

# IN GOD'S EYES

By

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A friend recently remarked that expressions on the faces of people passing by indicated a deep tiredness. "It seems that the whole world is tired" he said. Everywhere people are burdened with mammoth problems to which they have no solution.

World and national affairs have so captured our attention that one's own significance before God is lost. Other questions and problems are so much greater: the Congressional hearings, the war danger in the Persian Gulf, AIDS, the economic crisis, etc. Add to all this the questions of abortion, divorce and the general decline in morals. One woman said that she became so depressed over all these events that she could hardly cope with her daily responsibilities.

No intelligent person can ignore the world around him and all its threatening developments, but he must not be deceived into thinking that the evil works of men throughout the world are more important than his own personal relationship to God.

While all the big events are under the sovereign hand of God, His chief interest is in His own righteous people. "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show His might in behalf of those whose heart is blameless toward Him" (2 Chron. 16:9).

This kind of concern of our God is exemplified in the case of Noah and the flood. In those days "the wickedness of man was great in the earth" and "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Wickedness was so thorough that it was God's judgment to destroy man and beast by the flood. "But Noah found favor in the eyes of Yahweh" (Gen. 6:8).

God not only was impressed by the terrible wickedness of man but also by the faith of one man, Noah.

We all know the rest of the story. God set a time limit of 120 years, then brought the flood which wiped out all the race except Noah and his family.

Whether or not we have in a day like that of the flood we do not yet know. We see corruption and sin on every hand and yet we also see a great many faithful Christians, people resisting the evil, striving to turn their neighbors from their wicked ways, working to establish God's laws in the land, and sacrificially giving of themselves to help the lost, the poor and the hungry.

The ambition of the antichrists is to destroy every article of Christian faith and to replace the teachings of Christ with Talmudic concepts. We all can see how far they have been

able to succeed. But no one knows just how far God will allow them to go before His judgment.

Jesus said that when He comes it will be as it was in the days of Noah: “They were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage.” It was business as usual, all going about their normal lives and paying no heed to the fact that their wickedness was bringing God’s judgment. But there was one man who was aware of the fact that God was watching. Noah could not turn the tide of corruption for the whole earth, but he could place his faith in God and obey His command. It was Noah’s concentration upon pleasing God that caused him to find grace in the sight to God so that he and his family could be saved.

Even though we may not be able to stem the tide of corruption that is sweeping over the world, there are many things that we can do. We can cry out against sin. We can not only raise our voices but we can take whatever action is open to us in re-establishing God’s laws in the land. We can vigorously oppose those who promote evil and support those who are Christian in their speech and actions. Even after doing all of this, we may still feel the pangs of defeat and see all of our efforts wiped out as the brain-washed populace goes along with the clever manipulations of Satan and his followers.

This was the experience of Noah. For one hundred and twenty years he built, preached, warned and set an example, but none repented and all were destroyed in the flood. Nevertheless, Noah and his family were saved. God was with Noah. A New Testament example of this situation is the Apostle Paul. His most earnest desire was to see all Israel saved. Yet, instead of turning to Christ, they rejected Him over and over and chose the way of death over against eternal life. Furthermore instead of showing their appreciation for what Paul was trying to do, his countrymen persecuted him and made his life as miserable as they possibly could.

The true people of God have always had to live as sojourners and strangers in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. Even the true saints in the nation of Israel under the Old Covenant were generally in the minority. King David recognized their plight when he wrote, “Fret not yourself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against them that work unrighteousness. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in Yahweh, and do good; dwell in the land and feed on his faithfulness...The wicked plotted against the just and gnashed upon him with his teeth. The Lord will laugh at him; for he sees that his day is coming” (Psalm 37:1-3, 12, 13).

To follow such advice requires a patience virtually eliminated by today’s concept of Christianity. The church and its evangelists seek immediate success, which means popular acceptance and support. To be effective in its appeal, modern evangelism minimizes the animosity which the world holds toward Christ. and make no mistake about it, no matter how much people like to talk about the love of God and the brotherhood of man, unless they are committed to Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they are at enmity with God and dead set against subordinating themselves to the truth and the commandments of God. To make the church “grow” leaders often cater to the

world's current fads and imitate its entertainment and social functions. Christians, who oppose worldliness and feel the brunt of the world's hatred, as Jesus did, often feel out of place in their own churches and abandoned by believers. They are made to think they have failed, that the fault is theirs or that their faith is not what it ought to be, else they would be popular, liked by everyone with their Christian witness honored by all.

It is a popular teaching that Christian faith results in continual happiness in all circumstances. Such thinking is unrealistic and unbiblical. There is nothing to indicate that Noah found favor in the eyes of any of the people among whom he lived. They neither appreciated him nor honored him for what he was trying to do. Neither is there anything to suggest that Noah was always happy in his circumstances. Without doubt the wickedness of his neighbors caused him a lot of grief, but this did not deter him from the mission God had given him.

Jesus said, "In the world you have tribulation" (John 16:33). He also said that when you are not of the world, "the world hates you" (John 15:19). Remove some of the great technology with which we live, and we would have the same kind of world that Jesus lived with, a world of violence, bloodshed, wicked rulers, hypocrites in public office, hypocrites in religious power, and sin in the hearts of the common people. To the Christian in such a world Jesus says, "Be not anxious" and "Lo, I am with you."

In the midst of pagan cults, false messiahs and the world's persecution, Paul wrote, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me: and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me" (Gal. 2:20). Life does not depend upon the kind of world in which one lives, but rather in the kind of relationship one has with God. The flood is a type of the final judgment and destruction of all the unsaved. Only those with true obedient faith in God will be saved to have immortality and life in His image.

Christ reigns. His purpose will prevail. Our chief concern, then, above all the other concerns in which we may be involved, is to find favor in the eyes of the Lord.

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