

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before you today with open hearts and willing spirits. As we gather together, we ask that you quiet the noise of the world around us and help us to focus on what you have spoken. Give us ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts that are ready to receive what you want us to take from this time together. May your word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Summary

This sermon launches a new series called "It Is Written," built on the truth that what God has decreed will stand. The sermon draws from Matthew 4, where Jesus responds to each of Satan's temptations with "It is written," and uses this as a model for how believers should respond to sin, doubt, and worldly pressure. Just as Christ anchored Himself in scripture during His most vulnerable moments, we are called to do the same in every trial and temptation we face.

The account of Noah in Genesis 6 and 7 serves as the central illustration. Noah spent 100 years building the ark in obedience to God's word, enduring ridicule and doubt, yet never wavering because He trusted what God had decreed. The sermon highlights three movements in Noah's story: a decreed disaster, a dependence upon deliverance, and a declared destiny. The sermon closes by connecting Noah's salvation through water to baptism in 1 Peter 3:21, calling believers to know the word of God, revere Him, and respond to every challenge in life with the confidence that what God has written will come to pass.

Key Verses

Matthew 4:1-11

Numbers 23:19

James 1:2-8

1 Peter 3:18-22

Genesis 6:9-13

Hebrews 11:7

James 1:21-22

Questions

1. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, His response each time was 'It is written.' How often do you turn to scripture when you face temptation or difficulty, and what makes that hard to do in the moment?
2. Noah spent 100 years building the ark without seeing a single drop of rain. What does that kind of long-term obedience look like in your own life, and where do you find it most difficult to keep going when results are not visible?
3. The sermon pointed out that Noah endured ridicule and criticism from those around him. Have you ever faced mockery or pushback for your faith? How did you respond, and what would you do differently now?
4. Numbers 23:19 asks, 'Has he said it, and will he not do it?' Where in your life right now do you find it hardest to trust that God will follow through on what He has promised?
5. The sermon warned against seeking counsel from those who do not know God. How do you discern when advice from friends, family, or culture is pulling you away from what is written in scripture?

6. Hebrews 11:7 says Noah acted by faith out of reverence for God. What is the connection between reverence for God and actually doing what His word says? How does a lack of reverence show up in everyday life?
7. James 1:22 calls us to be doers of the word and not just hearers. What is one area of your life where you know what scripture says but have struggled to actually live it out?
8. The sermon connected Noah's salvation through water to baptism in 1 Peter 3:21. How does understanding your baptism as a moment of new identity and clean conscience change the way you see yourself when others try to define you by your past?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where you have been responding to a trial, temptation, or doubt with your own reasoning or with advice from those outside of faith. Choose one specific scripture that speaks to that situation, write it down, and commit to returning to it every day this week whenever that challenge surfaces. Practice responding to it with the words 'It is written,' and let that anchor you in what God has already said.

Key Takeaways

- What God has decreed will stand. Just as Jesus responded to every temptation with 'It is written,' our first response to sin, doubt, and worldly pressure should always be grounded in the word of God.
- Noah's 100 years of obedience demonstrate that faith is not passive. It requires action in the face of ridicule, uncertainty, and long seasons of waiting, all because God said it and that is enough.
- Reverence for God is the foundation of obedience. Knowing the word is not the same as living by it. Only a genuine fear and love of God will move us from being hearers to being doers.
- Seeking counsel from those who do not know God pulls us away from godly wisdom. Our dependence must be on God and His word, not on the voices of culture, academia, or even well-meaning friends who are spiritually ungrounded.
- God's salvation carries us through the storm, not around it. Just as Noah was sealed in the ark and brought safely through the flood, God holds His people through every trial. Baptism corresponds to this, marking the beginning of a new identity in Christ that no one else has the authority to take away.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank you for the time we have shared together around your word today. We are reminded that what you have spoken will not return to you empty, and that your decrees stand firm no matter what the world around us says. Help us to leave this place with a deeper commitment to knowing your word, revering your name, and responding to every challenge in our lives with the confidence that it is written. Where we have doubted, restore our faith. Where we have wandered, bring us home. Where we are weary, renew our strength. May we be doers of the word and not hearers only. We trust you with every storm we are facing, knowing that you are the one who seals the door and brings us safely through. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.