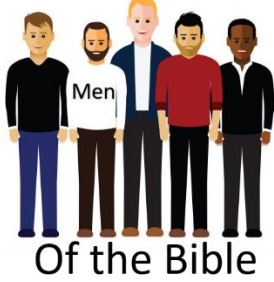


Interesting



Interesting Men in the Bible: Noah

Genesis 6:9 *“This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.”*

Is it about how much is said or what is said? In Genesis 5:29 we have this remark “He named him Noah and said, *“He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the Lord has cursed.”* Remember that God told Adam that he would now work from the sweat of his brow and that the land was cursed because of their sin. The name Noah means rest or comfort. It seems like the Bible is telling us that within the acts of Noah we will find rest. I suspect it has more to do with the actions of Noah. We will rest from trying to get back to God. How? It’s by the work of Noah. He will build a way through the judgment of God and bring us to a place of rest.

Noah, for the most part, does not say one word in the Bible. I have heard it said that a good man should be slow to speak and be a person of very few words. That is Noah. There is a strange story of Noah getting drunk and is found naked by his son Ham. We don’t totally know why, but this was a bad thing. Noah’s only words is to curse the line of Ham and bless the line of the other two boys. It’s the actions of Noah that set the temple for us to find rest in God.

Methuselah is the oldest human in the Bible. It was the height of humanity. Could humans overcome the fall of Adam and Eve? Then we find mixed in the Noah story corruption and sin. Human kind can't get any closer to God in fact they were moving farther and farther away. So, God is distressed and wants to cleanse the earth of sin. He's had enough. Yet, in a small corner of the world is a man named Noah. He is called righteous in God's eyes. Perfect? Heaven's no, but good enough to give God hope in humanity.

Noah will be the new beginning of finite man. No longer will we live for hundreds of years. Chapter six begins with the depravity of men and angels? Then God brings a flood. This flood is interesting. Is it local or universal? To some, it's an earth baptism. A re-set of sorts. In its aftermath God states that humans will no longer live past 120 years. Why not 119? We don't know but throughout history modern humans can't surpass the mark. In fact Jesus sets a new sin bar. Nobody can hit that mark too. Noah; however, is the best of the best: the great symbol of sin and water.

The Bible is great. Within all the good deeds of Moses to Noah we still have warts. Nobody is perfect until Jesus came along. The faith of Noah is strong. Does God test Noah? It appears not. God asks him to build an Ark to withstand a flood and Noah complies. It takes him a hundred years to build it. the Bible does not record bickering, ridicule, or doubt within those hundred years. Sadly, only 7 other people choose to come on board. Noah is obedient and does not seem to doubt, complain, or give up. He built the Ark. There are reasons to believe that it had never rained up till that time. In creation God had placed an ocean above and below. Noah built an ark because he believed God. That the ocean above would come down.

There are a few interesting points about this story. Noah just does what is asked of him. God shuts the door of the Ark. It even says God remembered Noah after the flood. They floated

on the water for the better part of a year. Even before the rains stopped in Noah's eyes, God was making plans to bring them to land. Noah never complained, yet after the flood, we find him drunk and naked. Sin came through the flood with Noah. Did this man have depression or stress problems? Imagine telling people it will rain when it had never rained. Building an Ark for apparently no reason. Plus, this man endured a year of torrential rain and sea sailing.

The silence from Noah is deafening. The actions from this man are loud. My pastor has a beef with actions. The fruit of your work will tell a lot about you. God saved humanity. Yet, God saved humanity by the faith of one man. Noah would still die. He would sin. Yet, God chose to save us through Noah. It proved that sin cannot be ultimately cleansed by water or righteous living. We cannot win our way to heaven. God is willing to allow fallen humans to be saved through Jesus as He was willing to save people in an Ark. In heaven, we do need to thank Noah and his faithfulness. Most of us would not do what he did to humanity. Noah is a good man!