

## ... AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH ... (MT. 24:37)

What are you to make out of Brexit ... and all the political frolicking?! Not only are we living in interesting times, we are living in *amazing* times? On Thursday the Brexit Secretary presented the government's policy and then he voted against it. The Chief Whip, - the person whose job it is to make his party vote for the government, - abstained. It is difficult to know what is coming next! ... We are witnessing the truth of God's Word, **Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people**, or as another version (CJB) puts it, "Righteousness makes a nation great, but sin degrades any people".

We seem to be living back in those days of which the Bible describes, **Judges 21:25 every man did that which was right in his own eyes**. ... There is such a cavalier attitude to everything, - a 'high-and-mighty' approach which has permeated society. ... For example, did you notice the children were out on strike *again* on Friday from school over the climate issue? It's getting ridiculous! ... And the arrogance of the world is increasingly seeping like a pollutant into many churches resulting in the truth of God's Word becoming subject to society's agenda ... and as Jesus described when He spoke of the last days, **Mt. 24:12 because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold**.

But how do you stop it? Is it possible to stop it? We would love to see our churches filled again, we would love to see and hear of souls being saved, and we would love to see children and young people coming in ... but will it happen? I honestly don't know but I *do* know there is only *one* way out of the turmoil which has descended upon our nation and it is when God hears the cries of repentance from His people, for He has promised, **II Chron. 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land**. ... That is God's precondition ... But do we hear such cries today ... Do we even hear a whimper?!

In Noah's day, the world had wandered away from God to such an extent ... **Gen. 6:5 GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually**. And Jesus spoke about those days, **Mt. 24:37 as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be**. <sup>38</sup> 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.

The society in Noah's day was so shameful and corrupt **Gen. 6:6 it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart**. ... God

was disappointed at how His creation had turned out, and it provoked Him to respond, **7** I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth.

He could not allow their contempt to continue unabated, **Gen. 6:11** The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. **12** And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. ... They were bereft of righteousness because they had become so vain/conceited/boastful/egotistical/proud in their imaginations and ‘thinking’ (Rom. 1:21). They had deviated beyond the ‘point of no return’ by distorting beyond description the goodness God had blessed them with. ... And yet, even in those days, - before the Flood, - God retained a faithful remnant of men and women, such as Noah and his father Lamech, and his grandfather Methuselah. But by the time the Flood came, all but eight people remained alive who were faithful unto God, - Noah and his wife, his three sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their three wives. ...

Those were spiritually very dark days. ... If Noah was here today, I could hear him saying to us, “Yes, we had *that* in my time, and we also had *that* in my time, and *that* too ... But *that* is new! *That* is even worse than it was in my day, before God came in judgment and flooded the earth! What they are doing now is more despicable than even the most depraved would have been up to!” ... And it is true. **Gen. 6:5** GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

But apply this to today ... The Bible clearly warns how the judgment of God will be unleashed upon the rebellious world preceding the return of the Lord Jesus. It will be worse the Flood, and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Peter wrote, **II Peter 3:3** Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, **4** And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. **5** For this they willingly are ignorant of [*i.e.* *λανθάνω they hide away, they conceal*], that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: **6** Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: **7** But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. ... That’s what God says is coming!

But you wonder why God has not acted in judgment already! Society believes it can do whatever it likes to offend Him, and there are no repercussions ... They treat Him as if He is a weak and distant ‘character’ of little consequence to reality, similar to how they thought in Noah’s generation.

However, as it was in the days of Noah, so it is today for God continues to keep His faithful people. And Peter tells us that in the years *prior* to the Flood, - as well as building the ark, - Noah was also preaching and warning of God's impending judgment (II Peter 2:5) ... But, like today, they would not listen. He warned them to turn from their sin, as he faithfully presented to them what God had told him, [Heb. 11:7](#) 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.

... He warned them, knowing they would not repent ... but he warned them nonetheless. He was anxious because he *knew* they were facing the wrath of God ... but they would not believe, and he could not make them believe!

God had made a covenant with him, [Gen. 6:17](#) behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein *is* the breath of life, from under heaven; *and every thing that is* in the earth shall die. **18** But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. God saved *them* ... How? Through grace, **8** But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Nothing but God's grace can save *anyone*. God's grace alone is what saved Noah and his family.

And Jesus announced as it was in the days of Noah, that is how it will be prior to His second coming. The world will increasingly *reject* God, as they did in Noah's day. God will respond ... Take a look at Revelation chapter sixteen which describes the 'natural' judgments to be unleashed preceding Christ's return, [Rev. 16:1](#) And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials [*saucer-type bowls*] of the wrath of God upon the earth. ... That is what had happened when the flood came ... read Gen. 7:11, In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and *the windows of heaven were opened* ... The *bowl* of God's wrath was poured out upon the unbelieving world, - God had His saints in the ark ... he had not taken them out, but He kept them safe from His judgment ...

It is also what happened when the LORD *rained* upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire *from the LORD out of heaven* (Gen. 19:24) ... as He 'poured' out from the vial/bowl His wrath upon those two cities and their sinful people.

As God has done it before, He is going to do it again but on unprecedented scale for Rev. 16 continues to describe how the 'vial<sub>s</sub> of the wrath of God'

will be poured out one after the other, firstly upon the earth (v.2), then the sea (v.3), then the rivers and fountains (v.4). ... Then the fourth vial will be poured out upon the sun (v.8), <sup>9</sup>And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. Man's rebellion will be undeterred for they will grit their teeth and keep on cursing God and they will not repent! And the fifth vial will be poured out, and they will *still* not repent. In fact, it made them revile God all the more, <sup>10</sup> they gnawed their tongues for pain, <sup>11</sup> And *blasphemed* the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds. ... That is the hatred for God which will increasingly possess society as the second coming of the Lord Jesus approaches.

In those days God's people will become more detested and despised. The Gospel will draw unrestrained opposition. 'Free speech' will be afforded to all, but not to those who hold to the Gospel for they will be anathematised as 'fanatics' and 'extremists'. Christian teachers dare not give a *hint* of their faith in the classroom. Christian hotel owners will be out of business! ... Not even Christian bakers will be safe! ... Noah saw many terrible manifestations of sin in his day, but if he was here now, I believe he would be shocked at how dangerously ripe for God's judgment our world has become!

And such a world produces leaders to suit its agenda ... and those leaders introduce laws to facilitate the sins of their people ... and it takes them all further away from God until there is no way back. And these are the times about which Paul warns the Christian, **II Thess. 2:3** Let no man deceive you by any means ... [because that is what 'they' will try and do ... as Jesus said, **Mt. 24:11** And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many]: for [that day of the Lord's return shall not come], except there come a falling away first [and that's what Jesus said too, **Mt. 24:12** And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold], and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; <sup>4</sup> Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. ... Paul prophesies about a man, - a leader, - to be revealed who will be the complete epitome of opposition to God, and he will have no shame to claim himself to be God. ... And he will 'take the people in' because he will be successful in all he promises them ... at least for a while. He will 'strut himself' on the world's stage, and he will hold the people spellbound as he draws them into his web. He will succeed where others have failed, even regarding Israel. ...

Noah was also on the threshold of horrific times, but unlike many Christians today, he believed the warnings God was giving him. ... He recognised the world was ripe for judgment for God could not allow their rebellion to continue. And even though it had never happened before, Noah believed what God was telling him ... that God would literally *destroy* the earth, [Gen. 6:22](#) Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

And then when the moment drew near, - after about 120 years of building the ark and preaching righteousness, - [Gen. 7:1](#) the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for ... [4](#) I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth ... and it happened, as God said it would!

God's promises are sure, and that is why God's people ought to know what He says He will do leading up to the return of Jesus ... Whether or not Jesus will return in our lifetime we cannot tell, but I do firmly believe the signs are piling up in preparation for that great event. Notice too, that while Noah was busy building the ark he was a 'preacher of righteousness' warning the people ... There is no record of him achieving any significant results but he nevertheless preached to the ... even as Joel prophesied in his time, [Joel 2:1](#) Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain ... for the day of the LORD cometh, for *it is nigh* at hand ... And also as Jesus warned, in anticipation of His Second Coming, [Mt. 24:42](#) Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come ... [44](#) Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

We need a fresh 'breed' of 'Noahs' ...even a '*few*' people who are not ashamed to believe and proclaim Christ is coming again. It was totally contrary to the mindset of the people in Noah's day and it is also totally contrary to the mindset of the people in our day ... And yet, upon the heart of Noah was the burden the Lord laid there to work in anticipation of His coming, and Noah did not stop until it was all over, and the Lord saved Him out of the Flood. ... There are undoubtedly difficult times ahead, but be assured the Lord *will* save His people, for He has promised, [Ps. 50:15](#) call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. How will He do it on that great day? ... He will descend from Heaven with such a shout that will waken the dead, and we who are His, - out of the living and the dead, - shall all rise to meet Him in the air and we shall be with Him and reign with Him forever!

... These are God's promises, God's surety, and God's guarantee which puts the antics and the frolickings of the ungodly into their place. ... May the study of His Word be our encouragement and also a challenge to be faithful to our calling until the Lord Jesus comes again. Amen.