**Voices from Our Past Still Cry Out**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Genesis 6:5-8**

**Sunday Morning**

**December 29, 2024**

**Genesis 6:5-8**

5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

7 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Saints, fearing God is always reflected in obedience to Him, and He always rewards obedience.

**Hebrews 11:7**

"By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."

Saints, fearing God is always reflected in obedience to Him, and He always rewards obedience.

Saints, Noah, far from being a mariner, began building a strange-looking boat with one small window.

Slide of Noah's Ark>

Moreover, as he built it, he proclaimed to all who would listen that God told him a flood was coming to destroy civilization.

Couple this strange scenario with the fact that in the history of the world it had never rained. But this story is not from the library of ancient Hebrew folklore.

The true story of Noah and the ark has leaped from the Bible to capture the imagination of young and old alike in every generation for nearly forty centuries.

Saints, when God told Noah it was going to rain, he believed it. When God told Noah to build an ark, he responded by beginning to build.

But when Noah relayed this message to the people of his day, they did not believe it. Still, their refusal to believe the message did nothing to deter him from his determination to build an ark.

Peter the apostle, called Noah “a preacher of righteousness” because Noah kept hammering and heralding.

**2 Peter 2:4-7**

4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked

Saints, man’s wickedness caused God to resort to a destructive flood, and it was Noah’s godly fear and righteousness that caused God to warn him and to give him and others an opportunity to escape.

Although Noah escaped the judgment of the Flood, he was able to save only his own family.

**GOD WARNED OF DESTRUCTION**

Saints, the ancient days of Noah's civilization was more wicked than we can imagine. Our world is wicked today, but the Bible says of Noah’s day that “every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

**Genesis 6:5-8**

5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

7 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

**Jeremiah 17:9-10**

9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? 10 I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

**God Warned Noah**

**Genesis 6:13**

"And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth."

Saints, God has always had people of righteousness to whom He could relate and through whom He could communicate with mankind. In every dispensation God has had someone to whom

He could talk and convey His messages so that they in turn would relay His words to the people. Noah was God’s man in what many often refer to as the dispensation of conscience.

Saints, Noah, who was a part of the godly line descending from Seth as opposed to the godless line of Cain. Noah was the grandson of Methuselah and the great grandson of Enoch, a patriarch known for his walk with God and his translation into heaven.

**Hebrews 11:5**

"By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God."

**Genesis 6:8**

"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD"

The Bible also describes Noah as “a just man,” “perfect,” and that he “walked with God.” It is commendable that Noah maintained his integrity in spite of being surrounded by sin. This proves that we can live for God in a wicked world—at home, at work, at school, or wherever we may be exposed to iniquity.

**Noah Warned His World**

**2 Peter 2:5**

"and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly"

The Bible does not tell us how Noah evangelized his world, but it does call him “a preacher of righteousness.”

The Bible says that Noah “moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world”

**Hebrews 11:7**

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

It seems that it was the presence of the ark that condemned the world and not necessarily his preaching. He was a preacher of righteousness, not condemnation.

Jesus did not condemn the world; He preached righteousness. Those who did not believe were already condemned.

**John 3:17-18**

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God

Saints, the people were lost in Noah's day because they would not repent of their wickedness, not merely because they failed to get into the ark. If they had been righteous, they would have gotten into the ark, but since they were wicked, they did not even consider it.

Apparently, Noah did not preach, “Get into the ark,” for the people needed to repent of their wickedness and obtain righteousness. Then they would have gone into the ark. Noah, sensing that need, preached righteousness.

**God Gives Warning for Today**

**Matthew 24:37-39**

37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 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, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Saints, Jesus warned that the time preceding His second coming would be similar to the days before the Flood. He said that there would be a time of eating, drinking, marrying, and divorce, and moreover there would be a lack of the knowledge of God Spiritual the flood came.

“Eating and drinking” seems to imply a preoccupation with pleasure. It is evident that our present world is pleasure-hungry. Many people today expend much time and effort in the pursuit of personal pleasures.

Jesus’ prophecy concerning the last days harmonizes with Paul’s warning to Timothy, his son in the gospel.

**2 Timothy 3:1-4**

1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...

**FBI & Wikipedia Survey**

Since 1973 Roe vs. Wade there have been 73,559,615 aborted babies. That's 201,533 per day, There are now 50 States in our Union that have legalized Homosexual Marriages.

**GODLY FEAR ACTIVATES OBEDIENCE**

**The Fear of God Initiates Innumerable Blessings**

Seven verses in Proverbs begin with the words

**“The Fear of the LORD.”**

**Proverbs 1:7**

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction"

**Proverbs 8:13**

"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate"

**Proverbs 9:10**

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding"

**Proverbs 10:27**

"The fear of the LORD prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened"

**Proverbs 14:27**

"The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death"

**Proverbs 15:33**

"The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility"

**Proverbs 19:23**

"The fear of the LORD leads to life, And he who has it will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil"

Scofield defines “fear of the LORD” as “a phrase of the Old Testament piety, meaning reverential trust, with hatred of evil.”

It is not “a feeling of anxiety and agitation caused by the presence or nearness of danger, evil, pain, etc.,” which is the usual definition of fear, but it is reverence and respect.

**Godly Fear Motivated Noah to Build an Altar**

The first thing Noah did when he left the ark was to build an altar and offer to God an offering. This act underscored the importance that Noah placed on his relationship with God.

Saints, the first step for us today to build an altar with God is:

**Matthew 6:33**

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you"

The altar represented a place where Noah met with God and God met with Noah. A meeting place with God is vital to our victory.

As Noah could not have made it in the new world without an experience at the altar, neither can we expect to live for God in this world without a regular and consistent “altar” experience.

**BECOMING HEIRS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**Genesis 6:8**

"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD"

In the Old Testament the word grace comes from the Hebrew word chen meaning “graciousness, kindness, favor,” having the meaning of “bending or stooping in kindness to an inferior.”

Saints, God stooped to warn Noah of pending doom, giving him a way of escape from the judgment that He was soon to bring upon the world.

**God was not Obligated to Warn Noah**

Saints, it is easy for a person to lapse into legalism and feel that he deserves what he receives from God because of his righteous lifestyle. Nevertheless, we have no righteousness except that which God gives us by Jesus Christ. (Expound on Righteousness and tithing)

**Philippians 3:9**

"and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith"

Noah’s walk with God not only attracted the attention of God but it also saved him. By being righteous, he was separated from the evil masses that aroused the wrath of God. By being righteous, he received a remedy for wrath. By being righteous, he saved his house.

**Noah Was Prosperous in God**

**Genesis 9:1**

"So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth"

It was God’s will for Noah and his family to prosper in their new world. God had cleansed the world with the Flood making it a more livable habitat. It was only fitting that Noah and his family enjoy a fresh, new start in their pristine world.

Saints, as Noah prospered and was fruitful in the newly purged world, it is God’s will that we enjoy a fruitful life with a spiritual prosperity as well

**3 John 2**

"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers"

**God Has Heirs of Righteousness Today**

**Galatians 3:26-29**

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Obedience to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ establishes a relationship wherein the believer is counted righteous with God. It is not an attribute of the believer, but of God. It is His righteousness with which He clothes us.

**Romans 10:3-4**

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

**In Closing:**

**1 Corinthians 1:30**

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption...

Saints, Noah, who lived in a wicked society, feared God; and if we really want to have eternal life, we will fear the Lord.

We are reminded that Jesus said there is a parallel between Noah’s day and our day, therefore serving as a warning to us today.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.**