

Title: Like The Days of Noah

Text: Luke 17:26-30

Would you take your Bibles and turn to the Gospel of Luke chapter 17. The Gospel of Luke chapter 17.

Tonight I want to consider another birth pang. Concerning the second coming of Jesus, Matthew gives to us certain signs. And he says that "these are merely the beginning of birth pangs." Well, tonight we are going to ~~look~~ look at one more birth pang.

Luke chapter 17 beginning at Vs 26.....(READ VS 26-30)

PRAYER

Twice in history mankind became so corrupt that God visited ^{them} us with judgment. The two events were the flood and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. In the flood the world's population was destroyed except for eight people: Noah and his wife and Noah's three sons and their wives. All else was destroyed.

The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were consumed by fire in the days of Lot. Only Lot and his wife and his two daughters survived. And the Bible makes it very clear as to why God brought His judgement: "THE PEOPLE WERE SO EVIL THAT GOD'S MERCY WAS EXHAUSTED AND IN HIS HOLINESS HE DESTROYED THEM ALL."

Now, Jesus used these two judgements as an illustration of conditions on the earth just prior to His second coming.

Take your Bibles and turn back to the book of Genesis. Genesis chapter 6. As we read the conditions in the days of Noah, I want you to notice the four basic conditions that were present in Noah's day, which brought the judgement of God on the people.

Genesis 6:5-8)

Now, turn over to Genesis chapter 19. Here we learn about the conditions of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Condition number one: SEXUAL PERVERSION

(Read Genesis 19:1-11)

Now, these two passages reveal four conditions that brought on the judgment of God. And you will have to decide for yourself whether or not you can see history repeating itself.

(1) First condtion : SEXUAL PERVERSION

One of the most beautiful and meaningful relationships that ~~to~~ people of the opposite sex can share is the oneness of the physical union, properly called "THE ACT OF MARRIAGE." God meant this experience both for the development of the human race; and for the emotional enrichment and physical pleasure of husband and wife. Contrary to popular opinion expressed by such deep thinkers as the Playboy Philosophy, sex is a sacred and holy experience in the eyes of God when and only when confined to marriage. And the Bible makes that very, very clear. Sex outside of marriage is considered by God as sin. In fact, it is a very greivous sin because it polutions marriage as THE one meaningful illustration of the relationship of Christ and the church. Sex outside of marriage is not taken lightly by God.

Now, in the days of Noah and Lot sexual ^{perversion} ran rampant. Not only was there a breakdown in marriage and the home, but homosexuality was accepted as a common practice. The Bible says of the Sodomites..(a name used for centuries to describe sexual perversion)...that there "sin is very grievous". ^{Gen 18:20} Notice God called their perversion of sex a sin..By perversion I mean: homosexuality...sex outside of marriage...per-marrital sex...etc. It is all referred to as SIN.

And if you read these stories carefully, you will notice the ^{depths} ~~depths~~ of depravity to which people can sink when they reject God. And we stand amazed at men demanding sexual relations with other men and women with women. But the Apostle Paul tells us how such conditions developed.

Take :your Bibles and turn to Romans chapter 1....(READ 1:21-28)

Now, is this a picture of our day? Are we living in days as corrupt as the days of Noah and Lot?

I am told that the greatest single problem of our society, today, is the nationwide breakdown of the home; and ^{the complete desegregation of the} ~~the increasing divorce rate~~ that in ~~some places, like California, destroys one out of every two marriages.~~ ^{and proper use of self}

I quote Dr. James Dobson. "Sexual freedom has been proposed and practiced by free-love advocates of our society until men and women mate like animals, and wonder why they feel like beasts."

In the past few years the sensibilities of decent christians have been shocked as homosexuality has come out of the closet into the open. The British Parliament has made homosexual practice legal in private. And I believe the U.S. is not far behind. In this area it is very common to read about the marriages of homosexuals. Even in the name of God. The homosexual society boasts that there are at least 100,000 homosexuals living in California alone.

You know, dear friends, I really believe we are living in a sexually polluted era, much like the days of Noah and Lot.

(2) Now, the second contition --EVIL IMAGINATIONS

Genesis chapter 6 verse 5 says "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."

This depravity of Noah's day scarcely needs further discussion as a characteristic of our day.

Do you know the cause of this wickedness?....Proverbs 23:7 makes it so clear: "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

If you fill your mind with trash....you will be trash. But if you fill your mind and life with good things:...good books...good movies...good T.V. shows...with the things of God....your life will reflect the qualities of wholeness.....

(3) Third condition---A Violent Society. Genesis 6:12 says, "And God ~~looked~~ looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt and God said, The earth is filled with violence, and I will destroy them."

And as you compare this description with that of Lot's day, you will notice that both generations produced lovers of violence. Whenever people degenerate sexually to the level of animals, they also adopt the animals tendency for violence. Have you ever thought about that?

The peaceful, law-abiding citizens who once marked our society were nurtured by laws and principles laid down by our chirsitian forefathers. These laws have given way to "progressive ideas" based on atheistic humanism. RESULT....we are living in a violent society.

Everyday our newspapers report the tragac parade of violence. Accounts of raps, stabbings, and murder are the real-life acts of violence our childrer have watched casually on TV for the past 30 years. Washington, DC.C. is one of the most unsafe cities in the world. And many of you will not even drive through Oakland.

Dear Friends, we are living in a violent society. A society that is standing before a loving God who maybe nearing the end of His patience --as in the days of Noah and Lot.

(4) The fourth condition - CASUAL LIVING

Inspite of the preaching of Noah and the warnings of Lot, people went right on eating, drinking, buying, selling, marrying, and giving in marriage until the flood came or the brimstone fell.

Now, friends, there is nothing wrong with these activities. They are part of everyday life. AND THAT IS THE POINT. The people of Noah's and Lot's day continued to live their lives in the face of impending judgment. They refused to believe the warnings of God.

Today, the Word of God cries out to unrighteous people to repent of their sin and make Jesus the Lord and Savjour of their lives.

Dear friends, the prophecies of Scripture clearly indicate that the coming of Christ maybe at any time. The illustration of Noah and Lot is very clear. Yet, the jorld rushes on....bying, selling, eating, drinking, marryng, and giving in marriage. ~~This generation, as the Lord predicted, is like Noah's generation~~

This generation, as the Lord Predicted, is like Noah's generation, which "knew not until the flood came, and took them away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be(Matt. 24:39)

Do we not see this birth pang taking place today?

However If we sense the nearness of the second coming of Jesus, how much nearer are we to the rapture of the church. Because the rapture takes place seven years prorir to the glorious appearing of Jesus in great power.

Well, God only knows. But, if he were to come today, will he find us faithful in service....faithful in living....faithful in our speach.... faithful in our witness....faithful in our family relations....?

Shall we close in prayer