

Hebrews 11:7 “Nutty Noah”

- I. Introduction
- II. Vs. 7a Noah
- III. Vs. 7b His response to God’s Word
- IV. Vs. 7c His life demonstrating God’s rebuke to the world
- V. Vs. 7d His receiving of God’s righteousness

I. Introduction

We come now to the third and final demonstration that the writer offers to his definition of faith in the first three verses. To recap:

- Abel’s life was what true **WORSHIP** of God by faith looked like
 - Enoch’s life was what a true **WALK** by faith looked like
 - Now in Noah we will examine what true **WILLINGNESS** in obedience looks like
- It is important to read carefully the writers illustration with regards to Noah as he writes,

“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear,

prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and

became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.” It is clear that the writers

point is **NOT** Noah’s **PRESERVATION** but rather his **PREPARATION**. And what we

learn initially is that because of Noah’s FAITH in God’s word in which he displayed

willingly obedience his “*preparation*” led to his and his families “*preservation*”! **Noah**

believed God in a prophetic way; he believed God when “*warned of things NOT YET*

SEEN”. He trusted God’s Word that God alone was in control over all of human history.

Like the other illustrations offered by the writer it is clear by the brevity of the verse he

knew that the original reader would have clearly and concisely understood his point, so

much so that he need not go into any further detail. Though I’m certain that was the case

with the original Hebrew readers that is not the case for most of the gentile readers today, so we will be going back to look at the pertinent verses with regards to Noah and this illustration.

II. Vs. 7a Noah

Vs. 7a “*By faith **NOAH***”: First we will need to go back to Genesis chapter 6 verses 8-13 where we find that though wickedness was great on the earth there was a man, “Noah” who looked into the eyes of the Lord and not into the eyes of the world. *Notice that it says that he “**found grace**”!* It **NEVER SAYS** he **earned it!** The truth is that grace found Noah, as God had been searching the earth to show Himself strong on behalf of one who’s heart was fixed upon HIM! There was nothing special about Noah other than he responded to God’s grace. **Because of God’s grace in the life of Noah we see seven qualities:**

1. Vs. 8 **Position**: “*found grace*”. Noah’s position before God was upon grace, not of works.
2. Vs. 9 **Attitude**: “*just man*”. Because Noah was right with God he was right with the world and showed this by being just.
3. Vs. 9 **Character**: “*perfect*”. The idea of this word is that of being whole. **Noah was a whole man in a broken world.**
4. Vs. 9 **Witness**: “*in his generations*”. Noah’s life of grace could be clearly seen amongst those whom he lived with.
5. Vs. 9 **Fellowship**: “*walked with God*”. The idea here is that of **friendship as well as fellowship**. Noah’s best friend was God and he walked with Him daily!
6. Vs. 22 **Conduct**: “*Noah did*”. Noah had habit of obeying God daily.
7. Vs. 22 **Standard**: “*according to all that God commanded him, so he did*”. Noah’s standard was the word of God, what God said Noah did!

In verses 10-12 we see that Noah led his wife three sons and their wives to find grace as well. Four times in this account we are told that mankind was all corrupt and violent.

That was the sum of the character of the world’s population during Noah’s day. **Genesis 6:13 records four things God told Noah about His impending judgment:**

- a. Vs. 13 **His plan to destroy the earth**: “*The end of all flesh has come before Me*”.
- b. Vs. 13 **The reason why**: “*Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth*”: God’s judgment was not to destroy man from the earth but rather with the earth. Man’s home his security must be wiped out so that those eight people would see how everything must depend upon a relationship with God.
- c. Vs. 14-16 **His plans to save Noah and his family**:
- d. Vs. 17 **The means to destroy the earth**: “*I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth*”.

There are three proofs of Noah’s “willing obedience” by faith:

- **His response to God’s Word**
- **His life demonstrating God’s rebuke to the world**
- **His receiving of God’s righteousness**

III. Vs. 7b His response to God’s Word

Vs. 7b **His response to God’s Word**. “*..being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household*”: According to Genesis 7:1-16 **one hundred twenty years** passed from the time that God first spoke to Noah concerning the flood and the time in which they entered the ark. During those years he raised three sons saw them marry, built a massive ship on dry land and stored all the supplies that would necessary to care for the living cargo. For one hundred twenty years after that divine warning Noah stayed obedient and faithful to God’s calling and because he did not only did he secured his salvation but that of his households as well. Noah believed God when He told him there was coming a great flood of judgment. 2 Peter 2:5 describes Noah **NOT as a ship builder** but as a “**preacher of righteousness**”. I’m certain that when Noah was asked what he was doing everyone laughed, he must have been the brunt of every joke for 120 years. But Noah in willing obedience just kept on building the Arch. That may be unusual today but in Noah’s time it would have been real **strange for four reasons:**

- A. First, he **built it five hundred miles from the nearest ocean!**
- B. Second, he **built it because he said that a flood was coming in a time that it had never rained!**
- C. Third, he **began building it 120 years before it would be used!**
- D. Fourth, he **built it a thousand times too big for his own family, and when he finished it he filled it with supplies and animals!**

I can't be sure of this but I wouldn't be surprised if the people in Noah's day didn't call him "**Nutty Noah.**" He could have wasted the 120 years of his life had he and his family not responded to God's words and entered the Arch. **A lot of folks spend their entire life build a religious ark, which may very well be capable of saving them, but in the end never personally get on board themselves.** They end up drowning outside the boat they built along side those who never picked up a board, nail or hammer a day of their lives. **"It was not building the ark that saved Noah and his family it was getting on board!"**

IV. Vs. 7c His life demonstrating God's rebuke to the world

Vs. 7c **His life demonstrating God's rebuke to the world.** "*by which he condemned the world*": Noah's willing obedience included passing on to the rest of the world God's message of coming judgment. With every board, nail and pitch applied there was a new message of coming judgment! In Genesis 7:5-6 we are told that Noah's defining quality was that of obedience as it says that he **did not just** "do" he "**did all!**" The words "*did according to all that the LORD*" is the summation of Noah's 120 years of doing what the Lord commanded. I have little doubt that as difficult as building the Arch was it was far easier than dealing with preaching to the people who didn't want to hear or be reminded of the truth Noah was building! Why even Noah entrance in the arch was a rebuke to the world as we are told in Genesis 7:13-16 the order of entrance into the ark:

- a. On the first of the week prior to any sign of impending danger Noah and his family enter.

- b. Soon after God brought the animals two by two and this continued on through out he week until we are told “*all flesh went in as God had commanded*”.
- c. Finally, in verse 16b **God’s gave a final seal of assurance** as we are told that, “*the LORD shut him in*”: **God’s sealed Noah and his family in the ark so that Noah was not only safe he was secure.** All of which was a rebuke to the world!

V. Vs. 7d His receiving of God’s righteousness

Vs. 7d **His receiving of God’s righteousness** “*..and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*”: Noah’s faith was proved by his receiving God’s righteousness. God looks through the lens of His Son, and He sees us through as He sees Jesus. Because Noah believed God and demonstrated it by willing obedience **Noah proved** that **God alone controls history.** The inhabitance of the world except for Noah and his family, were the ones who were living by the light of their own reason. Because of this Noah became, “*the heir of the righteousness which comes by faith*”. Based upon Noah we see that **FAITH does three things:**

- **Faith lives out, in willing obedience, that there is another dimension to life than that which can be touched, tasted, seen or felt.**
- **Faith believes that God’s grace, has stepped over the boundary of human history and revealed through His Word great facts.**
- **Faith then adjusts our life to those facts and walks on that basis.**