

As In The Days of Noah

By Melanie Stone

In describing end time events, what did Jesus mean by saying, “It will be as in the days of Noah?”

Reading from Luke 17:26-30, we see that before Jesus returns, people will be living like they did during the *days of Noah*. In verse 28, Luke writes “likewise,” and then says, “As it was also in the *days of Lot*.” So how were people living in the times of Noah and Lot, and *what do they have in common*?

First, it is mentioned that people are going about their daily lives, ***doing what they normally do***. For the communities in both Noah’s and Lot’s eras, people are eating, drinking, marrying, buying and selling, planting and building.

Second, the people in both Noah’s and Lot’s times were ***living wickedly***. Violence against one another was the way of life in Noah’s time; it was their normal (Genesis 6:13). Sin was also terrible in Lot’s day. We even read a disturbing account of the desire of men to gang rape the two angels sent to Lot (Genesis 18:20, 19:4-8). In both cases, the people didn’t seem to have a conscience.

Third, it is mentioned that while they were living normally, ***judgment came very swiftly, and they were not prepared for it at all***. For the society in both Noah’s and Lot’s days, the people seemed utterly clueless that judgment was coming. Reading further down in Luke 17:31, Luke says those left behind should move quickly because the judgment was swift. We read about Lot’s wife in verse 32, who hesitated during judgment time instead of turning away from it. She failed to respect the holiness of God and the severity of the judgment that was close behind her. Jesus is telling people to live with their heart prepared; there won’t be time to change your mind when this severe and quick judgment comes.

Remember, this passage is recording what Jesus was saying about the end of the age. He was talking about a coming final judgment, comparing it to the previous judgments of Noah and Lot’s time periods. John also writes about this judgment when he describes the Day of the Lord, His second coming, which includes the bowls of wrath in Revelation 16. I believe the bowls of wrath are the final judgment that will cleanse the earth, and I believe the wrath is poured out after the Great Tribulation and after the rapture.

When this judgment comes:

1. People are living their routines.
2. People are living wickedly.
3. People are not prepared and judgment came swiftly.

Let’s keep reading what Luke wrote. In verses 34-37, we see that some are taken and others are left. Examples are two in a bed, two at a grindstone, two in a field – one is

taken and the other is left. I believe this is the rapture, and after the saved are taken up, the wrath of God will be poured out. It will happen quickly once the saved are removed, and there will be terrible mourning from the judgment.

The rapture is before the judgment and after the tribulation

Noah and Lot were taken out before the wrath of God was poured out. When we give our hearts to the Lord in repentance and obedient surrender, He recreates our nature and gives us the gift of eternal life. When Christ appears in the clouds to call us up, those who are His will rise to be with Him.

The tribulation and the final judgment are not the same thing

The final seven years, also known as Daniel's seventieth week, are not the final judgment. The Great Tribulation, after the abomination of desolation, or the last three-and-a-half years, are not the final judgment. These years are at the end of the church age and are difficult, especially for the Jews, but they are not the final judgment.

The rapture before the rage

Another scripture describing the rapture and wrath is found in Revelation 14. There are two reapers, one that gathers the harvest and one that gathers the grapes for the winepress of wrath. The first harvest is the rapture. The second gathering is the judgment. The word for "wrath" in Revelation 14 describes a specific wrath, a rage, when God's judgment comes against sin and Satan and cleansed the earth.

When will Jesus return?

In Luke 17:37, Luke writes Christ's answer to the question the disciples asked about where this would happen. He answered, "Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered." There are different interpretations of this proverb, but the one that makes sense in context is the idea that as soon as an animal dies, the birds are quickly circling over it. So when? Jesus' return will seem sudden, but also obvious and unmistakable. We must live ready and help to prepare others.

As in the days of Noah (and Lot)

Now let's look at the prophetic words Apostle Paul shared with Pastor Timothy about the end days. In 1 Timothy 4, Paul says believers will part from their faith, they will be deceived by false doctrine, they will knowingly speak untruth, they will come against the sanctity of marriage, and they will oppose freedom in Christ. They do this because their conscience is hard, as flesh loses feeling when seared with a hot iron. This is called the apostasy, meaning a falling away from faith.

History has told us that there can be a move of God in the middle of extreme difficulty. In fact, persecution has an effect on people to purify them, causing them to experience God in a greater way. Some of the greatest awakenings the world has ever known have taken place in difficult times.

Today, I see nations in steep moral decline, rapidly spiraling downward in dysfunction. I see escalating increase in people being trafficked, random violence, mass shootings,

Days of Noah

sexual assaults, abuse, crime, suicides, mental illness, fear, and such devaluing of each other. This is such a change just in the past decade or two. The world has become vile, and it's seen as normal. People call good as evil and evil as good. When Christians try to warn their neighbors of coming judgment, they are mocked and called haters. It's like the days of Noah and Lot when people were deceived and didn't see what was about to come on them.

In the kingdom of God, I see a lot of good, but I also see spiritual leaders living in gross hypocrisy, lying and manipulating their followers. I hear some good teaching, but I also see false doctrine being spewed out for political and ministry manipulation. I see people with tickling ears swallowing up false prophecies like baby birds with beaks wide open. I see a lot of kindness, but I also see Christians being horrible to those who are far from God. This tainted Gospel is being rejected because people are misrepresenting God.

If you are someone who is saved, let me encourage you to continue to passionately share salvation with those around you. Be faithful to give and serve in your local church, do outreach with other ministries, and help send missionaries. I believe this is the final harvest. We have a job to do.

If you need to be saved, please reach out to us at prayer@growchurches.com so we can send you information on how to receive salvation.

Time is short! Let's redeem our time and work while we have the day.