

As In The Days Of Noah

by Ray DeLea



³⁷But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ³⁸For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, ³⁹And 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

Genesis 6:5, 11-12 says, ⁵The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination and intention of all human thinking was only evil continually. ¹¹The earth was depraved and putrid in God's sight, and the land was filled with violence (desecration, infringement, outrage, assault, and lust for power). ¹²And God looked upon the world and saw how degenerate, debased, and vicious it was, for all humanity had corrupted their way upon the earth and lost their true direction.

The most amazing thing about Scripture is that it is always on target, gets right to the point, and is inerrant. How could it not be? After all, it is The Voice of God always speaking His truth to us.

The Bible describes seven characteristics about the culture of the people who inhabited the earth during the time of Noah.

1. The wickedness (sin) of people was so great that the Lord repented He had made man.
2. The earth was corrupt and filled with violence
3. The sons of God did not stay faithful to God but gave in to their carnal desires and lusts.
4. People didn't want to listen to the truth of God.
5. People were so busy with their own lives that they had no time for God, only themselves.
6. Only Noah separated himself from the wickedness in the world
7. Only Noah prepared himself for God's coming judgment.

It is interesting that God allowed Noah nearly one hundred years to complete the building of the ark. Through all that time, God patiently waited (1 Peter 3:20). Scripture seems to imply that Noah preached to the people of that time about what was coming (Hebrews 11:7). They did not believe Noah and were content with their wickedness and idolatry. Their hearts were hard and their ears dull. No one repented, and no one cared

to seek God.

When I look around, naturally and spiritually, today I see the identical culture of Noah's day alive and rampant. Jesus speaks forthrightly about these times in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 24 and warns us about our relationship with Him in the midst of the worldly events happening all around us. This is the season of the ten virgins mentioned in Matthew 25:1-13. It is not a time to have insufficient oil in your lamp. So many Scripture "signposts" have been "checked off" that you would have to be spiritually blind not to be cognizant of the Voice of God.

Israel, as a nation, was reborn in 1948. Wars and rumors of wars abound. Many are out there, in the name of Jesus, even saying they are Jesus, leading people astray. False prophets seem to be popping up like popcorn forecasting what people want to hear. Can people be more in love with themselves than they are today? The cell-phone selfie seems to echo this disturbing phenomenon more than anything. I'm not sure about the frequency of earthquakes—have they increased or not, but there sure are a lot of them. Real believers, who speak out the unadulterated Word of God are being attacked everywhere in unprecedented numbers. Because of the pressure of perverted cultural values, many believers are becoming offended by the truth of God's Word and are growing cold in their relationship with God.

The good news is, just like in Noah's day, God has provided a means of escape from the madness - 1 Corinthians 10:13. That escape is non-other than Jesus. Jesus says in Matthew 11:28, *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* He goes on further to say in John 6:37, *Everything which the Father giveth unto me shall come to me; and him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out.* That's a guaranteed eternal rest with Him. God has been warning people for 2000 years of a another coming judgment. His unending love has been paving a way of escape for all of these years; but, as the ten virgins found out, there will be a time when time runs out and The Father's eternal plan of Jesus' return for His bride and subsequent judgment of planet earth will take place. It's still not too late to cry out to God and surrender your life to Jesus—The Way, The Truth, and The Life.

In our corrupt culture, He truly is Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and The Prince of Peace.

We also wear out-spoken clothing with scripture pictured and printed on the front with the CMA colors on the back. Examples are a shirt titled "REBORN" showing a dirt biker climbing a steep hill to the cross with a scripture reference John 3:7, "You must be born again." Another reads "BORN AGAIN BIKER" with a scripture reference John 3:1-21. Another says "PRAY ALWAYS NEVER QUIT." These all attract attention as do the bikes we ride. So we can use the attention to engage people in conversation, maybe about their own bikes, and gain common confidence to tell them who Jesus is and what He wants for them.

The world would like it if we Christians only went to and stayed inside our churches on Sunday every week. What we find is that there are also a lot of Christians at public secular events. They just don't speak Jesus at those events. When we are present in public the Christians like to see us stepping up and are attracted and tend to coalesce around us, increasing attention and drawing secular people. We respond to Jesus' command in what has been termed ¹⁸*The Great Commission* Matthew 28:18-20. *Jesus came and spake unto them, (ie. His disciples) saying, 'All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto*

the end of the world." Amen.

CMA partners with three separate missionary organizations through the "Run for the Son" foreign missions program. We usually are able to fund between 5 and 6 million dollars between the three organizations. They are: The Jesus Film Project, Missionary Ventures International, and Global Christian Relief. Missionary Ventures International provides training and equipping to indigenous leaders. Christian Ventures provides support to persecuted Christians.

CMA takes the command to go and teach and provides discipleship training so members can be equipped to fulfill the role of a disciple of Jesus Christ as we desire to be. I learned in our State Rally that the women contribute greatly in reaching our goal of being good disciples. Most of the men are married. With the Holy Spirit in us we can go out and evangelize the public.

