

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message Two : The Line of Life with Noah—the Life and Work That Change the Age

I. Overview:

Noah lived a life that he believed in God, walked with God, pleased God, and enjoyed all that God is. Satan had corrupted man to the uttermost, but Noah points to the sovereign factor that provided God a way to continue to carry out His original purpose with man. Noah lived a life of changing the age that God gained the victory over His enemy and changed the age. God gave Noah a revelation to build the ark, which was the way that God would terminate the corrupted generation and bring in a new way. The ark is a type of Christ, which is not only the individual Christ but also the corporate Christ, the church. 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. 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. 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. By building the church and entering into the church life, we will be ushered into a new age, the age of the millennium.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the revelation God has encountered in Genesis 1-6.

When God had His first look at mankind in Genesis 1, He was happy and pleased with man. When God had another look at man in Genesis 6, He saw that man had become wicked and corrupt to the uttermost, and it grieved Him that He had made man. What a change from Genesis 1! The same in principle throughout the centuries, is found in Genesis 6:8: "But Noah found favour in the sight of Jehovah."

B. Explain the revelation in Genesis 6:1-8.

Genesis 6:5-8, "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." Jehovah repented that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him in His heart. And Jehovah said, "I will blot out the man whom I have created." But we have verse 8, which begins with a "but". But Noah found favor in the sight of Jehovah." This is one of the greatest verses in Genesis.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the life that changed the age.

This life always inherits the godly ways of the forefathers. Thank God that Noah, the tenth generation from Adam, had many good forefathers. Enoch was the seventh generation, Methuselah the eighth, Lamech the ninth, and Noah the tenth. All of Noah's nine forefathers from Adam to Lamech were godly men. Although Genesis gives us a record of man's fall, that is only a background showing us the true picture of the godly ways.

B. State that Noah also inherited Abel's way of offering.

What is the way to please God? It is the way of Abel, which is to offer Christ to God, not only as the sacrifice for our sins but also as a gift for pleasing God. Whenever we bring Christ to God, He is very happy with our gift. God is pleased with Christ. Noah surely adopted Abel's way.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the purpose of the records of the book of Genesis.

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. Genesis 6:8 says, "But Noah found favor in the sight of Jehovah." Favour can also be translated "grace." Finding grace in the sight of the Lord is not a small thing. Noah was able to be what he was because he found grace in the sight of Jehovah.

B. Expound the words in Hebrews 4:16, and its application.

Hebrews 4:16 tells us to come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help. When I was young, nearly every day in my prayers I would say, "Lord, I am coming

to the throne of grace. At Your throne of grace I find grace for my timely need. Lord, I need Your grace every minute.

Day 4 —

A. Why do we need the grace to be today's Noah?

The matter of divorce is a great temptation to the young people today. The temptations are without, and the lusts are within. Who can stand in such an age? Because none of us is able to stand, we need the grace to be today's Noah. Only grace can enable you to be one with your wife or husband. None of us can do it without grace, for there is too much temptation.

B. Expound in Genesis 6, we see three important seeds.

In the sixth chapter of Genesis, we see three important seeds: flesh, grace, and righteousness. God is sovereign and wise. In His sovereignty and wisdom, He leaves the flesh here, knowing that, in a sense, it is useful to us. Day and night the flesh helps us turn to the throne of grace. Before the maturity of life, in a sense we need the flesh, not to damage us but to force us to come to the throne of grace.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the revelation God gave Noah.

God gave Noah what was nearly an all-inclusive revelation, a further revelation that none of Noah's forefathers saw. One day God came to Noah and revealed it to him. As a result of this, Noah's view of godly things was greatly broadened, and he saw much more than all his forefathers did. We all need such a revelation.

B. Expound that in principle, our situation is exactly the same as Noah's.

Today's generation is corrupt, and the earth is filled with evil and violence. It seems that, according to man's concept, God has been defeated and driven out of the earth. Although we have inherited so many godly things, how about God? God needs to terminate this age.

Day 6 —

A. Expound our work in the recovery today.

Our work in the recovery today is to minister God to people. Yes, we need to save sinners and to feed the saints and perfect them. The crucial matter, however, is that we minister God to others. The God whom we minister is not just the building God—He is also the builded God. If we fail to minister God in this way, our work will be wood, grass, and stubble.

B. Explain that Noah received the revelation, and he believed it and practiced it.

He practiced it in a way of not caring about being different from his forefathers and from his generation. The principle is the same today. We are following God's revelation that is according to the Bible in order to practice the church life; however, most Christians lack this revelation. God's revelation will always make you different. Daniel and his three companions were different, since they had seen God's revelation.

III. Conclusion:

The Lord longs for the "Household of Noah" to build the ark, serving as a witness against the trends of this age, so that He may use them to bring this age to an end and usher in a new Kingdom age. What we build up in our church life is today's ark; this ark brings salvation to us and to those we care for. At that time, God was deeply interested in building the ark, yet He did not do it alone. Instead, He entrusted His coworker Noah to build it up on His behalf, so Noah worked together with God. In the Lord's recovery, we are God's coworkers. We share His interests and His concerns. Today, the Lord is also building the ark—church life—for God intends to build an ark for His testimony. God does not act directly or alone; He builds the ark only through a group of people who work with Him. If you are not walking with God, you can never work with Him.