

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

...as in the days of Noah and Lot

Jesus compares the time of his imminent return to the days of Noah and Lot. What is it about those days that he wants us to see? And how are our days like those? They must be if he is about to return, and all signs are that he is.

As it was in the days of Noah

Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. (Jesus speaking, Luke 17:26-27; NIV)

Right off the bat, we see that the people continued living their normal lives right up to the moment Noah and his family entered the ark and the flood came. So the people obviously knew nothing about the imminent peril in which they lived. Let's look back at the original account in Genesis 6.

In Genesis chapter 6 we find that God is indignant at the behavior of people on the earth. Verse 5 says that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. God was grieved he had even made man, and he purposed to wipe out mankind. The Bible notes in verse 8 that Noah found favor in God's eyes. Noah is described as righteous and blameless, and it is said he walked with God. So the rest of the chapter describes how God chooses Noah and commands him to build an ark. He even tells Noah he is going to put an end to all people. The earth is corrupt and full of violence. God tells Noah about taking animals into the finished ark and also his wife, sons, and their wives. Please note – we do not know how righteous the others were, only that Noah was righteous.

It takes Noah perhaps a hundred years to build the ark. Finally, it is ready and chapter 7 describes how Noah and his family and the animals enter the ark and how the Lord shuts them in. And the flood comes.

Imagine what life was like for Noah all those years he was building the ark and preparing for the flood - all the laughter and abuse directed his way as he built this giant ship. Jesus says the people were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark and the flood came. Let's get right to the conclusion: the people were so dull spiritually that they had no comprehension of what was coming. They even were getting married right up to the flood. They were spiritually dead long before they were physically drowned.

From my perspective from all these years of seeking to carry out God's call on my life as God guides, there are huge numbers of people like that today – large numbers who know nothing of God and Jesus and the plan of the Bible, and also large numbers who attend church every Sunday and say they are Christians but who know little beyond their traditions. Thankfully, there are also some serious true believers in Jesus. How many only he knows. But you must recognize that even as our country and world steadily get ever more corrupt and violent, there are huge numbers naively going forward as if all is well. In many places the Sunday sermons which are limited to twenty minutes or so in order that all

can make the noon meal focus on God's love or some motivational opinion to help all live more comfortable lives, and the rest of the Bible and the account of what is going on in our day is never discussed. Our own ark is really just about complete. Most do not know that and do not know where it is.

Another key point: note in verse 4 of chapter 7 that God warns Noah specifically when it is only 7 days until the rain is to begin to fall to start the flood. So Noah has a general warning to build an ark that takes perhaps a hundred years and then a very specific 7 day warning. He didn't sit around wondering when all this will be. It was clear to him. Let me tell you, the return of the Lord is not a fuzzy concept either. Jesus expected us to recognize the signs of the time for his return. We are living in that time.

As it was in the days of Lot

It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. (Luke 17:28-29; NIV)

Right after telling the disciples that his coming will be just as it was in the days of Noah, Jesus goes on to compare his coming to the days of Lot as well. As you know, Lot was living in the city of Sodom. The verses above note that the people there were eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, and building, and fire and sulfur rained down and destroyed them all. So as in the days of Noah, these people were living oblivious to what was about to happen.

Well, what were the days of Lot like? You may remember how early in the book of Genesis, Lot had separated from his uncle Abraham and had gone to live in Sodom. In Genesis chapter 18 the Lord comes to visit Abraham, together with two angels. Evidently they all appeared as people, for the Bible says Abraham saw three men standing nearby. But Abraham knew they were not men.

After spending some time with Abraham, the three turned to go to Sodom. The Lord tells his friend Abraham that the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that he is going down to see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached him. As the Lord talks with Abraham, the two angels go on to Sodom. It is in the next several verses that Abraham, knowing Lot is in Sodom, negotiates with God and God agrees not destroy the city if even only ten righteous men are found there.

The account then turns to Sodom and we quickly see why the outcry against the city. The two angels arrive. Lot sees them and invites them in to his house. They say they will spend the night in the town square, but Lot is insistent and they go with him. He prepares a meal for them. Before they go to bed, the Bible notes in verse 4 of chapter 19, all the men from every part of the city surrounded the house and called to Lot: "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them."

Amazing. Lot goes outside and pleads with them not to behave that way. He even offers his daughters to the men. But the men order him out of the way. They keep pressing Lot, and the angels reach outside the door, pull Lot back in, and strike all the men outside with blindness.

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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The rest of the account has the angels telling Lot to take his family and leave the city because God is going to destroy it. Lot goes out and tries to convince his sons-in-law to go with him out of the city, but they think he is joking. At dawn, the angels lead Lot and his wife and two daughters out. And God destroys the city and Gomorrah.

So what is the deal with Sodom? Yes, they were oblivious to what was about to happen and were engaged in normal life activities right up to the end, just as the people of earth were in Noah's day. But clearly they were also engaged in sexually deviant behavior. They were homosexuals, and they planned to attack strangers sexually who had just come to town. Note the Bible says all the men were part of that group that planned to treat the strangers that way.

So we might say rampant wickedness, rampant deviant sexual behavior. You know how God hates such behavior (Romans 1:18-32 and Leviticus 20:13). The short book of Jude says that Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion and serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

SO....

In the days of Noah and in the days of Lot, the people are so spiritually dull or completely lost that they have no recognition that the end is about to come for them, that their time is up. Jesus is saying that is the way it will be when he comes. Most people will just not be ready and not be aware and they will miss what he is doing and has to offer to believers. Is that not the way life on earth is today?

Similarly, Jesus is also commenting on the mass immorality and corruption of the days of Noah and Lot. I would suggest to each of you that you take your blinders off if you have not and look with unveiled eyes at the culture and world in which you live. No one who knows and loves God could easily watch the local evening news more than a few minutes, or the larger national news broadcasts for much longer. The endless crimes and murders and rapes and accidents and fires and natural disasters and terrorist attacks in various spots and blatant lying that comes from leaders in various fields and...well, it is tiresome and so depressing even to write about. And look at the widespread moves to accommodate homosexual behavior and make it ever more an accepted lifestyle. Society as a whole is largely lost. Just look at how a major government effort in New York City has been directed at limiting the amount of soda someone can buy, as if that is the greatest danger to people today. Or the naïve and incomprehensible behavior of the federal government that now deems it safe for people to carry knives on airplanes with blades longer than the ones used by terrorists on 9/11. They and their focus are lost. And look at the steadily increasing outbreaks of war in multiple areas, especially the Middle East, and the deranged government of North Korea and Iran.

There is more that could be added about the days of Noah and Lot, and you can read the scripture yourself. But this is enough to make the point. The Lord is returning soon. The clock started when the geographic and political nation of Israel returned in 1948 if not before. The time is short. In our writings and CDs and videos you can hear of all the prophecies that have been fulfilled. Yes, the time is now.

Today is as in the days of Noah and Lot. Pretty much the same. Will you be alert and ready? And will the Lord deem you righteous?

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If you would like to attend any of the programs below, let us know (use back of enclosed coupon and envelope, or call or email) and we will notify you if and when one is scheduled to be held near you.

Also, if you would actually like to have us hold one of these at your church or in some other specific place, please pass that along as well.

- The Return of the Lord - a multi-session program on the return of the Lord.
- A one or two session update program called Latest on the Return, giving all that has happened recently. This is appropriate for an audience already familiar with all the prophecies that have been fulfilled – ideal for those that have heard our past programs or CDs on the return.
- Healing the Sick: A multi-session program on divine healing.
- Who Is Jesus and What Did Jesus Do? - A program on Jesus and all he did – most people are aware of less than 10 % of what the Lord accomplished for them (one to three sessions).
- As always, the powerful Day of Healing program which combines teaching in the day and a healing service at night.
- We have from time to time done one-session healing programs. We may even do a one-session return program as appropriate for a church or area. These one-time programs may be a good prelude to the multi-session program.
- The seminar\services page on our web site lists additional programs if you would like more information.

May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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