

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"
September 26, 2016

FEED MY SHEEP

2 PETER 2:4-5 NKJV - (4) For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; **(5)** and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

The Biblical record provides only a glimpse of Noah's activities in the days leading up to the flood, and most of the narrative in Genesis is focused on his work in building the ark. Nevertheless, we can make a reasonable assumption that Noah preached about the coming flood to his neighbors and community during the 100 years required to complete the ark. First, we know from Genesis 6 that Noah was a blameless man, which means he lived a godly lifestyle before others. Furthermore, **2 Peter 2** tells us Noah was a preacher of righteousness.

Knowing that Noah was a preacher proclaiming God's truth in some form to the people of his day and given his godly character, we can assume Noah preached about the approaching flood and the need to repent. Furthermore, offering the world such a warning would be in keeping with God's character, since God typically gives opportunity for repentance prior to His judgments. If Noah did warn the world, the world obviously chose to ignore his warnings, because the Bible teaches that the world was taken by surprise when the flood came. The fact that the world was caught off guard by the flood does not prove that Noah never preached concerning the coming judgment. It only tells us that the world paid no attention to the warnings. In fact, men have heard warnings from many prophets over the ages, yet they usually ignore the warnings and are caught off guard by the judgment that follows. The entire history of the nation of Israel testifies to this truth.

The task for God's ministers and disciples is to "Feed His sheep." We cannot make people do anything outside of their will. But we are told to share the good news of the gospel. People will make their own decisions. Whether it is right or wrong will be up to each person. Noah preached over 100 years and only eight people were saved. Feed His sheep and feed them with the proper nourishment, "The Bible." Note that, when we do not eat, our body begins to feel weak. We immediately recognize that we need to eat for strength and nourishment. If we do not eat, we will hurt even more. For many of us, the primary symptom felt from lack of food is not hunger, but weakness. The knees become rubbery and our energy level decreases. The mind becomes sluggish, and the feels slower and thick. Our bodies and minds do not function as efficiently as normally as it does when we have strength. We need the food, the fuel, that God provides.

SCRIPTURE READING
ISAIAH 40:10-11

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Anger, resentment and jealousy doesn't change the heart of others-- it only changes yours."