The Days Of Noah Part 3: Be Prepared

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday July 12th, 2020

Text: Luke 17:26-27, 30

### Intro

1. Jesus compared the days preceding His 2nd Coming to the time preceding the flood.
   1. Luke 17:26-27, 30 *(Mt. 24:36-39):*
      1. The people’s behavior before the flood – Unprepared
      2. The return of Christ will come upon mankind as suddenly and unexpectedly as did the flood in the days of Noah – *Matthew 24:36-39*
      3. The people were warned – Noah was “a preacher of righteousness” *(II Pet. 2:5).*
2. Today people are told to prepare for destruction that will come by way of intense heat that will burn up the earth and the elements – *II Peter 3:10-12* (The global warming people ought to be worried about and prepared for!)
   1. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be when Christ comes again! *(II Peter 3:7)*
3. Despite what the people in the world around him were doing, Noah and his family were prepared!
4. No matter what people in the world around us are doing, we must be prepared for that day!

#### What Can The Righteous Do? Be Prepared!

1. **The righteous must continue to keep their faith in God (II Tim. 4:7):**
   1. God has not abdicated His rule over heaven and earth (Mt. 28:18; Col. 1:16-17)
   2. When evil rises up the righteous look up and rely on God (Ps. 121:1-2).
   3. Faith can overcome temptation (Eph. 6:16) and overcome the world (I Jn. 5:4)!
   4. Have the faith to say, “The will of the Lord be done!” (Acts 21:10-14; James 4:15)
      1. When Paul said he wanted to go to Jerusalem, a prophet named Agabus came and revealed the Holy Spirit said Paul would be bound by the Jews if he went.
      2. Paul said he was going whether he was bound or killed, and those with him said, “The will of the Lord be done!” (Acts 21:14) – They had faith in God that no matter what His will would be accomplished!
   5. We know that “God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God” *(Rom. 8:28).*
      1. In Jerusalem Paul was imprisoned and taken to Rome (Acts 25-28)
      2. Paul’s imprisonment in Rome allowed him to take the gospel before Caesar where some in his house were converted (Phil. 4:22), thus fulfilling Jesus’ prophecy to Ananias (Acts 9:15-16) that Paul would go before kings, as well as give him time to write many epistles!
      3. Paul’s influence and message of the gospel reached many people from Rome.
   6. Saints must continue to teach the gospel for in it is the power of God to change the hearts and lives of sinners (Rom. 1:16; I Cor. 6:9-11).
2. **The righteous must continue to pray (I Thess. 5:17):** 
   1. Saints are to pray for our leaders (I Tim. 2:1-4). We were never promised a supportive government, but that we must pray for our leaders! (Nero was emperor at the time of Peter’s and Paul’s death)
   2. When the apostles of Christ faced threats from their people's religious leaders they earnestly prayed, not to escape personal pain and injury, but for the boldness to continue to speak God's word *(Acts 4:23-31).*
   3. We can pray for the courage of faith to be true to the Lord in the face of those who oppose righteousness and champion sin. *(I Pet. 3:14-16)*
   4. Paul asked for prayers that he may proclaim the gospel boldly! *(Eph. 6:19-20)*
3. **The righteous must remain above reproach! (Phil. 2:14-16):**
   1. This means being careful in how we answer and respond to the wickedness around us. We are to be gentle when correcting error (II Tim. 2:24-26).
   2. “Speaking the truth in love” – Eph. 4:15
4. **The righteous must be careful not to be consumed by anger! (Eph. 4:26):**
   1. Ps. 37:1: “Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity”
      1. “Fret” = *chârâh (H2734):* “to be hot, furious, burn, become angry, be kindled, wroth”
   2. We must not allow the sins of evil people to turn us into raving fools! *(Eccl. 7:9: “Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools”)*
   3. The righteous are disgusted by the sins of the wicked as well as by those who condone and comfort sinners (Amos 5:15; Rom. 1:32; 12:9; James 1:19-20).
   4. The righteous give place to the wrath of God; they are not drawn into sin by the sins of others *(Rom. 12:17-19: God can repay with vengeance better than we can!)*
5. **The righteous must overcome evil with good (Rom. 12:21):**
   1. Patiently enduring unjust suffering “finds favor with God!” (I Pet. 2:20)
   2. God's “favor” is given to those who follow the example of Jesus when He suffered for us (I Pet. 2:21-22).
   3. Jesus’ parable of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) teaches us to overcome unjust treatment, bias & prejudice by being a neighbor & loving our neighbors like ourselves (Mark 12:30-31).
6. **The righteous must remember they are living for heaven (Phil. 3:20):** 
   1. This world is not our home; our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20; I Pet. 1:4).
   2. Remain virtuous in mind and conduct; “Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles...” *(I Pet. 2:12).* Innocent before man and God *(Acts 24:16).*
   3. Christians give up their moral credibility when they think and act like the world while trying to defend what is right! (I Pet. 3:16-17; 4:15-16; *also Phil. 2:14-16)*
7. **The righteous will exercise their rights & freedoms as citizens (I Peter 2:17):** 
   1. It is right to do so *(Acts 22:25-29; 25:11:* Paul exercised his rights as a Roman).
   2. But while doing so, Christians remember to “honor the king” even while disagreeing with the ruling authorities (I Pet. 2:13-17).
   3. **Were Caesars worthy of honor from saints?** No, but in that they were appointed by God, as are “the governing authorities” (Rom. 13:1), they are because saints are to be innocent from wrong-doing *(I Pet. 4:15-16).*
   4. As U.S. citizens we exercise our right to vote and remove the ungodly from office.
8. **The righteous will obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29):**
   1. I Pet. 2:13: God's people “submit…for the Lord's sake to every human institution.”
   2. The exception is “we ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).
   3. Just because the law of men legalizes a practice, saints do not have to accept it or teach it!
      1. King Nebuchadnezzar legalized idolatry to his golden statue but Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn’t bow and were ready to accept the consequences! (Daniel 3)
   4. There are many things our government legalizes that saints cannot condone…
      1. Divorce and Remarriage for any reason. Scriptures teach it is sinful! *(Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12)*
      2. Drinking socially or to get drunk. Scriptures teach it is sinful! *(Galatians 5:19-21; I Peter 4:3-5)*
      3. Same-sex marriage. Scriptures teach it is sinful! *(Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9; I Corinthians 6:9-10)*
9. What can the righteous do in the face of evil? Remain above reproach in the midst of a wicked and perverse generation, putting our faith and trust in God!

## Conclusion

1. “What can the righteous do?” Be above reproach, trust in God, and teach the gospel and the consequences for sin!
   1. Noah showed that it can be done! That one can be righteous and walk with God even when the rest of the world is corrupt! (Genesis 6:8-9)
2. Are you ready for Christ’s return?
   1. The statistics will resemble those of Noah’s day:
      1. 100% deliverance for those prepared to meet God, and 0% escape for the unprepared!
3. 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!
   1. As Noah had to be in the ark to be saved (Gen. 7:1), people must be “in Christ” to be saved today! (Rom. 6:23; 8:1)
   2. ***How does one get in Christ?***
   3. Just as water punished the wicked, it also saved Noah from the corrupting influence of wicked men (I Peter 3:20-21) – *Water played a role in salvation then and still does today!*
   4. One is immersed in water in Jesus’ name for the forgiveness of sin! (Gal. 3:26-27; Acts 2:38; 22:16) – One is baptized into Christ and into His church (I Cor. 12:13)
4. Are you prepared for Christ’s Return?
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
6. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!