

Worse Than Before The Flood?

Joe Slater

Are world conditions really getting worse, or are we more aware of them due to 24/7 news, the internet, and other communications media? Very likely it's both!

In the USA, about a million pre-born humans are slaughtered every year in the abortuaries. While that's bad enough, the latest estimates place the number at 56 million annually worldwide. Then throw in such issues as homosexual "marriage" and the bathroom wars, mass shootings, increasingly violent protests, insanely vulgar and volatile political rhetoric . . . has the entire world gone crazy?

As much as I lament the steady moral decline in human behavior, I disagree with the declaration I've heard so often: "It's worse than before the flood!" No, actually, it's not.

I wonder if we even comprehend how awful it was in the days of Noah. *"Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually"* (Genesis 6:5). Feature it if you can: everywhere Noah looked, violence was the rule, not the exception. He literally could not trust anyone. He was not safe anywhere, including his own home. He and his family were, quite literally, the only ones in the entire world who cared one bit about God and His will.

Yes, our world is wicked and appears to be in decline – but we should thank God that we do not face the degree of evil that characterized Noah's world. And if Noah could be a *"preacher of righteousness"* in the face of unparalleled vice (2 Peter 2:5), then surely we can use our influence to be the salt of the earth and light of the world as Jesus taught (Matthew 5:13-16).

I Am Rich!

Many people spend their lifetime following a dream of becoming rich in this world's goods. Most of them fail. A few actually become wealthy by the world's standards, but often at a very high price. The love of wealth takes its toll spiritually.

The love of riches leads one away from God. A person in love with money falls into the snare of the devil and into many hurtful things that afflict (1 Timothy 6:9, 10). How foolish, to pursue earthly wealth for a few short years and then die, leaving it all to others and losing one's soul in the process! (Luke 12:16-21)

It is much better to be rich spiritually. The Christian has a Father who is very rich. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10). He owns all the gold and silver (Haggai 2:8). And, above all, He gives the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ, His Son, which is priceless (Romans 6:23). This gift is worth more than all the wealth of this world, and it is eternal (Matthew 16:26).

I am a Christian. As such, I am an heir of God, and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ (Romans 8:17). The riches of heaven will be mine to enjoy forever when this life is over. I am rich beyond measure!

Are you rich? If you want to become rich spiritually, you must stop loving the world (1 John 5:15-16) and begin loving God with all your heart and soul (Matthew 23:37). You must believe that Jesus is the Son of God, repent of your sins, confess Jesus as the Christ, be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), and begin faithfully living the Christian life. You will then be an heir of God, rich for all eternity!

--Wayne Robbins (Arkansas City, KS) via Old Paths

GETTING THE JOB DONE

King David desperately wanted to build the temple for God, but could not because he had been a man of war and had shed blood (1 Chronicles 28:3). The Lord then revealed to David that his son, Solomon, would be the one to build the temple (v. 6). David then gave the plans for the temple and words of advice to his son concerning the building of it. These words are great advice for us today in completing any project in the church or in our own lives (1 Chronicles 28:20).

Be strong (have firm conviction)

and of good courage (don't back down)

and do it (work hard at it; focus)

do not fear (have a positive outlook)

nor be dismayed (stay calm and in control)

for . . . God . . . will be with you (have faith; trust God)

until you have finished all the work (finish what you start)

for the service of the Lord (make sure it serves the Lord and His purpose)

Solomon apparently followed this advice, for the temple was completed in only seven years (1 Kings 6:38). This is a remarkable feat considering that he used materials from all over the known world, had to coordinate thousands upon thousands of workers, and make sure it was perfected to the most intricate detail.

Certainly we can learn from this. do you have a job to do? Is there something expected of you? Well, get yourself a good plan, look this verse over again, and let it guide you to success!

--Edd Sterchi (Campbellsville, KY)