

11/14/04

Noah, A Ray Of Hope
Gen. 6:8-22

More than 2000 years before Christ the Egyptians and Chaldeans constructed cities with great buildings, artistic sculpture, and active industry.

Mathematics, law, and government were carefully studied and systematized, and great skill was developed in the arts of weaving, metalworking, and gem engraving. Libraries, made up of clay tablets on which letters were impressed, were collected even in this early day.

Later, the classical Greek world could boast the great minds of Homer, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and others.

The works of Homer and Plato still are studied in our colleges and universities, and Aristotle's principles of logic and are yet to be surpassed.

Yet none of these civilizations was able to endure. Each reached a zenith, deteriorated, and fell to hostile powers. (Richard Dehaan #1521)

The days of Noah reveal the beginning of this pattern, so we want to look at Noah from three vantage points.

- I.** The modern days of Noah.
- II.** The mission of Noah.
- III.** The message of Noah.

I. The modern days of Noah.

A. City building. Gen. 4:17

- 1.** Cain knew his wife, means Cain married his sister.
 - a.** Parallel to the godly line. Gen. 4:1, 25
 - b.** Later in the Law it was forbidden to marry a sister and incestuous relations. Lev. 20:17, Deut. 27:22
- 2.** Enoch was his son, not to be confused with Enoch in the line of Adam.
 - a.** A conservative estimate of the population at the time of the flood in 1656 after creation is 7 billion, averaging six children per family.
 - b.** The population today is 6.4 billion. (Morris: Genesis Record:144)
- 3.** Cain built a city and named it after his son, "dedicated".
 - a.** No longer was man in awe of God's creation but seeking to awe people with his own construction.
 - b.** Attempting to immortalize man by naming the building after his son.

B. Polygamy. Gen. 4:19

- 1.** Lamech was the Grandson of Cain of the fourth generation, making him his Great, Great, Great grandson. Gen. 4:16-18

- a. The lineage was that of rebellion and self-willed.
- b. The source being pride.
- 2. Lamech was a bigamist by taking for himself two wives, marking the sensual and selfish self love of fallen man.
 - * The practice of polygamy was a deterioration from the monogamous institution at Creation.

C. Agriculture and livestock. Gen. 4:20

- 1. The first wife Adah bore Jabal.
 - a. Adah means “ornament” or pretty.
 - b. Jabal means “stream of water”.
- 2. Jabel was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock.
 - a. They lived a nomad Bedouin life-style, traveling through the land in tents.
 - b. The reference to “father” means the originator or founder of raising domestic animal, like sheep and goats.

D. Music. Gen. 4:21

- 1. The brother of Jabal was Jubal. Vs. 21
 - a. Jabal’s mother was Adah but we are not told if she also bore Jubal?
 - b. But it seems that she was, in that the second wife is mention in the next verse in relation to her children.

- 2. Jubal was the father of all those who play the harp and flute.
 - a. The reference to “father” again is the originator.
 - b. The harp “kinnow” was a musical instrument strummed with the hand, at times called a lyre.
 - 1) David played the harp before Saul and the distressing spirit would depart form him. 1Sam. 16:23
 - 2) The Psalms refer to the harp thirteen times.
 - d. The flute “æuwgab” was reed-pipe, or panpipes.
 - 1) Job said, “My harp is turned to mourning, And my flute to the voice of those who weep”. Job 30:31
 - 2) The implication is that it was for festive and joyous occasions.

E. Metal forging. Gen. 4:22a-b

- 1. The second wife of Lamech was named Zillah, meaning “shade”.
 - * Zillah bore Tubal-Cain, which means “you will be brought to possession”.
- 2. Tubal-Cain was an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron.
 - a. So some have interpret it to means “smith” in view of his profession.

- b. The intellectual technology was not that primitive as many think.

F. Violence. Gen. 4:23-26

1. Lamech boasts to his wives about his violence. Vs. 23
 - a. He says to them, “Adah and Zillah”, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech!
* Called a Taunt Song.
 - b. He brags of killing a man.
 - 1) He is cruel and went beyond the violence against him, “For I have killed a man for wounding me.”
 - 2) He is arrogant wanting them to know it was a strong capable man, exalting himself, “Even a young man for hurting me.”
2. Lamech declares himself greater than God. Vs. 24
 - a. He makes himself the authority of his own justice in comparisons to Cain’s, “If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold.”
 - b. He declares his verdict of vengeance as God did over Cain, “Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”
 - 1) This is the first composed poetry, marked by parallelism.
 - 2) Perhaps the very song is indicative of the coming complete judgment

by God for all the corruption and violence that had filled the earth.

G. Genetic engineering. Gen. 6:1-7

1. The human race had deviated from God’s design for marriage. Gen. 6:1-2
2. The Lord God declared that His Spirit would not always strive with man, in 120 years, the judgment would come. Gen. 6:3
3. The outcome of these marriages produced fallen mighty men of oppression. Gen. 6:4
4. The Lord God declared that He saw not only how great the wickedness of man was on the earth but He saw the intent of the thoughts of his heart as evil continually, all the day literally. Gen. 6:5
5. The Lord declared His sorrow in creating man and his grief of heart and that He would destroy man and beast. Gen. 6:6-7

Illustration

In The Decline Of The Roman Empire, completed in 1787, Edward Gibbon lists the following reasons for that fall:

1. The rapid increase of divorce; the undermining of dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.

2. Higher and higher taxes and the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace.
3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.
4. The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within; the decadence of the people.
5. The decay of religion—faith fading into mere form—losing touch with life and becoming impotent to guide the people. #1532, Vol. 2

Application

1. The modern phenomena of cities appearing over-night is no exaggeration for our modern day.
 - a. The High Desert between San Bernardino and Barstow came to be in the 80's and 90's.
 - b. The demolishing of the old Vegas gave way to the New Las Vegas in the mid 90's, attempting to outdo each other as the buildings get more luxurious to attract more young people and families, importing instant crime, drugs, etc.
 - c. The house industry has run away in cost, the average price varies depending the area but it is about 300-400 thousand dollars.
 - d. The down payment of \$100,000 with a balance of \$300,000 balance at 6% for 30 years gives you a payment of \$1798.65, without taxes, another \$500.

- e. Today both husband and wife work to obtain the home but too often at the expense of the raising of the children and stable oversight.
 - * “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matt. 16:26
2. The modern day irreverence towards marriage and the era of no-fault divorce has done such destruction to the American family and nation.
 - a. It has laid an incredible financial burden on many single moms, forcing them to live on a poverty level.
 - b. It has wasted much of the hard earned money, having to divide it up and giving a good chunk to the lawyers by both parties.
 - c. It has made child-care a national industry that robs children of natural family love.
 - * Jesus said, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” Matt. 19:5-6
3. Since the fall Satan has taken what God intended for good and used it for evil and music certainly is on the top of the list.
 - a. The lyrics in today's songs, particularly in Rap-music are the most vulgar and offensive being filled with profanity, explicit sexual

statement, violent defiance for authority and a prideful boasting of retaliation.

- b. Music is a powerful vehicle that influences people more than they imagine, such as what they think, believe and act out.
 - c. Think about it, when you are listening to music the time goes by faster and is more enjoyable than if you did not have music.
 - d. Without our knowing it music causes us to remember things so much easier and faster than if we had no music to the words.
 - e. In fact the process of retention and recall are tremendously enhanced with the association of music!
 - f. Is it any wonder that music had it's origin with the worship of God and should have it's highest form in the worship of God?
* "And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." Rev 5:9-10
4. The violence in our world, let alone our nation is shocking.
- a. The agricultural age gave way to the industrial age, which gave way to the technological and information age, moving us further away from God to self.

- 1) About 85% of America lived in farms and small towns in the agricultural age.
 - 2) The industrial age reversed it, about 85% now live in cities.
 - b. There were 39 combat related killings in Iraq during January 2004.
 - c. In the fair city of Detroit there were 35 murders in the month of January 2004.
 - d. That's just one American city, about as deadly as the entire war torn country of Iraq.
5. The ongoing push of genetic engineering and cloning, for the perfect child and master race is very much a reality to the progressive thinkers of the world.
- a. They believe they are gods.
 - b. They reject a divine Creator.
 - c. They believe they are in control.
* "Professing to be wise, they became fools." Rom. 1:22

The modern days of Noah were man centered!

II. The mission of Noah . Gen. 6:8-22

- A. Noah was to be the consecrated vessel in view of the judgment of God. Gen. 6:8-13
 - 1. Noah found grace in His eyes. Vs. 8
 - 2. Noah was a righteous man, blameless and a man of integrity who walked with God. Vs. 9
 - 3. Noah had three sons. Vs. 10

4. The earth was corrupt before God and filled with violence. Vs. 11
5. God affirmed the corruption of the earth by man corrupting his way on the earth. Gen. Vs. 12
6. God declares His verdict to destroy all of mankind, along with the earth. Vs. 13
 - 1) The word “earth” is mentioned 14 time in this chapter six.
 - 2) In chapter seven 16 times.
 - 3) In chapter eight 12 times.
 - 4) In chapter nine 12 in chapter ten, a total of 54 times. God’s judgment upon the earth was due to sinful man.
 - 5) The geological and fossil record cries out judgment not evolution!

B. Noah was to be the craftsman of an ark in preparation for the judgment of God. Gen. 6:14-16

* Noah was to build an ark according to the specifications.

1. The ark was to be of gopher wood. Vs. 14a
 - a. We do not know what kind of wood this was of existing material.
 - b. But it had to be very durable and hardy to endure the flood.
 - 1) The phrase “make yourself”, implies for his own benefit.

- 2) The word make “asah” means out of nothing
- c. The word ark is an interesting word.
 - 1) The word for ark “tebah” is unique to the flood of Noah.
 - 2) The word is used only one other time for the basket when Moses was placed in the Nile. Ex. 2:3, 5
- d. They both were delivered from judgment, one from God’s, man’s the other from man’s.
2. The ark was to have rooms. Vs. 14b
 - a. The word for rooms “qen” means nests.
 - b. The compartments would be housing the animals.
3. The ark was to be covered with pitch inside and out. Vs. 14c
 - a. The word pitch “kopher” is the same word for atonement. Lev. 17:11
 - b. This would make the wood water permeable.
4. The ark was to be a specific size. Vs. 15
 - a. The measure is a cubit being about eighteen inches, the distance from a man’s middle finger to the elbow.

* There are longer and shorter cubit, Babylonian, Assyrian and others, from 17:6, 19.8, 20.65, 20.4.
 - b. The ark was to be 300 cubits long, 450 feet.

- c. The ark was to be 50 cubits wide, 75 feet wide.
- d. The ark was to be 30 cubit high, 45 feet high.
- 5. The ark had some specific items. Vs. 16
 - a. The ark was to have a widow eighteen inches from the top.
 - b. The ark was to have one door on the side.
 - c. The ark was to have three decks.
 - d. The volumes of the ark was 1,400,000 cu. feet, equivalent to 522 standard livestock railroad cars!
 - e. This is another modern advancement in the days of Noah!
- C. Noah was to be certain that he would escape the judgment of God. Vs. 17-22
 - 1. God would be personally responsibility for the flood. Vs. 17
 - a. God would be the agent of the flood, “And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth.”
 - 1) The word for flood “mabbuwl” is used uniquely in reference to the flood in Noah’s day
 - 2) This is also true in Greek word. Matt. 24:38-39, Lk. 17:27, 2Pet. 2:5

- 3) God had called forth the earth from the waters of the deep that covered the earth, now He would reverse it.
- b. God would destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth would die.”
 - 1) It was not a local flood as some have suggested.
 - 2) There would be no need to build the ark but simply move.
- 2. God would personally make a covenant with Noah. Vs. 18
 - a. God told Noah, “But I will establish My covenant with you.” Vs. 18a
 - 1) First mention of “covenant”
 - “b@riyth” comes from the root word with the sense of cutting
 - 2) This practice is seen in Scripture as an animal was cut in two and the men in covenant walked between the pieces and the blood would bind them to adhere the covenant. Gen. 15:10, Jer. 34:18
 - b. God gave the conditions of the covenant, “And you shall go into the ark--you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. Vs. 18b-e
 - 1) God commanded to enter the ark.
 - 2) God specified who would enter the ark.

3. God specified the animals to be brought into the ark. Vs. 19-20
 - a. The general commanded to Noah, “And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Vs. 19
 - 1) The total volume of ark was 1,400,000 cu. feet.
 - 2) The equivalence of 522 standard equating 125,000 sheep that would fit.
 - 3) Authorities estimate there are 18,000 species living in the world today, allowing for extinct species 36,000.
 - 4) Doubling it for male and female would be 72,000 which would leave 1/5 of the volume for food, people, etc.
 - b. The specific command to Noah, “of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive.” Vs. 20
 - 1) Notice after their kind emphasizing creation, denying evolution.
 - 2) Today they say there are about 4100 species of mammals and about 8600 of birds. (Vos:46)

- 3) God could have had many of these animals go into a hibernation, like bears?
4. God commanded Noah to store up food provisions. Vs. 21-22
 - a. Noah was to take food for himself and his family. Vs. 21a
 - b. Noah was to take food for the animals. Vs. 21c
 - c. Noah was responsible to bring these provisions in to the ark, not God. Vs. 21b
 - d. Noah was obedience to God. Vs. 22
 - 1) The obedience of Noah is stated, “Thus Noah did.” Vs. 22a
 - 2) The complete obedience of Noah is also stated, “According to all that God commanded him, so he did.” Vs. 22b-c

Illustration

The entire world that lives apart from Christ is living as a people who proudly boast of their manner of life-style and rejection of the their belief in Jesus but one day they will find that their affiliation to people who live apart from Jesus will not be so advantages nor appealing.

The knowledge that the entire membership roll of the Nazi Party, containing some eight million names, and was found soon after the collapse of the German army. This was no joyful

news to those whose names were thereon. Once these people were proud to be numbered with the ruling party. Once it had meant power and prestige, and in many cases wealth, This master file had been the key to places of honor and authority for those whose names were listed, but now it was different. Now it meant sharp investigation, prison for many and death for others.
2872

Application

1. Each of us are called to be consecrated vessels in preparation of His coming. 2Tim. 2:20-26
 - a. The understanding, “But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.” Vs. 20
 - b. The choice, “Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.” Vs. 21
 - c. The exhortation, “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” Vs. 22
 - d. The warning, “But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.” Vs. 23

- e. The instruction, “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient.” Vs. 24
 - d. The attitude, “In humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth.” Vs. 25
 - e. The goal, “And that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.” Vs. 26
2. Every believer is to be building not an ark, but themselves up in their most the Faith. Jude 1:20-23
 - a. But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Vs. 20
 - b. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. Vs. 21
 - c. And on some have compassion, making a distinction. Vs. 22
 - d. But others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. Vs. 23
 3. Every believer is told clearly that they will escape the judgment of the wrath of God to come.
 - a. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. Rom. 5:9

- b. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 1Thess. 5:9
- c. To the church of Philadelphia Jesus said, “Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.” Rev. 3:10

The mission of Noah was to prepare to escape the judgment of God and be God centered!

III. The message of Noah.

- A. Noah was a man of faith. Heb. 11:7
 - 1. He was divinely warned of things not yet seen and moved with godly fear. Heb.11:7a-c
 - a. Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen. Heb. 11:1
 - 1) There had not been any rain up to that particular point of time, yet he believed God. Gen. 2:5-6
 - 2) The man Noah believed God that He would cause it to rain for forty days and forty nights. Gen. 7:4
 - b. “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is

- a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Heb 11:6
- 2. He prepared an ark for the saving of his household. Heb. 11:7d
 - a. The ark was not for the people who Noah was warning regarding God’s judgment, but for his family only and the animals, “Come into the ark, you and all your household”. Gen. 7:1b-c
 - b. God knew the extreme corruption of man and his unwillingness to repent, revealing He would destroy the entire world.
- 3. He condemned the world by the building of the ark. Heb. 11:7e
 - a. The very presence of the ark spoke of judgment to come as well as Noah’s Grandfather Methuselah.
 - b. The condemnation or judgment of the world was not Noah’s doing but their own rejection about the warning of judgment to come.
- 4. He became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. Heb. 11:7e
 - a. Noah became a type of Adam as the representative of righteousness for the human race in the second world.
 - b. Noah could not attribute it to his own righteousness but his faith in the revelation of God’s provisions.

- B.** Noah was a preacher of faith. 2Pet. 2:5
1. God did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people. 2Pet. 2:5a-c
 - a. He found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Gen. 6:8
 - b. He was one of the eight, eight being the number of new beginnings.
 2. God called him a preacher of righteousness. 2Pet. 2:5d
 - a. The word righteousness basically has to do with being in a right relation to one's fellowman in as far as one can be.
 - b. The deeds of righteousness are the outcome of godliness, one's right standing with God.
 - c. The word for preacher "kerux" means a herald or messenger vested with public authority, one who conveyed the official messages of kings, magistrates, princes, military commanders, or who gave a public summons or demand, and performed various other duties.
 - d. The word in the New Testament is used of God's ambassador, and the herald of the divine word of the gospel, as the context of Peter.
 3. God brought in the flood on the world of the ungodly. 2Pet. 2:5e

- a. Noah was not responsible for the response of the people.
 - b. Noah was not responsible for the judgment that fell on the people.
 - * Peter tells us that judgment came through Divine long-suffering as God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 1Pet. 3:20
- C.** Noah was and is a faithful sign to the world. Matt. Lk.
1. The days of Noah are to be characteristic of the days when Jesus will return for His church, "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." Matt. 24:37
 - a. Every intent of thought of the heart was only evil continuously. Gen. 6:5
 - b. Violent and destructive in regards to human relationships. Gen. 6:13
 2. The days of Noah were identified with specific things, "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark. Matt. 24:38, Lk. 17:26-27
 - a. They were eating and drinking which means not in the ordinary sense which

has its legitimate use but in gluttony, drunkenness, living for the body needs and pleasure.

- b. They were marrying and giving in marriage, which again is in the negative, marrying, divorcing and remarrying without thought of commitment, honor or faithfulness, as today!
- c. They were doing these things until the day Noah entered the ark, they were living life as usual because they did not believe the message of God!

D. Noah was an intercessor. Ezk. 14:14, 20

- 1. Ezekiel was told by God that the elders of Israel had set up idols in their hearts and He would not be inquired of them or delivered, “Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness,” says the Lord God. Ezek. 14:14, 20
- 2. Noah interceded for 120 years.
- 3. Noah interceded because he understood grace and the times he was living in.

Illustration

Daniel Webster, the famous American politician and orator, once spent a summer in New Hampshire and every Lord’s Day went to a little

country church morning and evening. His niece asked him why he went there, when he paid little attention to far abler sermons in Washington. He replied: “In Washington they preach to Daniel Webster, the statesman, but this man has been telling Daniel Webster, the sinner, of Jesus of Nazareth.”

** Oh that we may never get tired of the gospel that warns us, convicts us, rebukes and reproves us and lovingly tells us to flee from the wrath to come!*

Application

- 1. For faith to be Biblical, it must rely on the revelation of God’s word.
 - a. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Rom. 10:17
 - b. For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. 2Tim. 1:12
 - c. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1Pet. 1:3-5

2. Faithful proclamation of the gospel is what is needed to day in our world.
- a. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 2Cor. 5:20
 - b. For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 1Cor. 1:21-24
3. Faithful witness are a sign of the only way to God.
- a. "You are the **light** of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they **light** a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives **light** to all who are in the house. Let your **light** so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matt. 5:14-16
 - b. "You are the **salt** of the earth; but if the **salt** loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men." Matt. 5:13

4. Faithful intercessors are always key to God's plan of salvation.
- a. The Christian is to intercede for his family.
 - b. The Christian is to intercede for the sinner like Noah did, those in the world that God puts in our path and lives.
 - c. The Christian is to invite those who hear, to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

The message of Noah is that he was a man of faith!

Conclusion

These were the days of Noah.

- I. The modern days of Noah were man centered!
- II. The mission of Noah was to prepare to escape the judgment is God and be God centered!
- III. The message of Noah is that he was a man of faith!