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Tillamook, Oregon

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## *Noah, Preacher of Righteousness*

*October 15, 2023*

**Sermon Text:** Genesis 6

**Scripture Reading:** Genesis 6-8

This morning I want to call your attention to the account of Noah and the great flood which the Lord brought upon the whole earth so long ago. There are quite a few references to Noah and the flood in the New Testament, indicating to us that this is an event which we are to remember and learn vital lessons from. A great “flood” is coming once again when the Lord will completely and finally destroy the present heavens and earth, along with the wicked – whom we will see no more.

Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being

warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Mat 24:37-38 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (38) For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,

2Pe 2:4-5 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; (5) if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the

world of the ungodly....

2Pe 3:4-7 They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” (5) For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, (6) and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. (7) But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

Noah built the ark by faith. We are told several times:

“Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.”

The days in which we live are evil. They are growing more and more like the days of Noah.

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of

the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

The Lord Jesus Himself told us to expect this:

Mat 24:9-14 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. (10) And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. (11) And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. (12) **And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.** (13) But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (14) And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Surely we are seeing all of this playing out right before our eyes.

Gen 6:11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence.

But there was one man, one very different man, who was righteous –

Gen 6:8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. 6:9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

Only Noah and his family. Eight people in the entire earth. Don't miss this – *this was the church at that time*. Eight.

2Pe 2:5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

God *preserved* Noah. Not only by the ark, but before that. Why was Noah righteous? Because God preserved him from the wicked world. Noah had been chosen by God in eternity past. There is no other explanation.

Consider the pressure Noah would have been under to conform. To adopt the sins and the idols which ALL the world had gone after. The pressure to conclude that the righteous would soon be no more.

This is how it is today and it is how it always has been from the beginning. God's true Israel, Christ's church, is a remnant and it is small. The righteous are few.

Gen 18:32 Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Only Lot and his household.

When the Antichrist is revealed and he establishes his evil counterfeit church, the harlot on the beast (Revelation 17), the entire world will worship him. The earth dwellers will be enthralled with him. Only a very few, those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, will refuse to be seduced by the harlot. How big will Christ's true church be in that day? Very small. And so it is today.

Only Noah was righteous. He was justified by faith in God's Promises. He knew, though only in type and shadow, what an altar and blood sacrifice meant:

Gen 8:20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

Surrounded by evil on every hand, Noah nevertheless put his faith in the Lord and obeyed all that the Lord commanded him. Noah built the ark. 120 years he built the ark.

You and I live 70, 80, 90, a few perhaps even a 100, years in this world. If we are truly pilgrims, if we are truly following Christ, born again by faith alone in Christ alone, then our journey through this wilderness is a narrow path which very few find. It's not easy. This world is enemy territory. But the Lord sustains us to the end.

Consider Noah though. He has been a pilgrim *for some 600 years before entering the ark*. 600 years in that evil world. He would have seen the number of the righteous growing smaller and smaller and smaller. He didn't even have children for the first 500 years of his life (Gen 5:32).

We look at ourselves, we look at the small number here in this church, we see the visible church embracing the world at increasing speed – but look at Noah. Those first 500 years of his life, what was the size of the church? One. Perhaps two if his wife was godly. *Why do we ever think that it is going to be any different in our day?*

One of the repeated arguments which Rome uses in its claim to be the true church is, *catholicity*. *Universality*. “We are worldwide. Look how many we are.” The mega type churches really use the same argument and they work and work and work to get bigger and bigger and bigger.

But as we have said often, the Roman Catholic Church is neither catholic nor a church. Look in your Bible and find anywhere that we are told Christ's church is going to be a majority vote. That numbers win. That numbers validate. You won't find it. In fact what you do find is this:

Rev 13:1-4 And I saw a beast

rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. (2) And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. (3) One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. (4) And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

What else can we learn from Noah? Noah persevered in faith and obedience to the Lord day after day, month after month, as he carried out the Lord's commands.

**Have you ever really thought about what building the ark entailed?**

- No chainsaws or skidders. All the timber had to be fallen and transported and sawn and

planed and fitted. How many trees do you suppose it took?

- And how much labor was entailed to fill the ark with all the food and supplies necessary not only for Noah and his family, but for the animals.
- Then there was the whole matter of getting all the animals and herding them into the ark and into their stalls.

And all the while, there were the mockers and the temptations to doubt God which would have assailed Noah. This was an arid land. I suspect rain was not very commonplace, if not actually rare. All the more reasons the mockers would use against him. And yet-

"Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him."

This is the faith which only the Lord can give. Certainly Satan must have worked overtime launching attacks against Noah's faith. I mean, he had the church down to 8 people, just a little more and the gates of hell would prevail.

What kinds of doubts and lies would he fire at Noah?

**And have you ever really thought about why God chose *this* way?**

He certainly could have just spoken a word and the wicked would have been destroyed, only Noah and his family being left. Why this ark and the huge task it was to build it? Why a flood? There are a number of reasons:

- The flood was a fitting and ironic judgment upon the world of wicked men. It was a return to chaos. To the earliest time when the waters covered the earth. This is why God did this:

Gen 1:9 And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so.

So what was the flood? It was an answer to the desires of the wicked – *no God!* It was a return to chaos, a reversal of the dry land appearing. “Here is what you want. No God.”

- But God also chose this way of judgment and the building of the ark for those 120 years as a great sermon preached to the world day after day by Noah. Hebr 11:7 calls Noah a “preacher of righteousness.”

Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

God gives His people time in this world to 1) test their faith for His glory. Think of Job for instance. And 2) as a merciful witness to an evil world plummeting toward judgment. Noah’s ark-building sermon *condemned the world* but proved Noah’s faith.

*All the people in Noah’s day had to do is repent, believe, and walk those few steps into the ark – and be saved.* But they would not. And they are in hell.

The same thing is happening today. The wicked have access to the

Bible. All they need do is pick it up, open it, and read of the salvation offered in Jesus Christ. Every Lord's day, we come to this place and gather together to worship the Lord and hear His Word. All the earth dwellers around us see it. All they need to do in order to hear the powerful saving Word, the gospel, is take a few steps and come and hear. *But they don't.* The wicked are still refusing to get on the ark. They are still mocking all the Noah's of our day. And what do they do?

Mat 24:37-38 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (38) For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,

*Until that day...*

**Have you ever considered what it was like at that moment when it was time to enter the ark?**

Gen 7:1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this

generation.

Gen 7:16 And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.

Gen 7:24 And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

Gen 8:6 At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made

The time finally came. The ark was complete. "Go into the ark" is the Lord's command. That had to be another point of testing for Noah when many people's faith would fail. "Get in." The real moment of decision.

Most people falter at this point. They have professed faith in Christ, but when the time comes to get in the ark, leave the world behind, they go back – like Pliable in Pilgrim's Progress. But Noah got in. And he was saved. The ark is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*And the Lord shut him in.* Can you imagine what that was like? One door and the Lord closed it. I suspect it could only then be opened by Him? There was also a window but apparently not a very big one because Noah would release birds through it to see if the water had receded.

Here we have a beautiful picture of the “P” in TULIP. The perseverance of the saints. Once Noah got in the ark, the Lord shut the door, and he was kept safe until the judgment of the flood was over. Noah could not have jumped overboard and been lost! He was secure. So we reject the Arminian teaching that a Christian can be saved and then in the end be lost.

What else must have happened on that day. The mockers would have seen Noah and his family getting into the ark, along with all the animals. They would still have been mocking. Here is this “fool” they would say, getting in this thing.

Notice though, that they were so hardened in their unbelief, as a

judgment from God because God desired to kill them all, so hardened were they that even though they were watching a miracle – the animals all coming and getting into the ark, they still would not repent and be saved.

*Then the Lord shut the door.* Here is a great and sobering warning which we see all through the Bible but which is so rejected by many professing Christians. It is this:

*There comes a time, a day, when the age of grace is over. When that door was shut by the Lord, no one could enter and be saved no matter how hard they knocked and pleaded. Too late. Too late.*

Mat 25:10-12 And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. (11) Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ (12) But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’

If you are still dead in your sins,



somehow thinking that you have time...here is the truth...the only time you have is this present moment. The door is open now to repent and believe in Christ, there is no guarantee that it will be open even 5 minutes from now.

The Lord not only will close the door of the ark of His salvation ultimately and finally one day, *He closes it individually at a point in time when a particular person's time is up.* Even while they still are alive in this world. The door was closed to Pharaoh. It was closed to Judas. It was closed to Esau. While they still lived.

The door of the ark was closed. Remember that little Sunday School song – “one door and only one, and yet its sides are two. I’m on the inside, on which side are you.”? The wicked saw the door closed – shut by the Lord.

And then the rain began to fall. Initially they would still have been in denial – just a coincidence, but that denial could not be sustained:

Gen 7:11-12 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. (12) And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

John Calvin points out that the Lord intentionally allowed a brief time for the wicked to see the waters rise and the ark begin to float as they ran for higher ground (probably a rare commodity in that region). Note:

- The wicked did not repent. They no doubt were just like the wicked will be when Christ comes again, calling on the rocks and hills to fall on them and hide them from the Lamb. In this we see again that salvation is of the Lord and unless the Lord by His power regenerates the sinner and grants the gift of faith, no one will come to Christ.
- Second, consider the fruits of

Noah's preaching of righteousness for 120 years. How "successful" was he in "winning souls"? In growing his church? And yet Noah was successful. He persevered in faith. He obeyed the Lord. He preached to the world. He did not "tweak" the message – "repent and believe, or perish."

Obviously there are huge and important lessons for us here lest we be swept away by the deceptions that abound.

Do YOU believe a flood is coming? Do you believe this world is passing away right now? That Peter's words are absolutely true –

2Pe 3:5-13 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, (6) and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. (7) But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire,

being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. (8) But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (9) The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (10) But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. (11) Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, (12) waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! (13) But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Gen 6:1-22 When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, (2) the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. (3) Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." (4) The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. (5) The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (6) And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. (7) So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." (8) But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. (9) These are the generations of Noah.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. (10) And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (11) Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. (12) And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. (13) And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. (14) Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. (15) This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. (16) Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. (17) For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. (18) But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark,

you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. (19) And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. (20) Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. (21) Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them.” (22) Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

Gen 7:1-24 Then the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. (2) Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, (3) and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. (4) For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living

thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” (5) And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him. (6) Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth. (7) And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. (8) Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, (9) two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. (10) And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth. (11) In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. (12) And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. (13) On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, (14) they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock

according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. (15) They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. (16) And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in. (17) The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. (18) The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. (19) And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. (20) The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. (21) And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. (22) Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. (23) He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of

the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. (24) And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

Gen 8:1-22 But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. (2) The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, (3) and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, (4) and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. (5) And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. (6) At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made (7) and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. (8)

Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. (9) But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. (10) He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. (11) And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. (12) Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore. (13) In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. (14) In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. (15) Then God said to Noah, (16) “Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you.

(17) Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” (18) So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. (19) Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark. (20) Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. (21) And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. (22) While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”