Heb. 11:7; Gen. 6:9-22; By Faith, Noah I. The Promise Made Known II. The Act of Obedience III. The Message Declared

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ, do you believe what God says about the future? Much of our lives is spent preparing for a future that may not happen. We get House Insurance just in case our house catches fire or someone breaks in. We get Car Insurance just in case we are in an accident. So we prepare for things that might happen. But what about preparing for things that will certainly happen? It is wise to prepare for the future. We study for tests- before they happen- because it doesn’t do any good to study for a test after it has already taken place. In a similar way, God’s people are called to live a life in preparation for the future. So the issue is this- do we believe what God tells us concerning the future? Specifically, do we believe that a day of judgement is coming? If so, it would be wise to prepare! As we continue our series in Heb. 11, we have seen that faith is a knowledge, conviction and assurance. But true faith is also a living and active faith! If you believe that something will happen- if you are convicted that some event is going to take place- you will act accordingly! So we see today, by faith, Noah, proclaimed that deliverance from destruction will be given to those who trust God’s Word.

**I. The Promise Made Known**

In our first point, we see the promise that God makes to Noah. What is the word or message revealed to him concerning the future? Well, that message is twofold- the promise given has two sides. First of all, there is destruction that is on the horizon. As v. 7 says, Noah was warned by God concerning events yet unseen. God told Noah what was going to happen- and this warning was given over 100 years before the event took place. Sufficient time was given to prepare for the coming destruction- the day of salvation was still at hand. The warning was clear, I am going to destroy all flesh- as we read in Gen. 6- I am going to make an end of all flesh. The earth is filled with the violence of men, and I am going to destroy them along with the earth. I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under the heaven- everything that breathes breath shall die. So the warning that God gives to Noah is clear- the waters of the flood are coming and all that breath air on the earth shall die. But the flip side of this promise is also clear- even though all flesh shall be destroyed- you and your family shall be spared! Not only does Noah receive a promise of destruction- but he also receives a promise of rescue! As Gen. 6 continues, I will establish my covenant with you, and you and your family shall be brought into the ark and kept alive. Noah, I will spare you and your family! I will keep you safe in the vessel of deliverance! You will not be swept away with the ungodly- you will not be destroyed along with the wicked for you have found favor in my sight! From this promised destruction we can clearly see that, once again, sin is so bad that it must be dealt with! The wicked rebels must be destroyed! Violence on the face of the earth is so egregious that it must be washed from the land! Death will be meted out- and the God of justice will by no means clear the guilty! God is a consuming fire- and His wrath is kindled by the wickedness of man! We need to believe this truth- true faith believes what God says about sin and its just consequence. Even though we do not now see it- we know for certain that a day of judgment is coming. As we read in Heb. 11:7- God warned him of events yet unseen! Faith believes what God says even if you do not now see it! The fact is, we live in a world that scoffs at the idea of a day of wrath and judgement! Our world makes light of sin and ridicules anyone who believes in a day when Jesus will return. But as Christians, we live by faith! We, like Noah, live in a time when the promise of God’s judgment upon this earth is yet unseen! Nevertheless, we are certain that this judgement will come! We know that this world is being kept- reserved for a time of destruction. Read with me from II Peter 3:4-7. As it was in the days of Noah- people think that there will be no end to our world! They assume that everything will continue as it has! But this world will be cleansed once again- not by water but with fire! So like Noah, we need to believe what God has said concerning the future even if we do not now see it! Be prepared for what is coming- be ready for a future that is yet unseen! Flee from the coming wrath- repent and believe and you will be saved! There is a way to escape the coming fire- you need to get in the boat! You need to be joined to the life-giving Savior by faith! Obey God’s warning- be ready for what is coming- and like Noah- act according!

**II. The Act of Obedience**

Since Noah was a man of faith who believed the promises of God- he would then act out this faith by building the ark. Knowing that destruction was coming and that the ark was the appointed means of deliverance, Noah set out to put this faith into practice! So what was Noah called to do by faith? Well, because Noah believed what God said, he went out and built a boat! He was moved by His fear of the LORD- in other words- the building of the ark was an act of faith! It would be pretty sad if Noah built an ark and there was no flood- or if Noah started building the ark only to have the flood come before he was done- or even if the ark was finished and it sank due to a poor design. But every step of the way, Noah had faith and he acted according to this faith! By faith, our passage says, Noah constructed an ark for the saving of his household. Now remember the context of this giant construction project. The times were growing dark- the people were increasing in both number and wickedness! As Gen. 6 says, every inclination of the heart of man was evil continually! Added to this, the building of an ark of this size and magnitude was unheard of! A giant boat on dry land- never seen before! And this destruction that God spoke of- was never seen before! The windows of heaven opening and the fountains of the deep breaking forth. This was unimaginable! The amount of time it would take- this building project took about 120 years to construct. And it was massive! If you have ever been to the Ark Encounter in Kentucky you know how truly massive this barge would have been. The amount of labor and resources- the trees and the pitch alone that would need to be gathered! And yet, Noah obeyed. He got to work, and he diligently built the ark. He was not too proud nor was he scared of the insults of people. Noah was a preacher of righteousness. Noah’s work and words were a clear message warning- repent! Like the message of Jonah to the people of Ninevah- yet 40 more days and Ninevah will be overthrown. So Noah’s message was- repent for the great deluge is at hand! When this boat is finished, then the day of salvation will be over! When the door is closed, you will be locked outside! But as it was in the days of Noah so it is today. People do not take seriously the warnings that they hear. Most people assume that life will go on as it always has, but one day destruction will come! The act of obedience serves to be a visible reminder. In a similar way, let he who has ears, let him listen to the Word of the LORD! May we all be prepared for the great and terrible Day of the Lord! We all have to have our own houses in order! Look at Luke 12:35-40. The application Jesus gives, and the application of Noah’s obedience are one in the same! Be ready- for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect! And God kept His word- the water did come and all mankind was snuffed out. The water rose to be higher than the mountains- and remained for over a year upon the earth. Everything that walked on land or flew through the air died- everything and everyone except what God had spared in His ark.

**III. The Message Declared**

Now that we have considered the act of obedience, in our last point we see the message that was declared. What did the work and words of Noah declare? What did they accomplish? Well, the consequence of Noah’s faith and the end result of His works is again twofold. First, the world was condemned and second, his own household was saved. So first, we read in v. 7 that through faith, Noah constructed an ark and by it condemned the world. How did Noah’s actions condemn the world? Well, the Lord does not send judgement without first declaring that this judgement is coming. Although the end will come upon them suddenly, it did not be without warning. God patiently waited with these rebels for over 120 years- God’s patience was giving them time to repent. Noah did not do his work in secret, nor did he do his work in silence. So when the water comes, the people living at that time could not plead ignorance. They could not say- we did not know! In this way, the judgement that would fall upon them would be all the harsher because they hardened their hearts and did not heed the warning of Noah. God waited patiently in the days of Noah as I Peter 3 reads. Indeed, Romans 1 says that everyone is without excuse. Creation itself and the internals witness of the conscience is enough to convict all mankind of sin. However, God gives to many the added witness of the preachers of righteousness. So Noah was an added witness as he preached and warned and pleaded for his neighbors to repent at the presence of the impending flood. They did not heed his words and they scoffed at the patience of God- thus the words and actions of Noah served as a condemnation of the world. Although we do not often think about it this way, the church does serve as a witness to the truth- as a light to world. The fact is, God does give warning to this world. Creation itself in its constant upheaval is reminding us that this world order is going to end. But most people choose to ignore the signs and thus will be caught unprepared. So if the world refuses to listen- refusing to believe our words- they will be judged all the harsher for it! Your words and works serve as evidence to the world- which will one day be used to convict if they do not repent! The gospel is clear- and our message is not muted! The Day of Judgement is coming and destruction is at hand! Repent! But if people refuse to repent after being warned, then their blood is on their own hands! So the first message is one of condemnation, but the second message that the building of the ark proclaimed is a message of rescue. As v. 7 says, by faith Noah constructed an ark for the saving of his household. The water the flood, and of baptism for that matter, speak of both death and life! Destruction and rescue! What makes the difference is this- are you outside or inside the ark! Because of God’s covenantal kindness, Noah’s family was saved! He becomes an heir of righteousness- and he and his family are delivered! They are kept safe- inside the ark- they are protected by this God appointed means of salvation! You see, we are not free to invent our own means of rescue! We can only receive and believe in the God appointed mediator! As we are joined to Christ by faith, He becomes the means for our deliverance from the just judgement of God!

To conclude, we all do things to prepare for the future. We busy ourselves with plans and preparations for things that lie ahead. We save for vacations, and we plan for building projects. We even plan for possible futures insurance. But of all the plans that we make, are we planning for our eternal future? Well Noah did- and he prepared himself and his family for over 100 years. He was a preacher of righteousness, and he was found faithful! By faith, Noah, proclaimed that deliverance from destruction will be given to those who trust God’s Word. Noah heard God’s word- His promises- and he believed and acted accordingly! So may we, like Noah, trust in the God appointed and provided means of deliverance! May we all flee the coming wrath by trusting in Christ to be our shelter from the storm!