



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

Did Noah pray for revival???

The Saviour clearly tells us that ". . . as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be," Matthew 24:37-39.

There will come a generation that will be the final one before the judgment of God falls, just as was the generation to which Noah was commanded to preach. That was a time when God "spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly," 2 Peter 2:5.

In Genesis it is stated that "God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, **The end of all flesh is come before me**; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, **behold, I will destroy them with the earth**," Genesis 6:12-13.

There is little doubt that Noah warned that last generation of the coming judgment both by his preaching and by his building of the ark. Peter tells us that Noah preached in the Spirit of Christ. "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: by which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water," 1 Peter 3:18-20. Thus Christ, through Noah, warned of coming judgment in just the same way as He Himself warned of the judgment coming upon Jerusalem. "And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation," Luke 19:41-44.

Surely we may expect the servants of God in the last generation to follow in the steps of Christ and His servant Noah?

I was made to think of Noah and his circumstances as I listened to a Christian friend pray for the United Kingdom that God would send a mighty revival that would turn the whole land back to Him.

Thinking upon this request, I pondered the fact that we are surrounded by an ever-increasing tide of apostasy. What are called the "main" churches have abandoned all semblance to Bible religion and have embraced wicked doctrines to a degree never before witnessed in the history of Christendom.

Furthermore, the remnant of true believers has never been smaller or weaker.

This being so, it does seem likely that we cannot be far removed from the days of that last generation and the manifestation of the Antichrist and the Saviour's return to earth to destroy him and establish His own Millennial Kingdom.

That raises the question then: "Is it the will of God for God's people in the close of this age to pray for revival?"

If we are to have days like those of Noah reoccur just before the return of Christ, then will not believers in that generation know, as did Noah and his fellow believers, that the wrath of God was about to fall and His purpose was not one of revival but one of "taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe?" 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10.



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

The purpose of the prophetic revelation given to us in the Bible is to impart to us just such information. That is what Paul said to the Thessalonian believers. "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober;" 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6.

This presupposes that the last generation of believers will know that they are the last generation. The Day of the Lord will come as a "thief in the night" as far as the wicked are concerned but not for those who are "the children of light, and the children of the day" and who are taught in the prophetic Scriptures as were the Thessalonians. Paul wrote these words to the church at Thessalonica. "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?" 2 Thessalonians 2:3-5.

During his brief stay amongst that people he taught them the truth of God regarding the manifestation of the Antichrist in the temple of God. This he emphasises by the question: "Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?"

This first generation of the Christian era was taught about the signs of the time and the evidences of the near approach of the Lord's return. How much more it is to be the case that the final generation will be found to possess such knowledge!

Please do not misunderstand what I am saying. Doubtless, Noah prayed during his life and ministry and that for the blessing of God to fall upon those who listened to his preaching. He would have prayed for his family and for the families of fellow believers. I have little doubt that it was highly likely that there were converts under his ministry but natural death had removed them from the earth before the flood came. Prayer would undoubtedly have been a part of this godly man's life. However, he would not have prayed in direct opposition to what the Lord had revealed to him was going to take place. He would not build an ark in obedience to God's specific directions and at the same time pray for an outpouring of the Spirit of God and a great revival to be granted and that generation be saved, which God had specifically said He was going to visit with judgment because of their sins.

Remember what the Lord had said of that generation. "And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch," Genesis 6:13-14.

Noah believed God when He said that He was going to destroy the world by a flood and acted and prayed accordingly. "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith," Hebrews 11:7. Believing and fearing the Lord, Noah could not have prayed for revival in opposition to God's revealed will and at the same time obeyed God and built the ark and warned men of coming judgment. This would entail a tangle of contradictions.

A very clear illustration of this truth or perhaps I should speak of it as a forerunner of the situation that believers will find themselves part of in the last generation of this age is the situation in which Jeremiah found himself.

Hear what the Lord said to him.

"Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

to me: for I will not hear thee," Jeremiah 7:16.

"Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble," Jeremiah 11:14.

"Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for their good," Jeremiah 14:11.

God would not hear prayer for the generation to which Jeremiah witnessed. That did not mean He did not hear prayer for individuals in that generation. The great example of this is the conversion of Manasseh.

"And the LORD spake by his servants the prophets, saying, Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols: Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle. And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab: and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down. And I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies; because they have done that which was evil in my sight, and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day," 2 Kings 21:10-15.

"So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken. Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon. And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God," 2 Chronicles 33:9-13.

Manasseh, the man who led the nation into great wickedness, was converted by the grace of God but the generation whom he led and who refused to hearken to the Lord or take any note of Manasseh's conversion, was doomed and the Lord refused to hear any prayers on their behalf.

As well as the case of Manasseh, there was the case of Josiah and the blessing he saw in his day. As a result of reading the long-neglected Word of God, Josiah discovered that the wrath of God rested upon the nation. He is told by the Lord what was going to happen.

"Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah: because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be poured out upon this place, and shall not be quenched. And as for the king of Judah, who sent you to enquire of the LORD, so shall ye say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel concerning the words which thou hast heard; Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD. Behold, I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place, and upon the inhabitants of the same. So they brought the king word again," 2 Chronicles 34:24-28.

There was undoubtedly a great measure of blessing, of revival and reformation but the judgment brought on by the wickedness of Manasseh and his generation remained and was still going to be judged after the death of Josiah.

These circumstances will be repeated in the days of the last generation. There will be the conversions of the Manassehs and the Josiahs, the localised visitations of mercy amongst God's flock as an ongoing manifesta-



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

tion of the sovereign grace of God of that I am sure, but such will be the exceptions. Judgment will not be forestalled or delayed. It will fall as God has purposed.

These facts serve to bring home to us that it is so necessary for God's people to rightly divide the Word of God and so understand the signs of the times in which we live. It is through God's Word that the final generation of believers in this age will know of the approach of the end and what it is we should be praying for and expecting the Lord to do. It is only by studying the prophetic scriptures and being informed of God's will that we will be saved from praying and hoping vainly for revival when it is clearly the purpose and mind of God to bring down man's rebellion and apostasy by judgment.

Consider these Scriptures.

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for **the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand,**" Joel 2:1.

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: **So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.** Verily I say unto you, This generation (Greek - nation) shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:32-35.

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: **So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.** Verily I say unto you, that this generation (Greek - nation) shall not pass, till all these things be done. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away," Mark 13:28-31.

"And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation (Greek - nation) shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man," Luke 21:29-36.

We are called upon to watch for the signs of the approach of the day. But is it not sadly true that Christendom largely slumbers and sleeps and is unaware of the true character of the moral and spiritual developments all around us?

There is a great need for the people of God to hear Heaven's cry: "And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him," Matthew 25:6. For that to happen there is a need of a race of Noahs, ready to inform and warn both the world and the Church of the approaching judgment.

May the Lord raise up such a witness for the readying of the people of God for the coming of the Lord.

Ivan Foster.

10th April 2014.