

27 Av, 5774 (23/8/14) **Prophecy and the End Time: The Days of Noah** J. M. Terrett  
**Worldwide Iniquity and Apostasy**

**Re'eh**                      **See**                      Dynamic Faith Means Aggressive Obedience

**Torah:**                      Deut. 11:26-16:17 (Gerizim/Ebal; blood; place of rest; kosher festivals)

(1) 12:28: Keep and listen to all the words which I command you today in order that you might be happy, you and your children after you, perpetually, in doing that which is good and that which is right in the eyes of YHVH your G-d.

(2) 12:32 You shall observe and put into practice all the things which I command you; you shall add nothing to it and shall remove nothing. (13:6, 7- no syncretism, no equal opportunity spirituality, offenders dedicated to destruction, both individuals and communities). He does not give us victory over other gods, so that they can serve us, but so that we could serve Him alone according to His Word alone)

(3) 14:22. You shall set apart the tithe of all that which your seed shall produce from your field annually (along with the first born of all your animals in the place YHVH shall designate and you shall celebrate- in third year, all tithes given to the poor). A tithe of your increase belongs to the L-RD, not to diminish your portfolio (net worth), but to increase your spiritual portfolio, your net spiritual worth.

(4) 16:17 Each shall give according to the blessings (increase) which YHVH shall have granted to him (Shalosh regalim – three pilgrimage festivals where tithes of the earnings were brought from the three harvest times and were given according to the annual harvest) He needs to be the L-rd of our pocketbooks so that our resources serve Him and we do not end up serving them.

**Haftarah:**                      Is. 54:11-55:5 (Third Sabbath of Consolation)

(5) Is. 54:14. You shall be established in righteousness; banish worry for you have nothing to fear and banish panic [terror] for it shall not come near to you. In the midst of the great turmoil of the destruction of temple and the captivity, they were told that righteousness (dynamic faith and aggressive obedience) will be the determining, controlling feature of their lives – do not let worry or terror cause you to lose sight of our double treasure – dynamic faith and aggressive obedience)

(6) Is. 55:4 For I have established him (David) as a witness to the peoples, as a leader and commander of the peoples. The international aspect of the Gospel has been there from the very beginning and our Messiah shall prevail over all the nations and generations of mankind, so why worry – be happy as you practice dynamic faith and aggressive obedience.

**Brit Chadashah:**                      John 7:37-52 (living water, various opinions, prejudicial thinking)

(7) 7:40 this one is really the prophet (Deut. 18:18). when we examine what the Scriptures say (which is what our Messiah taught), we will come to dynamic faith and aggressive obedience, not as part of a do it yourself, some assembly required approach to faith, but in response to the truth of His Word, without adding to it or subtracting from it.

Our spiritual success and spiritual integrity will be determined by how much of what we believe and how much of how we live is an integrated response to His Word. This is the kind of lifestyle we are all called to, as Jews and as Gentiles – How dynamic is your faith and how aggressive is your obedience?

(Sharon p. 137) **Ps. 97**. Jewish Hero: believers who take a stand with Israel, even if it is not popular

Sermon:

As we approach another session of the Fall Feasts, we are preparing ourselves to celebrate an aspect of our faith which should give us comfort in our often confusing and troubling world – the end of the world and the return of our beloved Messiah.

I want to be very careful how I teach on this vital topic because over the last two hundred years, the majority of believers have felt that the end of the world was close at hand and too many teachers of the Bible have come up with complicated formulas to establish the exact date of the L-rd's return.

World events and world personalities have also been seen as the fulfilment of obscure biblical prophecies and when the L-rd has not returned according to the complicated schedule which various prophecy speculators have put together, instead of repenting of their foolish speculations and doing some serious Bible Study, more and more guesstimates continue to be made in an endless series of dates which have all turned out to be wrong.

The theological and spiritual credibility of those who claim to believe in the Bible is severely damaged with each date for the end of the world which passes without the world ending. Prophecy about the end of the world has become more of a fool's guessing game than a serious attempt to understand what the Bible teaches about the end of the world.

I would recommend to you my teaching on the seven signs of the end of the world which all have to be in place before the world ends. The five messages in this miniseries on Prophecy and the End Time will deal with these signs so we can recognize them as they unfold before us.

But as we do so, we need to heed the warning of our Messiah and not be deceived – or said another way, **not be deceivable** (Acts 17:11 and 2 Tim. 2:15 and I Corin 4:6 and 2 Corin 2:17). Let us proceed through this teaching with care and confidence.

The first of these authentic biblical signs of the end of the world is the **Days of Noah**, where conditions which prevailed just before the flood must reappear on a global scale. And at least two aspects of the days of Noah I want to deal with this morning, concern **worldwide iniquity** and **worldwide apostasy**. Buckle your seat belts and hold on, here we go.

There are really four concepts I want to discuss with you this morning and they are all related: the Days of Noah, worldwide, apostasy and iniquity. Simply said, in the days of Noah there was world wide iniquity and apostasy.

During the 120 years it took for Noah to build the ark, the entire world was given the opportunity to repent and the end came when there were only eight people left who had not succumbed to the spiritual darkness which took over the whole human race at that time. This darkness was apostasy and iniquity.

The dispersal during the construction of the tower of Babel slowed the progress of this spiritual darkness and it has taken thousands of years for our race to be gathered together once again into a single socio-economic, global system. As a student of world history, I can say that when the European powers took over the whole world at the end of the 19th century, the Days of Noah were once again upon us because the entire globe was under the direct control of a single cultural and military system.

Said another way, the entire world became aware of the entire world and events which happened in one part of the world had an impact on the rest of the world. However, even though this global community facilitated sharing our faith around the world with all the people's of the world, it also meant that challenges to our faith could also be shared on a global scale.

In fact the role of religion of any kind has continued to diminish around the globe as evolutionary dogma is bringing on a growing worldwide apostasy where the faith claims of all and any religions are all considered equally false.

Religion and myth are more and more considered to be the same thing and people are being taught that they can believe whatever they want as long as they let everybody also believe whatever they want.

Worldwide apostasy is where instead of people looking for the one religion which will teach them the truth, all religious truth is considered equally false along with any belief in the supernatural.

The truth is said to be found only in science.

It is now considered everyone's right to believe what they want and it is becoming more and more unacceptable to believe that any one religion is true and all others are false – indeed it is now commonly believed that all religions are just different versions of the same truth and any religion which does not believe this is considered primitive and even barbaric.

It could be said like this: people of all religious persuasions are welcome as long as they agree that all religious persuasions are equally true and that no one religion is better or worse than any other religion.

Belief that only one religion is true is now labelled religious fundamentalism and is actively discouraged at all levels of society around the globe. Indeed religious fundamentalism is now seen as a social problem because all religious truth is now seen as a collection of nice fairy stories and not as a statement of any final truth.

Worldwide apostasy is upon us and it is being followed by another phenomenon, worldwide iniquity. Iniquity is defined as the breaking of an established moral code and the moral codes of all religions are being challenged and broken, especially in the area of sexuality, marriage and the family. The practices of pagan sexuality which were forbidden to Israel are now more and more acceptable and the practice of any kind of religious morality is more and more seen as outdated and no longer relevant in our modern world.

Abortion is seen as a noble right to protect a woman's right over her own body and a human foetus is not seen as fully human, even though all of us began life as a foetus. Forbidden sexual practices are now protected by the law and those who have a problem with homosexuality are seen as evil, judgmental hypocrites who do not know what they are talking about.

Now there is also a subtle twist in this rise of global iniquity because such historical evils as racism, slavery and genocide are now universally condemned. Movements like universal suffrage have removed many unfair prejudices against the rights of women and social evils such as child abuse and sexual exploitation are also condemned and are now punishable by law.

What is the twist? Right and wrong are now defined by laws and no longer by religious beliefs or religious convictions. If you do not agree that all religions are equally valid and that no single religion is true, you are part of what is called religious fundamentalism and not only do you no longer have any protection under the law to practice your religion, you are expected to accept sexual practices which the Bible calls criminal. Otherwise you are lumped together with historical evils which are now universally condemned.

How do we as religious fundamentalists relate to this increasingly hostile environment? First of all we need to see it as one of the signs that our world is moving towards the End of the world, because this state of affairs was prophesied nearly 2,000 years ago. Second of all, we need to make sure that we do not fall prey to this spiritual darkness which is making both worldwide apostasy and worldwide iniquity daily realities for so many people in our society.

It is not arrogant for us to say that we possess the truth and that all other religions are false, because this is one of the key beliefs of our faith (John 14:6). We need to know what we believe and to challenge the false claims of evolutionary folly and speak out as ambassadors to a dying world, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile. This is what Noah did.

We need to stand with Noah, with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and with David and Isaiah and Jeremiah – and with our beloved Messiah and His apostles and proclaim confidently that there is only one G-d who is the creator and judge of all the nations and generations of mankind. You either walk with Him according to His Word or you will be judged by Him according to this same Word, to the Jew first and also to the gentile.

The end of the world is upon us because the days of Noah have returned and a great spiritual darkness is growing across the globe again – worldwide apostasy and worldwide iniquity.

It does matter what we believe because what we believe will affect how we live and what we accept and what we reject. Evolution is a satanic lie. Abortion is a form of self genocide (murder). Homosexuality is an abomination of brokenness.

Just because there are many false religions does not mean that all religions are false or that all religions are true. We need to stand in the truth, live the truth and proclaim it even we are called dirty names and our sanity and our intelligence are called into question.

The Bible teaches a radical brand of wholesome religious fanaticism outlined in our unchanging charter of rights (The Ten Commandments), nothing less and nothing more.

As we come to the High Holy days and Sukkoth, let us realize the true signs of the end of the world and protect ourselves from the powerful deceptions of spiritual darkness which are ravaging our modern world as they ravaged the world long ago in the days of Noah.

Apostasy (abandoning a belief in the one true G-d – and which is really just a form of idolatry) and iniquity (violating the moral code which G-d wrote in our conscience and in His Word) are part of the worldwide spiritual deception being actively promoted by the enemy of our souls and it is taking control of our entire world once again.

Next week I want to talk about the rise of the final antichrist which our deceived world is getting ready to welcome.