
Noah's Thanksgiving

Gen 8:20-21

Introduction:

1. Thanksgiving is the most pure national holiday that we have
 - a. More and more it is being skipped over
 - b. There is not enough money in Thanksgiving for the retailer so they skip over Thanksgiving and go right into Christmas.
 - c. Taking time to thank God for His many blessings is not something that many are interested in today
 - d. For many, Thanksgiving Day is just a day of turkey and football
2. Matthew Henry set a good example of thanksgiving.

When Matthew Henry was robbed, that very night he prayed:
"I thank Thee, first, because I was never robbed before;
second, because although they took my purse, they did not take my life;
third, because although they took my all, it was not much;
and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, and not I who robbed."
3. Noah set a good example for us in his thanksgiving
4. After having been confined for an entire year in the ark with his family:
Ge 8:20 And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. **21** And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.
5. The greatest wonder here is not that God remembered Noah, but that Noah remembered God – J. M. Boyce
 - a. It is not our nature to remember – especially things that are spiritual
 - b. This offering was both a thank offering and a sin offering
6. Noah teaches us that sanctified thanksgiving...
 - a. worships God,
 - b. preaches reconciliation
 - c. pleases God

I. NOAH'S THANKSGIVING WORSHIPPED GOD – vs 20

20 And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

A. The Priority of Noah's Worship

1. Here is the first mention in the Bible of building an altar
2. The first thing Noah did when released from the ark was to worship God by building an altar of thanksgiving.
 - a) *If there was ever a man who could plead the excuse that worship must wait, Noah was that man.*
 - b) *When Noah saw blue sky and a dry earth, he did not first gaze upon the world with selfish eyes, but first gazed toward the Lord.*
3. Noah built an altar before he built a house.
 - a) *Thanksgiving was his immediate task.*
 - b) *Delayed thanks is ingratitude.*
 - c) *Noah's priority is the right priority*
Mt 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*
4. That indicates what was living in Noah's heart: his deepest desire was to serve the Lord with his family.
5. Are we like Noah?
 - a) *Are our hands also stretched out to the heavens to give God's gifts back to Him?*
 - b) *Do we yearn to worship and serve God with a broken heart, full of thanksgiving?*
 - c) *Put a priority on worship*

B. Purpose of Noah's Worship

1. Appreciation

- a) *Noah gave thanks by making an offering on the altar*
- b) *Noah had much to be thankful for in his deliverance*
 - (1) The ark had survived
 - (2) Noah and his family had survived - The animals had survived
 - (3) Heaven opened its windows and earth her mouth; everything on earth was destroyed by the powerful waters of God's wrath.
 - (4) Only the little ark, the little home on the waters, was saved.
 - (5) Only one family was kept by the grace of God. "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD" (Gen. 6:8).
- c) *Noah was thankful that he had "found grace in the eyes of the Lord"*
 - (1) Because of His grace, God made a difference in Noah's family
 - (2) God gave Noah's contemporaries 120 yrs to repent-they refused
 - (3) I wonder if Noah confessed in the ark, "Lord, what a wonder that my family and I are inside the ark! It is only by grace that my family was not destroyed with this wicked world."
 - (4) It is only because of the Lord's mercies that we and our families have not been consumed.
- d) *It was only fitting that he offer sacrifices to acknowledge his thankfulness for divine protection*
- e) *When we worship God - thankfulness is involved*
- f) *Failure to worship shows failure to be thankful*
- g) *The ungrateful heart is not a godly heart*

2. Veneration

- a) *Making an offering to God shows honor for God*
- b) *Involved in worship is honoring God*
- c) *Our age is not interested in honoring God and dishonoring of God is increasing*
- d) *Profanity is nearly a second language to many people*
- e) *Even women and children can be heard spewing out profanity which blasphemes and greatly dishonors the name of God*
- f) *You honor God by being in the place of worship*

C. God Has Blessed Us

1. Why are we under the proclamation of God's Word in His house?
2. Why did the Lord give us what we needed this year?
3. Are we better than the millions who lack what we received?
4. Are we better than the thousands who were killed by hurricanes, earthquakes, terrorist bombs, cancer, and starvation?
5. Are we better than those who are suffering persecution as Christians?
6. Oh, that God's goodness may bring us to repentance!
7. Do we give the Lord our first-fruits or our leftovers?
8. Only total surrender of all that we are and possess to God is true worship, true thanksgiving.
9. Dear children of God, was it not God's ark, Jesus Christ, who guided and preserved you in prosperity and adversity in the season past?
10. And now, standing upon dry ground at the end of this season, should we not build an altar to the Lord?
11. A missionary to India was traveling through a city and stopped to speak to a man beside the road. He talked with the man for a time about Jesus. Then, having to travel on, he gave him a few pages of the Bible in the man's language. The Indian read them and was thrilled to learn of Jesus. To show his gratitude, the man measured the footprints left by the missionary, and made a pair of moccasins. He then traveled 200 miles to give them to the missionary as an expression of thanks. The missionary's life was enriched by the gift, but the Indian man was much more enriched because he had expressed his thanks. If he can be that thankful to the missionary, then how much more thankful we should be to God

Noah's Thanksgiving caused him to worship God

II. NOAH'S THANKSGIVING WITNESSED ABOUT RECONCILIATION

20 And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

A. In Noah's Sacrifice We See Propitiation

1. The animal sacrifice spoke of propitiation for it spoke of the shed blood and death of our Savior on the cross for our sins
2. Noah's worship was right in its theology
3. All worship is not true worship
4. True worship comes to God through the blood of Christ
5. The sacrifices of Noah spoke of Jesus Christ our Great Sacrifice
 - a) *The "clean" animals spoke of the righteousness of Christ*
 - b) *He was sinless and this sinlessness must be seen in the sacrifices*
6. Doctrine does indeed matter in worship
 - a) *If a church does not proclaim a sinless Christ then you cannot worship properly at that church*
 - b) *Noah's sacrifices exhibited pure doctrine and pure deportment*
7. Noah's worship was inseparable from blood-shedding, inseparable from the gospel.
 - a) *Sanctified thanksgiving is inseparable from Jesus Christ, God's sacrifice.*
 - b) *Noah's thanksgiving, without bloody sacrifices, would have been futile.*

B. In Noah's Sacrifice We See Reconciliation

1. Genesis 8:20 also speaks of reconciliation.
2. Noah was generous in his offerings.
 - a) *He took one of every clean animal. (there were 7 of each clean animal)*
 - b) *He slew them with his own hands.*
 - c) *That must have taken considerable time.*
 - d) *Noah was not hurried, despite the pressures of having no home and no fold for his herds. He had so much to do.*
3. Noah took only clean animals, not unclean.
 - a) *He knew that he was unclean.*
 - b) *He needed a clean sacrifice for his unclean soul.*
 - c) *With each sacrifice, he confessed, "My family and I are worthy to be cast away from God's presence."*
4. Noah and his family stood alive by the altar.
 - a) *Clean animals were slain as their substitute.*
 - b) *Those animals pointed to the clean, pure, sinless substitute, Jesus Christ.*
 - c) *For Noah and his family, true thanksgiving was inseparable from God's way of reconciliation.*
5. Without God's NT altar of reconciliation, Golgotha, the entire burden of our sins must fall upon us and our families.
6. Blessed be God, the blood of reconciliation is still available this Thanksgiving season for the greatest of sinners!
7. Still today the gospel's joyful sound declares that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin.

III. NOAH'S THANKSGIVING PLEASED GOD

A. Pleasing of God – vs 21a

21a And the LORD smelled a sweet savour...

1. The first result of Noah's worship was that it pleased God.
 - a) *Noah's burnt offering put out a fragrance that was a "sweet savor [fragrance]" to God.*
 - b) *This expression means that the sacrifice was pleasing to God just as a nice fragrance is pleasing to the nostrils.*
 - c) *Pleasing God ought to be our objective in life.*
 - d) *We spend too much time trying to please men but too little time trying to please God.*
 - e) *Enoch, Noah's great-grandfather, "had this testimony, that he pleased God" (Heb 11:5). Would that we all had that testimony.*
2. In Christ's blood, typified by Noah's sacrificial animals, clouds of sweet odor pierced the heavens.
3. Paul wrote, "Christ ...hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour" (Eph. 5:2).

2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.
4. Apart from Christ, everything in our hearts is a stench before God.
 - a) *Our prayers and thanksgiving are an abomination; our religion is a mockery; our works serve only to condemn us; our very person is accursed.*
 - b) *But Christ is everything for sinners who are nothing. Believers are reckoned alive in Him (Rom. 6:11).*
 - c) *What is your altar? Where will death find you-in or outside of God's ark, Jesus Christ?*
5. What savor does the Lord smell from us?
 - a) *Does He smell only the stench of self and of our works?*
 - b) *Or does He smell the sweet savor of His Son upon us?*
 - c) *Is it evident in our lives that we agree with God, in that both He and we are well-pleased only with Christ?*
 - d) *Is Christ our sweetsmelling savor?*

6. Flee to God's ark of salvation, friend, before it is forever too late. Do not delay for earthly cares.
7. Ask for grace, like Noah, to worship God immediately-even today. If you persist in unbelief, you shall experience that as the open door on the first ark condemned the first world, so the open gospel-door in Jesus Christ will condemn you.
8. May God grant us Noah's sanctified thanksgiving in our hearts, our families, and our churches through Jesus Christ in these weeks.

B. Promises of God – vs 21b-22

21b ... and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

- The worship of God by Noah resulted in God manifesting His promises to Noah.
 - Worship always proves a blessing, for it obtains the blessings of God
 - If you are slack in worship, you cheat yourself of blessings.
 - The promises given Noah were basically twofold.
1. The promise of protection – “I will not again curse the ground”
 - a) *This promise refers to the flood.*
 - b) *Upon exiting the ark Noah was struck afresh with the terrors of God’s judgment – bare hills, uprooted trees, vast bodies of receding water*
 - c) *He might have wondered if God’s judgment would come again*
 - d) *Noah was a sinner and so were his children – the same evil tendencies rested in them that caused the destruction of the antediluvian world*
 - e) *What would prevent God from causing the water to rise once more?*
 - f) *But God promised no more worldwide floods as was just experienced by Noah*
 - g) *Later the rainbow was be given as a sign of the promise.*

2. The promise of provisions – vs 22

22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Conclusion:

1. Noah had been through the flood and he was thankful to survive
2. We haven't been through the flood, but we should also be thankful

The year was 1636 and Martin Rinkart was a pastor in Eilenberg, Germany. The Thirty-Years War was going on and Eilenberg was a walled city. People from surrounding areas crowded into the city for safety. Plague and pestilence killed thousands including Martin Rinkart's wife. He was eventually the only pastor left alive in Eilenberg. He buried 5000 people in one year averaging 15 funerals a day. His parish was ravaged by war, death, and economic disaster. In the heart of that darkness, with the cries of fear outside his window, he sat down and wrote this table grace for his children:

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices
Who wondrous things had done
In whom His world rejoices.
Who, from our mother's arms,
Hath led us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today

Here was a man who knew thanksgiving comes from love of God, not from outward circumstances. (Don Maddox)

HBC#163 – Thanksgiving 2011