

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020



## THE CANDLESTICK

*The windows of heaven were opened (Gen. 7:11)*

How frightening it must have been for the people in Noah's day as the Flood wreaked havoc on their world!

Originally, at the beginning of creation, Gen. 2:5 tells us the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth. ... *No rain at all!* Instead, there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground (Gen. 2:6). ... It would have been a most beautiful and serene spectacle. How terrifying, though, for Noah's generation when the torrents of rain cascaded incessantly from the sky! *Absolute terror!*

Prior to this cataclysmic event, the earth's population had become engrossed with the pace of what had become 'normal' life. Indeed, there were not enough hours in the day because what they wanted to produce for themselves was sensational! Their plans for the years ahead were unparalleled because they intended to surpass the greatest exploits of previous generations. ... And the population growth was the result of people from all the different cultures and backgrounds coming together. They intermarried, and their children were taught to forget the past and focus on a bright future where *they* would be in control. New religions and ideologies abounded, but no-one held rigidly to any specific dogma lest it would have gone against the grain of the permissive society. Instead, there were no obstacles erected to their progression. Living was all about toleration. Enlightenment was the order of the day, and everything engendered the utopia of the godless, nonbelieving, freethinking, irreligious socialites. ... Organised religion did not feature!

Granted, there was a small inconsequential group who refused to adopt the world's agenda. ... Not to worry though, they were 'a dying breed' and would soon be finished ... destined by society to become extinct.

But the upset came when the water began to fall out of the sky and the rivers filled up ... the lakes began to overflow, and they gushed over the banks and ferociously swept through the countryside and into the villages and towns and cities. The people, - those who could, - escaped to the hills leaving all their belongings behind. Their homes were demolished. Their businesses collapsed. Their lives were ravaged. ... They had so much one day, but the next it was all *gone!* Their beautiful homes, their comfortable lifestyles, their lucrative enterprises ... *all destroyed!* ... And they watched as this phenomenon over which they had no control robbed them of

everything, and eventually, even robbed them of life itself. ... From the richest to the poorest, from the master to the servant, from the oldest to the youngest ... all were lost in the Flood which enveloped the world!

How sombre the words of the Lord Jesus when He referred to those ancient times and placed them into His conversation concerning the calendar of events approaching His return, But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be (Mt. 24:37-39).

As we look through the prism of Scripture, we are warned not to put our trust in men because they cannot save us (Ps. 146:3). The rich and influential were powerless against the Flood and, as we are seeing today, they are also powerless against this present endemic.

As Noah prepared the ark for himself and his family, none of his neighbours had any comprehension of what was coming. As far as they were concerned, his message was irrelevant and of no consequence. ... *How wrong they were!*

The apostle Peter tells us Noah was God's spokesman to a godless society for he was 'a preacher of righteousness' (II Peter 2:5). He did not witness the 'success' of seeing multitudes receiving his message and turning to God in repentance, *however*, he was *faithful* in presenting the message God had him to proclaim ... and that is what God requires of every believer today, - to be faithful ... as the writer to the Hebrews records, By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith (Heb. 11:7).

Jesus promised times like Noah's would return at the end of the age, and His words are for our instruction, *Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.* But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. *Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh* (Mt. 24:42-44). ...

Kingdom of Christ, for Thy coming we pray,  
Hasten, O Father, the dawn of the day  
When this new song Thy creation shall sing,  
Satan is vanquished, and Jesus is King!