

In step with Jesus 206

July 18, 2026

Key Text: “but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.”

Introduction

Last week we learnt that God will always have a people on earth no matter how bad or wicked this world becomes. God preserves Himself a remnant, those who keep His commandments and have the faith of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we ought not be discouraged when it seems that wickedness has overtaken the world. We need not feel that we are the only ones who are following God, and most importantly, we do not need to follow the majority to do evil, thinking that God has lost control of the world. Let us not be deceived, God is still in control of this world. He rules the world even when evil appears to be dominating the world. Maltbie D. Babcock (1858-1901) captured the idea of God’s rulership of this world in that beautiful hymn we love to sing, “This is my Father’s world”. The last stanza of that hymn says “This is my Father’s world, oh let me ne’er forget, that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet. This is my Father’s world, why should my heart be sad? The Lord is king, let the heavens ring, God reigns let the earth be glad”. The best news of all is that the same God, who rules the universe is the same God who seeks a relationship with you and I. We learnt last week that He is always looking for men and women through whom He would reveal His plans for the world.

Last week’s reading showed that Noah found favour in God’s sight in a wicked and crooked generation, and God revealed His plan to destroy the world to him. Today we will reflect on the details of God’s plan, as revealed to Noah in Genesis chapter six verses twelve to twenty two. Hopefully we will learn something more about the importance of a daily walk with God in this world of sin.

Genesis 6:12-21

12 And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13 And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14 Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark and cover it inside and out with pitch and this is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. 16 Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. 17 For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. 19 And of every

living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. 20 Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. 21 Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them.” 22 Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

Reflections

In the days of Noah, God’s judgement was not just on humans but on all flesh. God was going to destroy the earth and all flesh, but Noah found grace in God’s sight and God said He would establish His covenant with Noah. For the sake of Noah, his wife, his sons and his sons’ wives were to enter the ark and be saved from the coming destruction. But notice that in preparation for that coming destruction, God gave Noah the most bizarre instruction that we humans can think of. First of all, God told Noah that there was going to be a flood. Up until that time as the bible records, there has never been rain upon the earth so the very idea of rain and flooding would be strange. Secondly, God asked Noah to build an ark with a specific plan of how to make it. God was specific about the material to use for the ark, its structural framework, the length, the breadth, and the height. Thirdly, God asked Noah to bring every species of living creatures into the ark and all manner of food that could be eaten into the ark. How bizarre! But Genesis chapter six verse twenty two says that “Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.”

One may ask, why would Noah obey such bizarre instruction? The bible gave us the answer in the book of Hebrews chapter eleven verse seven; it reads “By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith”. Noah acted by faith. In other words, Noah trusted God and believed that God is who He says He is and would do what He says He would do. Genesis chapter six verse nine had already told us that Noah was righteous and blameless in all his generation and that Noah walked with God. Because Noah had walked with God for most of his life, he could recognize God’s voice. When God gave him the instruction to build the ark, he was not confused. He knew exactly who was speaking and also knew to take His words seriously. Friends, my question to us today is, are we walking with God? Do we know His voice? Can we act in faith when He instructs us to do something? Friends, obedience to God’s word when it matters most does not just happen. It comes as a result of a long-term relationship and consistent walk with God. I pray that day by day, you and I will walk with God, obeying Him in all things, including apparently insignificant things, so that when the time comes for us to make the big decisions in obedience to His words, we will not be confused but we will obey by faith and as Noah did.