

Message Two

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

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

Gen. 6:5-14—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. ⁶And Jehovah repented that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him in His heart. ⁷And 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. ⁸But Noah found favor in the sight of Jehovah. ⁹These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generations; *and* Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹And the earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²And God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth. ¹³And 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. ¹⁴Make 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.

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.

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

cf. Phil. 1:19-21—For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and *the* bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

- 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.
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.

Gen. 3:20-21—And the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And Jehovah God made coats of skin for Adam and for his wife and clothed them.

cf. Isa. 12:2—God is now my salvation; I will trust and not dread; For Jah Jehovah is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.

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.

Gen. 4:4—And Abel also brought *an offering*, from the firstlings of his flock, that is, from their fat portions. And Jehovah had regard for Abel and for his offering.

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.

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.

Jer. 33:3—Call unto Me, and I will answer you and tell you great and hidden things, which you do not know.

Rom. 10:12—For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord *is Lord* of all *and* rich to all who call upon Him;

2 Tim. 2:22—But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

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.

Gen. 5:22-24—And Enoch walked with God after he had begotten Methuselah three hundred years, and he begot *more* sons and daughters. ²³And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty-five years. ²⁴And Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

Heb. 11:5-6—By faith Enoch was translated so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God had translated him. For before his translation he obtained the testimony that he had been well pleasing to God. ⁶But without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing *to Him*, for he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

2 Cor. 5:4—For also, we who are in this tabernacle groan, being burdened, in that we do not desire to be unclothed, but clothed upon, that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

2 Cor. 5:9—Therefore also we are determined, whether at home or abroad, to gain the honor of being well pleasing to Him.

2 Cor. 5:14-16—For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised. ¹⁶So

then we, from now on, know no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him* so no longer.

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

- 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.

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. 6:5—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. 6:11—And the earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

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.

Matt. 24:37-39—For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸For 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, ³⁹And 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.

2 Tim. 3:1-5—But know this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ²For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³Without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, savage, not lovers of good, ⁴Traitors, reckless, blinded with pride, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵Having an outward form of godliness, though denying its power; from these also turn away.

- 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.

cf. Dan. 1:8—But Daniel set his heart not to defile himself with the king’s choice provision and with the wine that the king drank, so he requested of the leader of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

cf. Dan. 9:23—At the beginning of your supplications the command went forth, and I have come to tell *you*, for you are preciousness itself. Therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

cf. Dan. 10:11—And he said to me, Daniel, man of preciousness, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand in your place, for I have now been sent to you. And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

cf. Dan. 10:19—And he said, Do not be afraid, man of preciousness. Peace to you. Be strong, yes, be strong. And when he spoke to me, I received strength and said, Speak, sir, for you have strengthened me.

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.
John 1:14—And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 1:16-17—For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

Rev. 22:21—The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.
 - b. The enjoyment of the Lord as grace is with those who love Him—Eph. 6:24; John 21:15-17.
Eph. 6:24—Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in incorruptibility.

John 21:15-17—Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs. ¹⁶He said to him again a second time, Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep. ¹⁷He said to him the third time, Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.
 - 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.
Heb. 10:29—By how much do you think he will be thought worthy of worse punishment who has trampled underfoot the Son of God and has considered the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

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

Phil. 4:23—The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Philem. 25—The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

2 Tim. 4:22—The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
 - d. God's word is the word of grace—Acts 20:32; Col. 3:16; cf. Jer. 15:16.
Acts 20:32—And now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who have been sanctified.

Col. 3:16—Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

cf. Jer. 15:16—Your words were found and I ate them, And Your word became to me The gladness and joy of my heart, For I am called by Your name, O Jehovah, God of hosts.

- 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.

Psa. 133:3—Like the dew of Hermon That came down upon the mountains of Zion. For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: Life forever.

1 Pet. 3:7—Husbands, in like manner dwell together with *them* according to knowledge, as with the weaker, female vessel, assigning honor to *them* as also to fellow heirs of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Acts 4:33—And with great power the apostles gave testimony of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

Acts 11:23—Who, when he arrived and saw the grace of God, rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain with the Lord with purpose of heart;

- f. We can experience the Lord as our increasing and all-sufficient grace in the midst of sufferings and trials—2 Cor. 12:9.

2 Cor. 12:9—And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

- g. We need to labor for the Lord in the power of His grace—1 Cor. 15:10, 58; 3:12.

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.

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

- 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.

1 Pet. 4:10—Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

Eph. 3:2—If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

2 Cor. 1:15—And in this confidence I intended to come to you previously that you might have double grace,

Eph. 4:29—Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear.

- 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.

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.

Rom. 5:17—For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, 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.

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:

1 Cor. 3:9—For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.

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

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.

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

- 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).

1 Pet. 3:20-21—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. ²¹Which *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,

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.

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.

Eph. 2:15-16—Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace, ¹⁶And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.

Col. 3:10-11—And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

Rev. 21:2—And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

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.

1 Cor. 3:9-12—For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building. ¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid a foundation, and another builds upon *it*. But let each man take heed how he builds upon *it*. ¹¹For another foundation no one is able to lay besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

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

Eph. 2:22—In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

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:

1 Tim. 3:15-16—But if I delay, *I write* that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth. ¹⁶And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

- a. The crucial matter in our work is to minister the building and builded 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.

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.

Eph. 2:21-22—In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

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

1 Cor. 14:4—He who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but he who prophesies builds up the church.

- 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.

2 Cor. 13:14—The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

1 Cor. 3:9—For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s cultivated land, God’s building.

1 Cor. 3:10—According to the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid a foundation, and another builds upon *it*. But let each man take heed how he builds upon *it*.

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

Rom. 11:36—Because out from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

- 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.

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.

Matt. 24:37-39—For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸For 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, ³⁹And 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 17:26-27—And even as it happened in the days of Noah, so will it be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷They 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.