

Noah Was Saved by Grace

by Perry Sexton

In Genesis 6 we have one of the most interesting and informative chapters in the Bible. There are many lessons we can learn from this account. We see the evilness of mankind and God's severity toward sin, and also God's wonderful saving grace (cp. Romans 11:22). God destroyed mankind except for those who were serving Him faithfully (Genesis 6:8-13). Some day God will totally destroy the earth (II Peter 3:9-12). Then what will happen to mankind? See Matthew 25:46. Where will you and I be then?

In this article I want to deal with the fact that *Noah was Saved by Grace*. You may have heard that there was no grace under the Old Testament system. This is false. For those who will believe the Bible, it says, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:8). This was so because "Noah was a just [righteous] man and perfect [upright] in his generations, and Noah walked with [obeyed] God" (v.9). Noah's family also obeyed God and was saved from that destruction.

Was Noah saved by "grace alone?" Absolutely not! We have no record of anyone ever being saved by "grace alone." The elements of Noah's salvation are like ours today. Study the comparisons of Noah's salvation and the New Testament teaching for us today (please read each verse): By **grace**, Noah was offered salvation and was **taught** what to do in order to be saved (cp. Titus 2:11,12); Noah **heard** God and had **faith** (cp. Romans 10:17); Noah **obeyed** God: "By faith Noah, ... moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house" (Hebrews 11:7). Noah **obeyed** God in all things (Genesis 6:22 cp. Hebrews 5:9).

For us in this Age, salvation from eternal destruction is still offered by the **grace of God** (Titus 2:11,12). By grace, man is **taught** what he **must not do** and what he **must do** in order to be saved eternally. We are taught these things by the word of God (cp. John 6:44,45). Man must **hear** the word of God – true saving **faith** comes only by the word of God (Romans 10:17). Multitudes are hearing the wrong things today and therefore will be lost (Matthew 7:13-27; 15:9-14; II Peter 2:1-3). Just as in the days of Noah, man **must obey God in order to be saved** (Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:9; James 1:21-25, etc.). **True** saving **faith moves** man to **obey** God in all things (Hebrews 11:7 cp. Genesis 6:22). Man must **repent**, that is, stop sinning or perish (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30; II Peter 3:9-12). Man must **confess** Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Romans 10:9,10; Acts 8:37). And man must be **baptized** "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38; 22:16). As is clearly seen in God's Word, water baptism is the **only means** of entering into Christ where salvation is found (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27; Acts 2:38,41,47; 2 Tim. 2:10 etc.). In the Bible, water baptism is always "for the remission of sins." Only in the doctrines of men do you find otherwise (cp. Matthew 15:8-14).

Noah was saved by **grace** through **faith** and so is man today (cp. Ephesians 2:8). Not "faith alone" (James 2:24,26), but "**faith which worketh by love**" (Galatians 5:6). The false teachers have led multitudes away from the truth teaching that man is saved by "faith alone," that is, without any works (cp. II Peter 2:1-3; I John 4:1). I challenge them to find one verse showing that man will **NOT** be judged by his **works**! Here are some verses for you to consider: Ecclesiastes 12:13,14; John 5:28,29; II Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:12,13. The bottom line is, man **must obey** God in order to be saved (Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:9; James 1:21-25).

Noah was "saved by water" (I Peter 3:20), but not water alone. Noah was **saved** by **grace**, **faith** and by the **works** God gave him to do. We, today, are saved by the same formula: **grace**, **faith**,

and the **works** God has given us to do (Galatians 5:6). God teaches us that man is saved from his past sins at the point of water baptism (**I Peter 3:21** cp. Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).

Friends, do you believe God **or** man? Remember we must not add to or take away from the word of God, or in any way pervert what it says. To do so carries severe and eternal consequences (Revelation 22:18,19; Galatians 1:6-9). Your soul is your most valuable possession (Mark 8:36,37). You need to know the truth about baptism and salvation. Baptism is as essential to your salvation as are all the steps in salvation: hearing, believing, repenting, confessing Christ, and being baptized “for the remission of sins.” Please let us know of any questions or concerns you may have. ♥