

August 27th, 2017
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: The Days of Noah
Sermon #1 Title: End Time Orientation
Sermon #1 Text: (Luke 17:26-30)

In 1970 a man named Chuck Milhuff and two of his friends, William J. and wife Gloria Gaither wrote a song that has captured the longed for anticipation of every thinking Christian. They wrote:

The marketplace is empty,
No more traffic in the streets,
All the builders' tools are silent,
No more time to harvest wheat,
Busy housewives cease their labors,
In the courtroom no debate,
Work on earth is all suspended
As the King comes thro' the gate.
O the King is coming,
The King is coming!
I just heard the trumpets sounding,
And now His face I see,
O the King is coming,
The King is coming!
Praise God, He's coming for me!

Both the Old and New Testaments are filled with promises of the Second Coming of Christ. There are 1,845 references to it in the Old Testament, and a total of seventeen Old Testament books give it prominence.

Of the 260 chapters in the entire New Testament, there are 318 references to the Second Coming, or one out of 30 verses. Twenty-three of the 27 New Testament books refer to this great event. The four missing books include three which are single-chapter letters written to individual persons on a particular subject, and the fourth is Galatians which does imply Christ's coming again.

For every prophecy on the First Coming of Christ, there are 8 on Christ's Second Coming.

It must be noted that the one of the things that Jesus uses to point us to the future is the past. It is almost as though, Jesus said, "When you look at this history, you can see the future." – So as Jesus points us to the past, we see first of all there is a History that every Christian needs to know.

I. The History Every Christian Needs to Know – "And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the Son of man."

- To know the History as the Lord has explained it to us, is the key that unlocks the door to knowing the future as the Lord has explained it to us, and in this section of scripture he points us to two time periods in which the Lord delivered the saved, and destroyed the lost: - The Days of Noah, and the Days of Lot.

A. The Days of Noah

*Note – Here is an example of the Lord saying the same thing on two different occasions.

1.) vs 26 – "And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man."

2.) Matthew 24:37 – “But as the days of Noe were, so shall the days of the coming of the Son of man be.”

*Note – Now before we get into the days of Noah themselves, learn this lesson here . . . Jesus expected His disciples to know the history of the days of Noah!

*Note – He spoke with the presumptive authority that these men were at the very least well aware of the history of the days of Noah, and at the most very knowledgeable of the days of Noah.

- There is a history here that Jesus expects His disciples to be grounded in.

- Why?

- Because it is the very history that teaches us so much about the coming of the Lord, is the very history that men so adamantly deny, decry, and defame.

- To reject and ridicule the flood of know is to reject and ridicule the judgment of God, and the deliverance of God.

- The attempt to hide the true history is the attempt to blind men from the future.

*Note – Now here is one of those wonderful times that the Apostle Peter didn't sleep through class, he received the message and it stuck.

Out of the 8 chapters that Peter wrote in 1st and 2nd Peter, there are at least three sections that speak expressly of the days of Noah and the flood of God. (In other words, in almost half of the chapters that Peter wrote, he brought this up at least 3 different times.)

- In 2 Peter 3:3-7 – Peter shows how important the true history of Noah's flood is to the settled future of the Lord's return and judgment.

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 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. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 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.”

- Biblically speaking then – in the knowledge of the past, there is a knowledge of the future – therefore ignorance of the past judgment of God disconnects one from the reality of the future judgment of God.

- This is the primary reason for you to become interested in the history of the world revealed in the Bible – Jesus said to, and your soul needs you to.

*Note – But Jesus wasn't finished with his time period – He gave another one.

B. The Days of Lot

1.) verse 28 – “Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot;”

*Note – Here again, the Lord expects His disciples to have a working knowledge of the story, the times, and the conditions surrounding the man named Lot.

*Note – There is an entire Old Testament filled with histories. Histories of kingdoms rising and falling – Gods people being delivered, God's enemies being destroyed, yet with all of history to work with Jesus chose to use Noah, and Lot as two

men, and their times, to know about concerning the coming of the Lord. – Why those two?

*Note – Now I haven't fleshed all of this out, but here are some very basic things pertaining to the Day of Lot and the Days of Noah, that we need to learn, that serve as reasons Jesus pointed us to these two men.

*- Both of those men and their days are pictures of God's punishment of sin, God's promises to deliver and destroy, and God's power to deliver and destroy.

In the days of Noah you have all the elements of the coming of the Lord.

- 1.) The Promised Global Judgment
- 2.) The Provided Personal Deliverance
- 3.) The Proclaimed Message of Repentance
- 4.) The Patient Waiting for Men
- 5.) The Punishment that fell on all of humanity.

In the days of Lot, you have different elements of the coming of the Lord

- 1.) You have a different Method of Destruction – By Fire –

The first time God did this, He used water, and said He'd never do that again. – So He used fire! - Now with Lot, it was not a global destruction by fire but it was a sample destruction by fire.

- It was Peter (again) who told the elements shall melt with a fervent heat.

- 2.) You have a different Means of Deliverance

- Noah willingly got on the ark –
- Lot was brought out by angels.

- 3.) You have a different Mood of the Divine

- Noah was a preacher of righteousness, who proclaimed the Judgment of God, and explained the judgment of God for 120 years.

- In the days of Lot – there was no more pleading, there was no preaching, there was no warning, there was no more for the Lord to say to the wicked . . . and He made no effort to.

*Note – Now when you put all of that together, you have a complete picture of 1.) The Fact that God has Judged, and Will come in Judgment. 2.) The Fact that God has delivered, and Will Deliver & 3.) The Fact that God has said all He's going to, and will say no more, until Jesus comes in Judgment.

*Note – Now all of that being said, Jesus takes the Days of Noah, and the Days of Lot and their history in this world, and lays them on the study desk of every disciple of Jesus – and the more you know about their past, the more you'll know about your future.

II. The Tragedy Every Christian Needs to See

*Note – Now we don't just learn that history to learn that history, we learn that history to see what is in that history, and here Jesus explains to us the tragic elements that He wants His disciples to focus on.

- In both cases He gives us two tragic elements to see . . .

A. The Normal Disregard for the Lord

*Note – Sometimes Christians may hear the phrase, "The days of Noah," and the "days of Lot" and if they know their Bible very well, their mind runs immediately to days of great wickedness – days in which men embrace, enjoy, and revel in their depraved nature – and when you study those days you find out that is so . . .

- But that's not what Jesus points His disciples to –

*Note – He points them not to what is IN their lives, but what is NOT in their lives!

- 1.) vs 27 – “They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark.”
- 2.) vs 28 – “Likewise in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, the builded . . .”

*Note – In short, the picture Jesus told His disciples to notice about those days was the complete absence of a fear of the Lord.

- There was absolutely NO Fear, Worry, Concern, Hesitation, sense of Conviction, at all pertaining to all the other wickedness that was going on all around them.

(When you study the days of Noah and Lot you find it to be days filled with people openly, brazenly and joyfully reveling in their sin) – But what Jesus points out is not their sin, but the fact that they didn’t care about it!

- There was absolutely no hint of regard for – the preaching of Noah. There was no hint of regard for the presence of righteous Lot.

- There was no dam of moral or spiritual restraint –

- The Bible tells us in Romans 3:18 - that one of the qualities of a soul that has abandoned the Lord and the things of the Lord is that “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

- In other words, they lived as though there is no judgment to come. They lived as though they would never answer to God. They lived as though they would never be judged.

- The norms of their society was to live as though God did not exist.

(Know this – this is the worst condition a man can be in. – He may be wallowing in the gutter of depravity and He may be reveling in the pleasures of sin . . . but when the moment passes, as long as their creeps in a sense of fear of the Lord, a sense of concern over his condition – there is hope!

- BUT – when at the end of sin, there is at worst joy and at best indifference, and a complete void of all things resembling conviction – there is no more hope.)

The Second thing that the Lord lays on the attention of His disciples

B. The Total Destruction of those Lives

1.) vs 27 – “the flood (did come), and destroyed them all.

2.) vs 29 – “it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.”

*Note – To borrow from some headlines in recent years – Humanity is not too big to fall.

a.) When the flood came in Noah’s day, the entirety of the human race, except for 8 souls, were weighed in the balances found wanting, and banished to eternal punishment. – Sent their by flood waters.

b.) When the fire fell on Sodom and Gomorrah that day – the cities on the plain, minus Lot and his family, were banished to eternal punishment sent their by fire.

*Note – I remind you that it was not merely the loss of their lives on this earth, but rather it was sealing of their destinies in hell.

- The judgment on their earthly lives, ushered them into the finality of their eternal lives.

- This was total destruction

*Note – When you put the two events together, Noah pictures the Massiveness of the Coming Judgment, and Lot pictures the Method of the Coming Judgment – and Both are testimonies of the Certainty of the Coming Judgment!

- Their indifference to the Lord was not insulation from the Lord.

In them you have the History you need to know the Tragedy you need to see, and finally The Reality that you need to hear.

III. The Reality Every Christian Needs to Hear

*note – Now here is why Jesus pointed them to the past – To know it, so they could see it, so they could hear His revelation of the future.

A. “So shall it be in the days of the Son of man” – vs 26

1.) vs 30 – Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

*Note – This is one of the keys to understanding, why we need to understand the Days of Noah – as it was then, so it will be when Jesus comes.

- Now how was it? – It was a time of great wickedness. But what was worse, is that it was a time of no concern that God would deal with that wickedness.

(A few months ago, we preached through the book of 1st Peter under the theme, “Living Like We’re Leaving.” – We could

tweak that a bit, and say these people “Lived Like Jesus Isn’t Coming.”

Conclusion: - I am afraid that one of the great sins of today is the same sins of those days, People are Living Like He’s not Coming!

- I would not harm you for the world, but some of you are living like He’s not coming!

- His church has to fit into your life, rather than the other way around.

- His Word has to capture your interest rather than you programming your interest to dive into His Word.

- His Will is a Nice thing to find, but not a necessity for living.

Just as sure as the Flood destroyed the world. Just as sure as Sodom and Gomorrah are buried in ash. Is just as sure as Jesus is coming again!