

**HWMR: NOAH, DANIEL, AND JOB—PATTERNS OF LIVING AN
OVERCOMING LIFE ON THE LINE OF LIFE TO FULFILL THE
ECONOMY OF GOD (Week 2)**

The Line of Life with Noah—the Life and Work That Change the Age

Scripture Reading: *Gen. 6:5-14; Heb. 11:7*

- Gen. 6:5 And Jehovah 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.
- Gen. 6:6 And Jehovah repented that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him in His heart.
- Gen. 6:7 And Jehovah said, I will blot out the man whom I have created from the surface of the ground, from man to beast to creeping things to the birds of heaven; for I repent that I have made them.
- Gen. 6:8 But Noah found favor in the sight of Jehovah.
- Gen. 6:9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generations; and Noah walked with God.
- Gen. 6:10 And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
- Gen. 6:11 And the earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.
- Gen. 6:12 And God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth.
- Gen. 6:13 And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and now I am about to destroy them with the earth.
- Gen. 6:14 Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make rooms in the ark and shall cover it within and without with pitch.
- Heb. 11:7 By faith Noah, having been divinely instructed concerning things not yet seen and being moved by pious fear, prepared an ark for the salvation of his house, through which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Day 1

Gen. 6:8-9 - But Noah found favor in the sight of Jehovah. These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generations; and Noah walked with God.

I. Noah **believed in God, **walked** with God, **pleased** God, and **enjoyed** all that God is:**

- A. Satan had corrupted man to the uttermost, and God had determined to destroy the man whom He had created for His purpose.
- B. Thus, it appeared that God was defeated; *but Noah* points to the sovereign factor that provided God a way to continue to carry out His original purpose with man.
- C. **Through Noah's life and work**, God gained the victory over His enemy and changed the age.

First, Noah built the ark by **receiving the revelation**. While Noah was walking with God and God was happy with him, **God opened His heart to Noah and revealed His secrets to him**. None of the other people knew the real situation. The worldly people of the time were befuddled, blinded, covered, veiled, and “doped.” They did not know where they were or what was coming. They were blinded and drugged by their lusts. Look at the situation today. It is exactly the same. People are lovers of money, lovers of self, and lovers of pleasure, just as the people described by Paul in 2 Timothy 3:1-4. Although the worldly people love money, pleasure, and themselves, they are not lovers of God. They have all been “doped” by their lusts, their pleasures, their riches, and other worldly things. They do not know where they are, where they are going, or what will happen to them. It was exactly the same in the ancient days. **But Noah was with God. He saw the true situation because God revealed all His secrets to him**. God told Noah that the earth was filled with violence, that the end of all flesh had come, and that He would destroy them with the earth. Moreover, God told Noah what to do: to build an ark. Noah built the ark according to God’s revelation.

In a sense, **we also are under the same kind of revelation**. Do you not know the real situation today? Do you not know what is coming and where you are going? I can boast to you that I know all these things. I know where I am. I know the situation of the world. I know what will come. I know where I will go, and I know where the church will be. We are not the people who are veiled and blinded by modern pleasures. The worldly people are covered with layer upon layer of veils. They go to the movies, to the nightclubs, to the dance halls, to all kinds of amusements, pleasures, and sports. They know only those things. But all those things are “dope.” The worldly people have been “doped” and blinded. Are you that kind of person? Praise the Lord that we have been **unveiled**. **We know where we are, we know the world situation, and we know what will come. We know what the Lord will do with this ungodly generation, and we know where we will be. We are clear about all these things. We are building the ark not only for our own salvation but also for the salvation of others**. Brothers and sisters, what are we doing here? We are building the ark of salvation for the accomplishment of God’s purpose. Even as we meet together, we are building. We are not only offering a gift to God, not only calling on the name of the Lord to enjoy all His riches, not only living, begetting, and walking with God, but also finding grace, receiving the revelation, and building the ark. Praise the Lord that we are building. (*Life-study of Genesis (2nd ed.), chapter 28*)

Day 2

Gen. 4:26 - And to Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time men began to call upon the name of Jehovah.

Gen. 5:24 - And Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

II. Noah’s life was a **life that changed the age**—cf. Phil. 1:19-21a:

- A. The life that changes the age is a life that **inherits the godly ways of the forefathers**:
 - 1. Noah inherited **Adam’s way of salvation**, receiving the promise of Christ as the seed of the woman and the covering of Christ as the God-satisfying righteousness—Gen. 3:15, 20-21; cf. Isa. 12:2.

2. Noah inherited **Abel's way of offering**, which is that of offering Christ to God, not only as the sacrifice for our sins but also as a gift for pleasing God—Gen. 4:4.
3. Noah inherited **Enosh's way of calling** on the name of Jehovah to enjoy all that He is—v. 26; Jer. 33:3; Rom. 10:12; 2 Tim. 2:22.
4. Noah inherited **Enoch's way of walking** with God, which is to take God as our center and everything, living and doing all things according to God and with God—Gen. 5:22-24; Heb. 11:5-6; 2 Cor. 5:4, 9, 14-16; 6:1.

Day 3

1 Cor. 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.

Gal. 6:18 - The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

Day 4

Rom. 5:17 - ...Much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom. 5:21 - In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- B. God showed Noah the true situation of the **corrupt age** in which he lived—Gen. 6:3, 5, 11, 13; Matt. 24:37-39; 2 Tim. 3:1-5.
- C. “But Noah **found favor** [grace] in the **sight of Jehovah**”—Gen. 6:8:
 1. When Satan has done his best to damage the situation, there have always been **some who found grace** in the eyes of God to become **ones who turned the age**—cf. Dan. 1:8; 9:23; 10:11, 19.
 2. The main purpose of the record of Genesis is not to show the fall but to **show how much God's grace can do for fallen people**:
 - a. **Grace** is God Himself, the **presence of God**, enjoyed by us to be everything **to us** and to do everything **in us, through us, and for us**—John 1:14, 16-17; Rev. 22:21.
 - b. The enjoyment of the Lord as grace is with **those who love Him**—Eph. 6:24; John 21:15-17.
 - c. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ as the bountiful supply of the Triune God is enjoyed by us through the **exercise of our human spirit**—Heb. 10:29b; Gal. 6:18; Phil. 4:23; Philem. 25; 2 Tim. 4:22.
 - d. God's word is the **word of grace**—Acts 20:32; Col. 3:16; cf. Jer. 15:16.
 - e. We experience the processed Triune God as the **grace of life in meeting** with the saints on the ground of oneness—Psa. 133:3; 1 Pet. 3:7; Acts 4:33; 11:23.

- f. We can experience the Lord as our **increasing and all-sufficient grace** in the midst of sufferings and trials—2 Cor. 12:9.
- g. **We need to labor** for the Lord in the power of His grace—1 Cor. 15:10, 58; 3:12.
- h. **We need to be good stewards** of the varied grace of God—1 Pet. 4:10; Eph. 3:2; 2 Cor. 1:15; Eph. 4:29.
- i. By the power of grace, the strength of grace, and the life of grace, we can be **right with God and with one another**; grace produces righteousness—Heb. 11:7; Rom. 5:17, 21.

After Noah received the revelation, he **immediately believed in the word of God**. According to the Bible, to believe always means to believe through the word. In Romans 10:14 Paul asks, “*How shall they believe into Him of whom they have not heard?*” Without the preaching of the word, it is difficult for people to believe. Believing comes about by listening to the word. Thus, Romans 10:17 says, “*So faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*” Undoubtedly, Noah heard the word of God and believed in the word that he heard. Do not say that you have no faith. Do not say that you cannot believe. As far as we are concerned, we do not have the faith, but faith is God Himself believing in us. **We need to come to Him and have Him infused into our being**. We need to be infused with what God is. God is believing. God is our faith. When you come to Him, are infused with Him, and listen to His word, spontaneously, the very God who has been infused into you will believe in and for you. This is what it means to believe in His word.

After Noah entered into the ark, God shut him in. His entering into the ark was a type of our **entering into Christ**. Although we are free to enter in, once we are in, we have no way to get out. Once you believe into the Lord Jesus, you can never get out of Him. It is up to you to come in, but it is not up to you to go out. I can strongly testify that during the past fifty years I have tried several times to get out of Christ. I tried, but I discovered that I had been locked in. **Once you get into Christ, you are locked in Him**.

When Noah, his family, and the living creatures entered into the ark, people probably said, “Look at those crazy persons. What are they doing? They don’t care for their homes or for anything. They have forsaken everything just to go into the ark.” The Lord Jesus has said that in the day of the Son of Man it will be the same as it was in the days of Noah. People will eat, drink, marry, and give in marriage. Suddenly, He will come, just as the flood came in Noah’s time. When the flood came, **Noah and his family were in the ark, protected, preserved, and saved**.

We all must be today’s Noah. Let us **follow** Noah’s steps to find grace, **walk** with God by faith, **receive** the revelation, **believe** in God’s word, **testify** to people what we believe in, **work** on what we believe in, and step into what we believe in. Finally, God will lock us in the ark, and we will be preserved and saved. (*Life-study of Genesis (2nd ed.), chapter 28*)

Heb. 11:7 - By faith Noah, having been divinely instructed concerning things not yet seen..., prepared an ark for the salvation of his house...

Matt. 16:18 - And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church...

Eph. 4:12 - For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ.

III. Noah's work was a work that changed the age—1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1; Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:12:

- A. God gave Noah an **all-inclusive revelation**, a further revelation, the revelation to **build the ark**, which was the way that God would terminate the corrupted generation and bring in a new age:
1. The **ark is a type of Christ** (1 Pet. 3:20-21)—not only the individual Christ but also the **corporate Christ**, the **church**, which is the Body of Christ and the new man to consummate in the New Jerusalem (Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 2:15-16; Col. 3:10-11; Rev. 21:2).
 2. The **building of the ark typifies the building of the corporate Christ**, with the element of Christ's riches as the building material, by those who work together with God—1 Cor. 3:9-12a; Eph. 4:12; 2:22.

Day 6

Eph. 3:17 - That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love.

1 Cor. 3:12 - But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble.

3. This building is the working of Christ into people to **build them together by Christ** that they may become God's manifestation in the flesh—1 Tim. 3:15-16:
 - a. The crucial matter in our work is to **minister the building and build God into others** so that the Triune God may build Himself into their being—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 3:17a; 1 Cor. 14:4b.
 - b. We need to practice one thing—to **minister the processed and consummated Triune God into others** so that He may build Himself into their inner man; we need to pray that the Lord will teach us to work in this way—2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Cor. 3:9a, 10, 12; Rom. 11:36.
- B. By building the church and entering into the church life, **we will be saved** from God's judgment on today's evil generation through the great tribulation and will be separated from that generation to be **ushered into a new age**, the age of the millennium—Heb. 11:7; Matt. 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27.

Christians who have **no growth have never been built up**. When you met such a one twenty years ago, he was either blaming this brother for being wrong or criticizing that sister for being improper. Today, twenty years later, when you see him again, he still has no other topic except the mistakes and defects of others. This proves that he has not grown one bit. As a result, we cannot see any building in him. Such a person who is without growth and building is surely a peculiar member in the church. You sense that he is not a stone built into the house but a stone lying beside the house. He is **individualistic, secluded, and unable to be one with others**. Therefore, he is a member who is detached from the Body of Christ. Furthermore, in the church he is as round, shiny, and slippery as a marble and therefore cannot be blended with others. I surely have met brothers and sisters like this.

This condition is due to the **lack of growth**. Experience tells us that as long as you have a little growth in life, you can love the brothers and sisters and bear with them. In this way you will be able to be with others in the church. If in your eyes none of the brothers are good or lovable, this shows that you lack the element of God within you and are short of growth in life. This also shows that you have **not been eating, drinking, and enjoying** God for a prolonged period of time.

Dear brothers and sisters, we have to see, therefore, that the **real building comes from growth**. The **more growth** there is, the **more building** there will be. Worldly people form associations and join themselves together, but this is absolutely not what we mean by being built together. **Our being built together is altogether by the life we have in common**. When this life grows in you and also in me, then we grow together with one another. The more you grow in this life, the more you will love your brothers and sisters and be joined to them, even glued together with them. When you and your brothers and sisters are glued together, it will be impossible to be separated. Hence, building comes from growth. (The Building Work of God, Chapter 3)