

The Days of Noah

“And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.” Luke 17:26-27

After three decades of being a Christian and a quarter century of serious Bible study and Christian service, this writer is convinced that nothing really new ever happens. As Solomon assures us in Ecclesiastes 1:9, **“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.”** Because of this truth, people do not *have* to keep repeating the same mistakes over and over. We can and should learn from the past and better ourselves. Yet, verse eleven balances this truth with a heavy dose of human nature: **“There is no remembrance of former things.”** Or, as someone has stated another way, *“The only thing that men learn from history is that men never learn from history.”* Consequently, the Bible is a book that tells us what mankind has done and what he is going to do, yet it shows no regard for what he *wants* to do or *thinks* he will do. He will do what God says he will do, plain and simple. His willful ignorance of the Bible and history condemns him to willfully repeat the mistakes of his ancestors.

So, with no regard for man’s dreams or intentions, the Lord Jesus said that the second coming generation will repeat the mistakes of the great flood generation. Although the eating and drinking (self-preservation) and the marrying and giving in marriage (self-propagation) are named specifically, they actually serve as broad categories in which numerous comparisons may be found.

As we shall observe, the days of Noah were days in which people were so obsessed with *self* that they had no time for God, and those days are strikingly similar to our own days. If we are wise, we will learn from those days and not be numbered among the ignorant masses that repeat their mistakes and reap judgment.

Eating and Drinking

In your mind, draw a circle around your home that reaches twenty miles in all directions. Chances are, without ever leaving that circle you can find just about any kind of food that you would ever want to eat. You can find seafood, Mexican food, Chinese food, health food, pizza, country buffet food, snack food, hamburgers, fries, steaks, ice crème, baked goods, numerous blends and styles of coffee, and any cold drink that you want. Clearly, eating and drinking has become a pleasure in our society.

Jesus ate and drank himself, so when he spoke about eating and drinking, he wasn't making a condemnation of this basic human need. He was condemning the practice of turning a need into a pleasure. We should eat to live, not live to eat. We should eat and drink in order to stay in good health as we seek to keep God's commandments and fulfill his will in our lives. Yet, like Noah's generation, we have corrupted our way upon the earth by making gods out of our taste buds and our bellies. Rather than being content and thankful that supper will be prepared and served, we must ask, "*What's for supper?*" The question is clearly a pleasure question that concerns the taste buds and the belly, and it represents the mindset of the age in which we live, a mind set on likes and dislikes rather than on needs and contentment.

Marrying and Giving in Marriage

There's certainly nothing wrong with the institution of marriage, in and of itself, but there's plenty wrong with *the people getting married*. Apart from the fact that many marriage candidates do not meet the requirements for a scriptural marriage, the *motivation* for the marriage is usually wrong also. The average marriage today is a heathen marriage that is motivated by desires for companionship, sex, tax breaks, social status, and pride in self-propagation. Very few couples are serious Christians who desire to have a Christ-honoring marriage and family. The closest most marriages every come to Christ is when they use his church building for the wedding ceremony. After that, it's the way of the world with two full-time jobs, kids, sports, Disneyworld vacations, dating teenagers, high school proms, saving for college, saving for retirement, and showing off the grandkids. So, in most cases, marrying and giving in marriage represents a life of self-interests with no serious regard for God, the Bible, or the Lord Jesus Christ. But it will continue without missing a beat because we are in the last days when the spirit of the age matches that of Noah's day.

Only Evil Continually

This was a pleasure-loving, self-serving, extremely wicked society. Gen. 6:5 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 continually.”** To be only evil would have to mean that no one ever thought about God and his holiness and their accountability to him. As Psalm 10:4 says, **“The wicked, through the pride of his countenance,**

will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.”

The whole pre-flood society was apparently humanistic, thinking only about man. If a man wasn't doing evil, he was thinking about it. This condition began with the murder of Abel in Genesis chapter four and then grew worse until God's longsuffering expired and he sent the great flood some sixteen centuries later, around 2344 B.C.

Satan's Attack on the Conscience

In dispensational studies, the days of Noah are known as the dispensation of conscience. It began when Adam and Eve *knew* they were naked (Gen. 3:8), and it lasted until the flood. During this time, God held man accountable for what he *knew* to be right and wrong in the eyes of the Lord. So Satan's tactic during this dispensation was to erase God from man's conscience, to have men live in absence of God by eating, drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage without God in the picture.

The Worldly Cainites

Let's consider Cain and his descendants and see how Satan succeeds in this effort. After all, Cain is spoken of in the New Testament as being "of that wicked one" (I John 3:12), which makes him and his descendants a type of the modern-day lost people of the world. Adam had other sons and daughters (Gen. 5:4), but God singles out only the descendants of Cain and Seth for some reason. With the exception of eight souls, we know that the descendants of Cain and Seth ended up drowning in the flood, but it appears that the corruption began with the Cainites and eventually spread to the Sethites by the time

of the flood. This makes the two lines a perfect type of the modern-day world that is increasingly conquering the church.

We read in Genesis 4:2 that Cain was a “tiller of the ground,” unlike his righteous brother who was a shepherd. There’s nothing particularly wrong with tilling the ground, but the type here speaks of a man of the world, earthly-minded and worldly, grounded instead of heavenly. Abel, on the other hand was a shepherd caring for his sheep, a type of Christ the good shepherd of John 10:11. Furthermore, the tilling of the ground represents self-sufficiency and self-righteousness, whereas the keeping of sheep speaks of sacrifice and blood atonement. In essence, Abel pictures the man of faith, which is evident by the fact that God accepted his sacrifice. Cain’s sacrifice was rejected because he pictured the worldly man of works and wickedness. This is why people are said to be going “in the way of Cain” in Jude 1:11 only three verses before the days of Noah are compared to the last days before the Lord’s return: **“Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain . . . And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints”** (Jude 1:11, 14)

Genesis 4:5 tells us that Cain was “very wroth” toward the Lord after his sacrifice was rejected and that “his countenance fell,” indicative of a continuing bad attitude toward God. Is this not the way of the world—to have a continuing negative attitude toward God, his word, and his people, rather than living with a humble and thankful attitude? How can a man possibly benefit from being angry with God? As God said to Jonah, **“Doest thou well to be angry?”** (Jon. 4:4, 9) No one does well to be angry with God, and decent people acknowledge this and correct themselves. Those who do not are evil-minded followers of Cain, and their numbers are increasing rapidly just as they did in the days of Noah.

We read in Genesis 4:6-7 that God gave Cain space to repent when he said, **“If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?”** Yet, Cain’s pride and jealousy toward his righteous brother kept him chained to his wicked ways. He could have gone to Abel and asked for a lamb to offer as an offering to God, but his attitude was *“I’m not about to ask that religious nut for anything! I’m twice the man he is, and I work twice as hard for everything I have. If that’s not good enough for God, then he can just do without an offering!”* Something like that must have been Cain’s attitude because he went ahead and murdered his brother after the Lord spoke to him. Like so many today, he was given space to repent, yet he repented not. Instead, he allowed his bitterness to grow like a cancer and drive him to greater sins, even murder (Gen. 4:8). So it is with the world today. Though given space to repent (II Pet. 3:9), evil men wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived (II Tim. 3:13). Like in the days of Noah, this will culminate in God’s intervening judgment.

After murdering Abel, Cain was confronted by God, and then he lied about his evil deed by saying that he didn’t know where Cain was, yet he knew very well that he lay dead where he had left him. Likewise, men lie today in an effort to justify themselves and avoid coming clean with God. When a man says that preachers care only about money, he’s lying. *Some* preachers care only about money; a great many still care about souls. When a man says that he plans to visit your church some day, he’s probably lying, knowing fully well that he has no intention of visiting. Others will say that they’re saved when they know they are not saved. But claiming salvation is their way of telling you to leave them alone and bug someone else. They’re liars, plain and simple, and they will keep lying in their efforts to avoid God and His Son. Paul writes in II Timothy 3:3 that there will be “trucebreakers” in the last days, people who do not keep

their word. It seems that with every passing year people are less trustworthy and dependable. This way of life will continue until God's intervening judgment changes everything, as did the flood of Noah's day.

God tells Cain in Genesis 4:11 that he is cursed. So, the unsaved world today is cursed. II Peter 2:14 calls them "cursed children." Consequently, a great many of them use their mouths to spew forth cursing: **"His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity."** (Psa. 10:7) People curse because they are *under* a curse, the curse of sin and death, and only Jesus Christ can remove it. Yet, just as Cain rejected the religion of righteous Abel, lost people today reject Jesus Christ. The next time someone apologizes to you for cursing, simply say, *"That's alright; I'd curse too if I were still lost and going to Hell."*

God tells Cain in Genesis 4:12 that he would be a **"fugitive and a vagabond,"** which means that he would wander about with no established home. In fact, verse sixteen tells us that Cain ends up dwelling in the land of *Nod*, a word which means "wandering" or "unrest." Is this not the perfect description of a lost man? His home certainly isn't heaven, and, although he thinks that the earth is his home, he will one day be cast into outer darkness while *the meek* inherit the earth (Mat. 22:13; Mat. 5:5). Like the unclean and unsettled raven that never returned to Noah's ark for rest (Gen. 8:7), the lost man wanders "to and fro" in the earth for several decades without ever coming to realize his purpose for existence. At last he wanders into his eternal home, the burning lake of fire. Jude 13 gives the perfect description of such a man after speaking of the "way of Cain" only two verses earlier: **"Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever."**

Cain was also a complainer. God declared Cain's punishment in Genesis 4:11-12. Then Cain complains in

verse thirteen by saying, **“My punishment is greater than I can bear,”** suggesting that God had been unfair. So it is today as people go about with their lives of pleasure, with their eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage. Anything not pleasurable is considered unfair and oppressive, and they’ll cast their vote for any politician that promises to relieve their so-called affliction. They are “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God” (II Tim. 3:4), and they’ll complain about anything or anyone that doesn’t bring them pleasure. They will complain about their jobs, the government, the economy, their churches, their spouses, the weather, their neighbors, and anyone who is happier or more successful than them. Finally, like the condemned rich man of Luke 16, they will end up complaining in hell—forever.

The wording of Genesis 4:16 is most interesting. It says that **“Cain went out from the presence of the LORD.”** Apparently, his descendants followed his example, because it isn’t until we come to the Sethites that we find anyone *calling* upon the name of the Lord (Gen. 4:26). Today, God’s presence is found in his word, in private prayer, and in the fellowship of other believers. Consequently, most people today don’t read the Bible, don’t pray, and they don’t attend Bible-believing churches. Like the world of Noah’s day, they have corrupted themselves by following the way of Cain and going away from the presence of the Lord.

We are told in Genesis 4:17 that Cain went out and built a *city*. He wasn’t commanded to do so, nor did he pray about it. He simply gave in to the self-preserving human tendency to cling to other people and feel secure. Isaiah 5:8 says, **“Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!”** It’s good for “brethren” to dwell together in unity (Psa. 133:1), but not people in general. The unity of the Spirit among believers is good (Eph. 4:3), but unregenerate man

needs as much division as possible, a truth that God made quite clear at the tower of Babel in Genesis 11:1-9. Is it not interesting that the first man ever to build a city was a murderer under a curse? Just check the crime rate of Washington D. C., Philadelphia, Detroit, Miami, or Los Angeles to get the point.

Some suggest that the naming of Cain's son, Enoch, indicated a change of heart on Cain's part, since the name implies "discipline" or "narrow." This *might* be true, but it didn't amount to much since the next man on the list made no attempt to carry on the tradition—assuming there was one.

That next man is Lamech, in Genesis 4:19, who perverts God's gift of marriage and sex by becoming the world's first polygamist. So, God's gift of marriage and sex is grossly perverted today by the figurative children of Cain. In addition to rampant fornication and adultery, our society is plagued with aggressive Sodomites pushing their sin on the rest of us with "same-sex marriage" while the "homophobe" and "hate" labels are being branded on anyone that opposes them. These conditions will continue until they are stopped by God's intervening judgment, just as the flood stopped them in Noah's day.

The world's first cowboy makes his appearance in Genesis 4:20. Like his ancestor Cain, he is a wanderer with no settled home, picturing today's lost man.

Genesis 4:21 presents Jubal, a man that we might call the father of music, or at least the father of wind instruments, such as Pan's pipes. Like all other Cainites, he practices his trade with no regard for God's purpose or plan. His music might have made life a little more enjoyable (hence: *Jubilee*) amidst all the work and toil of their hands as they sought to build a brave new world with all of their inventions and conveniences, but it doesn't appear that his music was used for the glory of God. After all, God hasn't been mentioned since Cain went out from his presence in Genesis 4:16. Like the lost

world of our own day, they sang and danced when they really had nothing to sing and dance about, but it provided a little salve for their consciences and made them feel like everything was alright. Some eight hundred years later Job would describe their “lifestyle” perfectly: **“They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance. They take the timbrel and harp, and rejoice at the sound of the organ. They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave. Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?”** (Job 21:11-15)

The memory of Cain is preserved in the naming of Tubalcain in Genesis 4:22, a name that means to flow, bring forth, carry, or lead. The modern equivalents would be progress, advancement, building a bridge to the future, one giant leap for mankind, etc. Tubalcain’s advancements in brass and iron took mankind to a whole new level—without God. Up with man, in with arts and industry, and out with God.

Cain is still being remembered in verse twenty four—by a polygamist and killer. Still, God isn’t mentioned, although his vengeance is hinted at by Lamech, but only for selfish reasons: **“If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.”** In fact, one might say that Lamech’s comment was an ill-motivated slap at God because he began it with the word “if” in the same spirit that a skeptic might say “If the Bible is true, then . . .” or “If God is a God of love, then . . .”

There is no indication that any of Cain’s descendants had any interest in living for the glory of God. These people were all about the preservation and advancement of mankind. They worked like madmen and drove everyone, including the Sethites, into a state of weariness. By the time of Noah’s birth, it was said

(though by the Sethites), **“This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.”** (Gen. 5:29) Life was hard, and without God it was a lot harder (Pro. 13:15). This whole generation pictured the last generation preceding Christ’s return. They worked like fools trying to build a world order that would help mankind, yet they became more wicked with every passing day and brought about their own destruction. So it is with the United Nations, the World Council of Churches, the Council on Foreign Relations, the National Education Association, the NAACP, and over ninety percent of the politicians in Washington. The heathen will rage and gather themselves together against the Lord (Psa. 1) because they “cannot rest” in their sinful condition (Isa. 57:20-21). They will keep running to and fro with their advanced knowledge (Dan. 12:4) and pushing for a global, socialist, humanistic government that has no room for God or the Bible. Finally, they will get *more* than they bargained for when they get a New World Order headed up by the Son of Perdition. When God has had enough, his Son will return, destroy the wicked, and establish **“a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people.”** (Dan. 2:44) At last, this groaning and travailing creation (Rom. 8:22) will enjoy its Sabbath rest—with the Lord Jesus Christ ruling from Jerusalem (Psa. 2; Mat. 5:35). Just as Noah ushered in an age of comfort and rest after the great flood (Gen. 5:29), Jesus will usher in a new and peaceful world when he returns.

The Godly-Minded Sethites

I want to be careful here and not suggest that the Sethites were a “godly line,” as opposed to the ungoldly

line of Cain. The Sethites were eventually corrupted with everyone else, and they drowned in the flood like everyone else (just as modern “Christianity” is rapidly falling into apostasy like everyone else). However, the verses that we are about to see do indicate that the Sethites had a spiritual heritage that they attempted to hold on to for at least a while. Noah and his family were simply the spiritual survivors of this line.

Genesis 4:25 tells us that Seth was given as a “substitute” for Abel, which is what the name means. Being a substitute for “righteous Abel” (Mat. 23:35), he is clearly the man that God chose to carry on the promised seed of Genesis 3:15. Apparently, the Sethites understood this and made an effort to remain godly and preserve the seed, which they were successful in doing through Noah and his son Shem.

On a side note, it might be of interest to point out that Abel pictures Christ the promised seed at the first coming (a righteous shepherd slain) while Seth pictures Christ the promised seed at the Second Coming (a man whose descendants looked for a victorious blessed hope, according to Jude 14).

Verse twenty-six tells us that men began to **“call upon the name of the LORD.”** It’s interesting that this is mentioned only after Enos is born, a man whose name means “mortal,” a rather humble name compared to the aggressiveness and pride of the Cainites.

Some interesting words are used in Genesis 5:1, a phrase that is used only two times in the Bible. The phrase **“book of the generations”** is used in reference to Adam’s descendants through Seth. These words are also used in reference to Jesus in Matthew 1:1: **“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ.”** In the book of the generations of Adam, *death* is emphasized (Gen. 5:5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, 31), yet death isn’t mentioned even once in the book of the generation of Jesus Christ. Instead, the word “begat” is found thirty-nine times.

Paul's words to the Corinthians sum it up quite well: **“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”** (I Cor. 15:22) Also, please note that the book of the generations of Adam included only his descendants through Seth, since this concerned the promised seed. The children of Cain and the children of the other sons (Gen. 5:4) were not included in the list. Likewise, lost people living today do not have their names recorded in the book of life (Plp. 4:3; Luke 10:20).

The word “blessed” is used in Genesis 5:2, a word that was never used in Cain's genealogy. But it is used here in preparation for the genealogy of Adam through Seth, the line of the promised seed. Consequently, the mention of *long life* first appears—in connection with the Adam-Seth line, not the cursed line of Cain. In fact, we are never told how long Cain and his descendants lived or even that they “lived” at all. The word “lived” is first used in connection with Adam in Genesis 5:3-5, then with Seth and his descendants throughout the chapter. Sure the Cainites lived long lives also, but the Holy Spirit chooses not to mention it. Does this not picture the fact that only the righteous enjoy eternal life? After all, the first occurrence of the word “live” is found in Genesis 3:22, and there the context is living *for ever*.

The next Sethite is Enos (Gen. 5:6), which means “mortal,” a humble name, indeed. As already mentioned, we first see this man's name in connection with men calling upon the name of the Lord in Genesis 4:26.

Cainan is the next Sethite (Gen. 5:9). Meaning “possession” or “nest,” the name indicates someone who is settled, unlike Cain the vagabond who wandered to and fro like his father the devil (John 8:44; I John 3:12).

Then Mahalaleel comes along in Genesis 5:12 with a name that means “praise of God.” So, again, the Sethites show an effort to preserve their spiritual heritage, unlike the Cainites who never had one in the first place.

Jared is next in Genesis 5:15 with a name that means to “descend.” Again, we have a Sethite showing humility. After all, to *ascend* would be to follow the example of Lucifer (Isa. 14:13).

The next Sethite is Enoch, who is not the same as the Enoch which is Cain’s son. His name means to be “disciplined” or “narrow.” To truly be narrow or disciplined is the mark of a righteous man (Mat. 7:14; Luke 14:27), a characteristic that certainly matches the godly Enoch (Heb. 11:5). Rather than follow the wandering Cainites, he walked the straight and narrow way with God and turned out to be the only man raptured before the flood (Gen. 5:24). To add even more significance to his godly testimony, the Holy Spirit reminds us that Enoch is “the seventh from Adam” in Jude 1:14. Like all true last day believers, he was taken from this world before God’s judgment hit.

After Enoch comes Methuselah, the man with the most interesting name of all. One meaning of the name is “he dies and it is sent.” *The flood was sent the year after Methuselah died (Est. 2344 B.C.).* Others give “man of the dart” or “man of the javelin” as the meaning. Either way, we have the same thing implied. Methuselah’s life (the longest ever at 969 years) is a type of God’s grace and longsuffering in the church age before finally sending judgment (I Pet. 3:20; II Pet. 3:9). Methuselah’s birth was like the dart of judgment being thrown; his death was like the dart hitting the target. If this seems a bit of a stretch, please bear in mind that the man who *named* him is the one who preached **“Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints”** (Jude 1:14).

Lamech is next (not to be confused with the Lamech in Cain’s line). There’s nothing particularly noble about his name since it means “the strikerdown” or “the wild man,” but it does seem that the Holy Spirit wants to say something more positive about the man, so he informs us that he lived **“seven hundred seventy and**

seven years” in Genesis 5:31, which wraps up the pre-flood genealogy of the Sethites. Perhaps Cain’s pre-flood genealogy ended with 666? Probably not, but it’s an interesting thought.

Then came Noah, whose name means “comfort” or “rest.” He was given this name specifically in light of the fact that his people, the Sethites, knew that God’s curse on the ground was taking its toll on humanity (Gen. 5:29). So, again, it is the Sethites, not the Cainites, that make mention of God, and they were correct in believing that Noah would bring rest because Noah’s preaching gave comfort to anyone who believed it, although most of them died before the flood came, and the whole earth did enjoy a rest after the judgment of the flood. Likewise, the earth will enjoy the millennial rest after the second coming of Christ (Isa. 14:7). After all, Jesus did say, **“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”** (Mat. 11:28) The world-view of the Sethites was basically that mankind cannot fix his problems and that only God can fix them, and that’s what Bible believers believe today.

In summary, the Cainites picture the lost world that trusts man to make the world a better place. The Sethites picture the remnant church that believes God’s intervening judgment is the only cure for mankind. Eventually, they either died or went into apostasy because only eight of them boarded the ark. The Cainites can also be studied as a type of the Jew specifically, but that’s for another study altogether.

Marching to Judgment

Having studied the Cainites and Sethites separately, we will now consider the society as a whole since it was the whole world that perished, not just the

Cainites. The Cainites started out wicked and grew more wicked. The Sethites started out right, but gradually grew wicked as the older generations died and the younger ones failed to carry on their spiritual heritage. By the time of the flood, “. . . **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 continually.**” (Gen. 6:5) In essence, the world conquered the church and all were in the same boat. Unfortunately for them, it was the wrong boat.

Rejection of the Covenant God

It appears that Jehovah, the close and covenant God of the Bible, became more and more ignored as the days of Noah progressed. People believed in God, but they had no personal relationship with him. This is well reflected by the statement of Lamech in Genesis 4:24, “**If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.**” That’s not the attitude that one takes toward God, if they have a close relationship with him. That’s the attitude that we see all the time coming from unsaved people who either sit ready to find fault with God at every instance or to fashion him like unto themselves. Rather than accept God as he is, man wants to create his own god after his own image (Rom. 1:22-23). We know from God’s relationship with Adam and Eve in Genesis chapter three that he loves his human creation and that he desires a close walk with us. We also know from Genesis chapters three and four that God expects man to approach him through animal sacrifice, which includes a blood atonement, thus pointing to the Lord Jesus Christ’s atoning work at Calvary. Yet, after the murder of Abel, we do not see anyone making sacrifice. Perhaps some did so, but it isn’t mentioned, and certainly not among the

Cainites. They gradually came to acknowledge a distant creator God rather than honor and worship a close-up covenant God. As a result, all flesh corrupted its way upon the earth.

So it is today. Most people believe in God, but very few walk with him. By comparing themselves to atheists, polytheists, pantheists, pagans, occultists and Satanists, people can feel good about their belief in the Judean-Christian God of the Bible. The fact that they don't love and obey him is irrelevant. They believe in him, at least mentally, and that's enough to sooth their consciences. That's how it was in the days of Noah, and that's how it is today.

A Reliance on Human Inventions and Advancements

After rejecting the covenant God of the Bible, the next natural step for man is to rely on his own works. So we find arts and industry appearing in Genesis chapter four. Man was determined to chart his own course instead of walking the straight and narrow way of God. At last, he corrupted the whole planet with his sins and had to be destroyed. His intentions seemed good, but not good enough for God, and certainly not after rejecting a relationship with God. This basically amounted to idolatry and had to be judged.

Today's man is no different. Rather than trust God, he trusts the works of his own hands. Consciously, he thinks, *"I must do my part to help humanity move forward,"* but his subconscious thoughts are, *"As long as I stay busy helping my fellow man, I can pretend that God is pleased with me and that everything will work out okay for me in eternity. After all, I'm not as bad as so and so."*

Daniel 12:4 said that knowledge would be increased in the last days, and it says it immediately after saying that “many shall run to and fro.” Ah, yes, as in the days of Noah! Men ran to and fro in their zeal to preserve and propagate *self* while making the world “a better place to live.” They had agriculture, industry, and even music, but they didn’t have God. Today they have television, smart phones, computers, Internet, I-Pods, I-Pads, and Google, but they don’t have God. Knowledge is increased, but in the wrong direction. Man is so “smart” that he writes a United Nations charter without mentioning the “**King** of nations” (Jer. 10:7). Consequently, he’s had a continual increase of wars and rumors of wars since the document was drafted. Man is so “smart” that he’ll advance society to the technological point that it will be possible to give an ID tracking number to every person on the planet. Then he’ll take the mark of the beast and worship the Antichrist in the Great Tribulation. So much for trusting man for progress, advancement, and the evolution of the “human animal.”

A Gross Perversion of Marriage and Sex

Genesis 6:2 says that, “**That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.**” Verse four says, “**There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.**” In addition to being Satan’s attempt to defile the promised seed of Genesis 3:15, this was also his

way of perverting the sacred institution of marriage which God had ordained. The “sons of God” are angels in the Old Testament, and Jude 1:6-7 seems to indicate that some of the angels came to the earth and had sexual relations with women, thus producing the giants spoken of in Genesis 6:4. This was evidently a major factor in all flesh corrupting his way upon the earth (Gen. 6:12). The marrying and giving in marriage that Jesus spoke of was obviously more than just traditional God-ordained marriage. It was this perverted excess of carnality that corrupted all flesh and led to God’s intervening judgment. Even if one holds to the view that the sons of God were only the godly sons of Seth, it is still clear that the godly institution of marriage was perverted when the ungodly “daughters of men” married them.

Yet, all of this happened after the sons of God “saw the daughters of men that they were fair” (Gen. 6:2). Human nature being what it is, it’s probably safe to assume that these women, like most modern women, made sure they were noticed. There’s a reason for God telling women to be “keepers at home” (Tit. 2:5) and to wear “modest apparel” (I Tim. 2:9). For the purpose of populating the earth, God gave women the ability to attract husbands, but he never intended for a woman to attract anyone other than a husband. Just as carnal women today take great satisfaction in having as many men as possible lust after them, the women of Noah’s day apparently did the same because the Genesis account specifically says that the sons of God “saw the daughters of men that they were fair.” This coupled with I Corinthians 11:10 might indicate that the women of Noah’s day were partially responsible for attracting the sons of God by making themselves noticeable.

They are certainly making themselves noticeable today! Up until the twentieth century, most women kept themselves covered with long dresses that had long sleeves and a high neck line. Only a century ago the

female bathing suit had more material in it than some women wear to work today! Naturally, most men aren't going to object, and most women like the attention, so the trend has become the norm, and Hollywood and Madison Avenue are constantly pushing to take the standards even lower by glorifying the female body. A man can't buy a jug of milk on his way home from work without seeing the "daughters of men" strut their flesh across the parking lot, on the magazine covers, and probably behind the check-out. He can't stop by the auto parts store and buy an oil filter without seeing a life-size cardboard female in a bikini selling car wax. Once he arrives home, he can't even watch the news on television without seeing female hosts putting on an all-out leg show as they cover the news of the day. It's everywhere, and it's getting worse all the time. The standards of meekness and modesty for women are gone as society has chosen to glorify the female body.

And that's only the beginning. Fornication and adultery are committed millions of times daily in America alone, and Sodomy has been a "normal" condition (according to the AMA) for over thirty years. The "pop" and political cultures have both embraced sexual immorality and sexual perversion as acceptable "lifestyles." Things are not "as they've always been," like so many claim (II Pet. 3:4). One might have made a good case for this argument a couple hundred years ago, but not today—not after seeing the twentieth century and the first decade of the twenty-first century. Society is moving toward judgment at rocket speed, just as it did in the days of Noah preceding the flood.

A Population Boom

Populating the earth was God's original commission for man (Gen. 1:26-28), and he renewed that commission after the flood (Gen. 9:1). However, the context of both commissions was *righteousness*. Adam was still sinless when he received the commission, and Noah was a righteous preacher when he received it. *God never told an unrighteous man to populate the earth*. His will is for righteousness to flourish in the earth, not wickedness. So when men began to multiply in the earth (Gen. 6:1), sin soon followed (Gen. 6:5). This continued until the earth was "filled" with violence (Gen. 6:11). It wasn't sprinkled with a little sin here and a little sin there. It was "filled" with so much violence that man's imagination was "only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5) as "all flesh" corrupted his way (Gen. 6:12; the word "flesh" is found five times in Genesis 6). Sinners and sins were multiplying rapidly, and God would allow only so much before intervening with judgment.

So it is today. Only two hundred years ago the earth's population was about one billion. Today it is well over six billion. That's a six hundred percent increase in only two hundred years! But wait! Two hundred and fifty percent of that increase happened since 1950! Then came rock and roll, the rebellious 60's, Wal-Mart Super Centers, the technology boom, and the Internet—all complete with every fleshy sin imaginable. God has had about all he intends to take. The earth is again "filled" with violence as all flesh has corrupted his way. The only cure is judgment.

Rejection of Righteous Preaching

We are told in II Peter 2:5 that Noah was a “preacher of righteousness.” However, we are not told that he had a great following. In fact, I Peter 3:20 tells us that only eight souls were saved from the flood, and we know from the Genesis account that all eight were from the same family. This means that Noah’s preaching was rejected by both mainstream society and by the religious world. Enoch’s preaching of coming judgment was also rejected (Jude 14).

No doubt, both of these men preached the same message: *repent – judgment is coming!* We know this was Enoch’s basic message from Jude 14, and it’s doubtful that God would call Noah a preacher of righteousness if he neglected to warn people of coming judgment. So, both of these men had a negative message that went against the grain of society, and both were rejected. It’s not that people just lived in sin without the truth. They had the truth given to them, but they rejected it.

Well, as most readers of this booklet know, the church age is divided into seven distinct periods in Revelation chapters one, two, and three. The last period before the Lord returns is Laodicea, which matches the time in which we live. The period before Laodicea was Philadelphia, the church of the open door that was faithful with God’s word. This was the reformation church that gave us the King James Bible, the Great Awakenings, and the great missionary works of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. Then came the church of the *closed* door (Rev. 3:20), Laodicea, with the new Bible translations, the charismatics, and the cults. Laodicea’s attitude is well described in Revelation 3:17: “. . . **I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing . . .**” Today’s church is in apostasy with the

arrogant attitude that she needs nothing, including the truth of God's word. As Paul wrote, "**And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables**" (II Tim. 4:4). That's where we are today. We're in the final days before the judgment of God strikes the earth (Rev. 8:13), just as they were in the days of Noah.

A Gross Defilement of the Human Conscience

The days of Noah were the dispensation of conscience. This dispensation began with Adam and Eve realizing their nakedness in Eden (Gen. 3:8-10), and it ended with the judgment of the flood. During this time men were held accountable to their conscience. It was man's duty to remember that God was a covenant God who desired a relationship with man through obedience and sacrifice. This was made very clear in the case of Cain and Abel in Genesis chapter four. Man knew from this event that it was wrong to do harm to others and that only a blood sacrifice could keep man in fellowship with God. Yet, violence didn't end with Cain killing Abel. We read in Genesis 6:13 that the earth became "filled" with violence. The pre-flood society lived in violation of their God-given conscience. They knew what God required, but they refused to obey him. After a few generations of this willful disobedience, most probably didn't even know right from wrong, except for those who heard the preaching of saints like Noah and Enoch, and they rejected their messages. This just further seared the consciences of everyone until finally God saw that there was no remedy other than judgment.

Do we not witness the same condition today? Fifty years ago it was considered shameful for one to be a

Sodomite, yet today we call them “gays,” allow them to marry in some states, and we make television programs promoting their sin. Fifty years ago marriage was considered a sacred institution, one that couples didn’t take lightly, and one that they worked hard to honor. Today, divorce is about as common as marriage, and many people have gone through two or three marriages. Fifty years ago, many parents viewed rock music as the devil’s music. Today the same people buy rock music and concert tickets for their grandchildren. People once knew that the church house was a sacred place where one should expect to hear the truth preached. Today people will *leave* a church if they aren’t entertained with worldly music and endless activities. As Paul wrote to Timothy in I Timothy 4:2, we have had our conscience “seared with a hot iron,” as did the last generation prior to the flood. Like the proverbial frog in the hot water, we allowed the world to gradually turn up the heat until our sensitivities were seared and ineffective. The only cure is God’s intervening judgment.

The Exaltation and Reverence of Heroes

The giants in the days of Noah were “mighty men” and “men of renown” (Gen. 6:4). In other words, they were the heroes of the world. While embracing deism by keeping God far off at a “safe” distance, people looked elsewhere for greatness and found it in the giants. Rather than lead simple lives in obedience to God, they chose to seek out men to idolize. A good example of this appears later in the book of I Samuel when the giant Goliath makes his mark on the pages of scripture: **“And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath . . . the champion, the Philistine of Gath . . . And when the Philistines saw**

their champion was dead, they fled.” (I Sam. 17:4, 23, 51) Goliath was not just a giant; he was a *champion*, a hero among the Philistines. Things were much the same in the days of Noah, except there were many giants around. Probably every town or community had a giant or two that they idolized and trusted for leadership and defense. Being nothing less than idolatry, this is one of the things that provoked God to wrath and brought on the flood.

Well, *that* certainly matches our day and age! Hero worship goes hand-in-hand with deism. Once people cease to maintain a personal relationship with the covenant God of the Bible they begin to create all sorts of false gods, whether they call them such or not. The words “Oh, my ____, it’s Brad Pitt!” or “Oh, my ____, it’s Brittny Spears!” speak volumes. Their god isn’t the God of the Bible; it’s the god of the latest movie or television series, the latest hit song, or the latest sporting event. The lie that “Elvis is alive” will spark great interest with many people, but the truth that Jesus is alive will put people to sleep. If you wear a Christian t-shirt that conveys a gospel message, you are a “fanatic,” but if you wear a t-shirt promoting the latest rock idol, you are hip and cool. That’s the way of the world—to reject the holy God of the Bible and to exalt humanistic and sinful heroes.

Tremendous Increase in Spiritism

The angels that came down in the days of Noah were not just angels; they were also “spirits,” according to Psalm 104:4 and Hebrews 1:7, 14. So, with the descent of the fallen angels the world experienced a descent of fallen spirits. We also read in Psalm 78:49 that God can send “evil angels” into a society. This is apparently what happened prior to the flood and it played a major role in

bringing the world to the point where it was “filled with violence” and “evil continually” (Gen. 6:5-13).

This also matches the world condition today. Before the Lord pours out his Spirit on all flesh (Joel 2:28), the devil will pour out his spirit. The Scriptures are quite clear about this: **“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”** (Rev. 16:13-14) **“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”** (I Tim. 4:1) Since the late 1800’s, spiritism has experienced steady growth throughout the world—with the year 1881, in particular, being a milestone year in the occult, and also the year that England produced the Revised Version, a work based on the work of Westcott and Hort, men who had occult affiliations. Consequently, the Holy Spirit refuses to bear witness to every translation since that time since they are all based on Westcott and Hort’s work. As Riplinger so well titled her monumental book, the new perversions truly are *New Age Bible Versions*. Whether it be Hollywood bewitching society with “Charmed” and “Harry Potter,” Led Zeppelin recording an album in the home of a Satanist, Mick Jagger singing “Sympathy for the Devil,” a kid playing with his “Power Rangers,” or some “open-minded” American playing around with Buddhism, it’s all the same stuff, and it’s all satanically inspired. It’s the greatest outpouring of unclean spirits since the days of Noah, and it’s only going to get worse until Jesus returns.

The Church Conquered by the World

It is not without significance that man finally got around to walking on the moon in 1969. With the moon typifying the church, there had to be a symbolic moment that represented the world conquering the church. With the 1960's being the decade of the Kennedy assassination, the "British invasion" of the Beatles, prayer and the Bible being thrown out of the schools, "civil rights" marches, the King assassination, Woodstock, the Manson family murders, the Viet Nam war, and "peace" marches, it was quite appropriate that the decade of destruction be capped off with man stomping his sinful feet around on the moon, which is a type of the church (Song. 6:10; Psa. 89:37; Mat. 5:14. By the time the tumultuous 1960's were over, people were so poisoned by worldly philosophies (Col. 2:8), worldly music and worldly causes that there was no way the church would stay pure. Just as the Sethites were eventually conquered by the Cainites in Noah's day, the church has been conquered by the world. About the only things left to be done are further apostasy and judgment. As Lester Roloff used to say, we Bible-believers are just "the mopping-up crew."

Noah's Ark as a Type of Christ

Having covered the days of Noah preceding the flood as a type of our own day and age, let us now move on to the ark itself. If the flood was a type of the second coming of Christ, as Enoch declared (Jude 14), then the means of preservation through the flood, the ark, must picture Christ himself, because it is Christ only that preserves the saints. As we shall see, studying the ark as a type of Christ makes for a very interesting study.

A Way of Escaping Judgment

Noah's family escaped judgment by obeying God in building and boarding the ark. So it is with Christians today. By receiving Christ as Lord and Saviour, believers will enjoy the benefit of escaping God's judgment by going up in the rapture. So, the ark is a type of Christ in that it was a way of escaping judgment.

An Exclusive Way of Escape

Everyone in the ark was saved, and everyone not in the ark was lost. There were no exceptions. No one was permitted to board the ark of their choice. They had to accept the fact that Noah was right and everyone else was wrong, or they had to drown. Their feelings and opinions were irrelevant. All that mattered was being in the ark, just as one must be in Christ today.

The Unattractive Ark

There wasn't anything visibly appealing about the ark. It was just a big, ugly, floating box. It wasn't designed for looks at all. It was designed as a means of preserving life, and nothing more. Noah probably could have gained a few more passengers had he given the ark a nice paint job and hired an interior decorator, but that wasn't God's plan. He knew that serious believers would board the ark for righteous reasons only.

A sinner doesn't receive Christ because Jesus is attractive. In fact, Isaiah 53:2 says that he has no comeliness or beauty that we should desire him. A sinner comes to Jesus because he needs to be saved from

judgment and only Jesus can save him. Nothing else matters.

Whosoever Will

Being larger than a football field, the ark was no small vessel. People could see it easily, and they had many years to talk about it, hear about it, and to make plans to board it. When it came time to board the ark, no one had to climb up the wall or do any running or jumping. They simply had to walk through a door that God had provided in the side of the ark. Those who drowned in the flood did so by their own choice. They chose to not walk through a door that God had provided.

Today, Jesus is the door of salvation (John 10:9), and people choose to either walk through the door or to attempt some other means of obtaining salvation. They choose to receive or to reject Jesus as Saviour. The Lord is not willing that any should perish (II Pet. 3:9), so he provides means for taking his gospel message into all the world. Those who end up in hell do so after making a conscious decision to reject Jesus Christ.

An Opening in the Side

It's interesting that God had Noah make the ark's entrance *in the side* (Gen. 6:16). God provided Adam with his bride by cutting an opening in his side and taking a rib (Gen. 2:21-22), and Jesus was pierced in the side with a spear (John 19:34). Adam had an opening in his side, Jesus had an opening in his side, and the ark had an opening in its side. Consequently, John, a type of the church, was sitting at Jesus' side and even leaning on his breast at the last supper (John 13:25).

The Ark Was Sealed

Genesis 7:16 tells us that when Noah entered the ark “the LORD shut him in.” Furthermore, the ark was made with weather-resistant gopher wood and then sealed with pitch (Gen. 6:14). The water stayed out and the people stayed in until God was ready for them to come out.

Likewise, we are told in Ephesians 4:30 that Christians have been “sealed” unto the day of redemption.

Giving Up the World

Unlike most Sunday school and Bible story illustrations, the ark looked more like a large *coffin* than anything else, which is not without significance. When Noah and his family boarded the ark, they became *dead* to the world by giving it up totally. Yet, God rewarded them greatly by giving them a much better world.

So it is with believers today. Jesus said, **“And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.”** (Mat. 19:29)

God in Control

Once Noah’s family boarded the ark they were totally at the mercy of God. They could go and do as they pleased as they went about their daily lives on land, but they could only go where God wanted after boarding the ark. Like the swimmer of Exekiel 47:5, their feet were no

longer on the ground. They were fully at the mercy of God's will.

Is this not how God wants those in Christ to live, being led by the spirit and not by the flesh? Romans 8:14 says, **“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”** Truly, our heart's cry should be, **“not my will, but thine, be done”** (Luke 22:42).

Seed . . . Tree . . . Wood . . . Salvation

Think of the gopher wood from which the ark was made. Every piece of wood in the ark started as a seed. Then it was part of a tree which was cut down. Then it was picked up and used to save people.

Jesus said, in John 12:24, **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”** Although Jesus certainly performed some great works during his earthly ministry, his greatest work wasn't performed until after he was “cut off” (Isa. 53:8; Dan. 9:26) and then raised up to give new life to all believers.

God Used Men to Prepare the Ark

God could have had the angels build the ark, or he could have saved Noah and his family without an ark at all, yet his choice was to be glorified by Noah's faith and obedience in having him build the ark.

The same is true with the saving of men. God chose to use Mary in bringing his Son into the world. He then used Mary and Joseph to preserve his Son through childhood. After Jesus began his public ministry, God used humble believers to bear witness to his message and

convince even more sinners to believe. Then he used people to bear witness of Jesus through the crucifixion. He used people to bury Jesus, and, finally, he uses people to preach of Jesus' resurrection.

The Ark Was Lifted Up

Genesis 7:17 uses some very interesting words in connection with Noah's ark. The verse says, "**And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.**" That's quite significant in light of what Jesus says in John 3:14: "**And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.**" Like Jesus, the ark became a saviour when it was lifted up.

In fact, the ark lifted up Noah and his family and then sat them back down when the flood was over—just as Jesus will lift the church out of this world in the rapture and then set us back down in the second advent. We leave this world in Revelation 4:1 and then return to it in Revelation 19:11.

The Ark Had a First and Second Coming

Like Jesus, the ark made two appearances on the earth. Just as Jesus grew from a baby into a grown man, the ark "grew" from a few boards into a massive vessel as Noah and his family built it. Then, according to Genesis 8:4, the ark appeared on the earth (the land) a second time after the flood—*on a mountain!* The mount of Olives is the location of Jesus' second advent (Zch. 14:4). At its first appearance, the ark, like Jesus, just allowed everyone

to mock and do as they pleased, but there was no one around to do any mocking at its second appearance. Noah and his family started out as a minority, but then ended up as a majority. So it is in the second coming of Christ.

The Ark Contained Four Men

After the flood was over, there were only four living men who could give an eye witness account of the great flood. Likewise, God chose to use the accounts of four men to give the world the gospel record of Jesus Christ.

God's Wrath Hit the Ark, But Not Those Inside

Noah and his family were not removed from all knowledge and presence of God's judgment. They were not permitted to get into the ark and then sail off to a new and innocent land. They were required to be inside the ark and have full knowledge that God's judgment was hitting the ark with a vengeance. No doubt, this caused them to appreciate God's salvation even more.

Likewise, God's judgment hit Jesus Christ at Calvary. The waves of God's wrath hit Jesus (Psa. 69:1-4; 88:7), but they do not hit those of us who are in Jesus. He took the waves; we take the salvation.

The Ark Had Three Stories

We are told in Genesis 6:16 that the ark had three stories. In fact, the third story had a window through which Noah's family could see.

Those in Christ also have three stories: a soul, a body, and a quickened spirit (Eph. 2:1) which serves as a window that allows us to see spiritual things. The third story of the ark pictures the Christian having his affection on things above, as Colossians 3:2 commands.

The Water That Destroyed Most Only Pushed Others to Higher Ground

While millions of lost people sank into the flood waters, eight people were pushed higher than they had ever lived before.

The Christian doesn't view hardship and suffering as the world views it. While the world becomes bitter at God because of affliction, the faithful Christian claims Romans 8:28 and grows closer to the Lord while living on a higher spiritual ground.

No One Sinned Until They Left the Ark

Noah and his family were in the ark for over a year, yet nothing is recorded of any of them committing a sin. Yet, after leaving the ark, Ham commits a grievous sin against his father (Gen. 9:21-25). The lesson here is obvious. When we abide in Christ (John 15:1-8), we live holy lives and bear fruit. When we wander away from Christ, we become entangled with the thorns and thistles

of sin. Remember, the prodigal son didn't sin until he had wandered away from his father (Luke 15).

Even the Animals Enjoy Redemption

In addition to Noah's family being spared in the judgment, the animal kingdom was also represented in redemption by being preserved through the flood and then being permitted to repopulate the earth. This points to the curse of nature being removed from the earth in the millennial kingdom of Christ when the animal kingdom enjoys peace and security along with mankind. Romans 8:18-23 says, **"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."**

With the number *eight* being the number of new beginnings in the Bible, *eight* people stepped out of the ark in Genesis chapter *eight* and made a new beginning in the new world—along with a ship full of animals that picture the promise of Romans chapter *eight*. A good companion passage is Isaiah 11:6-9: **"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and**

the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

The Witness of the Animals

In addition to the animals on Noah's ark picturing the peaceful animal kingdom of the millennium, they also picture people from the gentile nations coming to Christ in the church age. We know this from Acts 10:9-15: **“On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.”** The whole lesson here was that Peter needed to preach to the Gentiles, not just the Jews, so God illustrated it by giving Peter unclean animals to eat in a vision, animals that pictured Gentiles, just as they

do throughout the Bible (goats, pigs, dogs, vipers, asses, etc.).

Now, let's get the full picture. The animals filing into Noah's ark two-by-two were a witness to the entire world that something very different was about to happen. Yet, people ignored this witness and perished in their sins when judgment came. Only those in the ark were safe. Likewise, the unsaved world has been seeing sinners come to Christ for nearly two thousand years, yet they have ignored this witness and have perished in their sins. The final generation prior to Jesus' return will also ignore the witness of the saved and perish in their sins when God's judgment strikes the earth. Only those in Christ will be safe.

Reproducing the Seed

The purpose of bringing Noah's family and the animals onto the ark was to preserve and reproduce (Gen. 7:1-3). The original commission of Genesis 1:28 was renewed after the flood in Genesis 9:1: "**And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.**" Satan did not prevail against Noah and his family. They and the animals lived through the flood and repopulated the planet for the glory of God.

Likewise, the gates of hell will not prevail against the church (Mat. 16:18). Though most professing Christians will fall into the apostasy of the last days (II Ths. 2:3; Rev. 3:14-22), a faithful remnant will be preserved. Christ's church will be preserved and it will continue to reproduce itself until the Lord calls his people home. May we become more focused than ever and be found faithful to our Lord as the days of Noah are repeated in our time.

The Days of Noah

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