

Scripture Reference: Gen 6:6-13

Date: October 21, 2012

Title: "No One's Listening!"

Focus: Hearing God in sinful times.

Intro:

1. God can get lost in the noise and affairs of life. Events influence us and are allowed to shape one's relationship with Him. In reality it should be the other way around. A relationship with God is meant to influence the person and then through him or her shape life.
2. Hearing God when one factors in sin adds to the difficulty. Yet, Noah is a testimony of the possibility to hear God in the most sinful of times. What can we learn from him?

Body:

Noah Lived in Difficult and Sinful Times

- Conditions were so deplorable YHWH grieved creating man.
- Humanity was "*wicked*," with "*every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*" (v. 5)
- As a consequence, God judged the sinfulness of man through a great flood.
- A word about the flood. Tales of a great flood are present in many cultures, 88 of them to be precise.
- Evidence supports a worldwide flood event. A sedimentary graveyard averaging a mile in depth over all the earth, marine fossils found on the crest of mountains, and geographic evidence attests to it. (Book: The Genesis Flood by Dennis G. Lindsay)
- Some say the Genesis account is a fable, a tale that grew over time to explain a local flood or borrowed from another culture.
- Accepting the inspiration of the Bible, it is correct to deduce the Bible provides an accurate depiction of events. The other are cultural accounts of what Genesis records.
- The flood account records a unique event resulting from the sinful condition of man and God's action against him.

Noah is a Testimony of the Possibility to Hear God in Difficult and Sinful of Times

- Noah is proof God can be heard even though sin is all around. He shows the possibility to hear God while others seek to shout Him down.
- More so, Noah's case attests to the fact God is not dependent upon favorable circumstance to speak or be heard.

How is This Possible?

- Great detail into Noah's daily practices with God is not given. What is said is:

"Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord" (v. 8) when others didn't.

In Noah, God found someone who brought a smile to His face.

Noah was not like the others of his time, because he "*walked with YHWH.*" (v. 9)

- Walking with God is explained as being “*righteous*,” Noah did what was right in the eye of the Lord, and by “*blameless*,” Noah sinned despite his efforts not to. (Romans 7:21-25).

- Noah was not like everyone else. The actions and words of those around him didn't automatically shape who he was.

- Noah didn't leave his relationship with YHWH to just happen. He approached it with determination and intentionality. Having faith in God when his efforts came up short.

Closing:

1. Hearing God doesn't *just happen*.

2. If that is our approach, then circumstances and the actions of others will exert a pull on our relationship with God.

3. Instead we learn from Noah that if one is decided in his or her efforts to hear God, then regardless of what is going on hearing Him is possible. When God sees such among His disciples, He is pleased.