 7:13-17 "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? **14.** And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which **came out of great tribulation**, and have **washed** their **robes**, and made them **white** in the **blood of the Lamb**. **15.** Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. **16.** They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. **17.** For the Lamb which is in

the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall **wipe away all tears from their eyes.**"

Here we see a group of people that came out of great tribulation and they washed their robes in the blood of the lamb. These that came out of tribulation apparently suffered hunger and thirst. They may have had to live outside in the heat of the sun because the elder said that they would not hunger nor thirst anymore. It looks like that they had to suffer the heat of the sun as well because the light of the sun would not shine on them nor heat from the sun.

THEY REIGNED WITH CHRIST

Revelation 20:4 "And I saw **thrones**, and they sat upon them, and **judgment** was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were **beheaded** for the **witness** of **Jesus**, and **for the word of God** [mysteries of the kingdom of heaven], and which had **not worshipped** the **beast**, neither his **image**, neither had received *his* **mark** upon their **foreheads**, or in their **hands**; and they lived and **reigned with Christ a thousand years.**"

Obviously those who are caught up before the tribulation period into the heavens do not have to deal with the image or the mark of the beast. This passage is talking about a group of people that could either receive this mark of the beast or reject this mark. Those who reject that mark are beheaded, they lose their life, they are killed. Notice also that those who are beheaded are beheaded because of the Word of God. What is the significance of that? The Word of God deals with the mysteries of the kingdom of heavens. If you embrace the mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens, as we do here, we are in danger of being beheaded. This danger of being beheaded is during the tribulation in the context of this passage of scripture. These that lose their life because of their witness of Jesus, the Word of God, and they don't worship the beast or his image, neither receive his mark will reign with Christ a thousand years.

Revelation 20:6 "Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first (best or chief) resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

The thought of reigning with Christ for a thousand years continues here in verse six. It is those who take part in the best or chief resurrection that will reign with Christ a thousand years.

I see in the life of Noah those that come through the tribulation period washing their robes in the blood of the Lamb. They overcome Satan by the blood, Revelation 12:11 "And they overcame him by the **blood** of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." They are martyred because of their testimony of the mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens. These that were killed did not fear the one that could kill the body as found in Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which **kill the body**, but are not able to **kill** the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and **body** in hell [Gehenna]."

These are the last of those who will be included in the harvest and will also reign with Christ a thousand years along with those in the main harvest. The main harvest having taken place before the wrath of the tribulation begins.

WARNED OF GOD

Hebrews 11:7 "By faith Noah, being **warned of God** of things not seen as yet, moved with fear What things had Noah not seen as yet? Well, the Lord coined a word for Noah. That word that was coined for Noah was the word *rain*. Rain was not in the vocabulary of those who lived before the flood, because it didn't rain on the earth. The earth was watered by a mist that came up out of the ground. Genesis 2:6 "But there went up a **mist** from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground." The Lord said to Noah, I want to teach you a new word, *rain*. God

wanted Noah to understand what was going to happen in 120 years when it would start to rain on the earth.

Before God does something as dramatically as the flood he warns his prophets.

REVEALED BY GOD

Amos 3:7 "Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his **secret** unto his servants the prophets."

The Lord warned Noah which in turn warned the people of his day. In fact Noah preached righteousness for one hundred twenty years while he was building the Ark.

REVEALED TO ABRAHAM

Genesis 18:17 "And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;"

Abraham had a similar experience to that of Noah in that the Lord revealed to Abraham what he was about to do in Sodom and Gomorrah. The Lord did this for Abraham because he was faithful in his house according to Genesis 18:19 "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."

DESTRUCTION OF SODOM

Genesis 18:20 "And the LORD said, Because the cry of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** is great, and because **their sin is very grievous**;"

The Lord explained the spiritual condition of Sodom and Gomorrah that it was very great and grievous and Abraham knew what the Lord was about to do. Abraham began to pray in Genesis 18:23 "And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?" We know the story that Lot, his wife, and two daughters were delivered from Sodom and Gomorrah before the destruction.

AS IN THE DAYS OF LOT

Luke 17:28-30 "Likewise also as it was **in the days of Lot**; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 29. But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all. 30. **Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.**"

We can see that God is warning us today with the apparent evidence or signs of our times that we are living in the day of Lot. What do we know because we can see that we are living in the days of Lot? We know that the Son of man is about to be revealed. The behavior and activity and the lifestyle and culture of Sodom and Gomorrah are with us. Because this has been reveal in our day, we have been warned.

THE SECRET OF THE LORD

Psalms 25:14 "The **secret** of the LORD *is* with them that **fear him**; and he will **show** them **his covenant.**"

We see that Noah was warned of God and he moved with fear, Hebrews 11:7 "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, . . ." God reveal his secret to Noah because he feared the Lord. "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him." and they were with Noah.

AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

Luke 17:26-27 "And as it was in the days of **Noe**, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 27. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that **Noe** entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all."

Just as the days of Lot will be indicators of the coming of the Son of man so shall the days of Noah there will be indicators that the coming of the Son of man is soon. What are the signs that we are living in the days of Noah? We will need to look in Genesis 6.

GREAT WICKEDNESS ON EARTH

Genesis 6:5 "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."

I really don't have to say anymore, really, when you think about how evil the thoughts of man is today. It is just appalling because we can see that man's thoughts are evil continually because of what they want to put on TV and in movies. The entertainment industry know what the public wants and they are giving it to them.

CORRUPTION AND VIOLENCE

Genesis 6:11-13 "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. 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."

"The earth also was corrupt before God" Corruption! Corruption in every government. Lying, stealing, cheating going on in the world in Noah's day and it is going on in our world today. Not only corruption but the earth is filled with violence. The headlines of the paper and TV new affirm the fact that the earth is a violent place to live.

What happened on September 11, 2001 is a prime example of the violence, the terrorist continue to try to inflict harm and misery where ever they can. The hate and violence in Israel today is also a testimony to the violence that fills the earth.

We are living in the days of Lot and in the days of Noah. Lot was just but did not live by faith so he is not a creditable witness for us who want to please God. Noah was one who lived by faith and we want to learn from him. We need to see the warning of God and move with fear. We do not have to be afraid of God or of the violence here on the earth, but we need to know the fear of the Lord and allow it to change our lives.

Would you like to see what happens to a child of God that has lost the fear of the Lord? We will see this in Romans 3.

NO FEAR OF GOD

Romans 3:10-18 "As it is written, There is **none righteous**, no, not one: 11. There is **none** that **understandeth**, there is **none** that **seeketh** after God. 12. They are **all gone** out of the way, they are together become **unprofitable**; there is **none** that **doeth good**, no, not one. 13. Their throat *is* an **open sepulchre**; with their tongues they have used **deceit**; the poison of asps *is* under their lips: 14. Whose mouth *is* full of **cursing** and **bitterness**: 15. Their feet *are* swift to **shed blood**: 16. **Destruction** and **misery** *are* in their ways: 17. And the **way of peace** have they not known: 18. **There is no fear of God before their eyes.**"

"There is none righteous" or just. When there is no fear of the Lord you will live anyway that you want. You can live like it was in the days of Lot. You can live like it was in the days of Noah if there is no fear of the Lord before your eyes. Without the fear of the Lord your thoughts are evil continually. "There is none that understandeth." If you do not have the fear of the Lord you will not understand what the Lord is doing or about to do. He reveals his secrets to those who fear him.

"There is none that seeketh after God." As in the days of Noah none were seeking the Lord. There was one language and one culture. God changed that so that men would seek him. Acts 17:26-27 "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; 27. That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:" God made it easier for man to seek him by dividing man with many languages and with geological barriers. Even then men must have a fear of God before they will seek him.

"They are all gone out of the way," For them to go out of the way that had to be in the way. I am reminded of the narrow way of the passage of scripture in Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14. Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." These that have gone out of the way are those found in 2 Peter 2:21-22 "For it had been better for them not to have known **the way** of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

They are together become unprofitable;" I am reminded of the unprofitable servant of Matthew 25:30 "And cast ye the **unprofitable** servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." and in Luke 17:10 "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are **unprofitable** servants: we have done that which was our duty to do." When you do only that which is your duty to do you have not taken the next step which is faith.

"Their throat *is* an **open sepulcher**." That is what you call spiritual halitosis. You sort of hate to be around them. I don't think sin-sin would work. I am not sure if they sell sin-sin any more, but it was a little black thing that you put on your tongue to make your breath smell sweet. A sepulcher is a place where you bury the dead and if you touched the dead you would be unclean. What comes out of their mouth would defile you.

"With their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips." If you do not have the fear of God in your heart, it is nothing to lie. Revelation 21:8 ". . . **all liars**, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone. " This verse puts the fear of God in my heart when it comes to being deceitful.

"14. Whose mouth *is* full of **cursing** and **bitterness**: 15. Their feet *are* swift to **shed blood**: 16. **Destruction** and **misery** *are* in their ways: 17. And the **way of peace** have they not known:" When there is no fear of God there will be cursing, bitterness, destruction and misery. Without understanding they can not know the way of peace.

When we begin to see these things in our lives, we know that the fear of the Lord is no longer helping us with our lives. If we did have the fear of God we would change.

NOAH HAD GRACE

Genesis 6:8-9 "But Noah **found grace** in the eyes of the LORD.

In the day in which Noah lived there was corruption and violence that would take away peace of heart and mind. The one thing that will provide us with peace Noah found. Noah found grace. The grace is the power of Christ. We need the power of Christ to sustain us in these evil days. Noah did not falter in what God had called him to do. The grace of God sustained Noah we can be assured that it will sustain us. For us to find grace we must go to the throne of grace to

obtain mercy at the mercy seat which provides cleansing and deliverance from sin and it's bondage.

NOAH'S TESTIMONY

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

Noah was a just man. This means that Noah was obedient to God. When Noah was warned by God, he moved with fear. Noah was obedient.

Noah was perfect and he walked with God. This word perfect does not mean that Noah was not sinless. This word *perfect* is used in the following verse.

BE WITHOUT BLEMISH

Exodus 12:5 "Your lamb shall be **without blemish** [perfect], a male of the first year: ye shall take *it* out from the sheep, or from the goats:"

Noah was ceremonially clean. There were no blemishes in the lifestyle of Noah that would hurt his testimony.

A PREACHER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

2 Peter 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;"

Noah the eighth was counted as the last of eight people that were saved on the ark. It was Noah and his three sons and all of their wives. Noah was a preacher of righteousness. When did Noah preach? He preached for 120 years while he was building the ark. Noah was trying to get those who was listening to him to repent of their evil thoughts that lead to violence and corruption. He was not very successful in that only those of his house were spared from destruction.

NOAH MOVED WITH FEAR

Hebrews 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. . ."

I want to pick up on the thought that Noah move with fear. The fear of God caused Noah to respond to the warning given to him by God.

THUS DID NOAH

Genesis 6:22 "Thus **did** (built the ark) **Noah**; according to **all** that **God commanded** him, **so did** he."

The word *did* is used twice in this verse and this verse to emphasize to us that Noah responded to God's command. When Noah heard of the warning from God, he moved. We all need to be ready to respond to the Lord the way that Noah did. When we hear the Word of God we need to change. We need to move as Noah moved to be obedient to God's commandment. If we do not move, what is missing? The fear of the Lord. If the Word of God is not changing your life you have put the fear of God aside.

FEAR OF GOD A REQUIREMENT

Deuteronomy 10:12 "And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God **require** of thee, but to **fear the LORD** thy God, **to walk** in all his ways, and **to love** him, and **to serve** the LORD thy God **with all thy heart** and with all thy **soul**,"

What comes first in this list of things we are required to do? We are required to fear the Lord. If you do not fear the Lord thy God you are not going to walk in his ways. Your are not going to

love and obey him. You are not going to serve the Lord thy God with all of your heart and soul. We need the fear of the Lord so that we will live in a way that will be pleasing to him.

We are not talking about being afraid of God. We don't have to be afraid of him, we just need to believe and respect him. I know that if I am summoned to a court of law, I walk very carefully and with respect to the judge.

TEACHABLE AND LEADABLE

Psalms 25:12 "What man *is* he that **feareth** the LORD? him shall he teach in the way *that* he shall choose."

If we have the fear of the Lord we are teachable. We are all looking for help in making decisions in our lives. If we have the fear of the Lord it is a lot easier for him to help us. If you don't fear the Lord you are not teachable and we will more than likely make wrong choices in our lives.

HEAR, LEARN, TO FEAR THE LORD

Deuteronomy 31:12-13 "Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that *is* within thy gates, that **they may hear**, and that they may learn, and **fear the LORD** your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: 13. And *that* their children, which have not known *any thing*, may hear, and learn to **fear the LORD** your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it."

The fear of the Lord is learned. You catch cold, but you don't catch the fear of the Lord. You have to go to school to learn the fear of the Lord. It takes time and it is through hearing that we learn. That is why the Word of God is so important in this place. We are in the Word of God here at Grace Bible Church because we want to learn the fear of the Lord. The children need to learn the fear of the Lord. If the parents don't know the fear of the Lord the kids are not going to learn it. If your pastor does not have the fear of the Lord you are not going to have the fear of the Lord either. I want to learn the fear of the Lord so I can share that with you and encourage you in that.

TITHING TEACHES FEAR OF GOD

Deuteronomy 14:23 "And thou shalt **eat** before the LORD thy God, in the **place** (away from the temple or tabernacle) which he shall choose to place his name there, **the tithe** of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; **that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.**"

I am going to get to the heart of the matter with this verse rather going into all the detail about this verse. What this verse is saying is this: If you don't tithe you don't fear God. Tithing is how you learn to fear the Lord.

What this verse is saying in context is if you live 500 miles from the temple or you live a long way off from the temple, you pile up all of your tithe of your wheat, wine, oil, and firstlings of your flock and you consume them in one meal. Take a year's worth of your tithe and blow it all at once so that you don't have it as security for a rainy day.

The point of this scripture is to teach that giving to the Lord and his work shows that you fear God.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Psalms 111:10 "The **fear of the LORD** *is* the **beginning of wisdom**: a good understanding have all they that do *his commandments*: his praise endureth for ever."

Do you want wisdom, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of it.

TREASURE

Isaiah 33:6 "And **wisdom** and **knowledge** shall be the **stability** of thy times, *and* strength of salvation: the **fear of the LORD** *is* his **treasure**."

This verse tells us that the fear of the Lord is a treasure. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and wisdom and knowledge will provide stability. Do we need stability in a day like today? Absolutely we need stability. In Habakkuk 2:4 "Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: but the **just shall live** by his **faith**." the word faith is the same Hebrew word translated *stability*.

BLESSING

Psalms 33:18-19 "Behold, the eye of the LORD *is* upon **them that fear him**, upon them that hope in his mercy; **19. To deliver** their soul from death, and **to keep** them alive in famine."

What a joy it is to know that the Lord is watching those that fear him. That alone should encourage us to have the fear of the Lord. The eye of the Lord is upon them to deliver them from death until the appointed time. There may come a time that He will not deliver us because of purposes known only to him. The eye of the Lord is upon them to keep them alive in famine. When there is a famine, he will sustain you with the food you need and grace.

THE LORD'S SECRET SERVICE

Psalms 34:7 "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them **that fear him**, and delivereth them."

You fear the Lord? There is an angel that has a camp around you. When I think of the President of the United States having the secret service to protect him, when you fear the Lord you have a better agency protecting you. The secret service that protects all of the living presidents do not have what the angel of the Lord has to protect those who fear the Lord. The secret service is not able to see everything and know everything that is going on, but the angel of the Lord does. I will take that kind of watch care any day over a human agency.

BLESSING

Psalms 103:11 "For as the heaven is high above the earth, so **great** is his **mercy** toward them **that fear him**."

We all need mercy. We all goof up and make wrong choices in our lives and we need the Lord to be merciful to us. If we fear the Lord his mercy is going to be so great that if you measured it it would be higher than the heavens above the earth.

Not only does his mercy deal with our wrong choices. Jesus had mercy on the blind, those posed with demons, the lepers and others that were living in misery.

BLESSING

Psalms 145:17-19 "The LORD *is* righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. **18. The LORD** *is* **nigh** unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. **19. He will fulfil** the **desire** of them **that fear him**: he also will **hear** their cry, and will **save** them."

The fear of the Lord effects our prayer life. I have chosen the fear of the Lord so that when I pray he will hear me, fulfil my desire to have full joy, and to save me when I am in captivity. I may not get everything that I pray for, but one thing I know is that what he does for me regarding my prayers will be the right way and a holy work. I do not have to doubt what the Lord does for me is not the right thing.

I want to touch on Him fulfilling my desire. My desire is to stand in his presence approved. I want to hear well done, good and faithful servant and enter into the joy of the Lord. John 16:24 "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: **ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be**

full. I am praying that I may respond to his good work in me according to Philippians 2:13 "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure." I am asking God to help me according to Philippians 2:16 "Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain." If I am praying that these things will come to pass in my life, they will.

BLESSING

Psalms 147:11 "The LORD taketh **pleasure** in them **that fear him**, in those that **hope** in his **mercy.**"

The Lord takes pleasure in whom? In those that fear him. I want the Lord to take pleasure in me. Don't you? How do I respond to those in whom I take pleasure in? My wife is a good example of that. I don't hurt her. I give her food every day and a place to stay. I take pleasure in her so I care for her. He taketh pleasure in those who hope in his mercy.

NOAH BECAME AN HEIR

Hebrews 11:7 "By **faith Noah**, . . . moved with **fear** . . . and **became heir** of the **righteousness which is by faith.**"

Because Noah moved with fear he will enter into the blessings of those who inherit the righteousness of those who please God by living by faith. Because of his inheritance, Noah will have a place of honor in the coming kingdom of our Lord.

KINGDOM

James 2:5 "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world **rich in faith**, and **heirs of the kingdom** which he hath promised to them that love him?"

The fear of the Lord will help us to be heirs of the kingdom. I do believe that those who have the fear of the Lord will be rich in faith. It is the fear of the Lord that will help us to love him and keep his commandments.

May the Lord help us to learn the fear of the Lord as Noah. The fear of the Lord will cause us to respond in obedience as in the case of Noah. The fear of the Lord will cause us to move without hesitation to do his will. If we live like Noah we will be blessed with faithful Noah and be heirs of the kingdom of the heavens.