

# BIBLE STUDY LESSON: 10 PEOPLE IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS

## Noah

**Gen 7:1** Then Jehovah said to Noah, Come into the ark, you and all your household, for you *alone* I have seen to be righteous before Me in this generation.

**Matt. 24:37-39** For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark, and they did not know *that judgment was coming* until the flood came and took all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

### I. INHERITING THE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS FROM HIS FOREFATHERS TO MAINTAIN AND EXTEND GOD'S WAY OF REDEMPTION AND LIFE

- A. Noah was born into the human race that was corrupt to the uttermost, and he lived among that race.
  - 1. Noah found grace in the eyes of God (Gen. 6:8)
  - 2. Born into a godly family (cf. Gen. 5:4-29)
- B. He inherited the spiritual blessings from his forefathers and took God's way of redemption and life, including:
  - 1. Adam's way of salvation
  - 2. Abel's way of offering
  - 3. Enosh's way of calling
  - 4. Enoch's way of walking with God
- C. By faith he became a righteous man in God's eyes and a perfect man who walked with God in that generation (Heb. 11:7; Gen. 6:9).
- D. Therefore, he maintained and extended God's way of life so that God could carry out His plan on the corrupted earth according to His desire.

### II. WORKING WITH GOD TO ACCOMPLISH THE SALVATION THAT WAS BEING CARRIED OUT BY GOD

- A. At a time when people on earth were corrupted to the uttermost, God was still able to find Noah, one who took His way of life, to cooperate and work with Him for the accomplishing of the salvation that was being carried out by Him for those who took His way of redemption and life.
- B. The ark, which Noah built by working with God and into which he entered, signifies God's salvation.
- C. Noah was saved before he began to build the ark, but he still needed to be saved further, from that corrupted world.
- D. The ark that he built terminated the old age and ushered in a new age.
- E. That ark was the salvation that Noah built, which saved him not only from God's judgment but also from that crooked and perverted generation.

### III. BECOMING THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THOSE WHO WORK WITH GOD

- A. Noah built the ark for God at God's command and according to God's revelation.
- B. This shows that in order for God to work on the earth according to His economy, He must gain some who will walk and live with Him and who will cooperate, coordinate, and work with Him on the earth.
- C. As the mighty God (Isa. 9:6), He alone completed the work of creation, for He spoke, and it was done, and He commanded, and it stood fast (Psa. 33:9).
- D. However, for the carrying out of the work of building, He must gain some who will work with Him.

### IV. GOD'S BUILDING OF THE TABERNACLE, TEMPLE AND CHURCH

- A. The principle is the same in God's building of the tabernacle, in His building of the temple, and in His recovering of the temple.
  - 1. In building the tabernacle, God found Moses to cooperate with Him (Exo. 25:1, 8-9)
  - 2. In building the temple, He found David and Solomon to coordinate with Him (1 Chron. 28:2; 2 Chron. 3:1-2)
  - 3. In recovering the temple, He found Zerubbabel and Jeshua to work with Him (Ezra 3:8)
- B. In the New Testament age, it is the same with the building of the church. God must find those who will walk and live with Him, such as the apostles, to coordinate and work with Him (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1).
- C. It is only in this way that His divine building can be accomplished.
- D. Therefore, Noah too is a model in God's way of life.
  - 1. He represents all those who walk and live with God, who are found by God to work with Him on the earth, and through whom God may carry out the salvation that will accomplish His economy

### V. BECOMING THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THOSE WHO BECOME LOOSE AND THEREBY FALL INTO EVIL AFTER RECEIVING GOD'S BLESSING

- A. After the flood God made a covenant with Noah, promising that he would never again destroy the earth by a flood, that the earth would remain to supply man's need, and that Noah's whole family would live on the earth peacefully (Gen. 8:20—9:17).
- B. Noah experienced great success and became the leader on the new land and the father of all mankind.
- C. Under such a blessing from God, Noah was at ease and became loose.
  - 1. He began to be a farmer and planted a vineyard (Gen. 9:20) to produce grapes, from which he would make wine
  - 2. Then, because of his drunkenness he became naked within his tent (Gen. 9:21) and lost his covering in the eyes of God
  - 3. His son Ham saw this and told his two brothers outside (Gen. 9:22).
  - 4. Because Ham exposed the failure of the head of the family and the leader of mankind, he and his descendants received the curse (Gen. 9:24-25, cf. v. 18)
  - 5. Out of Ham's cursed descendants men like Nimrod were produced (Gen. 10:6-9)
  - 6. The tragic result was that they fell into all kinds of evil, such as rebellion against God, opposition to God, and the bringing in of idols
- D. This matter is a negative model, signifying that throughout the ages those who seek after God and take God's way often become loose and thereby fall into evil after receiving God's blessing
- E. What Solomon did in his old age is a strong example of this.
  - 1. When he was young, he was the wisest of all men, he built the temple, and he had great honor and glory
  - 2. Yet in his old age he succumbed to the temptations of his Gentile wives to such an extent that he followed after other gods and built high places, provoking God to anger
  - 3. This eventually created the tragedy of division and confusion among God's people and led to the fall of their nation and to their captivity in a Gentile land

### VI. THE ARK BEING A SYMBOL OF THE SALVATION ACCOMPLISHED IN GOD'S ECONOMY

- A. The city built by Cain is a symbol of the godless culture invented by fallen men who are far away from God.
- B. The ark built by Noah is a symbol of the salvation accomplished in God's economy.
- C. The city in the godless culture caused man to suffer God's destruction, whereas the ark in the salvation in God's economy caused man to be preserved by God.
- D. Even among the people on earth today, these two things are still in contrast to one another and are still going on.
- E. Those who refuse to take God's way of redemption and choose the way of death

1. Are building the city in the godless culture
  2. Will be consummated in Babylon the Great (Rev. 18:2)
  3. Eventually will be consumed and completely destroyed by the burning fire (Rev. 18:8, 21)
- F. Those who take God's way of redemption and life
1. Are building Christ, who is in the salvation in God's economy
  2. Will be consummated in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2), which is the mingling of the Triune God with His redeemed ones

**Focus:** Inheriting the blessing of his forefathers, Noah continued to choose God's way of maintaining and extending God's way of redemption and life. On one side, Noah cooperated with God to accomplish the salvation planned by God and thereby representing the faithful believers who take God's way to work with God. On the other side, Noah represents God's people who after receiving the blessing of God, become complacent, lose the blessing and fall into evil. Those who take God's way are building Christ, which is typified by the ark and will consummate in the in the New Jerusalem.