**Jesus Help Me Be A Witness**

**By Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Matthew 5:13-16**

**Wednesday Evening**

**April 15, 2020**

**Matthew 5:13-16**

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

**If there’s one story in the Bible most people know, it’s the one about Noah and the ark—even children’s books are written about it.**

**Photos of Noah’s Ark> 4 slides**

Saints, but to understand the real message regarding this event, we need to look a little deeper into the scriptural account. In Noah’s story there’s a message of hope and assurance, but there’s also a warning because it demonstrates that God hates evil.

**Genesis 6:5-13**

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. 9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

10 And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. 11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

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.

**The Character of Noah**

Saints, there are numerous servants of God mentioned in the Bible, but only two of them are said to have “walked with God”—Enoch and Noah. Further descriptions of Noah say he “was a righteous man, blameless in his time”

**Genesis 6:9**

This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

Of all the people on earth in that day, only “Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord”

**Genesis 6:8**

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

He was a remarkable man in his time, but he’s also someone we should aspire to be like today!

Saints, Jesus said right before He returns it would be just kike the days of Noah!

**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.

**The World in Noah’s Day**

Genesis 6:5-6 describes the kind of world in which Noah lived:

**Genesis 6:5-6**

“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.”

Verse 13 adds that the earth was

**Genesis 6:13**

"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, after creating the earth and all the plants and animals along with Adam and Eve,

**Genesis 1:31**

“God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good”

Yet by the time Noah lived, conditions had all become so bad that God was sorry He’d made man.

**What had happened?**

**The answer is sin!**

When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, everything changed, and it is still having its effect today. We are living in a time when society is becoming increasingly like Noah’s day, and just as he remained righteous and blameless, walking with God, we should aspire to do so as well.

**Noah’s Assignment from God**

**Genesis 6:13-14**

“Then God said to Noah, ‘The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth. Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood’”

Saints, in a world where rain had never fallen, and plants were watered by mists that arose from the ground, this must have seemed like a very strange instruction. Furthermore, Noah may not have had any building experience, but when God gives someone a task to complete, He always supplies whatever is needed.

**The Ark**

The Lord told Noah exactly how to build the ark. It was to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high, with three floors. It was shaped like a shoebox 1 ½ football fields long with about 100,000 square feet of space inside.

God knew exactly how big it should be, what material to use to build it, how much food was needed, and how many animals would be in it. The ark had one door, which God controlled, and one window, which Noah could control.

There was no rudder or wheel because the Lord was the guide. It had no engine or sail. And it didn’t look impressive or beautiful because its purpose was simply to preserve the lives of Noah, his family, and the animals.

**Photos of the Ark> 2 slides**

**The Flood**

Saints, one week before the flood, God told Noah and his family to enter the ark, and He sent animals and birds of every species into the ark as well. Then after seven days, God shut the door, and it started to rain. It rained for 40 days and nights and the fountains of the deep were opened. The water rose and covered all the mountains and prevailed over the earth for 150 days before it began to recede.

The Bible doesn’t record what Noah and his family experienced during this time, but we can imagine what it must have been like to hear the first rain drops and perhaps the people knocking on the door to get in.

**Slide of Photos Begging to enter the Ark> 2**

Saints, everyone that Noah had known before was going to die, and the earth they knew would be devastated and forever changed. This was not a pleasant boat ride but a rescue from God’s judgment on the world.

Eventually the ark landed on a mountain. Several months later the mountain tops became visible, and after 40 more days, Noah opened the window and sent out a raven, which never returned. Then he sent out a dove, but it returned to him because the water still covered the surface of the earth.

Seven days later, he sent out another dove, and it returned with an olive leaf in its bill so Noah knew there was dry land. After being enclosed for 365 days, the Lord told Noah it was time to leave the ark.

**A New Start**

Saints, from the time God told Noah to build the ark and throughout his time inside the ark, Noah kept trusting and obeying the Lord. Now his walk of faith would continue as he and his family began living in a strange new world. The first thing he did was build an altar, offer sacrifices, and worship the Lord who had brought them safely through the flood.

**Genesis 8:20**

“Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.”

Then God established a covenant with mankind and every living creature on earth. He promised that the earth would never be destroyed with water again. And as a sign of the covenant, He set His rainbow in the sky.

**Genesis 9:11-14**

11 Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." 12 And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

13 I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. 14 It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud…

**Noah’s Example**

Noah’s life is an inspiration and an example we should all follow. He was a righteous, blameless, obedient servant of God in an ungodly society. He believed what God said, and did what He told him to do, even though he’d never seen rain or built a boat. Noah trusted the Lord to protect and provide for them in the ark and afterwards, when he and his family had to start over again.

**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.”

**How do you suppose what the reaction will be when Jesus comes back again?**

**2 Peter 3:1-13**

1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to 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 creation." 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

In the same way, we too can believe whatever God says, and trust Him to direct our lives and provide for all our needs as we obediently do whatever He says.

**1. Have you ever felt that God required you to do something that seemed unreasonable or beyond your abilities?**

**2. If you followed Noah’s example, how would you respond?**

**3. When you read a promise in God’s Word, are you confident that He will do what He said?**

**4. If not, what causes you to doubt Him?**

**5. How does Noah’s example motivate you to believe and trust the Lord?**

**In Closing:**

**God’s Door is About to Close!**

**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.

**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.” In Jesus Name!**