

BEING A MAN OF THE FLOOD, PART 3

Scriptures from the Life of Noah by Pastor Justin Schefcik

The crux of the whole study on Noah we've been looking at is how he was a man of the flood. He lives and orders his life around this overwhelming idea of a coming judgment. God has revealed to Him that a global flood is going to come and wipe everything and everyone out and Noah is told to build an ark to save him, his family, and 2 of every kind of animal in preparation for the judgment. Other than Noah and the 7 members of his family, everyone else literally drowns to death in a watery grave. It's very serious setting in which we find ourselves, but the overbearing idea of a coming judgment is nothing strange to us. We should have a similar mindset knowing that everyone who has not placed their faith in Christ will face a judgment of God's wrath as well, along with spending eternity in the lake of fire. In light of all these incredibly serious truths, we've been examining Noah's life and relationship with God and learning about how we can be men and women of the flood as well – how in a corrupt world, we too should live in light of a coming judgment.

So far we've looked at 3 marks of what it looks like to be a man of the flood:

1. A MAN OF THE FLOOD WALKS WITH GOD.
2. A MAN OF THE FLOOD WORKS FOR GOD.
3. A MAN OF THE FLOOD WITNESSES FOR GOD.

IV. MARK #4 – A MAN OF THE FLOOD TRUSTS IN THE LORD. (7:1, 5, 6-24)

He trusts in the Lord before, during and after the storm. Before the storm in 7:1-10.

A. He trust the Lord's ways over the ways of the worldly flesh before the storm. (v.1)

And what I mean by flesh is the sin nature. It's that part of you that wants to sin even when you know it isn't right or healthy or ultimately satisfying. But Noah didn't let the flesh rule him. Look how God says, "You alone I have found to be righteous..." Think about that "you alone." Out of this generation is was only Noah who was totally walking in step with the Lord (Gal. 5:16, 26). And that's a man right there. You know how easy it would have been for him to compromise or use some excuse for living a worldly life like, "*everyone else is doing it.*" Noah's got a lot of guts. You've got to have a lot of guts to walk with God (*idea from Chuck Swindoll*).

❖ It takes a lot of guts to walk with God.

Don't forget that. Anybody can follow the flesh and walk in the ways of the world – **there's nothing special about walking in the flesh** – but **to walk consistently walk with God and bring the flesh under the control of the Spirit, that's a real man!** And that's why there's rewards for those who will do that! A real man, according to God, isn't defined by big muscles, a big beard, and a big bank account or even a big brain. A real man is defined by his obedient faith. Many out there with the macho man mentality look at humble believers like they're weak or cowardly, but they're wrong. And when the judgment day comes and the sons of God are revealed, they'll understand it took a lot of guts to walk with God. He trusts the Lord's ways over the flesh by not succumbing to it with the rest of the world.

B. He trusts the Lord's word over his own feelings before the storm. (v.5)

Verse 5 points out how Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him. He worked on building the ark for decades, probably around 80 years. Don't you think that would get old after a while? Do you think he ever burned out, trying to provide for his family at the same time? Trying to find time to spend with family? Do you think there was ever a day where he was exhausted and

thought twice before bending down to pick up the saw or the hammer? Do you think there was ever a moment, when being ridiculed by the mockers, that he wanted to give up? Sure, he's no different than you and me. But Noah didn't give up, despite all his feelings or his emotions.

Emotions are good – they're from God – God has emotions too – they serve a purpose in our lives. But they can be deceiving, keeping you from obeying God because well, you just don't feel like it or you're too tired. They're like little receptors or warning lights that go off on your car letting you know what's happening with the car – if there's problems or something is turned on, but they're not always correct, nor are they our authority. Our authority is the Word of God. To walk with Christ and be a man of the flood you have to...

❖ **Obey the Word of God and not your feelings or emotions.**

The mantra of our day is, "If it feels good, do it." Well, that's just not a biblical mantra. That's an idea that will make you a slave to your lusts and pleasures or destructive habits. Jesus said things like, "bless those who persecute you." Do you really feel like blessing someone who is persecuting you? No way! But He says do it anyway. Paul told Timothy, "Suffer hardship with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus... and take pains in your teaching." Do you ever really feel like suffering or taking pains in doing ministry? Yet, Paul says it's good to do it for Christ. Emotions can be good but are never our main motivator. The Word and will of God is.

No matter what happened in the detailed moments during the construction of the ark, here we see Noah finished his work for the Lord strong. He did what God said, leaving nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded. If Noah used nails, I don't think that **not a nail went un-hammered** that was needed to build the ark.

Let's continue on reading verses 6-24...

C. He trusts the Lord sovereignty before the storm.

Speaking of sovereignty, look at these animals! They come from all over to not only come to the ark but walk right in and go where they're supposed to. It's fascinating. This is the power of God on display! How sad that the animals obey God but the people won't. And I want you to notice that it from verses like 6:20 and 7:14 that God did not put every single animal in the world on the ark (millions or more), nor every species of animals. It was two of every kind of animal. Kind is a much narrower term than species. **You can have several species of one kind.** There are many types of bears, but as we're learning about genetics, God didn't need every type. He only needed two bears to create from them all species we have today and God designed it that way ahead of time. He didn't need every breed of dog or cat to have the breeds we have today.

❖ **The 'kind' of animal is narrower term than 'species' of animal. You can have several species of one kind.**

I have included in your handout a couple of articles on this subject and would really suggest renting or buying the DVD called "Is Genesis History?" for more info on this. Also notice that the animals on board are restricted to being land-dwellers and birds. **Given these restrictions they really could fit with much room leftover**, especially if they weren't full grown specimens. 16,000 sheep-size animals could fit with plenty of space. Most birds, reptiles, and even mammals are smaller than sheep. Dr. John Morris said, "The total number of land-dwelling mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibian species is less than 20,000 or so. The number of "kinds," the Biblical designation, is probably much smaller. For instance, of the 9,000 bird species, approximately 400 are hummingbirds, with only minor differences in color, size, and habitat. Very likely, they all come from one or a few kinds, thereby dropping the total number. The Ark itself was huge! With gross dimensions of about 450 feet by 75 feet by 45 feet, its volume was easily able to house two (or in

some cases seven) of each land species, let alone *kinds*. The trip may have been difficult for Noah and his family, but it was possible, with God’s help.” With all of the animals coming to him, Noah trusts in the Lord and Lord tames them to do what He wants. It’s the power of God on display.

But if I’m Noah during these 7 days (picturing 7 tribulation years before his 2nd coming judgment) where these animals are entering into and settling into the ark, I’m probably thinking at this point, God has to be out of His mind! Is this really going to work? Is it really going to rain? Is everything really going to perish outside of this ark? And...

❖ **The Lord closes the door on the ark.**

I’m so glad Noah didn’t have to close the door. Can you imagine having to close the door on all the people outside? It would have been excruciating. **Never close the door of salvation on someone. Never stop trying to win them to Christ.** The best book you will ever read on the history and evidence for the flood is “The Genesis Flood” by John Whitcomb and Henry Morris. And that book takes you through the process of how they come to such a number, but a **conservative number for how many people were on earth at the time would have been just over 1 billion! 1 billion 30 million. Remember the whole earth was “full” of violence.** Shutting the door was like closing the lid on the casket of the world. You know people saw these animals coming straight to Noah and the mockers’ mouths were shut in awe and wonder. It took great trust in the Lord during that precious, probably anxious week *before* the storm hit. He was likely mourning the death of his grandpa Methuselah at the same time.

Christ is the door we want to see people walk through. He is the only door to Heaven and there’s coming a moment where those who haven’t walked through that door through faith in Him will be shut out and the 7-year Great Tribulation judgment will take its course. Just like Noah was placed in the ark and lifted up above the divine wrath on earth, so we too must be placed in Christ and lifted up in the Rapture before the divine wrath is poured out on all who haven’t believed and weren’t ready.

D. Noah trusts the Lord sovereignty during the storm.

But it also took great trust *during* the storm. This was the storm of storms. Every now and then a movie comes out depicting a great, catastrophic worldwide storm like “The Day After Tomorrow”. Well, this was really that storm. It wasn’t just a few spring rains that fell, it was longer and stronger and combined with the floodgates of deep – subterranean waters and volcanic lava with the layers of sediment burst up from below the surface to add to the rain. Ash and smoke and lava and torrential rain. Mountains were heightened and valleys lowered. Genesis 7:20 says that the waters *prevailed*, even over the tallest mountains. One writer said that if you smoothed the globe out flat it would have been completely covered with water to a uniform depth of about 9,000 ft. or over 1.5 miles. Altogether he was **371 days in the ark! More than a year!** On the storm alone, he waited for forty days and forty nights, which is a typical time frame for testing. Commentator A.C. Gaebelien noted how Moses was on the mountain for forty days while Israel was tested; Elijah walked for forty days and nights; Ezekiel laid on his side for forty days symbolizing the invasion to come on Israel; Jonah preached to Nineveh that they had forty days to repent; and Christ was in the wilderness for forty days. We need to watch for that number forty in the Scriptures as a time of testing and endurance, trusting the Lord in them.

Storms in our life are great times of testing and that’s all we might know in them. And you’re going to go through some storms in your life – we all have our storms – be it sickness or cancer or loss

of a job or loss of a loved one. Sometimes we don't know why we go through the storms that we do. Noah might have asked, "Why me? Why do I have to build this ark? Take care of all these animals? Can't someone else do it? Why am I going through this storm?" We always want to know why something is happening and how we can fix it, when sometimes what God is up to is just beyond our comprehension and it likely will be for quite some time. As Dwight Pentecost often said, "Sometimes patient endurance is the only answer." But I want you to know that...

❖ **There is no storm that is not subject to God.**

God transcends everything – He's above everything. There is nothing in this life that is not subject to Him, not even our storms. But He is also immanent – He is near everything – which means He is near to you in the storm. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Remember what Jesus told the storm on the Sea of Galilee? Hush, be still. And it stopped. It doesn't mean He'll do that with every storm but every one *is* subject to Him. And sometimes we'll never know why He allows or permits or even causes certain storms to come upon us. But we also have **some clear Scriptural answers for the storms we go through**. 2 Corinthians 1 mentions a few that I believe are crucial to for us to remember in hard times:

- We have a God of ALL-Comfort – He wants us to go to Him in storms for comfort, drawing us nearer to Him to experience His peace.
- Future Ministry - The God of all comfort, comforts us in our affliction so that we will be able to comfort others. God is interested in giving us a future ministry to others or future blessing that we won't be able to handle if we first don't go through a difficult time. Spurgeon said, "**Misery is often the precursor to prosperity, and buffeting the bridge to blessing.**"
- Increased Our Trust in God - So that we will learn not to trust in ourselves but trust more and more in the God who raises the dead. Was not Job's view of God's sovereignty increased through his storm?
- Giving Glory to God - By the many prayers prayed on our behalf in a storm, Corinthians says it will result in many thanks by many people, giving glory to God, when the storm clears. Storms give the Body of Christ opportunity to pray and bear fruit! Storms remind us of our need of the fellowship of the Body the testimony of God's people spreads.

And through every storm we go through, we are more-so than any other time, fulfilling our chief responsibility as a redeemed individual – and that is to grow in Christlikeness.

❖ **Our chief responsibility to grow in Christlikeness results the fastest in the storms of life.**

The storms of life have a way of maturing us and building us up in Christlikeness in a way that nothing else can. They work if you let them push you towards God and not away. The fleshly emotions and thoughts can go crazy in a storm, thinking all sorts of crazy things, even questioning God's character, but for a man of the flood, no matter how many crazy thoughts go through the mind, deep down in his spirit he knows that God has sovereign good in it and is accomplishing His good purpose (Rom. 8:28).

V. **MARK #5 – A MAN OF THE FLOOD WAITS ON GOD. (8:1-19)**

This is where **we see him trust the Lord *after* the storm**. If there's one thing I've learned about farming in the spring, it's that you never get in rush to work the fields unless you have to (like if the insurance date is coming up to get the crops in)- until you're certain that you aren't going to get stuck. Because it's a mess to try and pull a tractor out of the mud. You might as well leave it until

the earth dries out some more – like until some hotter, windier days evaporate some of the moisture like the wind God used to dry up the earth. The wind dries things out incredibly fast. When the waters subsided, the earth was a swamp. It wasn't just a few spring rains that fell, it was longer and stronger and combined with the floodgates of deep. Had Noah left the ark too early, his family would have gotten themselves in a very sticky, slimy, filmy situation. Animals would have been up to their briskets and bellies in mud. But He didn't get ahead of God. **He sent out birds to see if they'd come back (the first "tweet")**. He waited until God said it was time to exit the ark and peace was restored to the earth. If we are going to be men of the flood like Noah, we need to learn to wait on God and there's going to be moments where you will have to do that in life. We can really get ourselves in trouble by running ahead of God into something we're not supposed to. Proverbs says, "He who hurries his footsteps errs." And again, "The Lord is good to those who wait for Him." Try not to get ahead of God. It's easy to do. Wait for clear direction. He is the Great Shepherd us sheep should follow.

VI. **MARK # 6 – A MAN OF THE FLOOD WORSHIPS GOD. (8:15-22)**

Being a man of the flood means gratefully worshipping God for his mercy on you in a couple of ways we see here. This is basic and natural to someone who understands they deserve judgment but have been forgiven and shown mercy. When you really begin to understand the depth of sin in your heart and all of the holiness that God is – you begin to worship God for his mercy on you. You can't help but want to sing praises to Him or offer some sort of sacrifice. You want to lay yourself at His feet. After I got saved and the Lord started transforming my life, and I hope this doesn't sound arrogant, but you didn't have to tell me that we should offer ourselves as living sacrifices. I was so thankful for the new life in Christ that the natural attitude to follow was, "Lord, use my life to help others come to know You and Your great love and grace."

One commentator noted that the last time in history where everyone knew and genuinely worshipped the One True God on earth, was this moment right here, with Noah leading his family in worship. The first thing he does when he gets off the ark is he builds an altar to worship. **He doesn't start building his own house or corrals or pitch a tent. He builds an altar, and worships God.** That's a great principle. Always build your altar before you pitch your tent. It's a life-surrendering worship principle. Worship is more than singing songs but in the way we live our lives.

A. Life-Surrendering Worship: Remain open (be willing) to God's leading in your life and desire His best for you.

Today, God's people still need to be people who will build their altars before they pitch their tents. Let Him lead you to where He would have you pitch your tent. Sometimes following the Lord with your whole heart requires a you to be available go places. Most of the time, no, it's fine to stay where you are and make disciples where your roots are. But think about this: Are you really surrendered to God if you pitch your tent before you build your altar, thinking, "God, I will serve you as long as I can stay here in the U.S.," or, "As long as you don't send me to Africa!" That's not building your altar before you pitch your tent. That's pitching your tent before you build your altar. If you have a mindset that says that, "I will serve you IF..." whatever's on the other side of an IF might be your real master. You should remain open to God's leading in your life and desire God's best for your life, like Romans 12:1-2 state. "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." We want to do His perfect will – to do what He created us to do!

He worships the Lord with his life but also see how he just takes time to pause and worship. The new world begins with a time of family worship. Men of the flood are highly concerned about family worship and seeing the next generation walk with God.

B. Family worship is critical to seeing the next generation walk with God.

When Noah builds the altar before anything else, he's teaching his family the priority of God over everything else. The difference a father can make in the lives of their children is astounding. Spurgeon, in his book called Lectures to My Students, said a man of God, "strives to make his family devotions a model for [the] flock; and if the fire on the altar of God should burn low anywhere else, it is well tended in the house of the Lord's chosen servant – for he takes care that the morning and evening sacrifice shall sanctify his dwelling." The morning and evening sacrifice. What a beautiful picture. Fathers we need to lead our families like this: Worshipping God together, reading the Bible together, doing Bible studies together, and praying together. Take these notes home from this camp and study them together with your parents. Let them listen to what you learned.

One of the elders in my home church for a long time has seen people come and go, raise families and all. He sat down beside me one evening after a service and said Justin, "Listen, I want to tell you that not every time but much of the time, those who, as a father, walk with the Lord faithfully **in the home and in the public** will have children who do the same. Not all the time, but much of the time. Those who have a mediocre walk with the Lord, will have children who are mediocre spiritually. And those who go to church but have no walk with God and no godly influence in the home, will likely have children who think the church is filled with a bunch of hypocrites and eventually walk away as soon as they hit college." His point was, be genuine. Lead your family in worship when you have one. Desire to see your family worship together even now.

If Enoch never walked with God, I wonder if his son Methuselah probably would have. If Methuselah hadn't walked with God, I wonder if his son Lamech probably would have. If Lamech hadn't walked with God, would Noah have? It's important to teach your children and grandchildren the ways of God as you go about the daily rhythms of life because no Enoch might mean, no Noah, which would mean no us. Lead your families in worship. Read the Bible as a family every night. Pray together every night. Basically, be at the church every time the church doors are open. Let your parents know you want them to lead you in the things of the Lord. When God smelled the aroma of the worship, He was pleased and made a covenant with Noah – which leads us to another mark of a man of the flood we'll look at tomorrow with the rainbow!