

Are You a Noah or a Scoffer?



Saturday, 11/30 at 4:00 ✦ Sunday, 12/1 at 9:00

First Sunday in Advent – 2019

Advent Wednesdays: Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: *Jesus is the very Son of God!* Years ago He was here in the flesh to live for us, and then to die for us. Now He is in heaven, *but soon He will come back!* Therefore, do you believe He is coming AND, if yes, are you ready for His coming?

In today's gospel reading, Jesus told us that the conditions *just before His return* would be very similar to the conditions *just before the worldwide flood*. Back then, some were like Noah, but most were scoffers or mockers – *making fun of Noah for doing the will of God*. Does that sound like today?

1. **When:** [Jesus said, regarding His return:]³⁶ **“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. // Why only the Father? Because of Jewish marriage customs! Consider these parallels:¹**

¹ <https://www.cclihue.com/Jewish%20Marriage%20Chart.pdf>

- a. Jesus is the groom, while the Church is the bride ([Matthew 25:1-10](#)).
 - b. As a Jewish father selected the bride for his son, *so God the Father selected the bride for Jesus* – when He choose (predestined, elected) certain ones to be His own before creation ([Ephesians 1:3-6](#)).
 - c. As a Jewish groom would give his bride a gift to guarantee his return, *so Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to guarantee His return* ([John 15:26](#); [Ephesians 1:13-14](#)).
 - d. As a Jewish groom would return to his father’s house to prepare a place for him and his bride, *so Jesus returned to His Father’s house to prepare a place for us* ([John 14:2-3](#)).
 - e. As a Jewish father would tell his son when to go to get his bride, *so God the Father will tell Jesus when it is time to return for us*.
2. **Comparison:** ³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they [all the scoffers] were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. // So, before the flood, the normal activities of life were continuing – eating, drinking, marrying, etc., just as those same activities continue today. Also, for about 55 to 75 years,² the ark was being built and Noah was being mocked. Consider these points:
- a. God’s perspective: Regarding *nearly every person*, “every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only

² <https://answersingenesis.org/bible-timeline/how-long-did-it-take-for-noah-to-build-the-ark/>

evil continually.” ... But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD” (Gen. 6:5, 8 ESV). God is calling us to be ***different*** from most of those with whom we occupy this world!

- b. Noah to the people: Peter wrote that God “...did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly” (2 Peter 2:5 NAU). As the people mocked Noah, *he kept building and he kept calling those people to repent!* As we are mocked, *God is calling us to **keep** trusting, **keep** obeying, and **keep** calling others to repent!*
 - c. God was patient: Peter wrote that “God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared” (1 Pet. 3:20 ESV). Think about it, *He waited 55 to 75 years!* Peter told us that even now the Lord is being patient about His return, “not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9 NAS).
 - d. God controlled the timing: When the time was right, “the LORD said to Noah, ‘Go into the ark, you and all your household.... For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights” (Gen. 7:1, 4 ESV). Did you notice that the door was shut BEFORE the flood came? *So the opportunity to repent will end BEFORE Jesus comes!*³ The flood was caused by rain for 40 days and 40 nights, *but also by all the fountains of the great deep bursting forth* (Gen. 7:11), so it was rapid!
3. **Separation**: ⁴⁰ **Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left.** ⁴¹ **Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.** // That is *not* a

³ <https://answersingenesis.org/bible-timeline/biblical-overview-of-the-flood-timeline/>

reference to a *pre-end rapture*; instead, Jesus said that when He returns for the second and final time, “he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect... from one end of heaven to the other” (Matt. 24:31 ESV).

4. **Warning:** ⁴² **Therefore, stay awake** [*keep watch*], **for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.** // *Stay awake SPIRITUALLY! How? By remaining open to the work of the Spirit through the Word in our lives! **Hearing, reading, studying, thinking, praying, and applying** are ways in which God is working to keep us awake! And why will most be condemned? “...because they refused to love the truth and so be saved” (2 Th. 2:10b NIV).*

5. **Be Ready:** ⁴³ **But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.** ⁴⁴ **Therefore you also... be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect** [*you do not think He will*].” // There are many things in life that are connected to *timing* – ♦getting up, ♦bodily functions, ♦eating, ♦going to work, ♦traffic lights, ♦football, ♦etc.! Since we cannot time Jesus’ return, *it is wise to always be ready!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, since we know You could come at any time, *help us to be like Noah – ever trusting and obeying!*

This Week’s Challenge: By God’s grace Noah trusted, obeyed, and was ready; *may God grant us those same blessings!*

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