

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#03-0904

The Days of Noah #2

January 15, 2009

In the first issue of this series, it was stated that we are in the days of Noah.

On the negative side, the days of Noah speak of rampant corruption among mankind as they go about their daily lives. The core of their lives is immoral and unethical, and they are oblivious to the impending judgment of God. We are living in these days. Unfortunately, a good portion (not all) of the church of our day is also immoral and unethical. I heard it said recently that the business ethics of Christians is just as bad as or worse than non-Christians. I must agree with this conclusion, for I have observed the same thing over the years. But it must not be this way; it is time for the ecclesia of God to manifest moral and ethical behavior to the world, based on the divine laws of the kingdom of our Lord that are to be written on our hearts. Well, much could and should be said on this matter of morality and ethics, but I will leave this to the series titled *The Kingdom of Our Lord*. Let us press on with the topic at hand.

In the broadest sense, it could be said that the days of Noah were 950 years; yet in a narrower sense, it could be said that they were the 600 years leading up to the flood. However, in a much more narrow sense, it seems that, prophetically speaking, the days of Noah were the 120 years that preceded the flood. As stated previously, most of us have been taught to view these days, as well as their end, in a negative light; however, there is a very positive side as well, and this is what we need to see.

The positive side is this: Another flood is coming, but this one is not for the purpose of removing the spirit from mankind but for filling mankind with the spirit of God. A flood of the spirit of God is coming that will begin to fill the whole earth in *the day of Christ* just as the waters covered the whole earth in *the days of Noah*. The first flood was to remove immorality and unrighteousness that had filled all flesh; the second flood is to bring in morality and righteousness that will ultimately fill all flesh.

The number *five* signifies the grace of God. Interestingly, the phrase *the days of Noah* appears five times in Scripture (Genesis 9:29; Isaiah 54:9; Matthew 24:37; Luke 17:26; 1 Peter 3:20); it took Noah five years to build the ark, and the number 120 appears five times in Scripture (Genesis 6:3; Deuteronomy 34:7; 2 Chronicles 5:12; 9:9; Acts 1:15). Could it be that the Lord is trying to tell us something about the meaning of the days of Noah? Perhaps, it is all about grace. The flood that is coming is not only a flood of God's spirit but also of God's grace.

Now, let us consider the number 120, and to do this, we need to see how this number is presented in the books of Genesis and Jasher.

Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years (120)." (Genesis 6:3 NASB)

Behold I give you a period of one hundred and twenty years (120); if you will turn to me and forsake your evil ways.... (Jasher 5:70)

It goes without saying that most, if not all, of us have interpreted the word to Noah to mean that mankind would no longer live hundreds of years but would be restricted to 120 years. This seems to be true, for we discover that after the flood, the lifespan of each generation kept dropping by about half. In our day, no one seems to be able to reach the age of 120. However, the book of Jasher adds some new light on the interpretation. The 120 years refer to the period of time during the days of Noah that the

Lord gave corrupt mankind to repent. In other words, once Methuselah and Noah began to speak out against the corruption, mankind had 120 years to repent or be judged by flood. Consequently, it could be said that this period of time speaks of God's grace being extended through the preaching of Noah and Methuselah.

In the Concordant Version, the first part of Genesis 6:3 reads differently from the NASB quoted above. It states: **Not abide shall My Spirit in the human for the eon** (age). I realize that this is worded strangely, but this is not uncommon for translations that strive to be as literal as possible. Nevertheless, this means that God was telling Noah that He was going to remove His spirit from man for the age. There are two ways to interpret this word. The first way is that God was going to remove the breath of man, that is, he was about to die, which did occur. The second way is that God was going to remove His spirit from mankind for the age to come, which means that His spirit would not dwell in mankind until a much later time. Simply, man would live but without the spirit of God residing within him. This too occurred. However, it also could have been a prophetic word to Noah (and us) that a new day would come after the eon at which time the spirit of God would again reside within mankind, and this would come as a second flood, not of water but of glory. We know through the ancient prophets that the glory of the Lord will fill the whole earth, and this is likened to waters covering the sea, that is, a flood.

(20) So the LORD said, "I have pardoned them according to your word; (21) but indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD." (Numbers 14:20-21 NASB)

And blessed be His glorious name forever; and may the whole earth be filled with His glory. (Psalm 72:19 NASB)

And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory." (Isaiah 6:3 NASB)

They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9 NASB)

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." (Habakkuk 2:14 NASB)

Notice how both Isaiah and Habakkuk compare the filling of the earth with glory to the waters covering the sea. In other words, just as the flood of Noah's day covered the whole earth, so will the flood of God's glory fill the whole earth in the Lord's day. One might wonder what the connection is between glory and the spirit of God. Well, they are one and the same, for God's glory is manifested when the spirit of God fills all. We see a picture of this in Revelation 21 as John *in spirit* saw **New Jerusalem** coming down out of heaven, having the glory of God. New Jerusalem is the dwelling of God *in spirit*, the holy temple of the Lord. Thus, where God dwells, glory is manifested, for God is spirit and He is the God of glory.

Now, this leads to the coming of the Holy Spirit to dwell once again in mankind; a flood that will occur in stages. The first stage came on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came down upon the 120 in the upper room. This is one of the connections to the 120 years of the days of Noah; but instead of it being years, it is 120 people, and it is presented in a very positive light. After 120 years, a flood of water came upon the body of mankind. When 120 brethren had been gathered, a flood of the Holy Spirit came upon the body of Christ. Thus, the number 120 prophetically speaks of two types of floods. However, the flood of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was only the beginning or the first stage of this move of God. Although this was a glorious event that has continued for the last 2,000 years, it is not the full manifestation of the spirit of God. Today, all who believe have been given an earnest of the spirit (2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5) as a down payment for the inheritance to come (Ephesians 1:14), which speaks of a people filled to full capacity with the spirit of God, even running over (John 7:38), which is what a flood does best; it overflows. This will come to the conquerors in a new day, *the day of Christ*. They will be flooded with the spirit; but it will not stop with them, for it is God's plan to fill all mankind with His spirit over the next two eons until the whole earth is full of His glory. There is nothing more positive than seeing the glory of God fill all. A glorious flood is coming!