

The background features a blurred sunset over a body of water. The sky transitions from a pale yellow at the top to a soft orange, while the water below shows horizontal bands of blue, green, and yellow. A semi-transparent light blue rectangular box is centered on the image, containing the text.

**New Testament Lessons  
From the Flood**

July 27, 2018

# Lasting Effects

## Great Events Bring Change

- Declaration of Independence
- Dec. 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor
- Assassination of President Kennedy
- 9/11
- The Space Race

## Stark, life altering effects

- Societal- freedom introduced
- Vulnerability and Fear
- Etched in memory
- Safety checks for travel were completely revamped
- Challenged our understanding of what was possible

# Lasting Effects

- Locally, Three Mile Island
  - March 28, 1979 near Harrisburg, PA
  - TMI - 2 incurred a stuck valve and a radioactive “accident” occurred
  - Lasting Effects? A relatively small increase in the rate of cancer in Dauphin County, PA, a total clean-up cost of nearly *1 Billion dollars*, and widespread fear and paranoia about the use of nuclear power
  - Incident was rated a five on the seven-point International Nuclear Event Scale: Accident with wider consequences (Wikipedia)

# Lasting Effects

- Romans 15:4 “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” (ESV)
- Lasting effects, consequences, learning applications from the Flood?
- YES! Above whatever geographical and/or weather alterations the Flood may have impacted upon the globe, the spiritual implications for us are even more meaningful.
- How? No less than Jesus Christ and the great apostle Peter mention Noah and the Flood drawing obvious yet serious applications for their respective hearers. Much for us to glean as well.

# Prepare

- Rabbi- educate, instruct, mentor... and prepare disciples for what was to come. No different than educators today.
- Matthew 24- Jesus expounding on this theme of preparation. When taken out of context, the lessons and chapter at large become confusing. The Bible is its own best interpreter. Vs.34 “Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.” Disciples will see the fall of Jerusalem.
- Exact Timing? Only the Father knows... vs. 36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” Something tragic, earth shattering for Jews of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, not knowing when, their necessary lesson transitions to preparation.

# Prepare

- What might drive home the point? Comparing Noah, the times in which he lived, and the great Flood to what will come upon those in and around Jerusalem in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century.
- Vs. 37 “But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,” – life went on as it had for many years, comfort had set in, people were caught in the act of simply “living”

# Prepare

- Until... strange weather, water seeping from the foundation beneath, until the water began to rise vs. 39 “and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” Imagine: shock, regret, hopelessness
- Fall of Jerusalem compared to the Flood- that drastic? Vs40 “Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.”

# Prepare

- What did Noah do in waiting for the promised destruction? Built the ark, busy in preparation. Lesson is the same for Jesus' disciples, prepare lest they are caught unawares.
- Extrapolate the main point- be constantly prepared I.E. from daily life, to the predicted Fall of the great city, to the eventual return of the Son of Man vs. 42 "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."



# Prepare- For us in 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

1 Thess. 5:2-3 2 “For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.”

- Catastrophic events? Judgement Day, Sentencing Day?

No person knows when. Yet come it shall.

- Should not everyone be prepared?

2 Thess. 1:8-10

# Waters That Give Life

1 Pet. 3:20 “who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were [saved through water](#).”

- Perspective: Destroy

- Genesis 6:5 man's choice in behavior and daily activity prompted the righteous Creator to punish

- Genesis 6:7- sentence pronounced, invariably carried out

- Perspective: Save

- inspired to write “saved through water”

- Gen. 6:8 contrast Noah vs rest of creation

- water, not the ark, saved the righteous from wickedness and rampant evil

# Waters: Save or Condemn?

1 Pet. 3:21 “There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,”

- “like figure” or antitype- from Greek to stamp a likeness, I.E. coin. Flood and baptism are quiet similar.

- not a ritualistic washing, such as the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jews would be familiar with

Saving Today - Eph. 5:26-27 “ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

# Waters: Save or Condemn?

## Saving Today cont'd

- Only through baptism
- Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...”
- Acts 22:16. “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

## Condemns Today

Mark 16:16 “... but he that believeth not will be damned.”

# Weather the Floods of Life?

Lk. 6:46- “Why do you call me Lord, Lord and do not do the things which I say?”

- Similar to Noah’s day? Noah preached for 120 years, when the floods came, people fought to reach the great door of the ark. I can imagine their cries of fright and realized doom. For them it was too late. They refused to listen to Noah...
- Called Jesus “Lord”, “Rabbi”, and “good Master”... no action from hearing Jesus’ instructions...

Lk. 6:47- “Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like,”

# Weather the Floods of Life?

- Hearing and doing are proofs of a right heart, displayed by Noah.  
Lk. 6:48 “He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.”
- Jesus, master teacher, uses a parable to illustrate the point
- Question for us- What would save something you have built, put effort into, cherished I.E. your life? A strong foundation.
- Rom. 10:17 “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

# Weather the Floods of Life?

Luke 6:49 “But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”

- hearing, even perhaps at some point meaning to actually *do* what one has been instructed is tantamount to lip service

The seemingly righteous ruler- Luke 18:18-19.

- Flattered with his mouth- “Good Master”

- Air of justification- vs. 21 “kept from my youth up.”

# Weather the Floods of Life?

## Ruler cont'd.

- Either couldn't or wouldn't *do* what Jesus had instructed further.
- Vs. 23 “very sorrowful, for he was very rich.”
- Flattery, giving the attempt to listen, perhaps even mulling it over in one's mind but doing nothing, is little more than lip service.
- What will that gain him or anyone come Judgement Day?



# When?

- Yearly checkups with PCP
- Inflated spare tires
- First Aid kits
- Retirement
- Disney Vacations?

What do they have in common?

In case of... Prepare to do...

- Parable of the Wise Virgins  
Matt. 25:1-2 vs. 10 “And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.”

vs. 13 “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”



**Now**



# Extra- Proof.

2 Peter 3:10-11 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,”

- humanity questions how this will possibly come to be
- See no evidence because... life carries on, day to day for generations (any similarities to Noah's day?)

# Extra- Proof.

Yet there is proof. Historic evidence and Biblical verification

2 Peter 3:3-7 “knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men”