

## PREACHING UNTIL THE SEVENTH DAY

**Genesis 7:2** *Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.*

**Genesis 7:3** *Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.*

It took 120 years to build the ark. This means that Noah had to explain and preach about the purpose of the ark for 120 years. The closer Noah's generation approached the day of the flood, the higher the height of the ark. We can be sure that some were irritated by the sight of this massive and strange object that obscured their view, while others decided it was time to approach the architect and inquire about its purpose. In a similar vein, as our generation gets closer to the day of the Lord's return, they must not fail to hear the Word of God – like the burgeoning ark, the word of God must confront their field of view. “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14). May we share the word of God in such a way that, like Noah's ark, it will demand a response – some will quarrel with us while others may politely come to gaze at us – but let us pray the word of God will demand a response, Amen! This is precisely what the apostle Paul did in Athens.

**Act 17:18** *Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.*

**Act 17:19** *And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is?*

God commanded Noah to take clean beasts and fowls into the ark by sevens. Bible students know that the number seven is the number of completion, perfection and rest. One hundred and twenty years of preaching produced nothing in the form of human souls besides Noah's family. However, once the time had come for the Lord to close the door and windows of the ark, God gave just one message to the animals and birds – and they obeyed. What a rebuke and indictment of human obstinacy! May God give us the humility and submission that these animals and fowls displayed! Noah, nevertheless, never ceased preaching until the last moment – the seventh day of rest and deliverance. Let us believe today that the Lord Jesus has a remnant who will hear the message of Acts 2:38 just before his return. Like the thief on the Cross, they may say “And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom” (Luke 23:42). We are not the only ones preaching and persuading

people to enter the ark of salvation, which is the Lord Jesus Christ himself – the Lord is also preaching and persuading people to make their way to the ark. Keep preaching until they enter the ark!

***Proverbs 18:10*** *The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.*

The purpose and end of all preaching is to persuade people to enter into Jesus who is the strong tower, the ark of safety. The prophet Lot had the word of God and is called “righteous” by the apostle Peter. However, he was unable to save any of his family members through preaching. It is possible to be righteous and live a holy life, but fail to effectively share the word of God with others. Let us give some credit to Noah; he never stopped preaching and teaching until all seven members of his family were entered the ark (he was the eighth). “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” (I Peter 3:20). We see the number seven once again signifying rest and salvation. God gave him seven souls; may the Lord Jesus give us all at least a minimum of seven souls before he closes the ark.

***2Ki 22:10*** *And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiyah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king.*

***2Ki 22:11*** *And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.*

There was one king in the Bible who elicited a dramatic response to the reading of the word of God – Josiah. Remember that no one had seen or heard the word of God for 60 years. Why was this the case? Josiah’s grandfather, Manasseh, had filled Judah with pagan altars and every conceivable wickedness. The higher we build pagan altars and altars of wickedness, the more difficult it becomes to see the word of God. Finally, God concealed his word from the people of Judah. Let us be careful, saints of God! If we pay more attention to the matters of this world, the word of God will gradually disappear out of our lives and we will become strangers to its content. Thankfully, Josiah, who was just 26-years old, began a campaign to dismantle and destroy the pagan altars and stone idols – pounding them to dust and banning every wicked act that God hated. The moment we begin a crusade against sin and godlessness in our lives, be assured the word of God will reappear in all its glory. Hilkiyah the priest gave the book, most probably Deuteronomy, to Shaphan the scribe who read to the king. Deuteronomy contains the following words, among others:

**Deuteronomy 32:39** *See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.*

**John 18:5** *They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.*

**John 18:6** *As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.*

May God make you and me a Josiah! The king tore his royal robes. May the reading of the word tear our pride; may we be unseated from our thrones at the power of the word of Jesus Christ! May we fall down when we hear Jesus say, “I am he”! May the Lord Jesus occupy the throne that we have vacated at the hearing of his word! Three times the Bible states that Moses fell on his face. All three times was due to the words of rebellion from the children of Israel. Moses did not fall down in fear of their words, but out of fear for their disrespect for the word of God which they contravened. When the world rebels against the word of God, we should fall down before the word of God so everyone can see where our hearts belong. Let us pray that we may always tremble at the word of God.

**Numbers 14:4** *And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.*

**Numbers 14:5** *Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.*

Finally, we can see the contours of this message encapsulated in the week of creation in Genesis. Here is a summary: in the beginning – the first day: light; the second day: the sky; the third day: dry land, seas, plants and trees; the fourth day - the Sun, Moon and stars; the fifth day – marine, land and flying creatures; the sixth day - animals that live on the land and finally humans, made in the image of God were created. God finished his work of creation and rested, making the seventh day a special holy day which he blessed. Notice that God blessed the seventh day – not the other days. “And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made” (Genesis 2:3). God spoke each day and something new and wonderful was created – but God was not finished speaking; God was not finished. God blesses that which he completes.

There are people who have repented in Jesus name, but have not been baptized in Jesus name (Mark 16:16). Jesus is still speaking to them. He is not finished creating the new man. Wait until the seventh day; God has blessed the day of completion, perfection and rest. Even we who have fulfilled Acts 2:38 are waiting for Jesus’s words every day. Every word from Jesus creates something new, renews, heals, perfects and prepares us for his return.

“That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:27). Who wants to live on an earth with only three or four days of creation? Although humans were made in the image of God on the sixth day, he only blessed the seventh day. Hallelujah! “Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days” (Daniel 12:12). Preachers keep preaching to your saints and the world until the end, until the seventh day – do not rest until then; they must enter the ark before you stop preaching. Saints of God, do not stop witnessing and declaring the salvation of Jesus until the seventh day. Isn’t it interesting that Enoch preached about the coming of the Lord and he was the seventh from Adam?

***Jude 1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.***

Believe that you and I are the seventh from Adam, spiritually speaking. The last days’ generation is the seventh from Adam. We have been commissioned to be preach that the Lord Jesus Christ is coming soon with ten thousands of his saints.

In summary, like Noah, keep witnessing, building and preaching to your family and the lost until they enter the ark – Jesus. May the Lord give us all the tenderness of heart that forces a violent response to the reading of his word, like king Josiah, and may we be unseated at the power of the name of Jesus. Finally, suffer the word of God to perfect you day by day, as he did in the creation. Remember it is not the first day, but the last, the seventh, which God blessed. There is a rest for us soon, saints of God!

***Heb 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.***

***Heb 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.***

***Heb 3:14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;***

***Heb 3:15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.***