



Noah

I feel that there is a line in the sand between ancient times and most of the Biblical story. Up to Genesis 7 we have a series of events that provided very little data. There seems to be a gap between Genesis 1 and 2, or is there? The Nephelium are who? The book of Enoch claims they are fallen angels called the watchers. Even in Genesis 11, we have the story of Babel. Who were these people? Clearly from Genesis 3 forward, humankind was falling from grace. Chapter 4 has the first murder. Then we have some sort of debauchery between daughters of man and angels. Things needed to be cleansed.

God was grieved at humans. It says He regretted making them. Yet, in Genesis 6:8 it says *“But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.”* What did he do to gain favor? We just do not know. However, there is a hint in Ezekiel 14. It says in verse 7 *“even if these three men—Noah, Daniel, and Job—were in it, they could save only themselves by their righteousness, declares the Sovereign Lord.”* No man could save himself by his own works. Yet, God is declaring that the best of the best is Daniel, Noah, and Job. They were pretty good men according to God.

Paul says in Hebrews 11:7 *“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family.”* Paul had always known Noah to be a righteous man. Everyone in the Jewish community revered Noah. Why? It is because God did. I am sure that many of us would consider long life a blessing of God. The oldest man who ever lived was

Noah's grandfather Methuselah, He died in the flood most likely. Did God save Noah because of his faith. The Bible says yes!

Noah is a righteous man. What is that? In the Bible it generally means that they walked with God. When God called on them, they acted. They believed in the Lord without proof, miracles, or direct contact. Instead, God called and they did what the Lord asked of them. Paul makes mention that Noah was warned about things not yet seen. That could mean many things. Was it the promise of a messiah? The little evidence that we have points to rain. The Bible says (in the beginning) there was water above and water below. When God opened the skies from above all that water came down in a massive flood. What was Noah warned about something that he had never seen? Rain!

Noah had tremendous faith in what God was going to do. God would bring down the water from above. It is believed that during that time it was humid and tropical. The skies were covered by something we have never seen before. By faith Noah believed God and built a boat. He built it based on something he had never seen before: clear blue skies. The second part of Paul's statement on Noah is sad. *"By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith."* For over 100 years Noah built the Ark. Yet, in all that time only 8 people ended up being saved. The rest of the community? They did not believe what they could not see. That included the oldest grandfather Methuselah.

Like Abraham, Noah heard God and acted. Like Abraham, Noah did something by faith because it was uncharted territory. Noah is more than just a Jewish story. He listened by faith. I call them the men of mistakes: David, Noah, Peter, Adam. Yet, mistakes are human, God honors the heart above all human mistakes. God could have crushed Adam and started over. Instead, the Lord provided a path back to Himself through Adam. David had his problems yet; God provided

a messiah through the line of David. Peter could be considered a firecracker. Yet, God moved the kingdom of God forward through this man. Finally, lets take a last look at Noah.

By faith Noah provided a way through water to salvation. Paul mentioned that Noah's actions condemned the world. Those who rejected Gods way through water perished in the flood. 1 Peter 3:20 mentions that few were saved through water. By faith we decide to be baptized. To be clear, baptism does not save you. But your declaration by faith in Jesus does save you. God cleansed the earth of evil through the flood. Yet, the line to salvation is by water. The line of Noah would lead to Jesus. Baptism by the Spirit symbolises our death and rescue by water.

What unseen thing did Noah hear and act on? John 3:5 *“Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”* Noah built the ark because he believed God. We are not privy to that conversation. Yet, the Bible tells us that “by faith” Noah believed. Eve was promised a saviour. That promise was handed down through the generations. Noah had heard it. The actions of Noah show us that he did a strange thing by faith. Build a boat for a rain they had never seen before. To save his family and continue a line to the messiah he would never meet in his lifetime.

What great thing has God asked you to do by faith? I find that we usually know. If pressed we know what God is asking. What has God been asking you to do? What would perish if you did it? Would you lose a relationship? Would you have to move? A have discovered running. It has been a life changer for me. What if God asked me to give it up? By faith, would I? Would you? These men of the Bible did extraordinary things that they normally would not do. Yet, God asked them and they acted. I am not asking a small thing. By faith what is that big thing God is talking to you about? By Faith will you act?

Deuteronomy 32:47 *“And this is no small thing for you, but it is your life, and through this you may make your days long in the land which you are going over Jordan to take for your heritage.”*