

Title: The Days of Noah

Text: Matthew 24:32-44

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conclude

Turn in your Bibles to Matthew chapter 24. Matthew chapter 24 as we (continue) our study of Prophecy. Our subject: TH DAYS OF NOAH. Matthew 24 beginning with Vs 32...

(Read Matt. 24:32-44)PRAYERLet's Review

The signs of the end of the age were presented to us in Vs 4-14. In verses 15-29, Jesus outlines the events that will take place during the ^{LAST HALF OF THE} tribulation period. Then in Verses 29-31, we have the sign that will precede the appearance of Jesus. The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, and then the son of man will appear in the sky and all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.

Now, beginning with Vs 32 Jesus gives a series of parables to illustrate the nearness of his second Coming. He starts with the parable of the fig tree. When its branches have become tender and it has put forth leaves, you know the event is near....WHAT EVENT?....

The return of Jesus Christ ^{at the end of the Tribulation period when He} comes in power and glory.

He, also, says in Vs 34, that this generation will not pass away. WHAT GENERATION IS JESUS REFERRING TO? Certainly not the disciples. They have already passed away. WHAT GENERATION? Two possibilities..

(1) One, this generation could refer to the generation in the tribulation period. And they will not pass away until they see the whole thing fulfilled. The remenant..the elect..those folks who will be spared by God during the tribulation period. *This is the view I hold*

(2) OR..it may refer simply to the whole nation of Israel. They will never pass out of existence until all things are fulfilled.

() Now, coming to Vs 36, we find that the second coming of Christ will be just like the days of Noah. Here we have a tremendous illustration of the days preceding Christ's second coming. *in power and great glory.* They will be like the days of Noah.

Now, I would like to share six things with you about the days of Noah and *(Gen 6)* compare them with our day.

(1) Number one, you will notice from Vs 36 the surprise of that day. Jesus said, "of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."

Now, some people have said, "Well, if Jesus is God, didn't He know the hour of His return?" You need to remember that when our Lord was here on earth, he willing laid aside all of his divine rights and privileges, and he became man. So, willing in the flesh, Jesus limited himself, in his knowledge in the flesh on this earth of that event.

But, the main point is the surprise of that day. And you know, I believe that if it is going to be a surprise when Jesus comes back at the end of the tribulation period, how much more so when 7 years before, the RAPTURE of the church takes place. We will be caught up to meet Him in the air. The dead will rise first and then we who are alive will be caught up to meet the Lord. We will be transformed, in a moment, in a twiliging of an eye.

Think of the surprise of that day. Think ..if it would happen as we close our service *Today* tonight. Think..how many people would be completely shocked.

~~THINK NOW~~

Think ..how many homes would be broken up and divided. Think how many people will be lost forever who have listened to the Gospel in this church.

Dear friends, it will be a surprising day. Jesus said it will come as a thief in the night. A thief doesn't announce he is coming. Have you ever noticed that? I have never been called on the phone by a thief. HAVE YOU?

"I would just like to warn you folks that I am going to rob your house tonight. And I would appreciate it if you would set everything out for me."

You know, folks, we laugh at that. But, a lot of us are treating the second coming of Christ in much the same manner. We act like we will have time to change. As though we can say to Christ, "Lord, just a little longer so I can get my house in order. So, that I can get prepared."

Oh, ^{No} know. It will be a complete and total surprise. And it is interesting that both ^{Party} events of the second coming of Christ, the rapture and the revelation both events will be a surprise. *SAO BUT TRUE*

(2) Then secondly, I would like you to notice the signs of that day, according to Jesus. He says in Vs 37, "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, untill the day that Noah entered the Ark."

So, Jesus said that the days of Noah were characterized by people who were eating and drinking. WHAT IS WRONG WITH THAT?

They were Marrying and giving in marriage. WHAT IS WRONG WITH THAT?

I would like to share something with you, that not everyone believes along with me. So, get out your notebook and take it down so you can blame me. I believe, in Matthew 24, when Jesus is obviously pointing out a characteristic of Noah's day of marrying and giving in marriage that He is not talking about the normal aspects of life...The normal everyday aspects of life. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT. *I don't believe that is the point at all.*

I believe what Jesus is referring to, if you will compare Genesis 6, is the marriage that God didn't approve of just before the flood. AND WHAT WAS THAT? THE SON'S OF GOD WITH THE DAUGHTERS OF MEN. NOW WHAT IS THAT?

Some people have said that the son's of God is referring to angels. That some type of wiered marriage took place between angels and human women...I don't believe that....

I believe that the SONS OF GOD REFER TO THE Godly line of Seth. And the message that God is trying to get across is that they were intermiggling, and marrying with men and women who were ungodly. They were violating what God had made holy...namely marriage...wickedness was every where. And in our present lanuage we would say that Christians were marrying non-christian Men were marrying men and women were marrying women. As a result the world was full of violence. They were violating God's law of marriage.

And the phrase "eating and drinking" as I have compared it in scripture is usually used with the idea of sin...Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow I die.. The idea that we have no need to look to the future and to prepare for it. Let's live it up today.

And the contents of Genesis 6 teaches us that the earth was filled with violence.

And what do we see today...If we see these things today, how near is the coming of Christ? Because these things preceed His coming in power and great glory. The rapture of the Church happens 7 years before the end of the age. How near we must be to the return of Christ.

Now, be sure to remember that that is my view. Many do not agree with me. But, I think if you study it ^{through} you will find it consistent through out the bible.

The days of Noah..Living it up...filled with wickedness...God saw that it was great.... Marrying against God's will..Christians marrying non-christians...Men with men and women with women...And the corruption it brought to the world.

(3)Now, ^{and} come back to Matthew 24, if you will. Third:...in the signs of that day, we are told that they knew not until the flood came(Vs 39). And this indicates to me that there was no response to the fact that Judgement was coming. No responses.

And this is very interesting because in Noah's day they had more knowledge about the coming judgment than you might think,

According to the Bible a man named Enoch was ^{of} a man who walked with God. And the book of Jude tells us that Enoch was the first Bible preacher on prophecy. He proclaimed to his generation: "Behold the Lord is coming." You can read about it in the little book of Jude.

Now, if you compare the years in Genesis you will discover some interesting things. For example: Enoch was alive at the same time that Noah's father was alive. Enoch, this Bible preacher on prophecy, was alive at the time Noah's father was alive.

You will, also, discover something else. And that is that ^E Enoch named one of his son's Methuselah. ^{you all know that} Methuselah was the oldest man that ever lived. ^{But} Do you know what the name Methuselah means? It means : "it is coming in judgement."

Something else very interesting. When Methuselah died the flood came.

What am I trying to say? If you will follow very carefully, the genealogies of Genesis, you will discover that Enoch when he gave that prophecy, when he preached about the coming judgment, he named his Son in prophecy, that when he dies, judgment will come upon the world. And when you follow it through from Adam onward, you will discover that the death of Methuselah occurs in the very same year that the flood came.

Dear friends, I think it is fantastic. In other words, when the flood came that generation already had much evidence that God's judgement was coming. Enoch preach judgement. He named his son in prophecy. That when Methuselah dies, judgement will come. Dear friends, there was a knowledge of the coming judgment of God.

Also, you had Noah preaching for years. It took him 120 years to build the Ark. And during that time he preached that judgment was coming. He encouraged the people to turn to the Lord. But, they didn't. They did not respond.

And I read in Matthew about the future days,....that as in the days before the flood... Vs 39...they did not understand ^{until} ~~until~~ the flood came. They had the evidence..But, they didn't respond to it.

Oh, dear friends, today we have more knowledge about God's coming judgment than we have ever had before. Since 1900 there has been more preaching on the Second Coming of Christ than ever before in history. And we will be held accountable.

But, unfortunately when Christ comes in power and glory it will be just like the days of Noah. Much preaching but no response. And in spite of the judgments of God during the tribulation people will not repent.

I wonder that it will take to move our hearts? How many times we hear messages? I know there is something we should do. We know the decision we should make. Whether Christian or non-christian. We know what we must do...BUT WE DON'T DO IT. We go on and we do not respond. Are we not much like the signs of the time preceeding the coming of Christ?

We have the knowledge. We have the evidence. We know what we should do. We hear the preaching and the teaching from the Word of God, but many do not respond. We are living as if the principles of God's Word are not important. WE never apply them to our lives. We never change. We continue to live by the philosophies of the world believing that our way is better than God's way. And thus we fail to witness and invite people to Christ and His church.

(4) Now, point number four, Vs 38. In this verse we read that "they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark."

And this is an important note because we have here the safety of that day. It was in the Ark. 8 people were saved. Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives. Safety and security was in the ark.

And in the Bible the Ark represent the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is our Ark. And so, my question to you: ARE YOU IN THE ARK? Are you in the safety and security of the Lord Jesus Christ? Have you really come to believe Him and trust Him? He who has the son has every lasting life. Do you believe that? Do you know Christ?

The only safety in that ^{the Day of Noah} day was in the Ark. And, dear friends, the only safety in this day and age is faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

(5) And in the fiveth place, notice the great sorrow of that day in Vs 39. It is really a sad point. Vs 39 says "they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away. They all perished. It is so sad.

(6) And then finally, in Vs 42, the situation facing us today. Jesus said, "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming

Look at Vs 44 "For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will."

May I say to you that you could not watch in a better way than in giving your heart to Jesus Christ right now. There would be no better way than to give your life to Christ. "You do not know which day your Lord is coming." If that is true of Christ return in power and great glory at the end of the tribulation, how much more is it true at the time of the rapture of the church. Jesus could come today. He could call us up to meet him in the clouds. I wonder, will we be there? Will everyone of us in this room be there?

HOW CAN WE KNOW? How do we know whether we will or will not? There is only one guarantee that I know of, ^{Dear Friends,} And that is, if your faith is resting upon the facts of the Word of God. Not upon feelings. Not upon the way you have lived or have not lived. But faith that rest upon the fact that He who has the son of God has everlasting life. Dear friends, there is no other way.

I have complete forgiveness of sins because Jesus died and paid for all my sins. And the moment I ask Him to come into my life, trusting only God's Word, not how I feel, not what someone else says, only the Bible. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. And the Bible tells us to believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. And if ^{you} have accepted Christ as your Lord and Saviour, then when judgment comes you will ~~not~~ be ~~un~~prepared.

I want to close with a simple illustration... A little boy was sitting in front of his grandfathers clock. He liked to set in front of the clock and watch the pendulum swing back and forth. And one day he was anxiously awaiting the clock to strick 12. He sat and waited. And then the clock began to strick the hour. And he heard the gongs...one....two....three... He just loved to hear the gongs of the old grandfather clock. And when that old grandfather clock came to the 12th gong, something saped in the mechanism and that gong just kep going... thirteen...fourteen....fifteen...

And the little boy was scared to death and he ran to his mother and said: "Mom, it is later than it has ever been before....."

^{Do You Understand?}
~~What a tremendous point.~~ It is later than it has ever been before. We have no guarantee of an other hour beyond this moment. This is the time to come to Christ. ^{IF} you don't have assurance of life eternal, make sure today. Ask Christ to be YOUR Saviour.

LET US CLOSE WITH A WORD OF PRAYER.