

# Here's What Noah Preached

**Introduction.** Peter honored Noah, one of the greatest individuals of Old Testament history, in 2 Peter 2:5.

Most all the world, even children, know the account of Noah — how, about 1,600 years after Creation, mankind had become completely evil (Genesis 6:5). In the text of Genesis 6, this sad state of affairs had come about by godly people intermarrying with the ungodly (Genesis 6:2).

Civilization had deteriorated to the point that “it repented the Lord that He had made man on the Earth, and it grieved Him at His heart” (Genesis 6:6). But even in that extreme circumstance, there were the “faithful few” (1 Peter 3:20) — Noah and his wife, plus their three sons and their wives, righteous women whom they had managed to find, or convert, from among the evil multitudes. As hard as it is to imagine, there were no others — in all the world, only eight people faithful to their Maker.

Before we go on, I want to make a quick comment on the veracity of the Flood account. Many scientists and organizations believe that the Flood account was a Hebrew myth, including the incredibly popular Wikipedia. There's two brief evidences that I want to direct your attention to that contradicts this common idea. The first is the fact that over 70% of the rocks on continents were laid down by water and contain fossils. The second is that Dr. Duane Gish determined that there are more than 270 flood accounts from around the world, most of which share a common theme and similar characters. These two, and more, are compelling support for this historical event. Furthermore, through extensive research, we know that the ark was of sufficient size and design to hold the amount of animals God wanted.

Because we know that Noah was a “preacher of righteousness” (2 Peter 2:5), the natural question to ponder is what was the subject matter of Noah's preaching? Not a single sermon of his is recorded so all I can do is guess. However, there are some safe assumptions, since God's desire for mankind has never changed: Obedience to His will produces people who can rest in God's grace.

## ***I. The Subject Matter of Noah's Preaching***

### **A. Noah preached repentance.**

1. That was John the Baptist's first message to the Jews of his day (Matthew 3:1-2; Luke 3:3). And it was certainly a constant theme of the prophets of God that would follow long after Noah (cp. Jeremiah 3:12-14; 8:6; Hosea 12:6; Jonah 3:8; Zephaniah 3:7; Malachi 3:7).
2. Jesus Himself emphasized it in unmistakable language: “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). Likewise, Paul added that God “now commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30).

### **B. Noah preached remembrance.**

1. This is another common theme of godly men (Hebrews 10:32, 35; Revelation 2:5). In Noah's case, it was a unique circumstance; they were not that far removed from the Garden of Eden.
2. It was surely still in mankind's memory; it may well have still been in existence. Perhaps they could even look at it from afar, maybe even see the

cherubim there guarding the entrance, keeping man out of it (Genesis 3:24).  
What a visual aid that would have been: “Remember what you once had.”

C. Noah preached a future judgment.

1. His life’s work, building the ark, was a daily testimony to God’s coming judgment on the world. His work of preaching and building lasted 120 years (Genesis 6:3).
2. He would surely have often repeated God’s words (Genesis 6:7). He would give them the chance to hear, over and over again, God’s intent because of their wickedness (v. 17) — “You’ve brought this on yourselves!”
3. The point of Noah being a “preacher of righteousness” is part of the larger context of how God will judge the ungodly (2 Peter 3:5-6, 10-12).

D. But like every faithful preacher, Noah would’ve preached about hope.

1. Don’t you know, if any others had responded to Noah’s preaching and repented, God would’ve made similar provision to save them as well? Make room for them in the ark, or have them build another one, or something. But we don’t read of such, because He didn’t, because there weren’t any, beyond Noah’s eight. Yet the possibility was always there, and I’m sure Noah offered it, right up until Genesis 7:15 when Noah and the animals entered the ark, “and the Lord shut them in.”
2. The rain would stop and the water would eventually go down. The dove came back with an olive leaf (Genesis 8:11). There was hope for tomorrow. In the same way, God will judge but there is hope for everlasting life, a place of glory and the eternal presence of God (Revelation 21:4).

## **II. What Do We Learn From Noah?**

A. This world, as bad as it may be, doesn’t yet hold a candle to Noah’s world.

1. The next time you hear someone pessimistically saying how evil our world has become, and how far down society has sunk, remind them of Genesis 6.
  - a) The most rabid pessimist would have to concede there’s multitudes more than eight righteous souls today.
  - b) That’s not to excuse anyone’s sins, or deny the social evils we observe, but does show how much worse it could be. We should work to prevent or at least postpone such a wicked state as Noah endured.
2. Read Philippians 4:8 and measure all the good you see (people, events, acts, intents, attempts) against those eight lonely righteous people of pre-Flood days — you’re bound to feel a little more upbeat about our world. Noah couldn’t do that, outside his own family — but we can. Be grateful for that reality, and dwell on it to boost your optimism.

B. God takes care of His own.

1. God commissioning Noah to build the now-famous ark, a sort of barge designed — not to sail, but simply to float — large enough for him and his family, as well as representative survivors of all land life (Genesis 7:23), more than adequately demonstrates that God will protect His faithful few (cp. Genesis 18:32; 19:16-17).
2. God will judge the ungodly, as 2 Peter 2:9 says, but Peter also assures us that God can deliver us out of temptations.

- a) He gives us encouragement when we're discouraged (Hebrews 13:5-6).
- b) He gives us a way of escape when we're tempted (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- c) He gives us a promise of His power (1 John 4:4).
- d) He gives us the promise of ultimate happiness and contentment in an eternal dwelling place with Him, as we've already mentioned.

**Conclusion.** Remember Noah's preaching, and realize that every faithful Christian today brings up the same truths to those who need God in their lives: repentance, remembrance, judgment, and hope.

Don't ever think society is as bad as it's ever been and can't get any worse, because it just might get as bad as Genesis 6 again someday. Jesus asked a rather chilling rhetorical question once: "When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). What will your response be? Will you be like the people who heard Noah's preaching but never changed, only to one day perish when the rain started? Or will you repent because you know judgment is coming? We can help you do that right now as we end our lesson.

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