A Biographical Study of Noah

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Noah

Chronological Summary

I. His Spirituality
   A. Noah was born some 600 years before the great flood (Gen. 7:11).
   B. At birth he was named Noah by his father, who said: “This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord hath cursed” (Gen. 5:29).
   C. He was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, walking with God (Gen. 6:9).

II. His Ship
   A. The order—God warned him 120 years in advance of a coming universal flood and ordered him to construct a ship (Gen. 6:3, 13-16).
      1. It was to be a floating rectangular box, made of cypress wood.
      2. It was to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.
   B. The occupants
      1. From the human community—Noah was to enter the ark, along with his wife, their three sons and their three wives (Gen. 6:18).
      2. From the animal community
         a. A male and female representing each spies of unclean animal, bird, and reptile (Gen. 6:20)
         b. Seven males and seven females, representing each spies of clean animal and bird (Gen. 7:2-3)

III. His Safety—For the next year Noah would remain in the ark, protected from the terrible water judgment outside (Gen. 7:11; 8:13-14).

IV. His Sacrifice
   A. After the ark had settled on Mt. Ararat, Noah sent out a raven and a dove to determine the level of the water (Gen. 8:6-12).
   B. He was commanded to leave the ark (Gen. 8:15-19).
   C. He built an altar outside and offered up a clean animal for a burnt sacrifice (Gen. 8:20).
   D. He and his sons were commanded by God to be fruitful and increase in number (Gen. 9:1, 7).

V. His Sign—God designated the rainbow as a sign to Noah, indicating two things (Gen. 8:21-22; 9:9-17):
   A. As long as the earth remained, there would be springtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, day and night.
   B. The earth would never again be destroyed through a great flood.

VI. His Shame
   A. The failure
      1. Noah planted a vineyard and became drunk from its wine (Gen. 9:20-21).
      2. Ham (and his son Canaan) saw Noah’s nakedness (Gen. 9:22).
      3. Shem and Japheth quickly covered their father’s nakedness (Gen. 9:23).
B. The foretelling
1. Upon sobering up, Noah pronounced judgment upon Canaan for some undisclosed reason (Gen. 9:24-25).
2. Noah then issued a threefold prediction.
   a. That the descendants of Canaan would serve the descendants of Shem and Japheth (Gen. 9:25).
   b. That the line of Shem would become blessed of the Lord (Gen. 9:26).
   c. That God would extend the territory of Japheth and his descendants (Gen. 9:27).
3. Noah lived 350 years after the flood and died at age 950 (Gen. 9:28-29).

THEOLOGICAL SUMMARY
I. God referred to Noah in a prophecy given to Israel through Isaiah (Isa. 54:9).
   A. He said he once promised Noah he would never again destroy the world through a flood.
   B. He said he promised never to pour out his anger upon Israel again.
II. Noah’s righteousness was favorably compared with that of Job and Daniel by the prophet Ezekiel (Ezek. 14:14, 20).
III. Jesus referred to Noah on two occasions.
   A. He warned that the great tribulation judgment would come as suddenly and unexpectedly upon its generation as did the great flood judgment upon Noah’s generation (Matt. 24:39-40).
   B. He predicted the same godless conditions which once prevailed prior to the great flood in Noah’s day would again prevail, just before the second coming of Christ (Matt. 24:37-38; Luke 17:26-27).
IV. Both Noah’s fear of God and his faith are praised in the book of Hebrews (Heb. 11:7).
   A. His fear prompted him to build the ark.
   B. His faith saved his family and condemned the world.
V. Peter referred to Noah in each of his two epistles.
   A. He mentioned the universal disobedience of men and the marvelous patience of God in the days before the great flood (1 Peter 3:20).
   B. He used Noah as an example, showing how God is able to do two things (2 Peter 2:5, 9):
      1. He is able to protect the righteous from judgment.
      2. He is able to punish the unrighteous by judgment.

STATISTICS
Father: Lamech (Gen. 5:28)
Sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth (Gen. 5:32)
Significant ancestors: His grandfather was Methuselah and his great-grandfather was Enoch (Gen. 5:21, 25)
First mention: Genesis 5:29
Final mention: 2 Peter 2:5
Meaning of his name: “Rest, repose”
Frequency of his name: Referred to 50 times
Biblical books mentioning him: Occupation: Nine books (Genesis, 1 Chronicles, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Matthew, Luke, Hebrews, 1 Peter, 2 Peter)
Age at death: 950 (Gen. 9:28-29)
Important fact about his life: He built a ship and survived the flood (Gen. 6:9—8:19)