

“AS THE DAYS OF NOAH WERE”

Mt.24:36-39

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is a comparison study.
 - a. Jesus in Mt.24:36-39 drew a comparison between the days of Noah and the last days – the time of the 2nd Coming.
 - b. Though the primary point of comparison with the days of Noah is not the wickedness of the world at that time compared with the wicked of the world at the 2nd Coming, but with the suddenness with which the event will come upon an unexpected, unprepared world at the 2nd Coming.
 - c. However, the Lord also compared the character of those – the days of Noah – to that of men at the time of His own return at the 2nd Coming, which will find the world in general in the same spiritual state as that of Noah’s day: wholly absorbed in their temporal interests and not paying attention to righteous principles, Vv.38,39.
 - d. Following this comparison, Jesus warned of the urgent need to prepare for the 2nd Coming.
2. Peter called the days of Noah a time of God’s longsuffering, 1Pet.3:20. Further consider how Peter characterized God’s longsuffering in 2Pet.3:15: “And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation...”
 - a. In 1Pet.3:20, Peter describes that wicked time before the flood as a time in which “the longsuffering of God waited.”
 - b. The “days of Noah” were in reality a time of salvation, a time of deliverance and a time of mercy.
 - c. Therefore, as we consider the “days of Noah” with a view to learning something relevant and helpful to our days, let us do so from God’s perspective as well as that of Noah and the people who lived with him in those days.
3. In view of this urgent warning by comparison, let us take a closer look at the days of Noah as to their character from the standpoint of the people of the world of that day.

II. DISCUSSION

A. THE DAYS OF NOAH WERE EVIL DAYS. Evidenced by the fact:

1. Of what is affirmed in Gen.6:5.
2. That during those days marriage was abused, V.2.
 - a. The implication is that these marriages were based on lust.
 - b. It was a time of polygamy, Gen.4:19,23.
3. That the wicked ruled, Gen.6:4,5.
 - a. Mighty men = warriors.
 - b. Renown = infamous.
 - c. It was a time of “might makes right,” the “iron rule” prevailed.
4. That violence prevailed, Gen.6:11.
 - a. Murder was prevalent, Gen.4:10,14,24.
 - b. Men had lost respect for God’s image in man, or for the sanctity of human life. See Gen.9:5,6.
5. That men were corrupt, Gen.6:12. Cf. V.5.
 - a. It had become “the world of the ungodly,” as Peter affirmed in 2Pet.2:9.
6. That by such evil God was grieved, Gen.6:6.
 - a. “It repented God that he had made man.”
 - b. God regretted that men were so evil; He was remorseful.

B. THE DAYS OF NOAH WERE DARK DAY, THE DAYS OF WICKED MEN WALKING IN THE DARKNESS OF SIN. Cf. 1Jno.1:6.

1. It was a time of wretched apostasy, Gen.6:2,4.
 - a. The “sons of God” married the “daughters of men.”
 - b. This does not mean that angels, or spirit beings, and human beings married, as some claim.
 - (1) Angels do not marry; nor do spirit beings.
 - c. This refers to professed believers and very wicked human beings marrying – God’s sons Vs the devil’s disciples.
2. It was a time when the Word of God was rejected, Gen.6:3,5.
 - a. Noah preached righteousness, 2Pet.2:5.

- b. His preaching was rejected; the people continued in disobedience, 1Pet.3:18-20.
- 3. It was a time when sin conquered the masses, Gen.6:5.
 - a. As wickedness increased, it prevailed to the extent that all were lost, with one exception.
- 4. It was a time where very few were righteous.
 - a. Only “eight souls were saved by water,” Gen.6:8,9; 1Pet.3:18-20.
 - b. “Noah the eighth person.”
- 5. All others were appointed for destruction.
 - a. Because of their sin, God purposed to destroy all of them, Gen. 6:5-7,17; 7:4.

C. THE DAYS OF NOAH WERE TRYING TIMES.

- 1. All the people were indifferent, Mt.24:38,39.
 - a. “And knew not...,” V.39.
 - b. How could they not know? Gen.6:3; 1Pet.3:18-20; 2Pet.2:5.
 - c. They did not know because they were not interested in spiritual things – only in things sinful. Gen.6:1-12; Cf. Rom.1:18-22.
- 2. In the days of Noah the work was difficult as described in Gen.6:14-21.
 - a. Imagine building a boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet tall with only four men and none of the modern technology or equipment!
 - b. Noah had to gather all the materials, build the ark, and acquire all the food and supplies.
 - c. In all this, Noah was diligent and obedient to God to the very last detail, Gen.6:22; Heb.11:7.
- 3. The results were no doubt discouraging to a degree as he patiently considered the longsuffering of God that “waited” during those days, 1Pet.3:20.
 - a. Every morning Noah and his sons were up early laboring diligently building the ark.
 - b. Also, Noah labored preaching righteousness and judgment to come to those who gathered to witness his building.

- c. When the day ended it was still Noah and his sons hammering, sawing and applying pitch in the building.
 - d. He did this in a world wholly inhabited by wholly wicked men!
4. The reality of the situation was sad.
- a. For all their effort, for all their pleading, for all their sincere desire and concern to see these wicked people saved, they could only save themselves – not one more! Cf. Gen.7:1.
 - b. Noah could not repent for the world; he could not obey for the world. Cf. Ezek.18:20.
5. The outcome was horrifying indeed; all were condemned, lost, destroyed eternally. Cf. Heb.11:7.
- a. Noah condemned the world in righteousness.
 - b. The result of their sin in spite of his preaching left them without excuse. Cf. Rom.1:20.

III. CONCLUSION AND APPLICATION OF THE COMPARISON

1. Our days are “as the days of Noah” were, Mt.24:36-39.
- a. As we noted in the beginning of our study, the last days before Christ comes again are “as” or “like” the “days of Noah.” We have Christ’s word for that.
 - b. These days are evil days according to Eph.5:16. Furthermore:
 - (1) Marriage in our day is abused. Note how – the many ways.
 - (2) The wicked rule.
 - (3) Violence prevails.
 - (4) Men are corrupt and corrupting.
 - (5) Certainly, God is grieved.
 - c. These days are dark days as described in 2Tim.3:13; 1Jno.1:6.
 - (1) It is a time of wretched apostasy.
 - (2) The Word of God is rejected.
 - (3) Sin is conquering the world and religious institutions.
 - (4) There seems to be few righteous; but there are more than eight. Cf. Mt.7:13,14.
 - (5) Our world is appointed for destruction according to 2Pet.3:7.
 - d. These days are also trying days, 1Cor.10:12,13; Jas.1:12.
 - (1) People are indifferent.

- (2) The work is difficult.
 - (3) The laborers are few.
 - (4) The results are discouraging.
 - (5) The reality is sad.
 - (6) The outcome is horrifying.
2. As in the days of Noah, our world will be as unprepared for the Coming of Christ as the people were for the flood; his coming on our world will be as sudden and as unexpected as the flood was on theirs.
3. We must face “our” days as Noah faced “his” days.
 - a. Noah sought and found God’s grace; so can we.
 - b. Noah was obedient to God’s Word; we can be too.
 - (1) Noah trusted God for what he could not provide himself; we must do the same.
 - (2) Whatever God required he did without complaint or hesitation; so must we.
 - (3) God never required more than we are able to do or to bear, 1Cor.10:13; 1Jno.5:3.
 - c. Noah understood that he preached and God converts; so must we. Cf. 1Cor.3:1-7.
 - (1) By human standards Noah, John the Baptist and Stephan were poor preachers. Why?
 - (2) However, by Divine standards they were great men and preachers enjoying God’s approval.
 - (3) Growth and success are determined by God and not by numbers. Men make a mistake when they feel the need to help God by compromising the truth to gain numbers!
4. In view of the 2nd Coming, the final judgment and the destruction of this world and all ungodliness, “what manner of persons ought ye to be?” 2Pet.3:11.
 - a. Are we “looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God”? 2Pet.3:12.
 - b. Are we in view of “the coming of the day of God” being diligent to be found in Christ in peace, without spot, and blameless? 2Pet.3:14.
 - c. Are we counting God’s longsuffering as salvation? 2Pet.3:15.