

AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

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Scripture Portions Concerning the Days of Noah and the Last Days

Genesis 6:1-6, 11-13

And when men began to multiply on the surface of the ground, and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were fair; and they took wives for themselves from all whom they chose. And Jehovah said, My Spirit will not strive with man forever, for he indeed is flesh; so his days will be one hundred twenty years. The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them; these were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. And Jehovah 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. And Jehovah repented that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him in His heart...And the earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth. And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and now I am about to destroy them with the earth.

2 Peter 2:4-7

For if God did not spare the angels who sinned but delivered them to gloomy pits, having cast them down to Tartarus, they being kept for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world but guarded Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; and having reduced to ashes the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, condemned them to ruin, having set them as an example to those who intend to live an ungodly life, and rescued righteous Lot, who had been oppressed by the licentious manner of life of the lawless.

Jude 6-7

And angels who did not keep their own principality but abandoned their own dwelling place, He has kept in eternal bonds under gloom for the judgment of the great day; how Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, who in like manner with these gave themselves over to fornication and went after different flesh, are set forth as an example, undergoing the penalty of eternal fire.

Matthew 24:37-39

For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark, and they did not know that judgment was coming until the flood came and took all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Luke 17:26-30

And even as it happened in the days of Noah, so will it be also in the days of the Son of Man: they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise, even as it happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day in which Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be in the same way on the day in which the Son of Man is revealed.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 6-12

Now we ask you, brothers, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you be not quickly shaken in mind nor alarmed, neither by a spirit nor by word nor by a letter as if by us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or an object of worship, so that he sits in the temple of God, setting himself forth, saying that he is God...And now you know that which restrains, so that he might be revealed in his own time. For it is the mystery of lawlessness that is now operating, but only until the one now restraining goes out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord Jesus will slay by the breath of His mouth and bring to nothing by the manifestation of His coming), the coming of whom is according to Satan's operation in all power and signs and wonders of a lie and in all deceit of unrighteousness among those who are perishing, because they did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved. And because of this God sends to them an operation of error that they might believe the lie, so that all who have not believed the truth but have taken pleasure in unrighteousness might be judged.

2 Timothy 3:1-9, 12-13

But know this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, savage, not lovers of good, traitors, reckless, blinded with pride, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having an outward form of godliness, though denying its power; from these also turn away. For of these are those who creep into houses and take captive silly women heaped with sins, who are led by various desires and are always learning yet never able to come to the full knowledge of the truth. And in the manner that Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these also oppose the truth; men corrupted in mind, disapproved concerning the faith. But they will not advance farther, for their folly will be completely manifest to all, as also the folly of those became...And indeed all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and imitators will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. [Note: in this passage "the last days" refers to the entire age of the church; see *Holy Bible Recovery Version*, 2 Tim. 3:1, footnote 2.]

AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

Message One

Noah—Finding Grace in the Eyes of the Lord

Scripture Reading: Gen. 6:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:10; Heb. 4:16; 2 Tim. 4:22

I. Noah is a pattern to us, revealing how we can live an overcoming life; Noah's life and work changed the age—Gen. 6:1—9:17.

II. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord—6:8:

- A. Grace is not only something given by God; it is God Himself—John 1:17; 1 Cor. 15:10; cf. Gal. 2:20:
 1. If we are weak, God will come to be our strength; if we are unable to face our situation, God will come to stand with us and face that situation for us and in us; this is grace.
 2. In the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, a generation whose temptations no one could withstand, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord—Gen. 6:1-8.
 3. This age is crooked and perverse; not one of us is able to stand in such a generation; we need grace.
- B. Grace is God Himself enjoyed by us and helping us to face the situation of the flesh—vv. 3, 8:
 1. If we read the New Testament carefully, we will see that where the flesh is, there also is grace; because the flesh is here with us, we need grace—John 1:14; 1 Tim. 1:13-15.
 2. The flesh is the very presence of the devil, and grace is the very presence of God; in order for us to face the presence of Satan, we need the presence of God—Rom. 7:17-21; Heb. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Tim. 4:22.
- C. We must come to the Lord and say, “Lord, I am here. I need Your grace. I am not coming to ask You to give me good things. I am coming to find grace to meet my need. Lord, I cannot go to work or to school without Your presence. Lord, I need You to stand with me. Come to be my strength. Lord, uphold me and sustain me.”

Focus: Noah is a pattern to us of a person who lived an overcoming life in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, a person whose life and work changed the age. If we would live such a life, we should follow Noah to receive and enjoy God's grace.

Hymns: 578, “Come Forward” (Heb. 4:15-16)

Study Questions:

1. What is grace?
2. What is the relationship between grace and the flesh, and how can we partake of God's grace?

Recommended Reading:

Life-study of Genesis, msgs. 28-29

Notes

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Message Two

Noah—Living a Righteous Life and Becoming a Herald of Righteousness

Scripture Reading: Gen. 6:8-9; 7:1; Heb. 11:7; 2 Pet. 2:5

I. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generations—Gen. 6:9b; 7:1:

- A. To be righteous is to be right with God and with man—Matt. 5:20; Deut. 25:13-16; 1 John 2:29; 3:4-10; cf. Matt. 5:6.
- B. Noah believed in God and, as a result, became a righteous person; he was right with God, with others, and with himself—Heb. 11:7; Ezek. 14:14; Rom. 3:21-26; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9.
- C. Because Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, this grace strengthened him and helped him to live a righteous life—Gen. 6:8-9:
 - 1. None of us can be right without grace—Rom. 3:10-12, 24.
 - 2. Righteousness is the issue of grace, and grace produces righteousness—Gen. 6:8-9; cf. Rom. 5:17, 21.
 - 3. It is by the power, strength, and life of grace that we can be right with God, with one another, and even with ourselves—8:4-6.
- D. Noah's righteousness became a boast to God in the midst of that crooked and perverted generation.

II. Noah became a herald of righteousness as a protest against the evil generation—2 Pet. 2:5; cf. Acts 24:25:

- A. Noah preached what he believed in and practiced; he was a preacher of righteousness—2 Pet. 2:5:
 - 1. Nothing was righteous in Noah's generation; the earth was filled with violence, fornication, and lawlessness—Gen. 6:1-5, 11-13.
 - 2. Noah preached righteousness, telling people to get right with God, with others, and with themselves—2 Pet. 2:5.
- B. Today in the New Testament age we need to be heralds, those who proclaim the gospel of Christ—2 Tim. 1:10-11; 4:2a:
 - 1. The gospel is the power of God because the righteousness of God is revealed in it—Rom. 1:16-17.
 - 2. All of us should receive the burden to preach the gospel—Mark 16:15; Rom. 15:16; 10:15.
 - 3. The best way to keep ourselves from being damaged and dirtied by the world is to preach the gospel to our friends, neighbors, and schoolmates, telling them something about the Lord Jesus—Eph. 6:15.

Focus: Noah is a pattern to us of one who lived a righteous life and was a herald of righteousness in the midst of an age when the earth was filled with unrighteousness and lawlessness. If we would live such a life and have such a work, we should follow Noah to live a righteous life by the supply of God's grace, and we should preach the gospel to our friends and schoolmates that they may receive Christ as their righteousness.

Hymns: "Even as He Is", 922

Study Questions:

1. According to the example of Noah, how can we live a righteous life?
2. What is the significance of Noah being a herald of righteousness?
3. What does it mean that the gospel of God is the power of God because the righteousness of God is revealed in it? How is the righteousness of God revealed in the gospel?

Recommended Reading:

Life-study of Genesis, msgs. 28, 30

Life-study of 2 Peter, msg. 9

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Message Three

Noah—Receiving Revelation

Scripture Reading: Gen. 6:13-22

- I. Noah not only inherited all the godly ways of his forefathers (Adam's way of salvation, Abel's way of offering, Enosh's way of calling on the name of the Lord, and Enoch's way of walking with God), but he also received a further revelation which none of his forefathers saw—Gen. 3:21; 4:4, 26; 5:22.**
- II. Noah received a revelation concerning the ark—Gen. 6:14-16:**
 - A. God needs to terminate this age and bring in a new age; in order to do this, He must have the church as His real ark today—Matt. 16:18.
 - B. Just as Noah received a revelation concerning God's need of the ark, we need to receive a revelation concerning God's need of the church—Eph. 1:9; 3:3-4; cf. 1:17.
- III. Noah received a revelation concerning the true situation of his generation—Gen. 6:13; Acts 2:40; cf. Phil. 2:15:**
 - A. In the days of Noah mankind had become flesh—Gen. 6:3, 12-13:
 1. Mankind failed to exercise his spirit, neglected the intellect and reason in his soul, and abused his fallen body, becoming flesh—1 Thes. 5:23; Rom. 1:18-28; cf. 2:15.
 2. The Bible reveals that the strongest and most evil enemy of God is our flesh—7:18; 8:4-6; Gal. 5:16-24.
 - B. In the days of Noah the fallen angels joined with man through illegal marriage—Gen. 6:1-4:
 1. During that time, some of the fallen angels who followed Satan came down to the earth, took human bodies, and used these bodies to form illegal marriages with the daughters of men; in this way, the human race was mixed with the fallen spirits—vv. 1-4; 1 Pet. 3:19-20; 2 Pet. 2:4-5; Jude 6-7.
 2. Marriage is a holy thing; God instituted it in order to maintain the human race, which He created for His purpose—Gen. 1:26-28; Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 6:18; 1 Thes. 4:1-8.
 3. There is a strict principle regarding marriage—the principle of one husband for one wife; however, at Noah's time Satan came in to break the holy principle of human marriage—Gen. 2:22-24; cf. 2 Pet. 2:4-7, and footnote 7²; Jude 6-7.
 - C. In the days of Noah the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually—Gen. 6:5; 8:21.
 - D. In the days of Noah the earth was corrupt before God and was filled with violence—6:11-13.
 - E. The Lord Jesus likened our age to the days of Noah, in which people were befuddled by eating, drinking, marrying, and being given in marriage—Matt. 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27:
 1. Eating, drinking, and marriage were originally ordained by God for man's existence; but due to man's lust, Satan utilizes these necessities of human life to occupy man and keep him from God's interests; toward the end of this age, this situation will be intensified—Gen. 2:7-9, 18, 24; Eccl. 3:12-13, and footnote 12¹; Mark 4:18-19; Luke 21:34.
 2. In order to meet God's need and be prepared for the Lord's coming, we must overcome the stupefying effect of man's living today—vv. 34-36.

IV. Noah received a revelation concerning God's intention and desire—Gen. 6:13-20:

- A. God is a God of purpose, and He can never be defeated in His purpose—Eph. 1:9, 11; 3:11.
- B. God's intention is to gather His lovers and seekers together to practice the proper church life as a testimony against the enemy's kingdom of darkness and as a preparation for His return—Matt. 16:18; Phil. 2:12-16; Rev. 1:12, 20.

Focus: Noah is a pattern to us of one who received revelation concerning the ark, the real condition of his generation, and God's intention and desire. We should follow Noah, seeking the Lord that He would show us revelation from His Word concerning the church as the real ark, the real condition of our generation, and God's intention and desire concerning the church life.

Hymns: 1220

Study Questions:

1. What are the matters that God revealed to Noah? How do these matters apply to us today?
2. What was the condition of Noah's generation? How do Genesis 6:1-4, 2 Peter 2:4-7, and Jude 6-7 expose Satan's attack on the principle of human marriage, and how is this a frustration to God's purpose?
3. What is God's intention and desire?

Recommended Reading:

Life-study of Genesis, msgs. 27, 29

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Message Four Noah—Building the Ark

Scripture Reading: Gen. 6:5-22; 7:13, 16; Heb. 11:7

I. According to God's revelation Noah built the ark, which was the way that God would terminate the corrupted generation and bring in a new age—Gen. 6:15a; Heb. 11:6-7; cf. Exo. 25:9; 1 Chron. 28:11-19; 1 Cor. 3:10-12:

- A. The ark is a type both of Christ and the church as the Body of Christ—1 Pet. 3:20; 1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 2:15-16.
- B. The building of the ark typifies the building up of the church—Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:9-12a; 2 Cor. 6:1; Eph. 3:8-10; 4:12:
 1. By building the ark and entering into it, Noah was not only saved from God's judgment on the evil generation through the flood, but was also separated from that generation and ushered into a new age—Gen. 6:5-22.
 2. In the same way, by building the church and entering into the church life, we will be saved from God's judgment on today's evil generation (Matt. 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27; 1 Thes. 5:3) and will be separated from that generation (Luke 21:36; Rev. 3:10) and ushered into a new age.

II. We need to be today's “family of Noah” by building the church as the ark that will deliver us from the crooked and perverted generation and usher us into the coming age of the kingdom of God—Gen. 6:8—8:3; 1 Cor. 12:12; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Pet. 3:20-21:

- A. The church life is today's ark to terminate the present age and bring in God's kingdom—1 Cor. 1:2; 12:12, 27; 1 Thes. 1:1, 9-10:
 1. The Lord desires “the family of Noah” to build the ark and testify against the trend of the age so that He can use them to terminate the age and bring in the kingdom age—Heb. 11:7; Rev. 11:15.
 2. God wants the church, the ark, where we can be saved from today's evil generation—Acts 2:40-47:
 - a. God wants to save us—through this ark—from the crooked generation and usher us into God's kingdom—Matt. 6:33; 13:43; Luke 12:32; Rev. 11:15.
 - b. God cares for whether or not we are in the ark, the proper church life—1 Cor. 12:12; Rev. 1:2, 9, 11, 20; 22:16.
- B. When the church as the ark is built up, the Lord Jesus will return—19:7; 22:7, 12, 20.

Focus: We should be today's “family of Noah,” building up the church as the ark in order to fulfill God's desire, be saved from the crooked and perverted generation, and bring in a new age, the age of the kingdom.

Hymns: 1268, “Dearest Lord, You've Called Us Here”

Study Questions:

1. What is the spiritual significance of the ark for us as believers today?
2. Why is it crucial for us to build the real ark today?

Recommended Reading:

Life-study of Genesis, msgs. 28-31

The Testimony of Jesus, chs. 3, 7-8

Messages for Building Up New Believers, vol. 1, ch. 1

Notes

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Message Five

The New Life of Noah's Family

Scripture Reading: Gen. 8:1—9:17

I. After the flood, the eight persons of Noah's family saved through the ark began to have a new living; this new living is a picture of the church life—Gen. 8:1—9:17; Rom. 6:4; Acts 2:38-47:

- A. The passing of the eight persons through the flood in the ark is a picture of baptism, and the living of the eight persons after the flood is a picture of the church life—1 Pet. 3:20-21:
 - 1. When we were baptized, we buried the old community and society—Acts 2:38-40.
 - 2. Through baptism we enter into the church, which is our new community, another society—1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:38-47.
- B. God made a covenant with Noah and with every living creature that never again would death come through the judgment of the flood; this portrays that in the church life there is no longer death, but life—Gen. 9:8-17:
 - 1. We may be assured and at peace in the church life, for there is no more death—2 Tim. 1:10; Heb. 2:14-16; Rom. 8:2.
 - 2. We should not be threatened or frightened by the clouds of our convictions, feelings, and environments; we should not be threatened by any dark or negative thing; we are the covenanted people, and we have a verse of promise to meet every situation—Lam. 3:22-23; Rom. 8:1; 2 Cor. 12:9; 2 Tim. 1:10; 2:1; 1 John 1:9; 1 Cor. 1:9.

II. The new life that Noah and his family lived was a shadow of the kingdom—Gen. 8:4, 18; 9:1-7, 18-27:

- A. After the flood Noah represented God's authority; this was a shadow of the kingdom of God—v. 6.
- B. The kingdom is a realm in which God can rule and exercise His authority to accomplish His plan—Matt. 12:28; Mark 1:15.
- C. The kingdom is the church life today; thus, to practice the church life is to practice the kingdom—Rom. 14:17; Rev. 1:5-6, 9.
- D. Today we need to be fully under the Lord's ruling and give Him the full ground to establish His kingdom within us—Mark 4:3-20, 26-29; cf. Rev. 22:1.
- E. After the Lord returns and clears up the problems on earth (Matt. 13:40-42; Rev. 19:20-21; 20:1-3), He will establish His kingdom on the earth, and the earth will become His kingdom—11:15; Dan. 2:31-44:
 - 1. In His first coming, Christ settled our personal sins; in His second coming, He will settle the sins of this world—1 Cor. 15:3; Psa. 72:1-5, 7-14; cf. Mal. 4:2, and footnote 1.
 - 2. When Christ returns, He will settle all the problems of the world, including the suffering of God's creation (Rom. 8:19-22; Isa. 11:6-7; cf. 55:12b), injustice (Psa. 72:1-4; Isa. 11:4), war (2:4), sickness (33:24; Ezek. 47:12), and famine (Isa. 35:1; 43:19-20; 51:3).
 - 3. Our hearts should always be set on the Lord's return; this is our heavenly calling—S.S. 8:14; 1 Thes. 1:9-10; Phil. 3:20-21; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 22:20.

Focus: The new life of Noah's family after the flood is a picture of the church life, our new community, which we enter into through baptism, and it is also a shadow of the kingdom, which has its reality in the church life today and will be established over the whole earth when the Lord returns.

Hymns: 1237, 1299, 946

Study Questions:

1. How is the new life of Noah's family after the flood a picture of the church life today?
2. What does it mean to say that the church is our new community? How is this related to baptism?
3. How is the new life of Noah's family a shadow of the kingdom? How does this apply to our experience in our Christian life and church life today?

Recommended Reading:

Life-study of Genesis, msgs. 32-33

Messages for Building Up New Believers, vol. 3, Appendix Two

Notes