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Parashah Points: Noach - Walking With God

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week's Parashah Point comes from Noach, which is the Hebrew name for "Noah." This is the second weekly parashah in the annual cycle of Torah reading, and it goes from Genesis 6:9 to Genesis 11:32.

This parashah tells the story of how mankind become so wicked that God destroyed them with a flood. However, He spared Noah and his family by commanding Noah to build an Ark to survive the flood (Genesis 6-8).

It also speaks of God's covenant with Noah and then lists all the nations that descended from Noah (Genesis 9-10).

Then we learn about the story of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11).

There's a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we're going to present a thought about what it means for Noah to have been considered righteous.

Genesis 6:9

These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

What does it mean that Noah was righteous? First, Noah's righteousness is further defined as being "blameless in his generation." Within the wicked generation in which he lived, he was a light in a dark place. Second, Noah is said to have "walked with God." That is why Noah was judged as righteous.

But what does it mean to walk with God? Before we get there, in the previous Torah Portion, we saw that Noah had found "favor" in the eyes of YHWH. The Hebrew word for "favor"—*chen*—it is commonly used to denote the concept of "grace." Thus, Noah was "saved by grace," if you will. That's how he came to have a relationship with God. And the evidence of His relationship with God was his

"walking" with God.

For more on this, we would recommend our teaching, "The Hebrew Root of Grace".

What's interesting is that one of the blessings for obeying God's commandments, according to the Torah, is that God will walk with His people:

Leviticus 26:12

I will walk with you—I will be your God, and you will be my people.

Remember, YHWH walking with His people was prefaced by Leviticus 23:3 which says,

"If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them"

So, you could say that Noah came to know God by grace, and he experienced the blessing of walking with God by his obedience to God's ways. That's why he was called righteous.

Isn't this the pattern all throughout the Bible? Israel was delivered from slavery in Egypt by God's grace. Then they were taken to Mount Sinai and given the Torah as a means of walking with God.

We likewise are delivered from the slavery of our sins by God's grace and our faith in the Messiah. And then we are likewise given the Torah as a means of walking with God.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus (Messiah Yeshua) for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, **that we should walk in them**.

As we see with Noah, it's possible to be righteous in a wicked world by observing YHWH's Torah, and thus be a light to the nations. We have found grace in the eyes of God. He sent His only Son, Yeshua the Messiah, to die for us and deliver us from sin. Now let's walk with God and be a light to our generation.

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom!

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

EMAIL: Info@119ministries.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/119Ministries

WEBSITE: www.TestEverything.net & www.ExaminaloTodo.net

TWITTER: www.twitter.com/119Ministries#