

The Epistle to the Hebrews

Hebrews 11:7

The author of Hebrews illustrates what it looks like for “the just to live by faith” using the lives of real people in the Old Testament. He chooses these individuals from three epochs of Old Testament history:

- **From Creation to the Flood: 11:3 – 7**

- Abel
- Enoch
- Noah

- **From the Flood to the Patriarchs: 11:8 – 22**

- Abraham/Sarah
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Joseph

- **From Moses to Christ: 11:23 – 12:3**

- Moses
- Rahab
- Gideon
- Barak
- Samson
- Jephthae
- David
- Samuel
- Jesus

The Faith of Noah (verse 7) Genesis 6:5 – 22

Pink: The faith of Noah “shows that we have duties to perform on earth, and intimates how those duties are to be discharged:

- by faith
- in the fear of God
- implicitly obeying God’s commands”

“Faith was the spring of all Noah’s works: a faith which was far more than an intellectual assent, one which was a supernatural principle that sovereign grace had wrought in him.”

The Work of Faith

"Being warned of God of things not seen as yet..."

- "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"
- Faith believes the word of God when human reason opposes that word
- Faith enables a steady resistance to carnal objections to the word of God

"...moved with fear..."

- John Owen: "A reverential fear it is of God's threatenings, and not an anxious solicitous fear of the evil threatened."
- This is not a mortal or craven fear. It is an awe that is induced by a due consideration of "the holy properties of God's nature" and "the greatness, the holiness, and the power of God."

"...prepared an ark to the saving of his house"

- "Faith without works is dead."
- "Faith first influences our affections and then our actions." [Matthew Henry]
- God's covenant with Noah did not preclude his diligent use of means: Noah's perseverance in the work of building the ark (120 years!), laboring in godly fear, faithfully obeying (see Genesis 6:22)

The Result of Faith

"...the saving of his house..."

- Here "saving" is a temporal salvation of the deliverance of Noah and his family from death in the flood, but it is a type and shadow of eternal salvation in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

"...he condemned the world..."

- A scoffing, skeptical world laughs as they tell us we are on the wrong side of history, and yet our perseverance in faith, believing God's warnings, our reverential awe of his holiness and justice, and our unwavering obedience to all he commands us to do in his word will one day put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Faith vindicates.

"...he became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

- Noah's righteousness was received in the same way Abraham's righteousness was received (as well as every Old Testament believer: **by faith** – Romans 4:3)
- This righteousness is "the perfect obedience of Christ which God imputes unto all who savingly believe on his Son: Jeremiah 23:6; Romans 5:19; 2 Corinthians 5:21
- "Even the righteousness of God, which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe" (Romans 3:22)