

what a Prophet, moved by the Spirit, commanded, was and is to resist the Spirit. Stephen accused his persecutors with resisting the Holy Spirit in the same way their fathers did—Acts vii. 51–52. By consulting Nehemiah ix. 30, we learn that God bore witness or testified against the people by his Spirit in his Prophets; and in refusing to obey the voice of the Prophets, they disobeyed the Lord, or in other words, they resisted the Spirit of God. In the same way do sinners now, like the unbelieving Jews, reject the counsel of God, by refusing to obey his word, which has been spoken by his son.

Noah preached to his contemporaries during the long period of a hundred and twenty years, “while the ark was preparing, in which few, that is, eight souls were saved.”—Of the vast multitudes that inhabited the old world, only eight were saved!

God saved Noah, but not without the means of the Patriarch’s faith, the ark, and water; not by the means of faith alone—nor the ark alone—nor water alone; but by them all taken together.

“The like figure—the antitype, baptism, immersion, does also now save us,—by the resurrection of Christ.” “Because some remarkable persons and events,” says Dr. McKnight, “recorded in Scripture, were so ordered by God as to be fit emblems or representations of future persons and events, they are called types, and the persons and things which they represented or prefigured are called *antitypes*. Thus the water of baptism is here called the antitype to the water of the deluge, because the deluge was a type or emblem of baptism.” * * *

Water was only the means of Noah’s salvation. Besides this, his faith and the ark were employed. As his salvation was a type of ours, let us inquire more particularly into the means by which it was effected.

NOAH’S FAITH.—This was the *first* in the arrangement or order of the means. God communicated to Noah his intention of bringing a deluge upon the earth, and promised him salvation by means of an ark, which he told him to constitute. Noah believed what God said both concerning the deluge and the ark—the threatening and promise, and this belief is called faith. * * *

Noah did as he was commanded. His faith not only moved him with fear, but led him to build an ark also “by which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.” It was not his faith, but his building the ark by which he condemned the world. By this act he acknowledged the justness of the threatened punishment of sin, and expressed his unshaken confidence in the fulfilment of the awful denunciation, and his firm reliance on the veracity of Jehovah concerning his own preservation.

If we expect to obtain the promised blessings of Heaven, we must obey the commands of God, as well as believe what he