

Times of Uncertainty: Noah

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. (Hebrews 11:7)

The world was very evil. Every inclination of the thoughts of people's hearts was only evil all the time. In the entire world there were only eight people who believed in the promised Savior from sin—Noah and his family. In condescending love God revealed to Noah what he was about to do. He was going to wipe out all of mankind and breathing animalkind through a universal flood. But Noah and his family would be spared—safely nestled in the ark the LORD had told him to construct.

Imagine the uncertainty as God closed the door of the ark. How eerie it must have been as the drumbeat of raindrops fell from above. How chilling it must have been as they heard the screams of countless thousands outside the ark, terrified by their demise. Did they get butterflies in their tummies as the ark was lifted up by the raging waters? How long would the rain pummel the ark? How long would they be floating around? When the waters receded, would they land on the edge of a cliff and tumble down the side of a mountain, or would they land on flat ground? What would the world be like after such a devastating force of destruction ravaged it? How would they fare outside of the ark? The uncertainties were myriad.

But then what happened? After a year and ten days God ordered them to leave the ark. God promised that until the end of time the seasons would continue unabated. God put the fear of mankind into the wild animals to protect his people. God empowered them to be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. During all of the uncertainties of the flood and its aftermath, there was One Constant—the LORD God Almighty.

We live in uncertain times. But in spite of the uncertainty, we have One Constant to cling to—our gracious LORD and God. Just as the waters of the flood lifted Noah and his family above the death and destruction all around them, so also through the waters of Holy Baptism the Holy Spirit lifted us out of the sea of death and destruction which is the unbelieving world around us. Just as God safely nestled Noah and his family in the ark, so also he has safely nestled his people in the ark of his holy church. Together our faith is kept alive through the Gospel of our precious Savior, Jesus Christ. His death on the cross delivered us from death. His resurrection from the dead seals our resurrection from the dead. We know that no matter how uncertain life can be in a sinful world, there is one thing that will never change—our gracious God and his loving care for his people.

Noah came off of the ark and eventually life returned to normal. He enjoyed 350 more years of life. Then he started enjoying an eternity of life. With the LORD's blessing, eventually life will return to normal. Until then, cling to the certainty that nothing can separate you from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

After reading this devotion with your family, also take time to read with them Genesis chapters 6-9.

Pastor Zuberbier