

Last Man Standing

Scripture:

Genesis 6:22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Introduction:

A disclaimer is needed to begin the true story of War Hero Noah.

There has been a television series and a movie called "Last Man Standing." Neither of these has anything to do with the story of Noah or what the phrase "Last Man Standing" represents.

A movie called "Noah" appeared in 2014. It has

Noah's genealogy line back to Adam is a short one in the big scope of things: Adam-Seth-Enos-Cainan-Mahalaleel-Jared-Enoch-Methuselah-Lamech-Noah.

The earth is somewhere in the neighborhood of about 1600 years old when the flood occurs according to some commentaries. When exactly it happened is of little relevance.

The fact that it did happen is of most significance. Jesus refers to the Flood as a fact in Matthew 24: 37-38.

absolutely nothing to do with the actual events or the person of Noah either, but rather was a financial endeavor that relied partially on the traditional Noah story, but in addition heavily upon conjecture and imagination from the minds of men.

To understand Noah and his relationship with God, the Bible is the only reliable resource.

Noah is awarded the title of War Hero because he waged war against bullies [*Genesis 6:4*]; unrighteousness; and spiritual warfare of a sort we have not experienced in our lifetimes, yet he persevered even though he was the LAST MAN STANDING with God.

You can't run from your peers, but you don't have to join them either.

Genesis 6:5-8

5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Have you ever experienced "peer pressures?"

As adults we don't think much about "peer pressure" but we have it nonetheless.

- You have it at the job: *TEAM WORK*
- You have it at church: *You MUST attend every activity; "Where were you, we missed you at.....?"*
- You have it in family: *You have a third cousin, twice removed that has a child graduating; you have to buy a gift.*

There is something very powerful about being part of a group and being accepted.

When I was a kid, I built a club house with two friends. We started our own “club.” That was the result of peer pressure. We all want to belong. We want to be liked and we even want to be bragged on.

A certain amount of that is good. We use it to develop self-respect: to give us the desire to accomplish things in our life.

However, we can easily get too focused on wanting attention from our peers or others. You certainly don’t need me to tell you that.

Just think about how long your teen spends in front of the mirror in the mornings or perhaps, yourself. How many times do folks change their “outfit” before going out the door? Or call a “friend” to see what they are wearing to an event?

Just the mention of Facebook or Twitter or other social media to many folks and you immediately can relate to what “peer pressure” is and what it can bring in the way of satisfaction or of hurt and disappointment.

BE CAREFUL HOW PEER PRESSURE CONTROLS YOU.

WILL YOU DO SINFUL THINGS TO PLEASE A FRIEND OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS?

Standing up to Bullies and Giants

Genesis 6:4-5

4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Noah had to live among giants. Do you have any giants as neighbors? At the job? Or maybe in your own household?

I looked up the Hebrew word for giants in this verse. Turns out that it is different from most other Hebrew words that were translated as “giants.” In this verse it means “bullies.”

Now if I ask that question again with: Do you have any bullies around, most of you could immediately say, “Yes.”

We all have to tolerate bullies that come into our lives; and so did Noah. When you are dealing with bullies generally you try to keep a low profile. It’s like: If he doesn’t know I am around, then he won’t bother with me.

I have tried that tactic before. Sometimes it has worked, and sometimes it has not worked. I may try it again if I have a bully bothering me.

Noah, however, did not get to keep a low profile. God told him to build the biggest boat ever! This boat was so big and so far from the river bank that everyone knew it would never see the water.

THINK OF THE RIDICULE THAT NOAH AND HIS SONS HAD TO PUT UP WITH. INSTEAD OF AVOIDING THE GIANTS OR BULLIES, HE ATTRACTED THEM!

The Bible tells us it was an extremely wicked time in history. You can imagine what kind of harassment, protests from the neighborhood association because of this eye-sore construction project, and general shunning Noah and his family received in the community and from the religious crowd.

After all, he wasn’t fitting in! He “looked down” on the populous because of its lifestyle, so they said.

And anyone that is not for us must be against us!

As a side note:

This boat was no small feat. It was most likely a sideshow to the people around Noah’s community.

The Ark was about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high with 3 decks.

It took 120 years to complete.

It is doubtful they were invited to neighborhood gatherings [as if they would want to go]. It is doubtful they were looked at as anything but radical, in fact.

ANYTIME THAT YOU DO NOT FIT INTO THE ESTABLISHED PATTERN FOR YOUR CULTURE, THEN AS A CONSEQUENCE YOU WILL BE LOOKED UPON AS AN OUTSIDER AND LESS OF A PERSON FOR YOUR BEHAVIOR.

MAKE SURE THIS IS TRUE BECAUSE YOU ARE STANDING FOR THE WORD OF GOD, NOT JUST STANDING OUT AS DIFFERENT FOR THE SAKE OF BEING DIFFERENT FOR ATTENTION'S SAKE.

Standing among people that reject God

Noah spent 120 years building the ark and warning people about God's judgment.

In other words, Noah preached for 120 years and all he had to show for it was ridicule.

Noah wanted to see people repent and be saved.

But not one person outside of his immediate family believed that God would judge them. Imagine being Noah and getting up every day and preaching God's Word and everyone laughing at you.

WOULD YOU KEEP DOING RIGHT OR WOULD YOU GET DISCOURAGED, GIVE UP, AND TRY TO FIT IN WITH EVERYONE AROUND YOU?

Today, we see that many people laugh at God's Word. It is considered "out of touch", old fashioned, irrelevant to our modern culture. Professors, news media, leadership, and even some of our neighbors and family reject God's Word as a myth. Just reading Wikipedia or an article on PBS you will find the now accepted line of thinking is anything except Biblical.

Our young people have been conditioned to believe that only PART of the Bible relates to our modern culture and that other parts are to be discarded as "poor translation" or "out dated."

THIS OLD LIE FROM SATAN IS NOT A NEW ONE. IT HAS BEEN WORKING SINCE THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

But thankfully, there are still a few that believe God.

Most however will give up and try to fit in.

But remember what "fitting in" will cost you.

LOOK AT NOAH'S GENERATION: EVERYONE THAT "FIT IN", EVERYONE THAT WAS CONSIDERED NORMAL, DIED IN THE FLOOD.

Some day you will stand before God. On that day, who do you want to fit in with?

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

That has an easy answer, but I see most people choosing to fit in DOWN here instead of trying to fit UP in Heaven.

Conclusion:

Without belonging to Jesus, without a personal relationship with him, you are on your own to stand out from the crowd. You can try for a while, you can be unique for a while, you can even play church and Christian-like for a while, but in the end you are powerless to keep up the act.

If you have Jesus as your personal Savior, then you can begin to live a life where you can STAND UP to the peer pressure and the bullies and the results of their lifestyles and life choices. As a born-again Christian, do you have what it takes to be THE LAST MAN STANDING when the world is leaving you on the outside?

Perhaps you are not a born-again believer; perhaps you have been pretending all along; perhaps today you need to take that stand.

Do you know Him? Do you want to have the power to Stand Up and Stand apart?

Trail Markers to Discuss:

Take each highlighted sentence and use as a discussion point asking some of these questions:

- Can you think of where this can apply to you today? Right now at this point in your life?

Activity:

Refer to: *War Heroes 2-Adult Workbook*