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## ***THE FAITH OF NOAH***

**By: C. D. Cole**

Hebrews 11:7, *“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”*

Introduction: The learned Mr. Woolley of the British Museum some years ago wrote an article in a learned magazine. He had been member of an archeological party which operated under the sponsorship of the University of Pennsylvania. They had been excavating in Bible Lands, and in the vicinity of Ur of the Chaldees, from whence Abram was called of God. They uncovered Ur and found that it had been a very considerable city. And after taking their bearings they felt they had not got to the bottom of things yet. So they went lower down through a large deposit of what might be called hard pan or petrified mud. They went through it and found underneath the Ur of the Chaldees another and more ancient city. And Mr. Woolley, who was not a Christian, but a scientist, said that one of the streets would compare favorably with Bond Street in London. That is where you get the best clothes that are

made in London. And that scientist said this: “There is only one possible explanation of what we see here, and that is the absolute, factual historicity of the Biblical story of the flood. That is what happened to that submerged city.” Science and archeology have put their stamp of approval upon many a story of the Bible. But faith is something in a believer that does not ask for endorsement of science or human reason. We may rejoice when they agree with the Bible, but not for the sake of the Bible nor for the sake of our faith.

The story of Noah is so familiar that I need not recite it at any length, but I want to get some lessons from Noah’s faith. We have these elements in his faith: there was the warning of faith, the wisdom of faith, the witness of faith and the wealth of faith.

### **WARNING OF FAITH**

Noah was warned by faith. Genesis 6:7-8, *“And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the*

*earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”* If Noah

had not believed what God said, he would not have been warned. Noah knew a lot of things by observation and experience. He had abundant opportunity to see the evidences and results of sin. But the things Noah was warned about were things not

seen as yet.

You do not need to take a course in medicine to know that diphtheria is a dangerous disease; you do not have to be a doctor to know that the diagnosis of cancer can be a sentence of death; we all know there are diseases that are humanly incurable. We do not need a revelation from God about these things. It is the same way in natural law. We know that it is the nature of fire to burn, just put your finger in the fire and you will find that out. You do not need the Bible to know that if you jump off the top of your house you will likely have a broken limb, and perhaps something worse. You do not need for

***Noah’s faith showed four elements: warning of faith, wisdom of faith, witness of faith, and wealth of faith.***

me to preach to you that the man who gets drunk is likely to die poor and to get into a great deal of trouble; you can see that every day. And so there was plenty of opportunities for Noah to see that sin was a dreadful thing, and that it was not because of this that Noah believed. He believed because God spoke to him, he was warned of God of things not seen as yet. Genesis 7:4, *“For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.”* Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Verse 5, *“And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.”*

Noah’s faith rested upon a divine revelation. What was the contents of that revelation? What was Noah asked to believe? What is the function of the Bible? What is the word of God for? It is to tell us about things not seen as yet. The Bible tells of a heaven we have never seen; it warns of a hell we have never seen. It tells of a judgment that science cannot speak about. It deals with things beyond human wisdom to discover.

Suppose Noah had called in the scientists of his day, and said to them: I have a revelation from God that a flood is coming; I wish you would draw upon your resources and let me know whether that is true or not. You know what they would have said: they would have said that “his divine revelation was entirely unscientific; that it was contrary to all analogy; and that there was nothing in history to support it.” And if Noah had consulted

the scientists he would have been an unbeliever. He would not have been a believer in what God said.

We live in a day when the very idea of divine retribution is denied. People are saying that the only hell there is is here on this earth. There are earnest of judgment. Men do have experience that are foretastes of hell. A man once walked through a hospital and said to a friend that he had just seen a man in hell. What do you mean? Replied the friend. He replied, “I passed by a bed in which was a little boy ten or twelve years of age. His eyes were bandaged and the surgeon said he was going blind. I inquired about the man sitting by his bedside, and he said it was the lad’s father. And that the boy was blind because of his father’s sin. And that father was having a foretaste of what hell will be.”

This Bible says that God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing whether it be good or whether it be evil. Matthew 12:36, *“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.”* Romans 14:11-12, *“For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”*

### WISDOM OF FAITH

Noah’s faith made him wise. Hebrews 11:7, *“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, ...”* Someone exclaims, You

are not going to preach that, are you? Yes, I know you cannot drive men today; you can win them, but you cannot drive them. Yes, I know that; but I also know that the Bible tells us to warn men. Ezekiel 3:17, *“...give them warning from me.”* Some brave man says you cannot scare me. Romans 3:18, *“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”* Noah could not make men of his day afraid. When he told them of the coming judgment they laughed at him. They knew not the flood was coming until it came and took them all away. They knew not because they believed not. The first chapter of Proverbs describes the spirit of Noah’s day and of our day. Proverbs 1:22f, *“...and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?”*

I wonder sometime if there is not a judicial blindness falling upon the world. Before World War I the whole world was shocked at the sinking of the Titanic. It was such a terrible calamity; and men began to talk of God and think of God. Then came the great war and ship after ship with heavy cargoes of human lives went down, they were targets of the German submarines. And after a few years, but in the same generation, World War II came along with more frightful loss of life. And now we seem to be threatened with the Third World War. We have become so calloused that we can look upon rivers of blood without alarm.

And yet there are many things we are afraid of. We are afraid of electricity and handle it carefully. And this is sensible. I have just read of a woman who

stood in her bath tub and turned on the light in her bath room and was electrocuted. You cannot play with God's lightning and we ought not to trifle with God's word of warning.

I heard of an old sailor being out in a boat in Georgian Bay. He was a man who had sailed the seven seas; he was familiar with the dangers of the deep, and he was out at sea in a frail craft. A storm arose and the wind blew and the waves rolled higher and higher, and the old sailor was a little nervous. He had a couple boys with him and they were rollicking and having a good time. And when they saw the old man's nervousness, they teased him about being afraid. They said we are not afraid. After listening to their bravado for a few minutes he said; "You fools; you don't know enough to be afraid."

That was conditions in Noah's day. The men of his day did not know enough to be afraid. And the reason they did not is they did not believe the word of God.

### CONDEMNED THE WORLD

By his faith Noah condemned the world. His faith witnessed to his wisdom and to the folly of his neighbors. His faith was vindicated and the world was condemned. Genesis 7:5, "And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him." Hebrews 11:7, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world,..."

### WEALTH OF FAITH

Hebrews 11:7, "...and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." We have here the wealth of faith. He became an heir of righteousness by believing and acting upon what God said.

We believers must remember that we are heirs of God; heirs of a righteousness; the righteousness of God which is ours by faith. We must not fall into the habit of thinking that our Heavenly Father merely tolerates us. He loves us and wants us near him. He wants to listen to our prayers even though it sounds like the prattle of a child.

I heard of a man who had just been released from the pen after serving a 20 year sentence. He was a forlorn and pitiable object. He said to somebody: "They gave me a suit of clothes, a ticket to a certain city and five dollars, and turned me adrift. They do not want me in the prison, and I am not wanted anywhere else." But that is not how God forgives. Salvation does more than take us out of the prison house of guilt; it brings us to God as Father.

**Conclusion:** Only God would save a sinner who was an enemy and send his Son to die in his place as a substitute and make him one of his children. John 1:12-13, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." Acts 13:38-39, "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is

preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." This is good news to all that know they need a savior. I Corinthians 15:1-4, *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures: And that he was*

*buried and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"*

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