

The Longest Sermon

Thousands of years ago a preacher of God lived among sinful people. This preacher preached for more than one hundred years to these wicked people about the coming punishment by God. Yet, not one person in the whole world besides this preacher's family was obedient to God. This must have made the preacher very sad and it greatly displeased God.

For 120 years this preacher, with the help of his family, built a large boat as God had instructed him. Sinners laughed at the preacher and his family because of what he preached, because of the godly way his family lived, and because of the large boat that they built.

Finally, God decided to flood all the earth and drown every person—except this preacher and his family. It was a terrible time because almost all people on earth died in that flood. Only the preacher and his family survived.

This preacher, of course, was Noah. The account of this world-wide flood is found in Genesis, chapters six through eight. The apostle Peter called Noah “a

preacher of righteousness” (2 Peter 2:5).

The same flood water which destroyed the ungodly world also saved Noah and his family. These eight souls were separated by that water from the wicked world which died in the flood. The apostle Peter compares the saving effect of the flood water in Noah's time with the water of baptism: “*that aforetime were disobedient, when the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water: which also after a true likeness doth now save you, even baptism, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the interrogation of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ*” (1 Peter 3:20-21). Dear friends, one is saved today when he is baptized in water. Have you been baptized?

The longest sermon was in vain to the world that died in the flood. How tragic that only eight people in the whole world were saved.

Sadly, today many people also refuse to obey God. Preachers of righteousness are laughed at and God is greatly displeased. God's punishment is coming again, although this time God will punish with fire: “*The Lord is not slack concerning his*

promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?” (2 Peter 3:9-12).

Please, do not allow God's preaching to be in vain toward you. Do not perish with the wicked world. Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins. “*And Peter said to them, ‘Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins...’*” (Acts 2:38).

If you need further information about how to obey God, please let us know.



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