

Message One

God's Need in the Present Age

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: Gen. 1:26, 28; Eph. 1:9, 11; 3:11;
Matt. 6:10; 7:21; 12:50; 24:37-39

- Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- Gen. 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.
- Eph. 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
- Eph. 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- Eph. 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
- Matt. 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
- Matt. 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.
- Matt. 12:50 For whoever does the will of My Father who is in the heavens, he is My brother and sister and mother.
- Matt. 24:37 For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- Matt. 24:38 For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark,
- Matt. 24:39 And they did not know that judgment was coming until the flood came and took all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

I. In order for His will to be done on earth and for His eternal purpose to be fulfilled, God needs our cooperation—1 Cor. 6:17; Matt. 7:11; 12:50:

- 1 Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- Matt. 7:11 If you then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in the heavens give good things to those who ask Him!
- Matt. 12:50 For whoever does the will of My Father who is in the heavens, he is My brother and sister and mother.

A. God can carry out on earth what He has planned in heaven only when He has people who will cooperate with Him—John 7:17; 15:4-5:

- John 7:17 If anyone resolves to do His will, he will know concerning the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.
- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

1. God needs to gain people on earth who will cooperate with Him and work with Him

according to His mind—Phil. 3:15; Col. 3:2.

Phil. 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as are full-grown, have this mind; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, this also God will reveal to you.

Col. 3:2 Set your mind on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.

2. As long as there are those who are of the same mind as God and are willing to work with Him, God's work will be carried out on earth—1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10.

1 Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Cor. 16:10 Now if Timothy comes, see that he is with you without fear; for he is working the work of the Lord, even as I am.

B. Our eyes need to be opened to see that God has His limitations and to see how we should cooperate with Him—Matt. 6:10; 18:18-19; 2 Cor. 6:1:

Matt. 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

Matt. 18:18 Truly I say to you, Whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

Matt. 18:19 Again, truly I say to you that if two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter for which they ask, it will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens.

2 Cor. 6:1 And working together with Him, we also entreat you not to receive the grace of God in vain;

1. God is omnipotent, but His omnipotence is subject to limitations because He must have certain conditions suitable for His working—John 7:17; Matt. 7:21.

John 7:17 If anyone resolves to do His will, he will know concerning the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.

Matt. 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.

2. Man was created with a free will; the limitations of God began at this point—Gen. 1:26:

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

a. In creation God put His almighty power under the limitation of the human will—v. 28; 2:9, 16-17.

Gen. 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

Gen. 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen. 2:16 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely,

Gen. 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

b. God wants the human will to be on His side; therefore, He accepts the limitation that this desire entails—John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; Rom. 12:2-3.

- John 4:34 Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.
- John 5:30 I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.
- John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.
- Rom. 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
- Rom. 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

3. As members of Christ's organic, mystical Body, we are either expressing Him or limiting Him—1 Cor. 12:12-13, 18-20, 27:

- 1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- 1 Cor. 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.
- 1 Cor. 12:18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed.
- 1 Cor. 12:19 And if all were one member, where would the body be?
- 1 Cor. 12:20 But now the members are many, but the body one.
- 1 Cor. 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

a. The Lord needs to bring us to the point where we have nothing to hinder Him from doing whatever He wills—6:17; Matt. 6:10; 7:21; 12:50; Eph. 1:1, 9; 5:17.

- 1 Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- Matt. 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
- Matt. 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.
- Matt. 12:50 For whoever does the will of My Father who is in the heavens, he is My brother and sister and mother.
- Eph. 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus:
- Eph. 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
- Eph. 5:17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

b. Once the Lord has brought us to a place of total responsiveness to Him, He will have a free and unhindered way to accomplish His will; then there will be nothing that God cannot do to carry out His purpose on earth—Matt. 6:10; 26:39, 42; Heb. 13:21.

- Matt. 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
- Matt. 26:39 And going forward a little, He fell on His face and prayed, saying, My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.
- Matt. 26:42 Again, going away a second time, He prayed, saying, My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.
- Heb. 13:21 Perfect you in every good work for the doing of His will, doing in us that which is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

II. God needs man to recover the earth—Gen. 1:26, 28; Matt. 6:10; Rev. 5:10:

- Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them

- have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- Gen. 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.
- Matt. 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
- Rev. 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.
- A. Man was created by God to have dominion over the earth, to subdue it, conquer it, and thereby recover the earth for God—Gen. 1:26, 28.
- Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- Gen. 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.
- B. God's intention in giving man dominion is to subdue God's enemy, Satan, who rebelled against God—vv. 26, 28:
- Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- Gen. 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.
1. Subdue in Genesis 1:28 implies that a war is raging on earth between God and His enemy, Satan; whoever gains the earth will have the victory.
- Gen. 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.
2. God has a problem, and this problem is Satan, the archangel who rebelled against God and became His enemy in the universe and especially on the earth—Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:12-18:
- Isa. 14:12 How you have fallen from heaven, / O Daystar, son of the dawn! / How you have been hewn down to earth, / You who made nations fall prostrate!
- Isa. 14:13 But you, you said in your heart: / I will ascend to heaven; / Above the stars of God / I will exalt my throne. / And I will sit upon the mount of assembly / In the uttermost parts of the north.
- Isa. 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; / I will make myself like the Most High.
- Ezek. 28:12 Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord Jehovah, O you who sealed up perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty,
- Ezek. 28:13 You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, diamond, chrysolite, onyx, jasper, sapphire, carbuncle, and emerald, with gold. The workmanship of your tambourines and your pipes was prepared with you on the day that you were created.

- Ezek. 28:14 You were the anointed cherub who covered the Ark; indeed I set you, so that you were upon the holy mountain of God; you walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.
- Ezek. 28:15 You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you.
- Ezek. 28:16 By the abundance of your trading they filled your midst with violence, and you sinned. So I cast you out as profane from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.
- Ezek. 28:17 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness. I cast you to the ground; I presented you before kings that they may look at you.
- Ezek. 28:18 By the multitude of your iniquities in the unrighteousness of your trading you have profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I sent forth fire from your midst; it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all those who look at you.

a. In order to subdue His enemy and thus solve His problem, God gave man authority to rule over all things created by God—Gen. 1:26.

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

b. Man especially must rule over the earth and even subdue the earth because the earth has been usurped by God's rebellious enemy—v. 28.

Gen. 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

c. God needs man to exercise His authority over all the creeping things and to subdue and conquer the rebellious earth so that God may recover the earth for His kingdom—Matt. 6:9-10; Rev. 5:10.

Matt. 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;

Matt. 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

Rev. 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.

3. God wants to use man to deal with His enemy, and He created man for this purpose; God wants His creature man to deal with His fallen creature Satan—Gen. 1:28.

Gen. 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

4. If we do not restore the earth from the hand of Satan, we have not yet achieved God's purpose in creating man to subdue the earth and have dominion; we need to deal with Satan and recover the earth for the benefit of God and to satisfy His need—v. 28; Matt. 6:9-10.

Gen. 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

- Matt. 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;
- Matt. 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

III. God needs to end this age—Rom. 12:2; Eph. 2:2; 2 Cor. 4:4; Titus 2:12:

- Rom. 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
- Eph. 2:2 In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience;
- 2 Cor. 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.
- Titus 2:12 Training us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly and righteously and godly in the present age,

A. The situation before the Lord's coming will be like that in the days of Noah—Matt. 24:37-39:

- Matt. 24:37 For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- Matt. 24:38 For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark,
- Matt. 24:39 And they did not know that judgment was coming until the flood came and took all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

1. Noah lived in a crooked and perverse age—Gen. 6:1-22.

- Gen. 6:1 And when men began to multiply on the surface of the ground, and daughters were born to them,
- Gen. 6:2 The sons of God saw that the daughters of men were fair; and they took wives for themselves from all whom they chose.
- Gen. 6:3 And Jehovah said, My Spirit will not strive with man forever, for he indeed is flesh; so his days will be one hundred twenty years.
- Gen. 6:4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days-and also afterward-when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them; these were the mighty men who were of old the men of renown.
- 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.

- Gen. 6:15 And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.
- Gen. 6:16 You shall make an opening for light for the ark, and you shall finish it up to a cubit from the top; and you shall put the entrance of the ark in its side; you shall make it with lower, second, and third stories.
- Gen. 6:17 And now I am about to bring a flood of water upon the earth to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die.
- Gen. 6:18 But I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you.
- Gen. 6:19 And of every living thing, of all flesh, two of every kind you shall bring into the ark to preserve them alive with you; they shall be male and female.
- Gen. 6:20 Of the birds according to their kind and of the cattle according to their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind will come to you in order to preserve them alive.
- Gen. 6:21 And for your part, take some of every kind of food that is edible, and gather it to yourself, and it will be for food for you and for them.
- Gen. 6:22 And Noah did this; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

2. In Matthew 24:37-39 and Luke 17:26-27 the Lord Jesus likened our age to the days of Noah:

- Matt. 24:37 For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- Matt. 24:38 For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark,
- Matt. 24:39 And they did not know that judgment was coming until the flood came and took all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- Luke 17:26 And even as it happened in the days of Noah, so will it be also in the days of the Son of Man:
- Luke 17:27 They were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all.

a. The conditions of evil living that stupefied the generation of Noah before the flood portray the perilous condition of man's living before the great tribulation and the Lord's parousia—Matt. 24:21, 3, 27, 37, 39.

- Matt. 24:21 For at that time there will be great tribulation, such as has not occurred from the beginning of the world until now, nor shall by any means ever occur.
- Matt. 24:3 And as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, Tell us, When will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming and of the consummation of the age?
- Matt. 24:27 For just as the lightning comes forth from the east and shines to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- Matt. 24:37 For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- Matt. 24:39 And they did not know that judgment was coming until the flood came and took all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

b. If we would participate in the overcomers' rapture to enjoy the Lord's parousia and escape the great tribulation, we must overcome the stupefying effect of man's living today—Luke 21:34-36.

- Luke 21:34 But take heed to yourselves lest perhaps your hearts be weighed down with debauchery and drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day come upon you suddenly as a snare.
- Luke 21:35 For it will come in upon all those dwelling on the face of all the earth.

Luke 21:36 But be watchful at every time, beseeching that you would prevail to escape all these things which are about to happen and stand before the Son of Man.

- B. Today there are only two things on earth—the crooked and perverted generation and the church as the corporate expression of Christ—Acts 2:40; Phil. 2:15; 1 Cor. 1:2; 12:12, 27.

Acts 2:40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and exhorted them, saying, Be saved from this crooked generation.

Phil. 2:15 That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world,

1 Cor. 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:

1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

1 Cor. 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

- C. If we would be the corporate expression of Christ in the church life, we need to be today's "family of Noah" building the corporate Christ as the ark that will deliver us from the crooked and perverted generation and usher us into the coming age of the kingdom of God—Gen. 6:8—8:3; 1 Cor. 12:12; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Pet. 3:20-21.

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.

Gen. 6:15 And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.

Gen. 6:16 You shall make an opening for light for the ark, and you shall finish it up to a cubit from the top; and you shall put the entrance of the ark in its side; you shall make it with lower, second, and third stories.

Gen. 6:17 And now I am about to bring a flood of water upon the earth to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die.

Gen. 6:18 But I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you.

Gen. 6:19 And of every living thing, of all flesh, two of every kind you shall bring into the ark to preserve them alive with you; they shall be male and female.

Gen. 6:20 Of the birds according to their kind and of the cattle according to their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind will come to you in order to preserve them alive.

Gen. 6:21 And for your part, take some of every kind of food that is edible, and gather it to yourself, and it will be for food for you and for them.

Gen. 6:22 And Noah did this; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

Gen. 7:1 Then Jehovah said to Noah, Come into the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this generation.

- Gen. 7:2 Of every clean animal you shall take with you seven pairs, a male and its female; and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and its female;
- Gen. 7:3 Also of the birds of heaven, seven pairs, male and female; to preserve their offspring alive on the surface of all the earth.
- Gen. 7:4 For in seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living being that I have made I will blot out from the surface of the ground.
- Gen. 7:5 And Noah did according to all that Jehovah commanded him.
- Gen. 7:6 And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth.
- Gen. 7:7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark because of the waters of the flood.
- Gen. 7:8 Of clean animals and of animals that are not clean and of birds and of everything that creeps upon the ground,
- Gen. 7:9 Two by two they came into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.
- Gen. 7:10 And after the seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth.
- Gen. 7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that very day all the springs of the great deep burst open, and the windows of heaven were opened.
- Gen. 7:12 And the rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights.
- Gen. 7:13 On that very same day Noah and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark,
- Gen. 7:14 They and every animal according to its kind and all the cattle according to their kind and every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth according to its kind and every bird according to its kind—every bird, every winged creature.
- Gen. 7:15 And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two of all flesh in which was the breath of life.
- Gen. 7:16 And those who went in, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and Jehovah shut the door behind him.
- Gen. 7:17 And the flood was on the earth forty days; and the waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth.
- Gen. 7:18 And the waters prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth, and the ark went about on the surface of the waters.
- Gen. 7:19 And when the waters had prevailed exceedingly upon the earth, all the high mountains that were under the entire heaven were covered.
- Gen. 7:20 The waters prevailed fifteen cubits higher, once the mountains were covered.
- Gen. 7:21 And all flesh that moved upon the earth expired: birds and cattle and animals and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth and all mankind.
- Gen. 7:22 Everything in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, of all that was on the dry land, died.
- Gen. 7:23 Thus He blotted out every living being that was upon the surface of the ground, from man to beast to creeping things to the birds of heaven. And they were blotted out from the earth. And only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark.
- Gen. 7:24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth one hundred fifty days.
- Gen. 8:1 And God remembered Noah and all the animals and all the cattle that were with him in the ark; and God made a wind pass over the earth, and the waters subsided.
- Gen. 8:2 The springs of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from the heavens was restrained.
- Gen. 8:3 And the waters receded steadily from upon the earth. So at the end of one hundred fifty days the waters began to diminish.
- 1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

- Phil. 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
- Phil. 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.
- 1 Pet. 3:20 Who had formerly disobeyed when the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared; entering into which, a few, that is, eight souls, were brought safely through by water.
- 1 Pet. 3:21 Which water, as the antitype, also now saves you, that is, baptism, not a putting away of the filth of the flesh but the appeal of a good conscience unto God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- D. The ark built by Noah is a type of Christ as the salvation of God's elect; the ark that we are building today is the corporate Christ, the church, as our salvation from today's crooked, perverted, and evil generation—vv. 20-21; 1 Cor. 12:12, 27.
- 1 Pet. 3:20 Who had formerly disobeyed when the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared; entering into which, a few, that is, eight souls, were brought safely through by water.
- 1 Pet. 3:21 Which water, as the antitype, also now saves you, that is, baptism, not a putting away of the filth of the flesh but the appeal of a good conscience unto God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- 1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- 1 Cor. 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- E. The church life is today's ark to terminate the present age and bring in God's kingdom—1:2; 12:12, 27; 1 Thes. 1:1, 9-10:
- 1 Cor. 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:
- 1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- 1 Cor. 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- 1 Thes. 1:1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.
- 1 Thes. 1:9 For they themselves report concerning us what kind of entrance we had toward you and how you turned to God from the idols to serve a living and true God
- 1 Thes. 1:10 And await His Son from the heavens, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath which is coming.
1. The Lord desires "the family of Noah" to build the ark and testify against the trend of the age so that He can use them to terminate the age and bring in the kingdom age—Heb. 11:7; Rev. 11:15.
- 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.
- Rev. 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.
2. What we are building in the church life is the corporate Christ as the ark for our salvation and for the salvation of the ones under our care—1 Cor. 12:12; 14:26; Phil. 2:12-13.

- 1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- 1 Cor. 14:26 What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.
- Phil. 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
- Phil. 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

F. God wants the church, the ark, where we can be saved from today's evil generation—Acts 2:40-47:

- Acts 2:40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and exhorted them, saying, Be saved from this crooked generation.
- Acts 2:41 Those then who received his word were baptized, and there were added on that day about three thousand souls.
- Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.
- Acts 2:43 And fear was upon every soul; and many wonders and signs took place through the apostles.
- Acts 2:44 And all those who believed were together and had all things common;
- Acts 2:45 And they sold their properties and possessions and divided them to all, as anyone had need.
- Acts 2:46 And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they partook of their food with exultation and simplicity of heart,
- Acts 2:47 Praising God and having grace with all the people. And the Lord added together day by day those who were being saved.

1. God wants to save us—through this ark—from the crooked generation and usher us into God's kingdom to fulfill His eternal purpose—Matt. 6:33; 13:43; Luke 12:32; Rev. 11:15.

- Matt. 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- Matt. 13:43 Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.
- Luke 12:32 Do not be afraid, little flock, because your Father has been well pleased to give you the kingdom.
- Rev. 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

2. God cares for whether or not we are in the ark, the proper church life; He wants us to be a part of the corporate Christ, part of the testimony of Jesus—1 Cor. 12:12; Rev. 1:2, 9, 11, 20; 22:16.

- 1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- Rev. 1:2 Who testified the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, even all that he saw.
- Rev. 1:9 I John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

- Rev. 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.
- Rev. 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw upon My right hand and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.
- Rev. 22:16 I Jesus have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright morning star.

G. When this ark is built up, the Lord Jesus will return—19:7; 22:7, 12, 20:

- Rev. 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev. 22:7 And behold, I come quickly. Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this scroll.
- Rev. 22:12 Behold, I come quickly, and My reward is with Me to render to each one as his work is.
- Rev. 22:20 He who testifies these things says, Yes, I come quickly. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

1. The Lord has not come back yet because He is still waiting for the ark to be built—Matt. 16:18, 27.

- Matt. 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Matt. 16:27 For the Son of Man is to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will repay each man according to his doings.

2. When the testimony of the church in the Lord's recovery is matured, the Lord Jesus will return—Rev. 19:7; 22:7, 12, 20.

- Rev. 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev. 22:7 And behold, I come quickly. Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this scroll.
- Rev. 22:12 Behold, I come quickly, and My reward is with Me to render to each one as his work is.
- Rev. 22:20 He who testifies these things says, Yes, I come quickly. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

IV. God needs the man-child for His greatest dispensational move—12:1-5, 7-12:

- Rev. 12:1 And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon underneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;
- Rev. 12:2 And she was with child, and she cried out, travailing in birth and being in pain to bring forth.
- Rev. 12:3 And another sign was seen in heaven; and behold, there was a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.
- Rev. 12:4 And his tail drags away the third part of the stars of heaven, and he cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bring forth, so that when she brings forth he might devour her child.
- Rev. 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.
- Rev. 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels went to war with the dragon. And the dragon warred and his angels.
- Rev. 12:8 And they did not prevail, neither was their place found any longer in heaven.
- Rev. 12:9 And the great dragon was cast down, the ancient serpent, he who is called the Devil and

Satan, he who deceives the whole inhabited earth; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.

Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

Rev. 12:12 Therefore be glad, O heavens and those who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea because the devil has come down to you and has great rage, knowing that he has only a short time.

A. The man-child refers to the overcomers in the church, to the portion of the people of God who are overcomers—2:26-27; 12:5.

Rev. 2:26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;

Rev. 2:27 And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces, as I also have received from My Father;

Rev. 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

B. The overcomers are the instrument that enables God to achieve His purpose; the man-child enables God to move—vv. 10-11:

Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

1. The man-child consists of the overcomers who stand on behalf of the church, take the position that the whole church should take, and do the work for the church—2:7b, 11b, 17b, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 21; 12:5, 11.

Rev. 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Rev. 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall by no means be hurt of the second death.

Rev. 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except he who receives it.

Rev. 2:26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;

Rev. 2:27 And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces, as I also have received from My Father;

Rev. 2:28 And to him I will give the morning star.

Rev. 3:5 He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments, and I shall by no means erase his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Rev. 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

- Rev. 3:21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.
- Rev. 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.
- Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

2. When God gains these overcomers, His purpose will be attained, and He will be satisfied.

C. The universal bright woman represents the totality of God's people, and the man-child is the stronger part within the woman—Gen. 3:15; Rev. 12:1-2, 5:

- Gen. 3:15 And I will put enmity / Between you and the woman / And between your seed and her seed; / He will bruise you on the head, / But you will bruise him on the heel.
- Rev. 12:1 And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon underneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;
- Rev. 12:2 And she was with child, and she cried out, travailing in birth and being in pain to bring forth.
- Rev. 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

1. In the Bible the stronger ones among God's people are considered a collective unit fighting the battle for God and bringing God's kingdom down to earth—vv. 5, 10-11.

- Rev. 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.
- Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.
- Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

2. God will use the man-child to fulfill His economy and to accomplish His purpose—1 Tim. 1:4; 2 Tim. 1:9; Eph. 1:9, 11; 3:11:

- 1 Tim. 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.
- 2 Tim. 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages
- Eph. 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
- Eph. 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- Eph. 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,

a. God needs the man-child to defeat His enemy and to bring in His kingdom so that His eternal purpose might be accomplished—Rev. 12:10.

- Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

b. The Lord's recovery is the practicality of God's economy today, and His economy can be carried out only by the man-child—v. 5.

Rev. 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

D. The man-child is related to God's most important dispensational move—Matt. 6:9-10; Rev. 12:10; 11:15:

Matt. 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;

Matt. 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

Rev. 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

1. God wants to end this age and bring in the age of the kingdom, and for this He must have the man-child as His dispensational instrument.

2. The rapture of the man-child brings an end to the church age and introduces the age of the kingdom—12:5, 10.

Rev. 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

3. The rapture of the man-child to heaven, the casting of Satan to earth, and the declaration in heaven signify that the man-child will bring the kingdom to earth; this is God's greatest dispensational move—vv. 5, 9-10; 11:15.

Rev. 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

Rev. 12:9 And the great dragon was cast down, the ancient serpent, he who is called the Devil and Satan, he who deceives the whole inhabited earth; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.

Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

Rev. 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.