

CONDEMNING THE WORLD

Heb.11:7

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Heb.11:7 speaks of Noah, one of the Bible's "Hall of Fame" worthies of the O.T. mentioned because of who they were in God's service, what they had accomplished in their service to God, and how, or the reason why, they had accomplished it, being therefore so honored in this chapter.
2. We are considering Noah in this study because of the expression, "By which he condemned the world."
3. Noah is said to have "condemned the world." We are interested in what that means with reference to Noah. How could one man condemn the world?
4. Moreover, is it possible for present-day believers to do the same thing to the world that Noah did?
5. With this in mind, we consider the case of Noah condemning the world, as we remember why such things were written, Rom. 15:4; 1Cor.10:11.

II. DISCUSSION

A. NOAH IS AN APPROVED EXAMPLE FOR PRESENT-DAY BELIEVERS.

1. Though not perfectly sinless during his entire life, he is one of the best-remembered personalities of the O.T., and his personal righteousness is acknowledged by God himself.
2. Therefore, without a doubt, he is cited and stands as a good example to all who would learn how to please God as Heb.11:7 testifies.

B. NOAH IS SAID TO HAVE "CONDEMNED THE WORLD"

1. His standing with God is clear, Gen.6:8,9,22.
 - a. From the time of God's warning of the impending destruction of the wicked world until the flood 120 years passed, Gen.6:3.

- b. During that time Noah was busy faithfully building the ark and serving God as a preacher of righteousness, 2Pet.2:5.
 - c. After the flood, Noah's first act upon leaving the ark was to worship the Lord by building an altar unto the Lord and offering a burn offering to the Lord thereon, Gen.8:20.
2. But, how did Noah condemn the world?
- a. Not by pointing a finger in scorn and ridicule!
 - b. The text says, "by the which he condemned the world."
 - c. "By which" – that is, by his faith "he condemned the world" – the very faith by which he obeyed God in building the ark, Heb.11:7a; Gen.6:22.
 - d. The reference is to all that precedes in Heb.11:7 and the verses preceding his orders to build the ark in Gen.6.
 - e. By his own example, by his faith in God's warning, his reverential awe of God's holiness and justice, his implicit and unflagging obedience in preparing the ark, he "condemned" the unbelieving, unconcerned, completely godless people all around him!
 - f. One man is said to "condemn" another when by faith his godly actions show what the other should be doing, and which by not doing it, his guilt is aggravated or, at least, exposed.
 - g. "By faith" he condemned the world in its unbelief.
 - (1) "What is a flood, Noah? It has never happened before! No doubt, will never happen!" Cf. 2Pet.3:1-10.
 - (2) "Such a story is just a fanciful, imaginary, fictitious, fairy-tale – an old wives' tale to scare little children, old women, and foolish men.!"
 - (3) "After all, who is God that I should worship him? What has God done for us lately?"
 - (4) "Who made you the judge of right and wrong? There is more than one opinion on this matter and with good reason!"
 - (5) "You can't tell us how to live our lives!"
 - (6) "You think you and yours are the only one's who are right!"

C. JESUS DURING HIS PERSONAL MINISTRY CITED TWO OTHER EXAMPLES FROM BIBLICAL HISTORY OF ONE GROUP CONDEMNING ANOTHER BY THEIR EXAMPLE.

1. First, he cited the example of the men of Nineveh rising in judgment condemning the generation of unbelieving Jews contemporary with Jesus, Mt.12:41.
 - a. After the preaching of Jonah, the reluctant prophet, the entire city of Nineveh, from the king down, “repented at the preaching of Jonas” and showed their sorrow for sin, Jonah 3.
 - b. Jesus, the Son of God, one greater than Jonah, came to the Jews of his day preaching and miraculously confirming his word with signs, yet they rejected him.
 - c. Therefore, the behavior of the people of Nineveh served as a condemnation of that generation of unbelieving Jews to which Jesus spoke.
2. Secondly, Jesus cited the queen of Sheba, the queen of the south, rising up in the judgment and condemning the unbelieving Jews of Jesus’ day, Mt.12:42.
 - a. Hearing of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord and doubting the accuracy of what she had heard she came to Solomon “from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear of the wisdom of Solomon,” and to test him with hard questions, 1Kgs.10.
 - b. She came to him bearing expensive gifts.
 - c. When she came she told him all that was on her mind.
 - d. After seeing and hearing for herself, convinced of his super-wisdom, she exclaimed, “Behold, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report that I heard.”
 - e. Jesus brought his teaching, the very wisdom of Almighty God, to the Jews of that generation and they demanded his death for it!
 - f. Therefore, the behavior of the queen of Sheba would condemn the Jews of Jesus’ day because “a greater than Solomon is here,” yet they rejected him!

D. BASED ON THIS SAME PRINCIPLE, YES, PRESENT-DAY BELIEVERS CAN AND DO “BY FAITH” CONDEMN THE WORLD OF TODAY.

1. The godly life of the Christian “condemns” the worldly non-Christian, 1Pet.4:1-3; Mt.5:10-12.
 - a. You don’t drink – they drink.
 - b. You don’t dance – they dance.
 - c. You are faithful to your spouse – they are not.
 - d. You don’t curse or take the God’s name in vain – they do
 - e. You don’t lie – they lie.
 - f. You don’t use filthy, vulgar language – they do.
 - g. You are honest in all things – they are not.
 - h. You are morally pure – they are not.
 - i. You worship God in spirit and in truth – they do not.
 - j. You have an uncompromising faith – they compromise.
 - k. You seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness – they do not.
 - l. You sincerely obey the Lord according to his written word, the Bible, without additions, subtractions, or substitutions – they “obey” when it is “convenient”, or according to the principle or doctrine of “situation ethics”!
2. The one who stands fast in the faith “condemns” the compromiser of the faith, or the digressive.
3. Your behavior is a condemnation of their life-style; a constant reminder to them that they are failing God!
4. No wonder so many of them are so often uncomfortable around you! You are and do what they know they ought to be and do and are not!

III. CONCLUSION

1. The life of the faithful servant of God is a condemnation of the world:
 - a. Not by pointing the finger in scorn and ridicule.
 - b. Not in retribution and revenge.
 - c. Not in an arrogant, self-righteousness, “holier than thou” attitude.

- d. But, through the power of a righteous example such as that of Noah.
2. From these Bible examples it is clearly demonstrated that the “faith” which God commands and requires of one and all, and which avails in Jesus Christ:
 - a. Is, in no case, a mere cold, lifeless mental act alone.
 - b. Rather, it is a living, active, obeying, fruit-bearing principle, which is constantly manifesting and developing itself in the heart and life of the individual.
3. Each and every one of us has the ability to live a life that condemns the world:
 - a. If we will rely upon the promises of God.
 - b. If we will follow the example of Jesus Christ, whom he said the world hates.
 - c. If we will take the way of escape if and when it is shown to us!
4. In closing note with me a few of the many lessons to be learned from this O.T. event.
 - a. There is justice as well as mercy; severity as well as kindness – in God’s dealing with man.
 - b. It is foolish, and it may be ruinous, to refuse to believe a thing because it seems to us improbable, or is to us incomprehensible.
 - c. Such things are written for our learning and for our admonition, Rom.15:4; 1Cor.10:11.
 - d. By “the obedience of faith,” and by that alone, do we become “heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”