Noah's Ark ~ Today

For 120 years Noah walked by faith, and in doing so became the '<u>offscouring</u>' of his culture, as was Apostle Paul, four centuries later; "Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the **offscouring** of all things unto this day," not much has changed since in God's program.

Let's look deeper into the emotions of Noah and family, since we're all of <u>*like passions'*</u>, and for a moment put ourselves in their shoes. It is one thing to act on your faith, but another to walk in the faith of another person. Noah's family was 'called' of God to walk in his faith. What did that look like in real life - what was the cost?

- 1. Mrs. Noah could not 'go to town' without being totally mocked;
- 2. Their three sons and daughter-in-laws had no friends because of the negative 'peer pressure';
- Observe, their in-laws were not on the ark, and probably cursed Noah every day, that their daughters had married into a 'crazy' family. Can you imagine the tension surrounding their birthday celebrations?
- I suspect Mrs. Noah and the children would have left Noah, if they had any other place to go, where they could live in peace - but God made certain they had no other haven but Noah's ark. She perhaps felt at moments like Job's wife, who told him to quit covering his sin that cost her all, and acknowledge it, and; "curse God, and die" (Afterward, certainly Noah's wife must have thanked God she didn't leave, going from the 'frying pan into the fire').
- 4. Then there's poor Noah told such <u>'foolish'</u>, unbelievable things, yet he still obeyed.

Explain to me any good way to break this news to your wife and children:

- "Honey, I've got something important and exciting to share, God has told me to ~
 - A. To build a boat...
 - The length of 1½ football fields (450 ft);
 - The width of 1½ football fields (75 ft);
 - 3 stories high (45 ft)
 - B. On dry land
 - C. **Then He will float it by rain** this one had to be the 'deal-breaker'(they couldn't even spell <u>rain</u>!)
 - D. Loaded with two of every creature."



Get the net! And that's not the worst. Every Saturday evening, it was tail-gating night at Noah's. The town would come out to see how far Noah had gotten. Think about it - there was not a bigger circus in town! The guys would bring their BBQ pits and beer and sit and drink, throwing their empty bottles against the ark just to hear the glass break. While Noah and family sought refuge wherever. Every weekend for 120 years - it's a wonder the couple even talked.

But it gets better, they get into the ark with all the animals (and gas) and nothing happens for *seven* days. Imagine - the town folk are outside banging on the ark and laughing their heads off, while painting the ark with graffiti and caricatures of Noah, thinking- now we've finally got rid of this '*preacher of righteousness*' or as expressed today, this 'self-righteous' preacher.

While on the inside, things are getting 'steamy'. I think it may be safe to speculate, that after the second or third night, Noah and wife were probably sleeping at opposite ends of the ark. She and the kids thinking, 'you fool', we're doomed! Today, his wife could sue and win on emotional abuse for putting her through it all, or call child protective services and have him removed. This brings us to a philosophical question, *When is the last time someone threw a 'beer bottle' at your 'ark'*? Lest we forget, this was God's best plan - *gotta a problem with it*? Then get on the ark, 'fool' - Selah!

Matthew Henry - Commentary on Genesis 7:7,10

"And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. **And it came to pass after seven days**, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth."

"Here is Noah's ready obedience to the commands that God gave him. Observe, He went into the ark, upon notice that the flood would come after seven days, though probably as yet there appeared no visible sign of its approach, no cloud arising that threatened it, nothing done towards it, but all continued serene and clear; for, as he prepared the ark by faith in the warning given that the flood would come, so he went into it by <u>faith</u> in this warning that it would come quickly, though he did not see that the second causes had yet begun to work.

In every step he took, he walked by <u>faith</u>, and not by <u>sense</u>. During these seven days, it is likely, he was settling himself and his family in the ark, and distributing the creatures into their several apartments. This was the conclusion of that visible sermon which he had long been preaching to his <u>careless neighbors</u>, and which, one would think, might have awakened them; but, not obtaining that desired end, it left their blood upon their own heads."

God bless, Louis 1-11-12