

Humility In Wisdom: 7

They Walked With God [part 2]

1 Peter 5.5-6

In the first few messages of this study we did at the beginning of the year we saw that God exalts the humble, as we began to develop that theme we saw that God gives grace to the humble. We can therefore conclude that it is the outworking of grace that elevates us and raises us up.

As we are taking this further we looked last week at the example of Enoch and saw how the grace of God was at work in his life and raised him up to a new level, quite literally, from the earth to heaven.

Over these two sessions we are studying the phrase in the Bible “..walked with God”., this is used only three times in the entire Scriptures. The first two times it is used is to do with Enoch, the last occurrence of this phrase is to do with Noah - and we will look at him today.

First let us remind ourselves what it means to be humble - Putting it quite simply - Humility is just being submissive and obedient to God, walking in His ways.

Noah – Genesis 6.9

We know nothing of Noah's early life, the first time he is mentioned in the Bible is in Genesis 5.28-32

“(28) Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son. (29) And he called his name Noah, saying, “This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed.” (30) After he begot Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years, and had sons and daughters. (31) So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; and he died. (32) And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.”

1. Noah was son of Lamech and great-grandson of Enoch
2. Apart from v29 which tells us that he was born, we first read of Noah when he was 500 years old (v32)
3. Noah was father to Shem, Ham and Japheth.
4. His name means 'rest, comfort and consolation'.
5. Noah is a type of Christ -
 - (a) It was said of Noah that he would bring comfort, consolation and rest – He would be the saviour of his time.
 - (b) Jesus call to all men was 'come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest' (Matthew 11.28).
 - (c) any man that trusted in the Ark [*God's means of salvation*] and got on board was saved from the judgement of God, any man that trusts in Jesus will also be saved.

Going on into chapter 6 we read concerning Noah -

- He lived in a time where the world was evil, corrupt and morally dark (vs1-7)
- **Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.** This is the first mention of grace in the Bible.
 1. The 'law of first mentioned' is important in the study of Scripture. It is a study 'technique' which simply means that the very first time any important word/subject is mentioned in the Bible [usually in Genesis, being the first book of the Bible], Scripture gives that word/subject its **most complete, and accurate, meaning** to not only serve as a "key" in understanding the Biblical concept of the word, but to also provide a foundation for its fuller development in later parts of the Bible. This chapter alone contains four key words, all of which are the first mention - grace (6.8); just (6.9), perfect (6.9), covenant (6.18)
 2. This word grace here means 'to be accepted, favoured, to bestow kindness and mercy on a person'.
 - (a) When all other men were only continually evil, God found in Noah a man that pleased Him, a man whom God could use and God accepted Him, he bestowed His mercy to him. 2 Corinthians 5.9, "*Therefore, we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him*" - the AV says "*..we may be accepted of Him*".
 - (b) God searched for a man and found one that He could use – God looks for those who have a heart for Him, those whom He can use to accomplish His purpose and plan.
 - (c) Noah was a man of faith - faith pleases God (Hebrews 11.6), Noah is found among the names mentioned in the record of faith in Hebrews 11.
- **He was a just man**, perfect in his generations – (just) righteous, (perfect) integrity and truth.

He was a man of integrity and truth; he was blameless and righteous, not in his own merit, grace was at work in his life. This perfected him and it was accounted to him as righteousness (Hebrews 11.7), he became "*heir of the righteousness which is according to faith*"
- **He walked with God** – like his great-grandfather before him he had an intimate relationship with God.

God revealed to him what He was about to do.

 - God reveals His plans to His servants the prophets, not for their sole benefit but that they might be the vessels through which the grace of God is extended and applied to others. (Amos 3.7, "*Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.*")
- **He was obedient** to the call of God (v22). Noah did what God put on his heart, even though it was a long and difficult task, and suffering ridicule. He did this out of 'godly fear', reverence for God, it was an act of his love and worship for God, he put all he had into that work. The mark of humility – submission and obedience to God.
- **Noah was a preacher of righteousness** to his generation (2 Peter 2.5) – warning them of the impending judgement, and pleading with them to 'repent and be saved'

“and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly”

Grace Elevated Noah

Noah was a man that was submissive and obedient to God. He walked in the ways of God. He found grace in the eyes of the Lord – and that grace lifted him up.

God used this humble man Noah as a saviour to his generation.

At 600 years old, Noah and his family entered the Ark that he had prepared and God shut the door. He had preached and been faithful to the call of God for up to 100 years. The grace of God saved him and his family and **lifted** them up on the flood waters (**Genesis 7.11-17**)

After the flood had subsided, God honours Noah with an everlasting covenant – still in force today **Genesis 9.11-17**

God promises never again to destroy all flesh by the flood.

The rainbow is the sign of the covenant of grace

- Every-time the rainbow appears in the clouds, God remembers Noah. He remembers His covenant with a man that walked with Him and found grace in His eyes – will we find grace in His eyes?
- The rainbow, the sign of the covenant of grace, is around the throne of God. A reminder that God will spare the righteous from the judgement that He will bring on the earth. *“...and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.”* Revelation 4.3 Grace will elevate and raise us up.