

Sons of Cain(2)

THE DELUGE: A MODEL OF FUTURE JUDGMENT

God Changing the Function of the Atmosphere

In His creation, God used the atmosphere to make rain and to cause the rain to come down on the earth so that the different kinds of life, including the plant life, the animal life, and human life, might exist. Acts 14:17 says that God is "doing good, giving you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness." Also, Isaiah 55:10 says, "For as the rain cometh down, and...watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater..." These verses clearly indicate that the function of the atmosphere is to send down the rain for the maintaining of all the living creatures on the earth. However, when God used the flood to judge the corrupted human race, He changed the purpose of the function of the atmosphere so that it was no longer for the existence of man and all living creatures, but was for the executing of God's judgment to destroy mankind and the whole earth (**Gen.6:13, 7:11**).

This kind of judgment, a judgment for the purpose of destruction, also became a model, signifying that when man has been corrupted to the uttermost, God will again alter the function of the heavens and the earth, which He created, causing that function to be for man's destruction rather than for man's existence. (Rev.6:12-14). These supernatural calamities will cause the people on the earth to lose their safe dwelling places. Then God will go one step further to judge the earth, the sea, and the rivers, and the sun, moon, and stars (**Rev.8:7-12**). These intensified, supernatural calamities will damage the earth, the sea, and the rivers, and the third part of the heavenly hosts, thus causing the earth, which was created by God for man's existence, to be no longer good for man's living. Eventually, God will use the most severe calamities, the calamities of the seven bowls, which signify God's wrath, to give full vent to His wrath, causing the sea, the rivers, and the springs to become blood, the sun to burn men, and the kingdom of Antichrist on the earth to become darkened (**Rev.16:3-10**). Moreover, there will be the greatest earthquake and the greatest hail in human history (**Rev.16:18,21**). The heavens and the earth, instead of working for men, will become calamities that damage men. However, for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose, God will exercise restraint in His ultimate fury; otherwise, the entire earth with its inhabitants would be destroyed.

Gen.6:13 And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and now I am about to destroy them with the earth.

Gen.7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that very day all the springs of the great deep burst open, and the windows of heaven were opened.

Rev.6:12-14 And I saw when He opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black like sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; And the stars of heaven fell to the earth as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. And heaven was removed like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Rev.8:7-12 And the first trumpeted, and there was hail and fire mingled with blood, and it was cast to the earth; and the third part of the earth was burned up, and the third part of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. And the second angel trumpeted, and as it were a

great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea; and the third part of the sea became blood, And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea *and* had life died, and the third part of the ships were destroyed. And the third angel trumpeted, and a great star fell out of heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers and upon the springs of waters. And the name of the star is called Wormwood; and the third part of the waters became wormwood, and many of the men died from the waters because they were made bitter. And the fourth angel trumpeted, and the third part of the sun and the third part of the moon and the third part of the stars were smitten, so that the third part of them would be darkened and the day would not appear for the third part of it, and the night likewise.

Rev.16:3-10,18, 21 (3) And the second poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood like that of a dead man; and every living soul that was in the sea died. (4) And the third poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. (5) And I heard the angel *who had power over the waters* saying, You are righteous, who is and who was, the Holy One, because You have judged these things; (6) For they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink; they are worthy *of it*. (7) And I heard the altar saying, Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments. (8) And the fourth poured out his bowl upon the sun; and it was given to it to burn men with fire. (9) And men were burned with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God, who has the authority over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory. (10) And the fifth poured out his bowl upon the throne of the beast; and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues for pain (18) And there were lightnings and voices and thunders; and there was a great earthquake, such as had not been since man appeared on the earth, such an earthquake, so great. (21) And great hail, *every stone* about the weight of a talent, came down out of heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague of it is exceedingly great.

Destroying the Mixed Human Race

As we have mentioned before, in the human culture that was without God and was united with Satan, man and the angels of Satan, the fallen angels, became mixed as one through human marriage. This caused the human race created by God to become mixed with the race of the evil spirits. Therefore, God used the judgment of the flood to destroy the entire human race, except Noah's family of eight. One of His intentions was to destroy the mixed human race, to clear up the human race and put it in order, thus restoring and preserving the purity of the human race, that He might still carry out His eternal economy through man according to His purpose in creating man. This point also is a model, signifying that God's subsequent judgments are for clearing up the human race to preserve it for the accomplishing of His eternal purpose. For example, at His coming Christ will judge the people living on the earth to clear away the evil ones, the "goats," separating them from the righteous ones, the "sheep," and casting them into the lake of fire for perdition (**Matt. 25:41, 46**), after Antichrist and the false prophet are cast there (**Rev. 19:20**). Also, at the end of the millennium, God will judge and destroy the last group of people who follow Satan and rebel against God. He will clear them away from the rest of the nations, devouring them by fire, and will cast the devil, who deceived them, into the lake of fire and brimstone. (**Rev. 20:7-10**). By so doing He will purge away the rebellious nature in mankind. Finally, after the millennium, at the judgment of the great white throne, God will cast all the dead, including all the dead people imprisoned in Hades and all the demons confined in the sea, and death and Hades into the lake of fire (**Rev.20:13-15**). In this way God will clear up the universe completely.

Gen.6:2-6 The sons of God saw that the daughters of men were fair; and they took wives for themselves from all whom they chose. And Jehovah said, My Spirit will not strive with man forever, for he indeed is flesh; so his days will be one hundred twenty years. The Nephilim¹ were² on the

¹ **H5303** נפילי nēphīlīyīl nēphīl nef-eeel', nef-eeel' From **H5307**; properly, a *feller*, that is, a *bully* or *tyrant*: - **giant**.

² **H1961** הַיָּפִילִים hāyāpīlīm haw-yaw' A primitive root; **to exist, that is, be or become, come to pass**

earth in those days - and also afterward - when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they gave birth to children to them; these were the mighty men who were of old the men of renown. And Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And Jehovah repented that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him in His heart.

Matt.25:32-33, 41, 46 (32) And all the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, just as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (33) And He will set the sheep on His right hand and the goats on the left. (41) Then He will say also to those on the left, Go away from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (46) And these shall go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Rev.19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet ...These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone.

Rev.20:7-10,13-15 (7) And when the thousand years (7) completed, Satan will be released from his prison (8) And will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war. Their number is like *that of* the sand of the sea. (9) And they went up upon the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city; and fire came down out of heaven and devoured them. (10) And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where also the beast and the false prophet were; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, *each of them*, according to their works. (14) And death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (15) And if anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.

Rescuing Those Who Took His Way of Redemption and Life

God had a positive intention in judging the human race by the flood. His intention was to rescue out of the corrupted age those who took His way of redemption and life, that they might live for Him on the new earth, which came out of the judgment of the deluge. Therefore, Peter considers the judgment of the deluge a prefigure of the water of baptism in the New Testament. (**1Pet.3:20-21**) In this aspect also the judgment of the deluge is a model of the three judgments mentioned previously. On the positive side, the first of the three aforementioned judgments is to separate the righteous ones from the evil ones, that the righteous may enter into the millennium and live on the restored earth to be God's people for the fulfillment of God's kingdom (**Matt.25:31-34**). The second judgment is to separate the purified people, whom God desires, from the rebellious ones, thus clearing away the poison of rebellion against God, which was injected by Satan into people. Thus the purified human beings may enter into the new heaven and new earth and live on the new earth to be God's people forever for God's eternal kingdom, so that God and His redeemed and transformed people may carry out His kingship, and so that His glory may be manifested in them (**Rev. 21:24; 22:5b**). Finally, in the third judgment, the judgment of the great white throne, the positive purpose is to separate out the new people of the New Jerusalem and the purified people on the new earth, both of whom God will have obtained by then, for the accomplishing of God's eternal economy. At that time, the old heaven and old earth will be consumed by fire and will be renewed to be the new heaven and new earth (**2Pet.3:10-13**), in which will be the New Jerusalem as God's eternal expression.

1Pet.3:20-21 Who had formerly disobeyed when the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared; *entering* into which, a few, that is, eight souls, were brought safely through by water. Which *water*, as the antitype, also now saves you, *that is*, baptism, not a putting away of the filth of the flesh but the appeal of a good conscience unto God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Matt.25:31, 33-34 (31) But when the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him, at that time He will sit on the throne of His glory. (33) And He will set the sheep on His right hand and the goats on the left. (34) Then the King will say to those on His right hand, Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Rev.21:24 And the nations will walk by its light; and the kings of the earth bring their glory into it.

Rev.22:5 And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.

2 Pet. 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the elements, burning with intense heat, will be dissolved, and the earth and the works in it will be burned up. Since all these things are to be thus dissolved, what kind of persons ought you to be in holy manner of life and godliness, Expecting and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens, being on fire, will be dissolved, and the elements, burning with intense heat, are to be melted away? But according to His promise we are expecting new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the different implications of the judgment of the deluge?

2. Briefly explain how God's judgment by the deluge to destroy the mixed human race is a model.

3. Briefly state the positive intentions of God's judgment by the deluge and discuss the representative nature of this judgment.