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AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH...SIGNS OF THE LAST DAYS. by Lorraine Porter Lascelle

If there is one topic that has been on people's minds in the last few decades, it is that which is often referred to as the last days, or the end of the world. Movies and books abound on the subject, all portraying various end time scenarios which curious minds are left to ponder. Christians and non-Christians alike sense that something very significant is about to happen, as they see this world spinning out of control.

What is it that is coming and how will it impact our lives? These are questions people are secretly wondering about and afraid to ask. Many believe we will become a better society if we all work together for the common good. Some also think that by accepting one another's religious and lifestyle differences, there could be peace on earth. Others see a very different picture, having witnessed the vast changes in our world over the last few decades that have undermined the very foundations of society, family and church. Most are looking for some political figure to come in and save the world, and unfortunately will be deceived by the antichrist, who will convince them that he will bring about peace and safety for all who come under his world dominating control.

In Matthew, Chapter 24, when the disciples questioned Jesus about the events of the last days and His return, He didn't rebuke them for asking, but rather warned them not to be misled about what was to come. He explained that there would be false messiahs, who would perform great signs and wonders to deceive people. There would be wars, threats of wars, famines, diseases and earthquakes in many parts of the world. He said His followers would be hated and betrayed, and many would turn away from their faith in Him. There

would also be false prophets who would deceive many, sin would be rampant, and the love of many would grow cold because of the great lawlessness that would be present at that time. Jesus went on to say that before the end would come, the good news of the Kingdom of God would be preached throughout the whole world so that all nations would hear it.

He also warned of terrible calamities and great anguish, as never before since the beginning of time, and that if He didn't come back, no one would survive. Then the trumpet would sound to signal the rescue of His followers from all over the earth. While no one would know the day or hour of His coming, except God the Father, He said His return would be as in the days of Noah.

Why would Jesus use the account of a world-wide flood that destroyed all but 8 people and most living things as His description of things to come? He seemed to be warning that most people would be unaware of what was about to happen, just as in Noah's time. While many have written off the biblical account of the flood as a myth or allegory, Jesus talked about it as a historical fact. He used it to describe the conditions that would exist in the generation that would be alive at His coming. He also spoke of signs in the skies that would signal His return. All of this was referred to as birth pangs which, happening together, would warn that His coming was near, even at the door. With that in mind, we must be dangerously close. Could the trumpet sound at any moment?

People who are watching and studying these events are seeing an amazing convergence of signs in this generation. Sadly, even Christians seem oblivious to the times we are living in, being caught up in worldly things. Some are deceived by false prophets who promise them health, wealth, and power. Others feel no need to know about these things. Tragically, many are falling for the lie that

there are many ways to God, but in John 14:6, Jesus said that He was the only way to God. He said the road to eternal life was narrow and that few would find it. Multitudes will be unprepared for what is ahead and many will miss their salvation because they are not devoted to and watching for the one they claim to love and serve.

Scoffers like to laugh about the subject of the rapture, the return of Christ, and the end of the world, but it is no joking matter. Jesus spoke about it with great seriousness. Peter, one of His closest disciples also spoke of the flood of Noah's time and the end of the world that was to come. In 2 Peter, Chapter 2, he warned of false prophets and teachers who would preach heresies and turn people from Christ. He said such counterfeits would also be immoral and use their lies for personal gain. Then Peter brought up Noah again, and the flood, and how God judged the ungodly world at that time. He spoke about the judgment on the ungodly cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and of coming scoffers who would wander from the path of righteousness and draw others away with them, mocking the truth, denying His coming and following their own desires.

Later, in Chapter 3, Peter went on to say that God made the heavens and the earth, destroying it once by water and that He would destroy it again with fire, along with those who are not rescued from God's judgment. He said that God's timing and seeming slowness was His loving patience, not wanting any to perish but waiting for people to repent, just as He waited for 120 years in Noah's day while people laughed and mocked Noah's words of warning as the ark was being built.

The fact that Peter said that in the last days there would be such scoffers gives us additional evidence that we are drawing near to the end. Never before has this been so true. People also scoff at the

biblical account of creation, the parting of the red sea, the flood of Noah's time, the virgin birth, the resurrection of Christ and the judgments in the book of Revelation. Many say the Bible is full of errors even though they can't document where those supposed errors are found. There are several good bible translations that have been carefully and meticulously translated to capture the same truths found in the original scrolls from which they were taken, with only insignificant differences. Doctrine was and is of absolute importance and cannot be changed without undermining the whole of the message that God wanted preserved throughout the ages. He said we are not to add or take away any of it. Sadly, many cherry pick through it and do not preach the whole counsel of God but only what is politically correct or comfortable for the hearers. Most churches do not preach end time prophecy and thus many have no idea what is about to come.

Pastors and parishioners alike are falling away from the truth in unprecedented numbers. Multitudes are supporting false teachers who tell them what they want to hear. Some have even become atheists. Peter warns us not to be carried away by the errors of such people, but to live holy lives, looking forward to the day that God will rescue us from the day of His judgment, when the heavens will be set on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames, along with the earth and everything on it which is left for judgment.

Why is it that so many seem to have no understanding of the times we live in? The bible says in 1 Corinthians 2:14 that people who are not spiritual cannot understand spiritual things. Others will be deceived in the last days. While it may seem hard to fathom the miraculous works of God, or His coming judgment, we cannot pluck these passages of scripture out of our bibles or reduce them to mere allegory simply because we can't fit them into our thinking. God's ways are not our ways. In Isaiah 42:9 it says He gave us prophecy so

that we would see His hand in everything and be prepared for what is to come. The prophecies of the rapture and the judgment of an unbelieving, sinful world will come to pass at some point in time, just as every other prophecy of the bible has been fulfilled in the past, without exception. The signs are pointing at this generation in bright red letters like a flashing neon billboard. One thing is for sure that someone's generation will be the one to see the events of the last days. Will it be us, and will we be ready?

If modern society has done anything, it has taught us how to live outside of reality. We watch virtual movies and play virtual games and spend more time with our technology than we do with real people. We seem to have been given the ability to create our own reality, one that suits our desires and keeps us from facing what is truly real. Satan has masterfully twisted the truth, just as he did back in the garden of Eden when he deceived Eve into doubting God's instruction and convinced her she could be as god and determine right from wrong. Many have fallen for this slick deception, preferring to decide for themselves what truth is, often willingly suppressing what they know about right and wrong. People don't read the bible as much anymore, preferring more modern writings, or philosophies of men and often mix ideologies together to create something more to their liking. Society is making their own gods or making themselves into gods. In 2 Timothy, Chapter 3, the apostle Paul said people would be lovers of self and pleasure more than lovers of God. Right is called wrong and wrong is called right these days and most do what is right in their own eyes. We are told not to judge but God didn't say we aren't to judge at all, but that we must judge ourselves and then properly judge each other according to His word so that we keep each other from falling into sin. For those who don't come to saving faith in Christ, they will be judged by God. We are to warn them and help them to understand their need of Him.

The days of Noah were exceedingly evil and the depth of depravity that existed then caused God to have to send severe judgment. For those who think God was unjust, we must remember that He gave them 120 years to turn from their wicked ways and be saved. For those who wanted to be saved, there was plenty of room for them aboard the huge ship that God told Noah to build to save them. Sadly only 8 chose to go aboard. That thought should be enough to scare us, knowing that Jesus used that event as His description of the last days. Jesus also said that the road is narrow that leads to everlasting life and that few find it. He called Himself the only door by which people could come to the Father in heaven. Just like the door of the ark in Noah's day was the only way to salvation from judgement then, Jesus said He is the only door by which we must enter to be saved from judgment today.

While the unbelieving world is already lost, what is significant evidence is that the apostle Paul also said that in the last days many would turn away from faith in Christ to fables, other religious ideas, and would not endure sound doctrine. Many so called Christians have even embraced the idea that people who believe in other gods or no god at all can still make heaven, as long as they are doing good deeds in this life. If this were true, it would nullify the work of Christ and put His own words into question. In 2 Timothy Chapter 4, Paul talks about people turning from the truth of God's Word as yet another sign of the last days.

If you are still not convinced, you are in this most dangerous category, among those upon whom God has brought strong delusion because you would rather believe the lies of satan and feel comfortable to continue to live in your own reality. Physical blindness is a serious thing. It keeps you in a state of physical darkness, and causes you to stumble around and even fall over

things at times. Spiritual blindness is equally as serious, especially if it is willful on your part. God has great mercy on those who want to know the truth and have not heard, and He makes every effort to give them an opportunity to know Him. However, for those who reject truth, trifle with His son's sacrifice, and spurn His spirit, He will bring judgement.

This generation like no other has continually rebelled against God, openly mocked the Bible and ridiculed those who believe it's words. Hundreds of thousands of innocent babies are murdered in their mother's wombs and we call it women's rights. Sexual immorality is celebrated and condoned and called alternate lifestyle choices. Society entertains other gods and dabbles in pagan and occultic practices, ignoring the warnings of today's Noah's who are calling people to repent and be saved from the coming judgement of God. Just as in Noah's day, people were eating and drinking and marrying right up until the day Noah entered the ark. They didn't believe it was going to happen and therefore missed out on their salvation. Imagine what it must have been like when it started to rain. It had never rained before. They then knew that Noah had told them the truth, but it was too late. The door to the ark was shut and there was no other way of escape.

God is merciful and patient, and He does not delight in punishment. His desire is that all would be saved but even God's love demands justice, and if we are honest, we would have to admit that it is long overdue. Our world is exceedingly wicked, just as the days preceding the flood. The events of the last days will happen, just as Jesus and many of His prophets and apostles foretold. There will be a day when God says enough is enough. Will you be rescued into the ark of Jesus' salvation before that day or will you remain in your unbelief? All your good works cannot save you. Your church affiliation cannot save you. There is no stairway to heaven, no

rituals or magic prayer that will get you there. Thankfully, your sins cannot keep you from being saved if you will turn from them and go through the door of trusting in Christ, whose blood paid the penalty for your sins and mine and for all those who come to Him by faith. John 3:16-18.

This is one door you don't want to miss. There is no other way, no other truth, and no other life. Jesus is the ark of our day and the flood of judgment is coming, as in the days of Noah.

Run to Him and be saved while there is still time.