

THE CHARACTER OF NOAH

By Glenn I. Hitchcock

Notice the character of Noah and how it contrasts with the world he was living in. (Gen 6:8-9) *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. (6:8-9). This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.* In the midst of this immoral society, one man stood out . . . a man by the name of Noah. Notice what we read about him.

Noah Found Grace

This is the first time the word “Grace” is used in the Bible. Noah’s life and name meant “relief”, he brought grace to this world for he was the only true worshipper of God at that time. Talk about peer pressure!

An important fact that we should remember - Noah did not earn God's blessing . . .he was given God's favor. Noah was not a perfect man. There was no inherent merit in Noah greater than in other men of his time. We have a tendency to see Noah as someone extra-ordinary. It then becomes easy for us to relegate his obedience and faith to the "that's not reachable for me" status. Noah was a common man who was willing to follow the Lord. Without grace Noah could not have been saved from the destruction that came upon the world.

Notice how God's grace benefited Noah: First, in Genesis 6:13; 17, God revealed His intentions to Noah. Second, God gave commands to Noah that he was to obey if he would save himself and his family (Gen. 6:14-16). Third, God promised Noah that He would save him from the flood (Gen.. 6:18). (He didn't have to do that but grace was at work!

The grace extended by God was not some “cheap grace.” Notice that when grace was extended that these things were not excluded: Hard work by man in obeying God was included. Oh, that man might appreciate this great truth (Gen.6: 22)! Careful attention to detail as to what God had said and how He had said it (Gen. 6:22). We are living in a world where folks have disregarded God’s details – such action is not the means of obtaining grace with God! There was

the complete judgment of God against all that was evil and sinful (Gen. 7: 21-22). Noah trusted God. In so doing, Noah stood alone in grace / favor with God.

He was a Just Man

“Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.” (Gen. 6:9).

To be “just” means to live a righteous life and to treat others in a fair and just way despite the circumstances (Noah’s time). It means to be upright, honest, and virtuous, never to cheat or steal from others. Noah lived a just and moral life both before God and man. Noah’s righteousness exceeded that of the people: *“For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”* (Matt. 5: 20).

Noah’s mindset was to do only that which God wanted him to do. He allowed God's standards to effect and direct his life. Noah was unafraid to live differently from the status quo. What a lesson for Christians! The child of God is to live that holy and just life that is different from the world (I Jno.2: 15 -17). The Christian life is a constant that is not robbed by circumstances. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain (Phil 1:21).

Noah Was A Perfect Man

These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God (Gen. 6:9).

The Hebrew word for perfect is to be without blemish or to be blameless, to be moral, a person of purity, of integrity, of honesty; to be whole and complete. Not that he was sinless (Gen. 9:24), but that there were no blatant faults. He was a man of moral integrity among his generation.

In that godless society no one had any charges against Noah. We can conclude that he had a good relationship with his friends and neighbors. No one wondered if Noah was dealing honestly with them. They knew his ethics were solid. No one had to question whether Noah was cheating on his wife. They knew Noah's was committed to her. No one questioned Noah's methods. They knew he was not seeking to manipulate them when he acted loving. No one questioned Noah's sincerity . . . they may have questioned his sanity . . .but not his heart.

The Church of Christ will be presented before the Father as a “wrinkle – free “ institution. *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that*

it should be holy and without blemish (Eph 5:27). Jesus expects His church to be perfect (blameless) when He delivers it to God the Father.

He Walked with God

These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God (Gen. 6:9).

Noah's conduct and his walk of life are emphasized; he walked with God. The same thing was recorded about Enoch; it is the essential element we need. Noah walk with God was threefold: First, it was a walk that continued individually, second, it was a walk that persevered a family and it was a walk in contrast to the disobedient world. The present generation could use a change of heart so we can walk with God instead of walking with the world. It requires a change of attitude. The imaginations and thoughts of the heart cannot be evil continually while yet we expect to walk in God's favor. We must have a walk of life that corresponds with our profession. Note that when the Christian walks with God it is also a circumspective walk (Eph 5:11-16):

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

The circumspective walk of the child of God is about an awareness of one's surroundings. Christians should behave like Noah by walking with God through a very dark and dying world.

How can we find grace in the eyes of God? By being just, perfect, and walking with God. Character does matter with God! May we be encouraged by the example and life of Noah.