



The Drama of the
FLOOD

**DIVINE JUDGMENTS UPON A GUILTY
GENERATION — A LESSON FOR
PERSONAL SALVATION**

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THE Lord Jesus Christ attributed the time of his return to earth as being similar to “the days of Noah”: “*As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man*” (Luke 17:25), and described the conditions that pertained to that generation. In so doing, the Lord Jesus gave credence to the Bible account of the Flood — notwithstanding the endeavors of sceptics to discount it. But the story of the Flood is not merely an interesting historical account of a generation that perished; it is also an important parable of personal salvation, and a dramatic warning of what is about to occur upon the earth! The apostle Peter comments that people of Noah’s day were “*willingly ignorant*”, that “*the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished*” (2Peter 3:6), and urges his readers to understand that the future “*day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night*” (verse 10). This world is facing a day of righteous judgment when the Lord Jesus Christ returns from heaven (Acts 17:31), and individuals can only avoid ultimate death by seeking the means of salvation revealed in the Word of God. The article in this issue will assist the reader to this end.

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The Drama of the Flood

THE DAY OF GOD'S DEVASTATING JUDGMENT
UPON A GUILTY WORLD,
AND THE URGENT LESSONS FOR HUMANITY TODAY.

CRITICS of the Bible attempt to disprove the *Story of Noah's Flood*. They ridicule its clear and straightforward account, and claim that it is impossible that such a holocaust could ever have occurred. Sceptics add their censure, preferring to repudiate the facts rather than admitting that a Supreme Being does indeed exist and that humanity is called upon to accept His Word and His Will.

Notwithstanding all attempts to disprove it, the dramatic story of the Flood remains. Indeed, scientific evidence provides sound grounds for accepting the Biblical account of the Flood as being true and reliable. The incident reveals vital lessons for all who desire to obtain eternal salvation and deliverance from the morass that currently faces the world.

In this booklet, we set before the reader a series of propositions, in the hope that the known facts will cause thinking men and women to ponder their future well-being. We urge a complete reading of the booklet, believing that its message can provide a real hope in a despairing age. We do this, mindful of the urgent warning of the Lord Jesus Christ: "*as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man*" (Luke 17:26). In these words, Jesus Christ gave signs that his disciples might recognise the state of the world at the time of his Second Coming, urging them to prepare for the divine judgments that will occur, and to seek for the salvation offered to men and women with wisdom.

It is with these urgent principles in mind that we set this booklet before our readers.

THE Bible describes the awesome physical catastrophe of a *Flood* in the days of Noah, about 4,000 years ago, as unparalleled in the history of mankind. It declares: "*In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows (or floodgates) of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights*" (Genesis 7:11-12). A tremendous deluge occurred, occasioned by the bursting forth of underground waters, the shifting of huge subterranean platforms, the emptying of the cloud structures of the firmament. In short, God's judgments upon the wickedness of that age required an enormous disruption to the earth. It was as though the society had become so violent, godless and evil as to return the earth to its previous primeval condition, when "darkness was upon the face of the deep" (Genesis 1:2). On this occasion, however, provision was made by an all-wise Creator for the protection and safety of the righteous Noah, his family, and the animal creation that was required for the preservation of the species in the centuries to follow.

The account of this dramatic incident of tremendous judgment on the earth about four thousand years ago, is not only graphically outlined in the early chapters of the first book of the Bible, Genesis, but it is referred to by later inspired writers as well. Every reference is consistent with the historical account in the beginning, and adds its own witness to the absolute veracity and accuracy of the Bible record. Therefore, the credibility of the Bible requires that the *Flood* should be regarded as a true historical fact; if a person rejects the literal account of Noah's Flood, he must reject the whole Bible as well!

Notice the following Bible references to Noah and the Flood. The historical data listed in 1Chronicles 1 includes "*Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth*" (v. 4), the patriarch and his three sons. In the days of Job, Eliphaz commented on the divine judgment that occurred when the "foundation (of mankind) was overflowed with a flood" (Job 22:16). In around BC.700 Isaiah recorded God's words: "This is as the *waters of Noah* unto Me; for as I have sworn that the *waters of Noah* should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee" (Isaiah 54:9). Since God only speaks truth, His ref-

erence to this remarkable flood more than 1,700 years after the event, is proof of its occurrence.

In rebuking the nation of Israel for their evil spiritual state, Ezekiel (about BC.590) referred to past examples of faithful men whose message had assisted in the deliverance of others: "Though these three men, *Noah*, Daniel, and Job, were in it (the city of Jerusalem), they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness" (ch. 14:14, 20).

In his genealogical list Luke includes the name of *Noah* in the ancestry of the Lord Jesus, obviously affirming that Noah was a man who had really existed, preceded by a father and followed by sons: Luke 3:36.

The Lord Jesus Christ added his testimony to the literal accuracy of the account, warning that the social conditions of the age of Noah would be repeated at the time of his second coming. He said, "For 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, and knew not until *the flood came*, and took them all away" (Matthew 24:38-39; see Luke 17:27).

The apostle Paul referred to Noah's personal qualities of faithfulness: "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" (Hebrews 11:7). Another apostle, Peter, commented on the time when "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" (1Peter 3:20).

Thus, to be consistent, Bible-believers must accept that the man **Noah** actually lived; that there was a real ark, a flood, and a civilisation which was destroyed from the face of the earth. It is altogether wrong to dismiss the Genesis account as some kind of mythological record, a Jewish fable conveying moral lessons but without any foundation in fact. If inspired prophets of God — including the Son of God himself — testified concerning its occurrence, accurately recorded, why should some attempt to dispute it today?

WHY SOME DISBELIEVE THE BIBLE RECORD

Ample evidence exists to convince people of discernment that the Biblical account of the Flood is true in all respects. Unfortunately some fields of scientific research leave much to be desired — due to a bias towards atheistic and evolutionary

theories incorporated into areas of the sciences of anthropology, geology, hydrology, etc. They dismiss the reasoning of those who fully endorse the Bible account of the **Flood** for a number of reasons. Foremost among their objections are these points:

- *that the depth of water required for such an extensive flood necessitates more water than was available;*
- *that all humanity today could not have descended from Noah's family which existed some 4,000 years ago;*
- *that all the animals could not have been brought to one place on earth and have been kept in the ark for 371 days (the time of the Flood). It is argued that space could not have been adequate to house the animals, and stock the food necessary.*

Other theories have been circulated in an attempt to disprove the Genesis Flood. We will comment on some of these views, and demonstrate that the Bible is completely in harmony with the physical facts available, and actually explains many of the geologic and paleontologic mysteries which remain unanswered by the sciences. The Bible record outlines a history of the earth which can be used as a foundation for the interpretation of all scientific data in a thoroughly scientific manner.

WHY DID THE FLOOD OCCUR?

The social conditions in the days of Noah set the background for the divine judgment which resulted in the devastating flood upon the earth. They were dreadful and fearful times, much like the world of today. The Lord Jesus warned his disciples that similar conditions would again exist on earth at the time of his second coming: "For 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*" (Matthew 24:38). The Lord emphasised that those were days of extreme wickedness and ungodliness. There was a desire for social pleasures to the exclusion of an acknowledgement of God's rightful position in the hearts of men and women. The people were thus irreligious, dedicated only to selfishness and self-gratification.

Even many who had once known the truth concerning God were in the same position as the rest of humanity. They had abandoned their faith and their distinctive code of ethics and behavior, and had ignored the ways of righteousness. The Bible states: "*the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were*

fair; and they took them wives of all *which they chose*" (Genesis 6:2). These words identify two groups of people. The "*Sons of God*" define those who professed to follow righteous ways and the Word of God; and such dedication and commitment should have separated them from their wicked contemporaries. The term, "*the daughters of men*" define those who cared nothing for their Creator, nor His Word, but flaunted their appearance, customs and licentious life style.

The time came, prior to the Flood, when "the sons of God" abandoned their separation and dedication to Truth, and became joined to the "daughters of men" whose sole interest was in following the evil ways of a godless society. The result was inevitable: "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually... the earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted His way upon the earth" (Genesis 6:5, 11, 12). Thus, society was dominated by vice, crime, immorality and violence. And, above all else, there was a lack of genuine reverence for God.

In summary, the world of Noah's day revealed that:

- *People were entirely self-focused, seeking to satisfy their own selfish desires.*
- *Relationships between men and women were based almost exclusively on sensuality leading to a loss of understanding as to the true purpose of marriage, and resulting in the collapse of true family love and unity.*
- *Any thoughts of heeding God's Word and honoring Him, were ignored in the minds and lives of the people.*
- *Lawlessness and anarchy was seen on every hand; crime permeated every level of society.*

Is this not an accurate description of our own days? Should we not, therefore, earnestly heed Christ's warning concerning his second coming? For the evil conditions in the world clearly indicate that Christ's return is imminent.

In the days of Noah, God declared that He would not tolerate such wickedness. He said: "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them" (Genesis 6:7). That godly civilisation was

to be totally destroyed in a cleansing flood of water.

God acted to preserve the lives of His few faithful servants, Noah and his family. They had not only remained separate from the evil which had undermined society and demeaned God, but they had also publicly testified against the wickedness, and had served God "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24). Because of their faithfulness God would not "forsake" them — and He will also care for those today who adopt the same faithful attitude toward His ways (Hebrews 13:5).

With Noah's family and the selected animal creatures safely in the ark, the angels closed the door, securing its inhabitants against danger. At the same time the wicked population at large, having been given 120 years to repent of their folly, were now prevented from gaining entrance to the ark of salvation. God's forbearance had come to an end. The people no longer had any means whereby they could avoid the judgment to come.

The full force of the Flood was unleashed. It swept the earth with great fury, bringing unprecedented destruction and devastation. The "windows of heaven" were opened. Rain fell from the firmament above, pouring down upon the earth with the roar of a violent tempest, unabating for forty days. The sea beds erupted with enormous convulsive effect; gigantic columns of water shot skyward from the depths of the oceans. Every hill and mountain was covered.

God kept His Word — a lesson all should learn. His judgment came upon a world which had rejected His mercy and His long-suffering goodness. Soon, no creatures remained alive, except those safely protected within the ark. The Bible states: "and every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark" (Genesis 7:23). God's purpose to sweep away every aspect of a degenerate and godless world, had been accomplished.

After a year, the ark came to rest on dry ground. The door of the ark was opened, and Noah, his family and the creatures which were preserved therein, emerged to gaze upon an entirely different scene. "And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered

burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done" (Genesis 8:20-21).

As a token of His covenant, God drew attention to the rainbow that spanned the earth as Noah came forth from the ark, and declared: "This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: *I do set My bow in the cloud*, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between Me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud. And I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh" (Genesis 9:12-15). In that remarkable sign, seen when the sun shines through the falling rain, is the divine guarantee that God oversees His creation, and will ultimately cleanse it of evil and wickedness. The symbol of the rainbow represents the company of immortal saints who will be revealed at the return of Jesus Christ to the earth (see Revelation 4:3).

Although the earth had been cleansed of moral and spiritual evil, God was fully aware that mankind, since the fall in Eden, would continue to produce sin in their lives, the product of their fallen nature. Over four millennia have past since the Flood. The inherent sin-prone nature of mankind has continued to produce wickedness and ungodliness, despite God's attempts to do everything possible to guide humanity into paths of truth and holiness. Man has not been dissuaded from his evil ways, as God declared to the nation of Israel: "I sent unto you My servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate. But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear to turn from their wickedness" (Jeremiah 44:4-5).

Gentile nations have acted no differently. They have equally rejected God, and ignored the guidance and direction He has proffered to help humanity: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that

He hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31). That time of judgment is rapidly approaching. Many prophetic "signs" in the political, social and religious world, indicate that divine intervention is at hand.

CONTINUING EVIDENCE OF SUCH A CATASTROPHE AS THE FLOOD

But, the question we now consider is whether these remarkable events actually happened in the past? In support of the accuracy and reliability of the Bible, consider the following facts which indicate that a universal deluge occurred long ago.

The *Colorado Plateau* is a region of North America which occupies some 250,000 square miles, including most of Utah and Arizona, with large areas of Colorado and New Mexico. This vast landmass is divided by some of the world's most notable canyons, descending through thousands of feet of sedimentary flat lying rock.

Either this vast area has been remarkably uplifted, or the seas and the rest of the globe have subsided to the extent of a mile (the elevation of the surface above sea level today), leaving sediments, chiefly of marine origin "stranded high and dry"! All this happened without any disturbance of the horizontal nature of the strata, or the folding and re-stratification that would be needed to explain the sedimentary discantivities of "old" rock upon "new" rock elsewhere in the world. The strata could not have remained so uniform and horizontal over many millions of years, and the major periods of uplift, erosion, subsidence and sedimentation required to produce the thousands of feet of sedimentary rock and the number of discantivities in the sedimentary rock, if interpreted according to the "accepted" geologic time scale.

The only reasonable explanation, which is consistent with the Bible, is that a relatively rapid deposition of sediment occurred, resulting from the sediment-laden waters of *The Flood*. Thus, while the rocks were still comparatively soft and unconsolidated after gigantic upheavals, as described in the Bible, huge canyons were swiftly scoured out as the waters rushed down in massive volumes from the newly uplifted plateaus to the enlarged oceans.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE BIBLE

The *Tibetan Plateau* is a landform of some 750,000 square miles, about three miles above sea level. It features deeply incised river meanderings. This only occurs when there are non-

resistant, soft banks present, and when the banks are less resistant than the river beds. A stream or river eroding its bed tends to straighten its course, eliminating sharp bends which would otherwise exist. Some scientists believe that such formations developed in the period immediately following the Flood when the sedimentary layers, laid upon bed-rock, were soft and the volume of water flowing in streams was much greater.

There are a number of fossil finds where large numbers of animals have been buried simultaneously. A huge flood is the obvious explanation for this phenomena.

Some of the major finds are:

- The **Karoo Formation** of South Africa containing about 800,000 million skeletons of invertebrate animals.
- The **Cumberland Bone Cave** of Maryland USA, containing remains of dozens of species of mammals, from bats to mastadons, together with fossils of reptiles and birds, including pieces which have been found in different climates and habitats in areas reaching from the Arctic to the Tropics.
- Beds of herring fossils have been discovered in shale layers in California USA, where more than one billion fish died in a small area of four square miles of bay bottom.
- Significant fossil deposits exist in **Lincoln County**, Wyoming USA. Fish, bird, plant, reptile and insect fossils are found in one deposit. This defies explanation by any kind of "uniform" process. When fish die, their bodies either float to the surface or sink to the bottom, and are soon eaten by other fish. Insects too, after death, rapidly become food for predators.
- **Lake Morrissant**, in Colorado USA, has large numbers of insect fossils, in addition to fish, birds, plants and molluscs.
- Lignite beds in **Geiseltal**, Germany, contain a comprehensive mixture of plant, animal and insect fossils from all climatic and geographic regions.

Such examples indicate remarkable preservation of soft tissue (insect wings, muscles, glands and the contents of intestines). Even chlorophyll has been discovered, possible only when the encrustation process is very rapid. It is inconceivable that these deposits could be due to the normal slow "*in-situ*" processes observable today. Unusual transportation and a rapid burial process are necessary requirements to explain these amazing geological facts.

There are the *La Brea Pits* of Los Angeles USA, where tens of thousands of specimens of all kinds of current and extinct animals are to be found, having perished contemporaneously. There are also the Sicilian hippopotamus fossil beds, the estimated five million mammoths of Northern Siberia and Alaska; the dinosaur beds of the Black Hills, the Rockies, the Gobi Desert; the astounding fish beds of the Scottish Devonian deposits; the fish fossils on the top of the Tibetan Plateau.

There are many spectacular evidences of fossil deposits resulting from catastrophic circumstances, such as a great flood.

THE EVIDENCE OF THE ROCKS

The tremendous events described in Genesis 6 are in harmony with evidence in the rock strata. There can be found, for example, ripple marks in sedimentary stratum.

In very deep water there is little movement, and therefore the ocean floor should show a consistent pattern of calm in the layers of rock formed through settling. However, there are perfectly preserved ripple marks abounding in the stratified rock-shale in Alberta (Canada), the Isle of Wight, and the south-eastern cliffs of England — to name some areas studied by George Fairholme, as early as 1837.

The fact that there are ripple marks in layers on the ocean floor indicates that there must have been a substantial movement of water at a particular time. Such geological phenomena are consistent with a great flood.

Reptile tracks in stratified rocks are also evidence of the speedy deposition of the sediments. Examples are found in the Red River Valley, Alberta and Woodbridge, New Jersey (USA).

ENCLOSED LAKE BASINS AND RAISED BEACHES

Strong evidence indicates that much more water once filled the lakes and flowed in the rivers. This can be seen in desert regions that were once well watered, and in raised beaches and terraces far from the seas and the lakes they may have bordered.

Lake Bonnaville (USA) was once a great lake that covered much of Utah. The present Great Salt Lake is one of its small remnants. The oldest of the four water levels evident is 1,000 feet above the present level of the Lake, and covered an area of almost 20,000 square miles. Another ancient lake, *Lake Lahontan* in Nevada (USA), covers some 8,400 square miles and shows clear evidence of having, at some time, three major

water levels. *Lake Tahoe* in California was once some 655 feet above its present level and was probably connected with Lake Manley — the ancient lake on the present site of Death Valley.

EVIDENCE OF THE FLOOD IN NON-BIBLICAL TRADITION

From India to China, from the East Indies to Polynesia and the Americas, there exist stories and traditions of a great flood which destroyed all mankind.

A 19th century US Congressman, Ignatius Donnelly, who spent much of his life researching flood traditions, said: "It is too much to ask of us to believe that Biblical history, Chaldean, Persian and Greek legends signify nothing, and that even national festivities were based upon myth".

It is not merely an amazing coincidence that the story of the Flood, together with a number of important details concerning that event are recorded in the historical and legendary heritage of many nations. Such records are based upon the information provided in the pages of the Bible, and therefore verify the truth of Bible teaching upon this matter.

Critics have claimed that the size of Noah's ark, as outlined in the book of Genesis, is impossible and impracticable. Let us consider certain objections, and reveal how the greatest confidence can be placed in the historical records of the Bible.

HOW MUCH WATER WAS REQUIRED?

Genesis 7:19-20 states: "and the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered".

The vast quantity of water required to cover the highest mountain by 15 cubits is difficult for some to understand. From whence would this volume of water come? How would it disperse after the Flood? Considering the size and scope of the geological and hydrologic circumstances of the deluge, and the supreme and all-powerful nature of the Creator in control of those events, the difficulties disappear. In addition, the atmospheric and climatic conditions prior to the Flood, were very different from those of the present time (Genesis 1:7). For example, the "waters above the firmament" may have been a thermal vapor blanket around the earth, formed as a storage for a vast quantity of water.

The Genesis record also notes that: "all the fountains of the

great deep were broken up". There is no record concerning antediluvian geologic and geographic details. The earth may very well have had a substantially smaller or larger circumference, or the seas may have been shallower and the mountains lower. We do not know. However, we are told of the "fountains of the deep" being opened, which describe massive hydrological, and probably volcanic and seismological disruptions, which could have caused dramatic physical changes upon the face of the globe.

HOW LARGE WAS THE ARK?

Noah was told: "This is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it" (Genesis 6:15-16). A cubit is approximately 18 inches. This means that the ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. The three decks would give it 95,000 square feet of floor space to accommodate the animals, the family of Noah (eight persons) and their requirements for the period of the Flood. Two scientists, Whitcombe and Morris, have analysed the evidence, and determined that it is entirely possible for a vessel of the dimensions described in the Bible to have been constructed.

Based on modern systematic taxonomy, the scientists further estimated that there are a million animal species on the earth, and that 35,000 individual invertebrate animals would have required refuge in the ark. But when critics argue the capacity of the ark, they generally discuss it in terms of the large species of animals, such as elephants, etc. Whitcombe and Morris show the average size of all the 35,000 species would have been the equivalent to a sheep.

The floor space in the ark was on a par with 522 railway stock cars. Such a waggon would carry around 240 sheep; thus the area of only 146 cars would have been required. Obviously, the ark was more than adequate in size to meet God's purpose.

Many such criticisms of the flood record have been made. A careful consideration will show them to be groundless. The Bible record remains credible and reliable — surely a great warning to a generation of scoffers in a world of ever increasing wickedness.

THE DAYS OF NOAH REPEATED IN OUR TIMES

Today's society provides a clear parallel to the conditions which existed on the eve of the Flood. The Lord Jesus Christ has given an urgent warning to our generation: "*As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be... (they) 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).

Since God has promised that He would never again send a flood upon the earth, the impending judgment will be quite different: to carry out a purging and purifying operation that will involve all nations, commencing with the warfare of Armageddon. The present evil environment will be swept into oblivion as were those in the days of Noah.

Many people do not realise the danger that faces them. They continue to "eat, drink and be merry", heedless of the consequences, and blind to what the future holds. God has given us ample warnings of what is to come. He has provided us with examples and lessons from the past, in order that we might learn to manifest wisdom and care, taking the necessary steps to bring our lives in accordance with His will. The Master warned his disciples: "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 21:34-36).

Notice that the Lord Jesus warns of an epoch of careless squandering of time in pursuit of vain and pointless ambitions and pastimes. This occurs when people abandon godly principles and living. There follows an escalation of social degeneration and ungodliness.

The coming judgment will not bring a flood, but fiery and desolating warfare. The Bible speaks of it as the "day of Armageddon" (Revelation 16:16) in which the military and political might of the nations will challenge the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ when he returns to take control of the governments of the world. Of that day, the Bible declares: "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to

battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle" (Zechariah 14:1-3).

The outcome of the divine judgment is revealed in the prophecies of the Scriptures. In extent it will rival the devastation of the Flood: "The slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground" (Jeremiah 25:33). God will thus humble mankind, destroying the arrogant and rebellious, and those who have brought such misery and anguish to mankind, whilst ruthlessly seeking satisfaction for their own ambitions.

A WORLD RESPONDING TO A POLICY OF WISDOM

Man's governments and society will be replaced by an age of wonderful peace, harmony and goodness (Daniel 2:44; 7:14; Revelation 11:15). The Lord Jesus Christ will establish the righteous kingdom of God throughout the earth, and all people will respond to the divine laws which will emanate from Jerusalem.

It will be a time of peace such as occurred immediately after the Flood. Only this time mankind will not be permitted to degenerate into a civilisation of wickedness as they did previously. Isaiah declares that "out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:3), and all people will be required to submit to legislation that will provide for their utmost good, and develop within their hearts an appreciation for their Creator and a respect for His laws. A thousand years of peaceful harmony and progress will result (Revelation 20:4).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO AT THIS TIME?

The example of faithful Noah provides a wonderful example for wise men and women to emulate. Paul states: "*By faith* Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with (pious) 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).

Noah was warned by God concerning the imminence of the Flood. So the Bible is given to us to understand the condition of mankind, to recognise the wickedness of society, and to realise

that there is no future for a world sunken in iniquity.

Noah manifested "faith". The Bible defines this quality as "the substance (or confident anticipation) of *things hoped for*, the evidence (or full persuasion) of *things not seen*" (Hebrews 11:1). A person with "faith" looks to the future kingdom of God as the motivating reason for life. It means believing what God has declared, and living in accordance with that belief.

Next, Noah was "moved with fear". He had a respect for the authority of God, and "feared" to offend His righteousness. We also need to open our hearts and minds to the divine authority, and respond to its requirements. This means reading the Bible, observing its warning message, and accepting its teachings.

Then Noah "prepared an ark" that he might be delivered in the hour of divine judgment. Similarly, Jesus Christ will prove to be "an ark" to all who identify themselves with him, acknowledging him as Lord and Saviour (John 17:3).

In the days of Noah, "the longsuffering of God waited... while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were *saved by water*. The *like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us* (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him" (1Peter 3:20-22). Having acquired a sound knowledge of God's truth, which leads to belief and faith, it is necessary to become totally immersed in water, an act known as baptism. By that means, a person's sins are "washed away" figuratively in water, as the evil generation of Noah's day was destroyed in the Flood. On rising from those waters of baptism, the believer follows a new way of dedicated life, as Noah and his family worshipped God around the altar of sacrifice, in the world cleansed from past wickedness. So Paul expounds: "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in *newness of life*. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" (Romans 6:4-5).

Believers enjoy a new way of viewing life. No longer frustrated by present inequalities, no longer seeing temporal things as the ultimate aim in life and being disappointed when unable

to attain them, the true disciple of God is content with present circumstances because he knows that Almighty God has control of the future. He knows that the impending return of Jesus Christ will bring all the answers to personal, national and social problems presently encountered, and is satisfied to place his life and faith in the Bible.

Soon, the judgments of Jesus Christ will occur, as the Flood came in the days of Noah. Wise men and women will take notice of the signs given in the Bible, and make a commitment, based on faith and understanding, to the terms of salvation.

Do not delay. The Bible warns: "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" (2Peter 2:5). Noah preached for 120 years, and drew ridicule from many of his listeners. They declared that such a flood as he proclaimed would never occur. But it did. The evidence is established in geology, history and Biblical narrative.

Today many think that Jesus Christ will not return. Peter prophesied: "There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they *willingly are ignorant of*, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the *world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished*" (2Peter 3:3-6).

Just as divine punishment was manifested then, so it will be again. It is the means to the peace and security of the kingdom of God that follows.

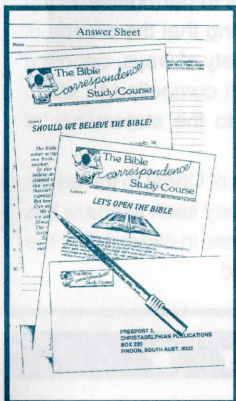
We hope that our reader will respond to the urgent appeal of this booklet; that the pages of God's Word will be opened, and His message heeded.

For therein, only, is the answer to the troubles of the present civilisation, and an outstanding hope of a glorious future.

QUESTIONS upon the matter presented in this booklet are invited, and should be addressed to *The Editor, Herald of the Coming Age, Box 220, Findon, South Australia 5023.*



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Or, as the name implies, the brethren in Christ (Heb. 2:11), are a body of people associated together by a belief in the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 8:12); and by immersion into Christ (Gal. 3:27) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) and a part in his resurrection (Rom. 6:5).

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