Parashat Noach – A Sign of the Times

"[3]As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, (1)when will these things happen? (2)What will be the sign of Your coming and (3)of the end of the age?'" (Matt. 24:3).

In *Matthew Chapter 24* the disciples had questions about *Yeshua's Return, so* they asked Him directly. *He answered their three questions* in the remainder of *Matthew 24* and part of *Matthew 25,* so *we do not have to speculate* or depend on individual's dreams, interpretations, or popular doctrine. These passages in Scripture are among some of my personal favorites because in them *Yeshua* clearly delineates *Scriptural Principles* that are relevant in *our days* and in *the end of days* (one in the same?).

This week's reading is *Parashat Noah* (*Noach,* in Hebrew). The first mention of *Noach* was in *Gen. 6:8: "[8]But Noah found favor (chen) in Adonai's eyes".* I have spoken on favor (*favour* in the KJV). Evidently, *favor* was the key component in *Noah's* life and that changed everything! One of these principles is: *[36]But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven nor the Son, except the Father alone. [37]"For just as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. [38]For in those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. [39]And they did not understand until the flood came and swept them all away. So shall it be at the coming of the Son of Man…[26]As it was in the days of Noah, so will it also be in the days of the Son of Man. [27]They were eating, drinking, marrying, and being given in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. (Matt. 24:36-39, Luke 17:26-27, TLV). Yeshua* describes His return as being accompanied by judgment. Just as the flood came and judged people, so also will His return. The *sweeping them all away* is not, as some people interpret, the so-called *rapture of the church.* The context is clear in that His Return is compared to *the flood taking away people in judgment*. We can surely go back to *Genesis chapter 6* and verify the context of the *days of Noah in Gen. 6:8-13, 17-18, 22*. In particular we read: *"[11]Now the earth was ruined before God, and the earth was filled with violence. [12]God saw the earth, and behold it was ruined because all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth…[13]Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh is coming before Me, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. Behold, I am about to bring ruin upon them along with the land…[17]Now I am about to bring the flood – water upon the land – to destroy all flesh in which is the spirit of life from under the sky. Everything that is on the land will perish. [18]But I will establish My covenant with you. So you shall come into the ark – you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you… [22]So Noah did according to all that God commanded him; he did so exactly.* This sounds like a description of of what is happening in our current times. *Yeshua* said *Noach* is *a sign of the times* of His return.

During the time just before His return, although the warnings were sounded, most people will carry on with life as usual. In those days, even though *Noah* was building the ark and living in righteousness (i.e., he was *preaching repentance* while doing the work substantiating his preaching), but people were not moved or interested. It was *business as usual* – people were getting married, gathering food, living their life, etc., and *Noah's* message was irrelevant. His trek was not a 1-day, 1-week or even a 1-year, 10-year, 25-year, or 50-year event. From *Genesis 5:32 and 7:11* we can infer *~100-year ark-building ministry before his peers*. So will it be in the days preceding the return of *Yeshua*. *Noah's* message of *Repent & Return* will be preached, but most people will give little heed to it. According to *Yeshua's* own words it should be clear that *Noah* provides an important basis for understanding the end times. The problem appears to be one of *self-gratification* (the context implied by the statement: *"eating, drinking and taking wives"*). In another translation the implication is that individuals took wives (plural) they themselves chose. Notice that *Yah Adonai* is not considered at all in this self-centered lifestyle. As if to say: *Who cares what The Almighty thinks?*

Does the current Believing World seem to care much about *what Adonai says?* I would say NO because *His Torah* and *His Tanach* are rejected by nearly all of Christianity while adhering to *the doctrine of Yeshua abolishing obedience* to the *Hebrew Scriptures* – *Who cares what He said prior to the New Testament?* This statement may seem harsh, but regardless of the reason, Christianity promotes disobedience to *Adonai's Torah* by insisting that it has no relevance to a Born-Again Believer's life.

The Apostle Peter gives further instruction for the approaching end times in 2 Peter Chapter 2: *"But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you. They will secretly bring in destructive heresies. They will even deny the Master who bought them—bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2Many will follow their immoral ways, and as a result the way of the truth will be maligned. 3In their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction does not slumber... 5He did not spare the ancient world. He preserved only Noah, a proclaimer of righteousness, along with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly...9Therefore the Lord certainly knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and how to keep the unrighteous being punished until the Day of Judgment...13They will be paid back for what they have done—evil for evil. They consider carousing in broad daylight a pleasure. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceitful pleasures while feasting together with you. 14They have eyes full of adultery that never stop sinning, enticing unstable souls. They have hearts trained in greed—a cursed brood! 15They have abandoned the straight way. They have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness...18For by mouthing grandiosities that amount to nothing, they entice in sensual fleshly passions those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. 19They promise them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption—for a person is a slave to whatever has overcome him. 20For if—after escaping the world's pollutions through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Yeshua the Messiah—they again become entangled in these things and are overcome, the end for them has become worse than the beginning. 21For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after learning about it, to turn back from the holy commandment passed on to them."*

So, in summary, *T'Shuvah*, i.e., *Repent* will be preached to mostly deaf ears. It is clear, according to *Yeshua*'s own words that *Parashat Noach* is essential in preparing for the end of days.

> 18 *For the Messiah himself died for sins, once and for all, a righteous person on behalf of unrighteous people, so that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but brought to life by the Spirit;* 19 *and in this form he went and made a proclamation to the imprisoned spirits,* 20 *to those who were disobedient long ago, in the days of Noach, when God waited patiently during the building of the ark, in which a few people—to be specific, eight—were delivered by means of water.* 21 *This also prefigures what delivers us now, the water of immersion, which is not the removal of dirt from the body, but one's pledge to keep a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah. (1 Peter 3:18-21)*
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> *"If the righteous is barely delivered, where will the ungodly and sinful end up? So let those who are suffering according to God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator by continuing to do what is good" (1 Pet. 4:18-19).* What else can be added*? "He has told you, humanity, what is good, and what Adonai is seeking from you: Only to practice justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8) Shabbat Shalom!*