The Days Of Noah Part 1: Wickedness Of Man

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday June 28th, 2020

Text: Matthew 24:36-39; I Peter 3:20

### Intro

1. Matthew 24:36-39: Jesus compared the days of Noah to the last days & His return.
   1. The return of Christ will come upon mankind as suddenly and unexpectedly as did the flood in the days of Noah.
   2. Not only this, but the Lord compared the character of those days to that of men at the time of His return – Matthew 24:38
   3. We can become discouraged by the wickedness of our time, but can gain encouragement by looking at the “days of Noah” and see what Noah overcame!
      1. Imagine all your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, classmates so wicked and vile they are set for destruction by God!
      2. Imagine you and your immediate family found mercy from God and will be saved – You alone are obedient to Him!
2. I Peter 3:20: Peter called the days of Noah a time of God’s patience (KJV: “longsuffering”).
   1. Peter describes that wicked time before the flood as a time in which “the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah.” *(3:20)*
   2. The “days of Noah” were both days of wickedness and also a time of salvation (mercy)!
3. We can see that the “days of Noah” were filled with the wickedness of man!

#### They Were Evil Days – Eph. 5:15-16

* 1. Marriage was abused (Gen. 6:2)
     1. Possible this concerns angels marrying humans (Jude 6; II Pet. 2:4) – Jesus said angels don’t marry in Heaven (Mt. 22:30), but Jude says angels left their proper abode, or “domain” (NET/NKJ).
        1. “Sinful angels” of II Pet. 2:4 is stated before the days of Noah in II Pet. 2:5 (could be referring to Gen. 6:3 & Jude 6)
     2. Most likely concerns believers (sons of God) marrying unbelievers (daughters of men) – II Cor. 6:14.
     3. The implication is that these marriages were based on lust (“were beautiful”).
     4. Polygamy was already being practiced – Gen. 4:23.
  2. The wicked ruled (Gen. 6:4-5)
     1. Mighty men = warriors
     2. Renown = infamous (they were known)
     3. A time where “might makes right” (Later, the slogan of the Roman Empire)
     4. The “wickedness of man was great on the earth” (Gen. 6:5)
  3. Violence prevailed (Gen. 6:11, 13)
     1. Murder was prevalent – Gen. 4:10, 24: Going back to Cain & Abel.
     2. Men had lost respect for the image of God (Imago Dei) – Gen. 9:6: Taking human life shows disrespect for God.
  4. Men were corrupt (Gen. 6:12)
     1. Evil men “proceed from bad to worse” (II Tim. 3:13).
     2. It had become the “world of the ungodly” (II Pet. 2:5).
  5. God was grieved (Gen. 6:6)
     1. “The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth.”
     2. God regretted it; He was remorseful for His creation!
  6. Mankind was so evil God was grieved!

#### They Were Dark Days – II Tim. 3:1, 13

* 1. It was a time of apostasy (Gen. 6:2)
     1. The “sons of God” married “daughters of men.”
     2. It started either with sinful angels who left their proper abode (II Pet. 2:4; Jude 6) or believers becoming unequally yoked with unbelievers (II Cor. 6:14).
  2. The word of God was rejected (Gen. 6:3)
     1. God said He would not “strive” with man forever.
        1. Man was disobedient, and continued to do so.
     2. Noah preached righteousness for 120 years (Gen. 6:3; II Pet. 2:5), or at least till the ark was built (I believe the 120 years of Gen. 6:3 refers to the building of the ark period)
     3. Men were disobedient – I Pet. 3:20
     4. They continued in their wickedness – II Pet. 2:5: Contrast with Noah!
  3. Sin conquered (Gen. 6:5)
     1. As wickedness increased, it prevailed to the extent that all were lost.
     2. Their every thought and desire was for evil.
  4. Few were righteous (Gen. 7:1, 7)
     1. “Eight persons, were brought safely through the water – *I Pet. 3:20*
        1. This included Noah!
     2. Mt. 7:13-14: Jesus said few obey God; and it was true in the past as it is today.
  5. Appointed for destruction (Gen. 6:17)
     1. Mankind was set for destruction for their sins – Gen. 6:7, 17; 7:4
     2. “Did not spare the ancient world” *(II Pet. 2:5)*
  6. The days were dark for mankind was evil and God had set the world for destruction!

#### They Were Trying Times – II Pet. 2:5, 9

* 1. People were indifferent (Mt. 24:39)
     1. “They did not understand”
     2. How did they not know?
        1. *Gen. 6:3; I Pet. 3:20; II Pet. 2:5:* Man had rejected God’s will (though not told how, they were accountable – Cain), and during the patience of God (120 yrs.) they rejected Noah’s preaching!
     3. They did not know because they were concerned in other things – Mt. 24:38
  2. The results were discouraging *(I Pet. 3:20)*
     1. Noah was tasked with difficult work: he had to build a boat 450 ft. long x 75 ft. wide x 45 ft. tall.
     2. Not only building the boat, but he preached righteousness when he could.
     3. When the day came to enter the ark, Noah & his family entered (8 souls – He at least saved his family!).
        1. Ezek. 14:14, 20: Noah’s family made the choice themselves!
  3. The outcome was horrifying (Heb. 11:7).
     1. “He condemned the world.”
     2. The result of his preaching left them without excuse *(creation alone testified against them – Rom. 1:20).*
  4. Though trying, Noah and his family overcame and condemned the world with their faith!

## Conclusion

1. Our days (before Christ comes again) are “as the days of Noah” were – Mt. 24:36-39
   1. These days are evil – *Eph. 5:16*
   2. These days are dark – *II Tim. 3:13*
   3. These days are trying – *II Pet. 2:9*
2. Jesus said His return would be like in those days – Are you prepared?
   1. Judgment is coming just as it did in the flood – II Peter 3:3-7
3. We must face “our” days as Noah faced “his” days:
   1. Noah sought after God & found favor (grace) – Gen. 6:8; Heb. 11:6
   2. Noah was obedient to God’s word – Gen. 6:22; 7:5; *Heb. 11:7*
   3. Noah preached, showing concern for the lost (*I Pet. 3:20)*
   4. Noah was prepared for the day of the Lord – the rest of the world wasn’t! – Heb. 11:7
4. “What sort of people ought you to be?” (II Pet. 3:10-11)
   1. The answer to this question will decide where we will spend eternity!
   2. Are you striving to live holy and godly lives to stand before Him spotless & blameless? (II Pet. 3:11, 14)
   3. Are you looking for and hastening the day of Christ’s return? (II Pet. 3:12)
   4. Are you counting the patience (mercy) of God as salvation? (II Pet. 3:15)
   5. *On a positive note: The days of Noah were also days of mercy and salvation – to those who took it! (Next lesson!)*
5. Let us not be so distracted with the cares of this world that we be like those “in the days of Noah” who were caught by destruction unaware!
6. Let us look for & hasten His return, being diligent to live godly & righteously!
7. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
8. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
9. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!