

“God’s Word, Alive!”

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A Biblical Teaching Ministry Dedicated to “Holding Forth the Word of Life”
by Velma Sanders

Are “The Last Days” Now?

And **AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH**, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Also **AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF LOT**;

they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. **EVEN THUS SHALL IT BE IN THE DAY WHEN THE SON OF MAN IS REVEALED.**

(Luke 17:26-30, King James Version)

With clear long-distant vision, Jesus Christ, as The Prophet of God, sees beyond many generations and kingdoms to tell His own of events that will both precede and accompany His Second Coming to Earth.

For over 2000 years now, The Day of Salvation has shone from God towards man. (2 Corinthians 6:2) This is the Day where sinful man is invited to the One who says, “Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28) However, the sunlight of this present Day of God’s manifested grace towards man is going down. On its horizon is another Day spoken of clearly and frequently within the Word of God, The Day of God’s Wrath. (Revelation 6:17) Before God works in wrath, however, He gives warnings upon earth of His impending judgment.

Although we do not know the exact date or time of the return of the Lord, we know from Scripture that His return will be ushered in by two distinct and separate days. These are, first, The Days of Noah. Then, secondly, The Days of Lot. Therefore, the question is not whether Jesus will come again. We know that He will. The question is, “Are we currently in The Days of Noah and in The Days of Lot?” To answer this, we must first determine what these two Days were like.

Upon careful examination of our Scriptural passage, one finds numerous things that both Days have in common. These are: 1) Society behaved as if life would continue always in its then present mode; 2) There was a specific calendar day where the righteous were

separated from the wicked, 3) God's judgment came, 4) The righteous were preserved from God's wrath, and, 5) All were destroyed that were not numbered with the righteous.

The Days of Noah

Genesis 6:5, 6:11-13. And 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 ways upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with **VIOLENCE** through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

The account of Noah and The Flood as recorded in Genesis Chapters 6-9 reveals that God not only observes the conduct of mankind, but He also judges both the heart and deeds of man. His own divine righteous requirements are the only standard of measurement. As the Righteous Judge of All the Earth (Genesis 18:25), God cannot just "sweep sin under the rug." In His infinite holiness, He excellently witnesses, judges and then executes punishment upon sin.

As the four natural rivers proceeded from Eden's River to fill the earth (Genesis 2:10-14), likewise, since Adam's fall, these four spiritual rivers of Wickedness, Evilness, Corruption and Violence proceed from the sinful heart of man. Because the nature of man remained unchanged, apart from Jesus Christ, even after the release of Noah and his family from the ark it was not long at all until sin again manifested itself in the earth. (Genesis 9:21) At this present time, we see these four rivers swelling in their development; increasing in their urgency; deepening in their potency as they once again seek, with fervor, to fill the earth with their poisonous venom. Bringing about, without fail, God's determined judgment.

Wickedness, evil hearts, corruption and violence are "crouched at the threshold" of each door as never before. Privately and publicly this ugly, intensely wicked manifestation of sin lurks, as a monster, at each door. Violence is on the rise within every level of society, whether it is national or international, domestic violence, gang violence or racial violence. Security measures are being taken upon our every turn (car alarms, home security systems, guards in our grocery stores, on our educational campuses, at our places of entertainment, employment, places of travel, etc.). As a society we have now become so accustomed to these "anti-violence" measures that most of us probably are desensitized to its "wrongness." The exception is rapidly becoming the norm.

The crimes of which we read about in our daily newspapers, and some of us have sadly experienced first-hand, are becoming more heartless and cruel. There is indeed a fierceness of which Paul speaks of in 2 Timothy 3:1. Knowledge has increased in our day (Daniel 12:4). But from the heart of man, still spews a pure stream of corruption and wickedness, and once again the earth is being "filled with violence." For those who walk in the light it is easily recognizable that "Yes, The Last Days Are Now."

The Days of Lot

Genesis 18:20, 21. And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because **their sin is very grievous**; I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto Me; and if not, I will know.

Jeremiah 23:14. I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem **an horrible thing**; they commit **adultery**, and walk in **lies**; **evildoers**, that none doth return from his **wickedness**; they are all of them unto Me like Sodom, and its inhabitants like Gomorrah.

Ezekiel 16:49, 50. Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister, Sodom: **pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness** were in her and in her daughters, **neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy**. And they were **haughty**, and **committed abomination** before Me; therefore, I took them away as I saw good.

Jude 7. Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, **giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh**, are set forth, for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Eternally condemned by God for its pungent sin and open rebellion, Sodom and Gomorrah are a testimony to all that would “forget God.” The destruction of these two cities of Lot’s day, although notoriously known for their sexual sins (listed above as fornication, going after strange flesh and adultery) were just as brazen in a host of other sins. Although these are not as commonly known (see the above Scriptures).

That which brought about God’s judgment in Noah’s day increased in its intensity in Lot’s Day. With each successive generation, sin becomes more potent in its poison. What is shameful in one generation is tolerated in the next, and that which is tolerated is then embraced – until that which is embraced, is glorified and exalted in succeeding generations. We find, in our day, that sin is once again bubbling at the borders of God’s judgment. Glorifying that which God has forbidden, and glorying in that which is shameful, Sodom and Gomorrah failed to recognize the seriousness of sin and its consequences. Paying no regard to the merciful warnings of imminent judgment, mankind boastfully parades in transgressions. (Romans 1:18-32)

Fools make a mock of sin. (Proverbs 14:8, 9) However, as Creator, God will not be mocked by His creation. When societies deliberately and untiringly choose to corrupt the image and likeness of a holy God, judgment is inevitable. A reemergence of the same root that existed in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah has appeared. Indicating to those with “eyes to see” that “The Last Days Are Now.” It is to man’s own peril and horrible woe that the day of God’s anger is hastening.

In proclamation to Moses, God says of Himself, “The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.” (Exodus 34:6) God, although suffering-long with mankind in their sinful ways is nonetheless “angry with the wicked every day.” (Psalm 7:11) This anger of God, however, is not fully manifested in this present Day of Grace.

When the prophet Isaiah was speaking of the LORD in His role as Judge, Isaiah said that the particular work of God operating in judgment was “a strange work.” Isaiah 28:21, 22, “For the LORD shall rise up as in Mount Perazim; He shall be angry as in the valley of Gibeon, that He may do His work, **His strange work**, and bring to pass His act, **His strange act**. Now, therefore, be ye not scoffers, lest your bands be made strong; for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts **a destruction, even determined upon the whole earth.**”

Comparing the destruction of Noah’s Day and that of Lot’s Day, we notice that God is, as it were, hesitant in His judging. He “looks” and then “looks” again. (Genesis 6:5, 12) Of course we know that God, all wise, knows all things. (Jude 25) But, before working in judgment and in wrath, He “takes another look,” as if to make sure He is really seeing the situation aright. In the case of Sodom and Gomorrah, God not only “looked” but it is stated, “He came down.” (Genesis 18:21) And only after that did God rain, in anger, fire and brimstone.

Upon a righteous assessment of the ways of the wicked, God separates from them His children. Delivering them from “the wrath that is to come.” For Noah the means of safety was an ark; for Lot, another city. After this separation, God turns to His “strange work” of destruction. But don’t think for a minute that God takes delight or derives pleasure from this. For Ezekiel poses the question of God, “Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? Saith the Lord God, and not that he should return from his ways, and live?” (Ezekiel 18:23) “For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD; wherefore, turn yourselves and live.” (Ezekiel 18:32)

God in His merciful kindness, having seen “firsthand” the wickedness of man, does not immediately destroy, but instead gives man time to repent; not willing that any should perish. (John 3:16) Just as faithful as the Scriptures were to tell of the First Coming of the Lord, and the work to be accomplished by Him at that time, so are the Scriptures to tell of His Second Coming. Every jot and every tittle will be fulfilled.

In closing, notice that God destroyed the entire world by a flood in Noah’s Day, but only *a portion* of the world did He destroy by fire in Lot’s Day. (Job 21:30; 2 Peter 3:7) Not because He had run out of fire, but that His mercy and grace holds back “the fire” that many might repent and be saved, turning from sin to God, by placing faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

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