

Matthew 24:37-39 As It Was in the Days of Noah

Introduction: This text was not given primarily as a sign. It does serve somewhat as a sign. But its primary purpose is to serve as a warning that men should get prepared for His coming.

I. The principle set forth in the text.

- A. Jesus said that as the days of Noah were, just prior to the flood, so would it be in the days just prior to His return.
- B. We can look in the Scripture and see what it was like in the days of Noah and know what it will be like just prior to His return.

II. The question that follows.

- A. What was it like in the days of Noah?
- B. Answer: Wickedness prevailed.
 - 1. That is the reason that God determined to send the flood.
 - 2. The very imagination of men's hearts were evil, Genesis 6:5.
 - 3. The thoughts of his heart determined his actions.

III. The parallel conditions that will exist just prior to our Lord's return.

- A. As wickedness prevailed in the days of Noah, so shall it prevail in the days prior to the return of Jesus.
- B. This will be the reason that God will bring this age to an end.
- C. God will see that the very imagination of the hearts of men are only evil continually.
- D. Paul described this condition to Timothy, II Timothy 3:1-7.

IV. The conditions in the days of Noah as described by Jesus in the text.

- A. Strangely enough Jesus does not refer to their sins.
- B. He refers to their eating and drinking.
 - 1. Eating is not – in itself – a sin.
 - a. It can be if one becomes a glutton.
 - b. For the Jews it could be if they ate that forbidden by the Law.
 - 2. Drinking is not – in itself – a sin. (It is if you drink that which will make you lose control of your thinking, your speech, and your conduct.)
- C. He refers to them marrying and giving in marriage.
 - 1. It is certainly not a sin to marry. (God is the One who instituted marriage. It may sometimes be a mistake, but not a sin.)
 - 2. Giving one's son or daughter in marriage is not a sin.
- D. The point that Jesus was making was that they were unaware of the danger until it was too late.
 - 1. Not that they were without warning. (For 120 years Noah warned them.)
 - 2. But they chose to ignore the warnings and they did not know the danger until the flood came and took them away.

V. The parallel conditions just prior to the coming of Jesus.

- A. People will be going about life as usual. (Going to work, to school, to the ballgames, shopping, hunting, fishing, plowing, mowing, getting married, going on a honeymoon, etc.)
- B. They will be unaware of the momentous event that is about to take place. (“The King is coming.”)
- C. It is not that they are without warning.

1. He has given the ten special signs.
 2. He has given the Parable of the Fig Tree.
 3. He has given many other Scriptures.
 4. He has established churches throughout the world.
 5. He has given the warning through thousands of believers.
- D. But many will be unaware of the danger they are in until they see Jesus coming in the air.
- E. It is sad, but many saved people will likewise be unaware of His coming.
1. They will be living in the same unconcerned way as the unsaved.
 2. They seldom come to God's house or hear God's word.
 3. They devote their time and attention to the material things of the world.
 4. They can get excited about a ball game or a scratch on the fender of the car, but they care little about lost souls.

Conclusion: You don't have to be caught off guard.

1. Make sure that you are saved.
2. Make sure that you are living for God.
3. Make sure that you are praying for others.
4. Make sure that you are witnessing to others.

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