

HOW DID NOAH BUILD THE ARK

Heb 11:1-7

INTRODUCTION

- A. Hebrews written to Christians with Jewish background during intense Persecution - tempted to turn from Christ and return to Old Law.
- B. Theme: those justified by faith must live by faith and remain steadfast
- C. Examples help us understand what living by faith involves and many lessons taught, but for now focus attention on Noah Heb 11:7
- D. All we know about Noah is found in Gen 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 plus a few other statements in both the Old and New Testaments.
- E. Just how did Noah build the ark? From a carpenter's perspective, we might consider materials, tools, and skills necessary to put it together.
- F. But let's look at this from a little different perspective from the spiritual standpoint much more was involved.

DISCUSSION:

I. HE BUILT IT WITH LISTENING EARS

- A. "Warned of God," implies he listened to warning - those desiring to please God have always listened 1Sam 3:10
- B. After teaching parable of the sower, Jesus warned us Lk 8:8
 - 1. Hearing requires a noble and good heart Lk 8:15 heart
 - 2. Heart not hardened by sin Note: also Lk 8:18
- C. True hearing has no reference to how well our ears hear audibly but to how well we understand spiritually Eph 3:3-5.
- D. Noah was able to build the ark because he really listened to God

II. HE BUILT IT WITH ACTIVE FEET

- A. Noah "moved" God gave a task he couldn't accomplish by just looking at blueprints. God calls us to action Matt 7:21
- B. One of things He commands is: make disciples of others by preaching gospel to lost: Matt 28:18-20, Mk 16:15-16
- C. One way to use our feet in His service is going to friend, neighbor, whoever, to teach them the truth Rom 10:15
- D. Hearing the Lord's will won't be of any avail if we don't put it into action; we need to move as Noah moved Rev 22:14

III. HE BUILT ARK WITH A REVERENT SPIRIT

- A. Attitude behind his actions was "godly fear" (NKJV)
 - 1. "Fear" used in good & bad way - can have several meanings: sometimes, means being afraid; others: timid and cowardly.
 - 2. Most often, used of reverence toward God, something often lacking in our lives Eccl 12:13-14
- B. This fear indispensable in pleasing God - it brings humility needed to acknowledge our littleness and dependence on Lord 2Cor 7:1
- C. Many hear what want to and do what carnal appetites dictate, but those who fear God will serve Him above all else Heb 12:28-29.
- D. Really nothing for faithful Christian to be afraid of, everyone should be afraid of the consequences of disobeying God

- E. Noah's belief God would bring to pass what He warned was motivated by His godly fear

IV. HE BUILT IT WITH WORKING HANDS:

- A. Because he was moved with godly fear, he "prepared an ark"
- B. Noah wasn't without direction. God revealed divine pattern for ark, specifying materials, dimensions, Etc Gen 6:14-16 and Noah did exactly as God said Gen 6:22
- C. Noah didn't save himself by good works--he wouldn't have known flood was coming, or how to build ark, if God hadn't told him
 - 1. Noah saved by grace. We are not saved by our own works, but by God's grace Eph 2:8-9
 - 2. Yet, Noah not saved without doing work given. Today God commands work of His people Tit 2:11-14, 2Tim 3:16-17
 - 3. Why not justified by faith only Jas 2:24.
 - 4. Too many today do what God hasn't authorized, instead of just doing God given work, like Noah

V. HE BUILT THE ARK WITH CONCERN FOR OTHERS

- A. Prepared ark "to the saving of his house" God wants us to have Good influence on others Matt 5:14-16
- B. Since only seven others saved, might say Noah's influence was small, but remember in saving his family, he did something many today fail to do. Noah illustrates Paul's teaching Eph 6:4
- C. Yet, while we must be concerned for families, we need do what we can to save others Jas 5:19-20.
- D. Let's follow Noah in saving family and teaching others 2Pet 2:5

VI. HE BUILT THE ARK WITH A BRAVE HEART

- A. By his faithful life he "condemned the world, and became heir of the Righteousness which is by faith" Heb 11:7
- B. Noah not afraid to be different from world Gen 6:1-9 nor ashamed to speak God's will to an ungodly world 2Pet 2:5
 - 1. God's people must have same faith and not be afraid to live different from the world around us 2Cor 6:14-18
 - 2. By faith must stand strong & courageous against wickedness of our time instead of compromising with it Eph 5:3-11.
- C. If unwilling to condemn unrighteousness, we don't have faith of Noah and won't be heirs of the righteousness which is by faith

CONCLUSION:

- A. So, how did Noah build the ark? "by faith"--a faith from hearing God, that moved, showed a reverent spirit, obeyed God in doing His work, and inspired concern for lost souls as well as great courage.
- B. Do you have such a faith? If not yet a Christian, we'd urge you to let your faith in Jesus Christ as God's Son move you to obey the gospel that you might be saved from your sins, become a part of the Lord's church, and have the hope of eternal life--remember what Jesus said about becoming His disciples Matt 28:19-20