## The Family of the Righteous Noah Part 3

"9 Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God."
(Genesis 6:9 KJV)

"7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." (Hebrews 11:7 KJV)

The writing of Apostle Peter has real seriousness because he lived around three years and a half with the Lord Jesus and he was very near to the Lord. He might even hear certain details from the Lord about Noah. Jesus spoke about Noah, and Peter spoke also about Noah. Peter wrote, "5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly." (2 Peter 2:5 KJV) What it meant by what Peter wrote, "Noah the eighth person", it means Noah was the eighth person who entered the ark. It means that he first let all his seven family members to enter the ark and then he was the last to enter. Noah is a good example for us; that we need to follow up and observe our children and their families whether they are following God and in line with His good plan for them or not. Noah was the last to enter the ark to be sure that all of the rest of his family members were inside. Noah would first call for his wife and his children Sam, Ham, and Japheth and their wives to come in and enter the ark first before him.

Noah was cautious that no one in his family will look back and stay behind, as what happened to lot's wife who looked back behind her husband as we can read here: "26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt." (Genesis 19:26 KJV) Lot's wife sneaked behind her husband and was lost. Noah was aware of that and did not allow any of his family members to sneak behind his back.

Noah put his family before him into the plan of the salvation of God. Noah put his family into the narrow way that God had ordained for them to pass through the gate of the ark. We as men of God need to take full responsibility to bring our families, wife, and children infront of our eyes into the narrow way, and into the salvation of God. This is how to be perfect and this is how to be righteous in our walk with God. "9 Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God." (Genesis 6:9 KJV) Noah was not only a righteous man, but he was perfect and he walked with God. In the same way, we need to do our part towards our families and bring them into the salvation of God, and set them on the road that God had prepared for us to pass through.

"5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly." (2 Peter 2:5 KJV) "Noah the eighth person", this Scripture not only shows that Noah was careful, dependable, and cautious about his family but even gives us the clue that Noah was controlling his family. That is especially correct when we come to know that when God asked them to enter into the ark, the Lord shut the door of the ark after seven days: "1 And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. 2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female. 3 Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

4 For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth. 5 And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him. 6 And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. 7 And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. 8 Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth, 9 There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth. 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. 12 And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. 13 In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark; 14 They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort. 15 And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. 16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in." (Genesis 7:1-16 KJV) It is not clear which date Noah entered the ark, whether on the first day that God told him or up to the seventh day. The water was allowed to be poured out on the earth. Therefore Apostle Peter was keen in his writing to make it clear that Noah entered after he put his entire family members inside the ark. Noah was the one who had received the vision from God and he was imparting it to his family and others. His family might doubt that flood would come this time, or reluctant to go inside because of the ties with the world or with the friends of the world. \* Therefore, our families, wife, and children, are our great responsibilities; they might not hear what God is telling us therefore we need to impart to them for that is our responsibility. As well as we need to continue to be patient, loving, and persevering toward them so that we should not leave them behind. \* There is time that we may need to control them to let them go into the narrow way as Noah did. I don't believe that Noah said to his wife and his children that it is up to you to follow as many irresponsible fathers and husbands do. But rather Noah put them infront of him to let them go inside the ark and infront of his eyes.

I was reading recently an article about COVID 19. Its title was, 'Is US and UK are paying the price for their freedom?' It was speaking about the high death rates in these two nations because they were not willing to go into lockdown and restriction in movement. The point here is this: If we are not willing to be controlled by certain measures and authorities for our benefits then we will be paying a heavy price. Noah controlled his family, and that was the best to be done for them, and they were rewarded as they complied with Noah the head of the family.

Noah let his family go inside, and he was waiting for God to shut the door. So Noah was working it out to let his family go in first, and then he did not shut the door himself but he was waiting upon God and was giving chance to everyone who wants to come inside. \* Even today we are responsible first to bring our families into the narrow way that Jesus prepared for us and we are also waiting for others to be willing to come in and give their lives to follow God. \* The door of the church always open and we are always ready to receive those who want to come in and follow God with us, while our eyes and care continue to be for our families to be sure that they are in the salvation of God.

Adam followed his wife, "6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." (Genesis 3:6 KJV) He blindly followed her and obeyed what she said to him.

Lot's wife sneaked behind him as we explained, but Noah put his wife infront of his eyes and asked her to come in first watching her with his eyes, as well as he was watching his three sons and their wives to come in. Noah was the first one in the Bible who practiced what is the world called today 'Ladies first', and he did it correctly in God's sight to save his wife.

It needs skills, it needs patient and it needs humility to achieve that. The following are tips to help you to build up a family united with you in the purpose of God to achieve the vision of God that He entrusted you, to build up your family:

- 1. Cut all the external influences of temptations: In such a situation, your family will not be destructed and disturbed by the external atmosphere. Keep your wife and children from friends, neighbors, relatives, television, and the rest of the social media.
- 2. Keep the daily family worship and the reading of God's Word: This will help all of you as a family to unite with God in a better way through what He said in His Word and will help all of your family members to see the vision of God for you as a family in a more clear way.
- 3. Create a loving and harmonious atmosphere inside the house that cultivate love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance: "22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23 KJV) Such kind of atmosphere will generate love inside each member of the family to take part in the vision that God had given to the man, the head of the family.
- 4. Invest more time and effort to build up your family: "7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Galatians 6:7 KJV) What you invest in love, time, and effort to love them, to teach them, and motivate them will be rewarded by the Lord and by your family members. What you invest in them will be returned to you and your family.

Let us meditate more on Noah's life from the Scriptures to be aware of how he sheltered his family and did his part to help them to go in the right way that God wanted them to go through.

"25 And Methuselah lived an hundred eighty and seven years, and begat Lamech. 26 And Methuselah lived after he begat Lamech seven hundred eighty and two years, and begat sons and daughters: 27 And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died. 28 And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son: 29 And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed. 30 And Lamech lived after he begat Noah five hundred ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughters: 31 And all the days of Lamech were seven hundred seventy and seven years:

and he died. 32 And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth." (Genesis 5:25-32 KJV)

"6 And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth." (Genesis 7:6 KJV)

Methuselah was the grandfather of Noah. He lived nine hundred sixty and nine years. If we calculate the years of his age we will find that he died in the same year as the flood. Let us use the Scriptures to calculate it.

"25 And Methuselah lived an hundred eighty and seven years, and begat Lamech." (Genesis 5:25 KJV) "Methuselah lived a hundred eighty and seven years" = 187 years.

"28 And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son: 29 And he called his name Noah." (Genesis 5:28-29 KJV) "Lamech lived a hundred eighty and two years" = 182 years.

"6 And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth." (Genesis 7:6 KJV) "Noah was Six hundred years" = 600 years

187 + 182 + 600 = 969 years = the age of Methuselah, "27 And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died." (Genesis 5:27 KJV) So Methuselah died in the same year of the flood; it might be he died by the flood or before the flood for the Scripture does not tell us. Now if he died before the flood it might be he was righteous, or the other possibility if he died by the flood then he was disobedient to God, and so what we can understand here, that in such a situation the grandfather of Noah, Methuselah, was disobedient to God and was not living according to what God wanted him to live. Then sure he was exposed to the preaching of Noah and his lifestyle, but he was not willing to follow the instructions of God.

For sure Methuselah as was a grandfather would be having influence on Noah and his family, whether he was obedient or disobedient. But supposed he was disobedient then will negatively affect Noah and his family but Noah and his family were kept intact and not influenced. Also based on the following: "26 And Methuselah lived after he begat Lamech seven hundred eighty and two years, and begat sons and daughters:" (Genesis 5:26 KJV) Methuselah apart from Lamech his son he had also other sons and daughters, and sure they have children and grandchildren, but no one of them got saved because of their disobedience. But inspite of that Noah was able to shelter himself and his family from the influence of his near relatives.

Lamech the father of Noah died before the flood, "28 And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son: 29 And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed." (Genesis 5:28-29 KJV) "31 And all the days of Lamech were seven hundred seventy and seven years: and he died." (Genesis 5:31 KJV)

182 + 600 = 782 years is from the birth years of Lamech to the coming of the flood. Lamech died at the age of 777 years. So he died 782-777 = 5 years before the flood. So Lamech might

be obedient or he might die in disobedience. But based on the following: "30 And Lamech lived after he begat Noah five hundred ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughters:" (Genesis 5:30 KJV), that Noah had brothers and sisters and sure they had families and children but no one of them was saved from the flood and all died because of their disobedience. In conclusion, Noah sheltered his family well from the people of the world and whatever bad influence of his parents, grandparents and near relationships. He was bold enough to live his life for God and to raise his family and his children and their families in a Godly way.

My Dear and Beloved: \* With what we have read from the life of the family of Noah we left without excuse of what we need to do to shelter our families from the bad influences of the world around us and the bad influences of our ancestors and near relatives so that we can raise them in the fear of the Lord. \* It depends on us if we are determined to follow God and move away from all temptations and evil influences. God will be there with us and will help us as we are determined to follow Him.

Let us meditate on what we read in this message so we can apply in our lives. Let us provide atmosphere of love and the rest of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our families so our family members will love the atmosphere at home. Let us do all what we can to remove the external bad influences and the influences of the Media. Let us be careful to watch over our spouse and children and if necessary let us control certain circumstances to be sure they were into the narrow gate and walking with in the narrow way so when Jesus will come they are ready to go together with us with Him to Heaven. Let us pray ....

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your Word that opened my mind and directed me to the whole truth. Lord thank you for the teachings, the corrections and the admonishments that I received from you.

Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learned from the message. Lord, I am willing to shelter my family from the bad external influences of the friends, neighbors, relatives and the Media. Lord give me discernment and wisdom how to do that. Lord I pray for all my family members to be saved.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and committed themselves to follow the teaching of your Word to shelter and protect their family members

from the bad external influences. Lord give them wisdom provide for them and sustain them to do that.

Lord, continue to bless us as your church as we commit ourselves to teach and expound your Word to your people and train them to shelter and protect their families from the evil influences. Lord I pray to lead us to more people and families who are in need of your Word and are willing to follow. Lord we ask you to refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord take the message and spread it to all the church members, congregations and families. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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