

But Noah Found Favor

Introduction. A long time ago, God was displeased with the world and its wickedness. What was demonstrated prior to the flood was the universal prevalence of open rebellion against God (Genesis 6:5-7). But as God pronounces judgment upon the world, and prepares to destroy it with a flood, we find one man who was different (Genesis 6:8).

The word "favor" is also translated "grace." Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. It means that God looked at Noah and decided to remake the human race through him. Why did Noah find grace in the eyes of the Lord? More importantly, how might we apply this to our situation today?

I. ***Why Noah Found Favor In The Eyes Of The Lord***

- A. He was a "just man."
 - 1. Some translations say "righteous" (Genesis 6:9).
 - 2. This refers to his moral relationship to God. He was spiritually upright before God.
- B. He was "perfect in his generation."
 - 1. Other translations use the word "blameless" (Genesis 6:9).
 - 2. He was not sinless, but he was a man of moral integrity among his contemporaries.
- C. He "walked with God."
 - 1. This is how he showed his righteousness and integrity (Genesis 6:9).
 - 2. Walking with God in Noah's case involved:
 - a) Offering sacrifices to God (Genesis 4:3-4).
 - b) Calling upon the name of the Lord (Genesis 4:26).
 - 3. In walking with God, he imitated the example of his ancestor Enoch (Genesis 5:24).
- D. He "did according to all that the Lord commanded him."
 - 1. Twice this is emphasized in the scriptures (Genesis 6:22; 7:5).
 - 2. Noah's obedience came from faith (Hebrews 11:7). The ark's construction commenced when Noah was 480 years old -- before any of his children were born!
- E. He was "a preacher of righteousness."
 - 1. He not only "lived" but he "proclaimed" the need for righteousness, even though he lived in a very ungodly world (2 Peter 2:5).
 - 2. Christ, through the Holy Spirit, solemnly warned Noah's contemporaries by the mouth of Noah himself (1 Peter 3:18-20).

II. ***How We Can Find Favor In The Eyes Of The Lord***

- A. We must be "just" in His sight.

1. Fortunately, the good news of the gospel is that God sent Christ in order to make us "just" (righteous, forgiven) in His sight (John 1:14-17).
 2. The blood of Christ will cleanse us of our sins (1 John 1:7-9). This blessing is available to all who demonstrate faith in Jesus (Romans 3:24-26).
 3. Being justified, we can have peace with God (Romans 5:1; 2 Peter 3:14).
- B. We must be "perfect" in our generation.
1. That means to be "complete," "mature," or everything God desires of us.
 2. Again, the Bible contains the necessary elements for us to be perfect:
 - a) The word of God, to guide us to completion (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4).
 - b) The providence of God, who will work with us and lead us to victory (2 Thessalonians 3:3; 1 Peter 5:10).
- C. We must "walk with God."
1. This means that we can no longer walk as the Gentiles (Ephesians 4:17-20).
 2. It requires that we be followers of God as His children (Ephesians 5:1), and that we:
 - a) Walk in love (Ephesians 5:2).
 - b) Walk as children of light, exposing the sins of darkness (Ephesians 5:8-11).
 - c) Walk as wise, understanding the Lord's will (Ephesians 5:15-17).
- D. We must "do all that the Lord has commanded."
1. Observing not just "some" of it, but "all" of it (Matthew 28:20). Thereby, we demonstrate our faith to be a "living faith" (James 2:17, 24, 26).
 2. The appeal to Bible authority for all that we do is the only way to manifest the spirit of Noah in doing all that the Lord commanded (Acts 15:7-14, 27-28).
- E. We must be "preachers of righteousness."
1. It is God's will that we preach "the things concerning the kingdom of God and "proclaim the praises of Him" (Acts 8:12; 1 Peter 2:9).
 2. This can be aided by example, by living transformed lives (Romans 12:1-2).

III. ***Why We Need To Find Favor In The Eyes Of The Lord***

- A. Not because we face the threat of a worldwide flood.

1. After Noah and his family were saved from the flood, God promised He would never again destroy the world in the same way (Genesis 9:8-11).
 2. The rainbow is a constant reminder of God's promise (Genesis 9:12-17).
- B. But because we face the promise of the end of the world!
1. Peter reminds us that just as the world was once destroyed by water, so it shall be destroyed by fire when Jesus returns (2 Peter 3:3-13).
 2. In view of this promise, Peter says to "be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless" (2 Peter 3:14; cf. Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27).
 3. Imagine you ignored to Noah. You see the the waters rise. You climb to the highest peak and wait for God's grace. The waters rise. You cry out, "Doesn't God care? Where is His grace and mercy? Why would He let this happen to me?" But God's grace was in the ark and the door had been closed (Genesis 7:16). How many were doomed to drown in the flood because they did not believe God meant what He said?

Conclusion. God's favor benefited Noah. God gave commands to Noah which he had to obey (Genesis 6:14-16). God promised Noah He would save him from the flood (Genesis 6:18). God did not have to do that -- this was His favor at work!

But God's favor did not exclude action. God does not want anyone to perish in the great conflagration that is to come, but He does require all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9; Acts 17:30-31) and be baptized (Acts 2:38; 22:16). When we turn from sin and turn to God, we will find favor in the eyes of the Lord.