

Vision 2023

The Gifts of God - Week 9 (1-4-23)

Matt. 24:36-39

I. The State of The Earth

A. Matt. 24:4-14

1. Evil will increase
2. In Noah's day they were completely clueless and unprepared.
 - a) Hens Jesus' multiple warnings to the disciples in Matt. 24:45-25:46

B. Why was Noah so special that he got to avoid the flood?

1. He didn't!
 - a) He saw it from a completely different perspective than everyone else, but still had to endure the effects of the flood.

II. Noah - From Hebrew word meaning rest. Also directly related to word meaning "guide" or "lead".

A. God supernaturally gave Noah the instructions and wisdom that he needed in order to survive the righteous judgement of God.

1. God has also supplied us with His Holy Spirit, who does that same thing for us in real time!

B. Eph. 2:11-14

1. We were (past tense) without Christ and without hope. Just like the people that were locked outside of the ark.
2. "But now" we are in Christ - made right by His blood
 - a) 1 John 1:7 - The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.
 - b) 1 Corin. 6:9-11 - Washed, Sanctified (set apart), and Justified (declared righteous)
 - (1) By the Spirit!
3. Noah was the only righteous man on the earth and was spared God's judgement on the rest of the world. Jesus was the only righteous man on the earth and was slain on behalf of the rest of the world!

C. Noah heard from God when no one else did

1. He "walked with God" (in the middle of an evil and perverse environment)
 - a) How did Noah keep himself pure in this environment?
2. Enoch also "walked with God" - Gen. 5:24
 - a) Enoch "was not" - same word used when Elijah was "translated" into heaven.
 - (1) They walked in such intimacy with God that they were able to escape death, showing that ultimately reconciliation with God includes victory over death!
 - b) Instead of Noah being translated into heaven, he was given an assignment.
3. While the rest of the world is busying themselves with living their own lives, we need to be keeping our focus on hearing and being lead by the Spirit of God.

- a) If Noah could do this and maintain his focus on God in his time, then we surely can with the direction of the Holy Spirit!
- D. 2 Peter 2:5 - Peter calls Noah a “preacher of righteousness”
 - 1. Preacher = Kernyx - herald; proclaimer
 - a) Gen. 6:9
 - (1) “Just” - meaning conformity or obedience to ethical or moral standard.
 - (2) “Perfect” - meaning entirely in accord with truth.
 - b) A good preacher doesn’t just preach but actually lives what he/she is preaching.
 - (1) He probably preached just as much with his lifestyle as he did with his words.
 - (a) Again, he “walked with God”. Closeness and intimacy with God will breed a certain type of worldview and a certain type of fruit.
- E. Gen. 6:22 - Noah Obeyed
 - 1. Hebrews 11:7
 - a) Because Noah had already anchored his heart in God, he was willing to build an ark that would save him and his family.
 - (1) The ark did not eliminate the flood, but it did carry them over it and they came out on top (of a mountain).
 - (a) His faith and trust in God carried him through the chaos of this world, and yours can too!
 - b) He became an heir of righteousness that comes by faith.
 - (1) Romans 8:14 - “For as many as are lead by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”
 - (a) We are heirs of righteousness by faith as we follow the direction of the Holy Spirit.