

Noah

11•30•2022
GENESIS 6-8

Every year, Time Magazine publishes a list of the 100 most influential people in the world. If Time Magazine existed back in Noah's day, it is not very likely that Noah would have been nominated. Noah lived in a time when, according to Genesis chapter 6, "the wickedness of man was great in the earth and every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." It is here we find Noah and his wife, raising three sons.

Noah is described as a righteous man who walked with God. How is this possible as he and his family live among the extreme corruption in the world? We find the answer in verse 8 when we read, "But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD."

The word favor is translated here to mean grace. Noah was given "undeserved favor" as God looked upon him with mercy in his broken state and made him righteous. And in response, Noah fixed his eyes on the LORD, rather than fixing his eyes on the culture around him. He walked with God under the influence of grace.

We certainly see evidence of this as Noah spent 120 years building an enormous boat, nowhere near a body of water, in a world that did not even know what rain was.

Day after day, week after week, year after year, Noah made a choice to respond to the grace that had been poured out on him, by obeying a good and faithful God. A God who had chosen him for the purpose of

saving His beautiful creation. A God who painted a reminder in the sky of His promise to the world.

We see many years later in Noah's life that although he was righteous in God's eyes, he was not perfect, nor was the rest of his family. Even though he was part of God's redemption story, he had a flawed nature.

In chapter 9 of Genesis, we read an unsavory account of Noah found "under the influence" of too much wine. In response to Noah's drunkenness, one son follows the influence of the culture by exposing his father's offense. In contrast, his two other sons covered their father's sin with the grace that had influenced them all the years prior.

Where are your eyes gazing this Advent season? Are you under the influence of the world and its promises? Or are you under the influence of the grace that the LORD poured out by sending his son, Jesus?

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PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help us to keep our eyes fixed on Your Son Jesus. When the influence of the culture distracts, lures, and shouts its empty promises, turn our gaze back to you and the truth. Give us the faith and courage to live under the influence of grace every day of our life. Amen.



WRITTEN BY KRIS JOHNSON
Director of Nursery and Early Childhood Ministry