

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

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LOOKING DEEPER INTO THE DAYS OF NOAH

Lately I've been led in several ways to look more and more into the days of Noah. Remember, Jesus in talking about his return to collect his believers said it would be like the days of Noah.

We have many times looked into that scripture in Luke 17:26-27. Now it is time to go further. Our focus thus far has been on how people were going about doing the normal things of life in Noah's day - eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage. And we have also looked into the early verses in Genesis 6 and noted how evil people were then. But that is pretty much where we stopped. It's time to go further.

So what more do we really know about the days of Noah - specifically, life on earth before the flood:

- **People lived an extraordinarily long time** – hundreds and hundreds of years. Noah's grandfather Methusaleh lived 969 years. His father lived 777 years. Noah himself was five hundred years old when God spoke to him about building the ark.
- **Extraordinary violence and evil was on earth, just horrible.**
The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time – Genesis 6:5

Evil all the time! Every inclination! Words in the Bible are not there by accident. God's words are never throwaway, careless words. Those are pointed words, accurate words, full of meaning.
- ***When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose*** – Genesis 6:1-2

This is a shocking statement to most people. Now, the phrase translated Sons of God here refers to angels. Somehow a group of them on earth strayed away from their assignments and were attracted to women even so far as to marry them. These angel-human marriages led to the birth of Nephilim, hybrid creatures part angel and part human. Here is the scripture:

Giants – nephilim – men of renown, heroes of old The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. – Gen 6:3-4.

I want you to understand the terms “heroes of old” and “men of renown” are not terms of praise.

So in the days preceding the flood there were giant people called Nephilim living on earth and apparently terrorizing the other people. There is an ancient writing called the book of Enoch

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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which calls these angels “watchers.” Enoch was the great grandfather of Noah and also the person who while living on earth and walking with God just disappeared – he went to be with God while still living. At one time in the distant past this book was read a lot. It is referred to in the book of Jude in our Bible and even is included in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church Bible. The book was actually lost to Western civilization for many centuries, but copies were retrieved from Ethiopia in the 1700’s by James Bruce from Scotland and brought back to the Western world. Parts of this book of Enoch were also discovered in the Dead Sea Scrolls discovery in the middle of the last century.

- When the flood came it destroyed all living things except for those on the ark. The earth was covered by water up to 20 feet above the tallest mountain. It is important to note that one of the things God was destroying in this flood was all the perverted DNA that existed in these giants. It is also important to realize that the spirits of these half human, half angel beings would not have gone to where God took the spirits of dead people. In fact there is no evidence in the Bible that angels ever die. Angels after all are already spirits; they don’t naturally have physical bodies. So what happened to the Nephilim? One thought is that the spirits of these Nephilim, these giants, are at least part of the demons referred to in scripture.
- We see in the Bible that there were some giants on the earth after the flood. Note David’s battle with the giant. Note the Israelite spies report after sneaking into the promised land (See Numbers 13:32-33). They said they themselves must have seemed like grasshoppers in the sight of the giants they saw. How did they get there? We certainly don’t know. There has been speculation that one of the wives of Noah’s sons who was saved in the ark may have had some perverted DNA in her body. Somehow there had to be some to be passed along, and surely Noah’s sons did not have that. In any event thankfully those giants were finally eliminated from the earth.

Evil never stops attempting to destroy humans, to destroy the means of their salvation, to interrupt and destroy God’s work. Evil is evil. Evil is real. The devil and his minions are on earth now running amuck in these last days. Surely I hope you can see all the results of their activities here today.

We need to focus on the days of Noah because Jesus said his return would be in times just like that. The flood came right while the people in those days were going about normal activities. They were totally unprepared and were no doubt shocked and horrified. And of course, destroyed. Our days are just like those of Noah. People are engaged in normal pursuits of life. And as in Noah’s day, there is massive evil out there in today’s world. Ungodliness is surely the norm of today’s society.

God has clearly shown in the Bible his willingness to destroy all humanity when he considered it so evil. All indications are we are living in the time when that dreadful Tribulation begins and God pours out his wrath on an evil world. Fortunately for us we know Jesus and we know, too, that he is coming to collect his believers and take them with him. Believers I know want that to happen now, soon, as they see the world descending evermore into a deep, dark evil pit.

SURPRISE! IT’S DEATH AGAIN!

Another shock. No, I didn’t see that one coming. Someone close to us has passed away. Even while we believers are eagerly alert and watching for Jesus’ return, death is still occurring. It is life as usual.

If it is a very close relative who has died we usually hear almost immediately. If it's a friend who lives far away, maybe not soon at all, at least not until someone there thinks to tell us. And if a friendly acquaintance far away, maybe the knowledge doesn't come until we call to speak to the now departed person someday.

What a miserable thing death is. Certainly often for the one who dies and certainly always for those close to the one who dies. The aftermath of a death is just not a good time. Depending on the circumstances, the death is sometimes a shock and leaves many in a confused state of suddenly having to deal with things they didn't want to. Other times it may be more expected but still there are all the many things to deal with – property, money, expenses, and people – the most important. And most importantly there is the emotional loss and cost. That can range from significant to severe to devastating.

But God – thankfully – has given believers in Jesus a future with hope. For those who have Jesus as their Lord, there is a bright hope and a bright future in the Kingdom of God.

At some point in the very near future, the Lord is coming to collect his believers. So those who are alive then will never die - they will just go with Jesus. At that moment those believers who have died will rise from the dead and meet Jesus in the air. And believers who are still living will also meet Jesus in the air. All will receive new glorious bodies. The temporary bodies in which we have all lived on earth will be gone, these bodies that are so fragile and often breaking down and needing repair, often suffering pain and all sorts of disease and injury.

Having been around or near so many deaths in the ministry and personally, I really don't like death. I know God can use the pain and suffering and loss coming from a death as a means of growing people in various ways, teaching people things they just have never heretofore been able to grasp or understand. And he is God. He knows what he is doing. But as for me here on earth living amidst so many, death is still just largely a miserable experience.

Some people – especially serious born again spirit-filled Christians - try to make death a positive experience. They have a funeral or memorial service that they describe as a celebration. I have been to several of these, and except for one that may have come close, none of these were celebrations if truth be told. Let's face it. Even though believers know the person is gone and now with God, all those left here on earth are left without that person. We would have preferred to have that person here.

Sometimes people find comfort in the cases of severe illness or injury or hardship by saying the person is now free of all the suffering. Well that is true. Sort of a left-handed benefit. To get free of all that pain they had to die and leave us, leave their children or spouse or friends and family and so on.

Let's be honest. Often there is a lot of lying about death. Some people, really a lot, seem to try to go forward almost as if everything is normal. It is not. The person is dead. No longer here. Can no longer be counted on for anything. Nothing. All plans involving the deceased are now out the window or in need of great revision. They can no longer provide love and comfort and advice.

Others closest to the deceased find it impossible to cover up. They must live with the reality. They try to go on. Some do the stiff upper lip approach. Others more openly mourn. And in some thankfully rarer forms of death, like that of a little child, the whole thing is just devastating to any honest person. Death just seems to pop up. It is especially prevalent among older groups of senior citizens, but it also appears in highly risky endeavors, in basic life activities such as driving or flying, and so on. A truly

healthy person may even accidentally encounter a terribly violent strain of some type or other or have an organ malfunction and poof before anyone can even think about it they are gone. Surprising unexpected deaths are I think the hardest to cope with.

I have written long pieces about death meant to comfort and inform. One of the descriptions I like best describes death as the person just moving from one room to another. He is the only one who sees the way out of the first room. All the family and others standing about sadly do not see him leave nor do they see the door he goes through. Most likely he is accompanied in this leaving by an angel, maybe by Jesus himself. But really where he is going is not known by any of us. Jesus told the thief on the cross that today he would be with Jesus in paradise. So we know the dead person's spirit in some way goes to be with Jesus; actually many think the person's spirit is in heaven. Some who have had near death extraordinary experiences report having been in heaven and seeing relatives. But still we don't know. We do know the believing deceased get their glorious new bodies at the same time living believers do in the coming rapture, and then we will all be in Heaven through the Tribulation.

There is no real good conclusion to this piece. As I began, death is a miserable thing for those left behind. We believers in Jesus can take assurance and peace from the hope we have in Jesus and the glorious future expected with him and his father in the Kingdom. Still it is rough for those left behind. The void, the emptiness cannot really ever be filled. One of the horrors of life as a human being. We just have to rely on God's comfort and move on. That comfort is monumental. It is what keeps us going, keeps us breathing. No one ever said life was easy.

OUR THANKS AGAIN TO ALL THOSE SUPPORTING THIS MINISTRY WITH YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL DONATIONS!

Since the last newsletter our video evangelism effort has amazingly reached more than 1.5 million people in Argentina, Malaysia, India, and Germany, bringing the total number reached in this world effort thus far to 24.2 million! We praise and thank God for all he is reaching this way. He is making all this possible. Please if you can, consider making a gift to support the ministry and this amazing effort in the last days. Beyond all the wonderful things we have seen and been involved with in this ministry, the Lord's overriding assignment to us surely still is what he told me in 2005 while I was preaching: John, tell them who I am and that I am coming soon. With your wonderful help we are still doing that.

**STAND FIRM IN YOUR FAITH AND KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS!
SOON YOU WILL BE SEEING HIM IN A WHOLE NEW WAY!**

May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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