

Prepare the Ark Wants You to Prepare
(By Rev. Anthony Menzel, February 21, 2021)

Genesis 5.9-32

9 Enosh lived ninety years, and begot [a]Cainan. **10** After he begot Cainan, Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years, and had sons and daughters. **11** So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died.

12 Cainan lived seventy years, and begot Mahalalel. **13** After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived eight hundred and forty years, and had sons and daughters. **14** So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died.

15 Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and begot Jared. **16** After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years, and had sons and daughters. **17** So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years; and he died.

18 Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch. **19** After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and had sons and daughters. **20** So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died.

21 Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. **22** After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. **23** So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. **24** And Enoch walked with God; and he *was* not, for God took him.

25 Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech. **26** After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters. **27** So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died.

28 Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son. **29** And he called his name Noah,[b] saying, "This *one* will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed." **30** After he begot Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five

years, and had sons and daughters. **31** So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; and he died.

32 And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

A lot of Noah's ancestors had more children than He did...

God doesn't give us more than we can bear...

He knew that only Noah, his wife, and 3 more couples could fit on the ark with all the animals...

1 Corinthians 10.12-13

12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. **13** No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to [d]bear *it*.

God was going to use Noah to save only 8 people...

God gave Noah specific instructions for making the ark...

Genesis 6:1-18

6 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, **2** that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they *were* beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

3 And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive[a] with man forever, for he *is* indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." **4** There were [b]giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore *children* to them. Those *were* the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

5 Then [c]the Lord saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent[d] of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil

[e]continually. **6** And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. **7** So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." **8** But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Noah Pleases God

9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, [f]perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. **10** And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. **12** So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

The Ark Prepared

13 And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. **14** Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make [g]rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. **15** And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred [h]cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. **16** You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it *with* lower, second, and third *decks*. **17** And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which *is* the breath of life; everything that *is* on the earth shall die. **18** But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

When I first got saved, I thought that I had to share the gospel with everyone I met...

I would try to give tracts to every person with whom I had minimal interaction...

It was a lot of stress...

Over time God showed me that He wasn't sending me to every person...

Acts 16.6-10

6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in [a]Asia. **7** After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the [b]Spirit did not permit them. **8** So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. **9** And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." **10** Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

One reason that the Holy Spirit could have us only minister to some people is so that we have the strength to minister to them...

Acts 20.7-12

7 Now on the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. **8** There were many lamps in the upper room where [a]they were gathered together. **9** And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. **10** But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing *him* said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him." **11** Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. **12** And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

There may be times when we have to minister for hours and engage in intense prayer...

We have to learn to be strategic regarding using our energy in ministry...

Being strategic is very important to ensure that we truly fulfill God's mission for our lives...

Matthew 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. **22** Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' **23** And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

There are times when the Lord Jesus may not want us to engage in ministry-related activities...

Psalms 127:1-2

Unless the Lord builds the house,
They labor in vain who build it;
Unless the Lord guards the city,
The watchman stays awake in vain.

2

*It is vain for you to rise up early,
To sit up late,
To eat the bread of sorrows;
For so He gives His beloved sleep.*

The Lord wants us to rest...

The Lord wants us to minister to our family...

Proverbs 17:6

6 Children's children *are* the crown of old men,
And the glory of children *is* their father.

Our children and grandchildren have to be a priority in our lives...

If we don't, the consequences can be dire...

Proverbs 19:18

18 Chasten your son while there is hope,
And do not set your heart [e]on his destruction.

Look at what happened to Lot's family...

Genesis 13:1-13

13 Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the [a]South. **2** Abram *was* very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. **3** And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, **4** to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the Lord.

5 Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. **6** Now the land was not able to [b]support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. **7** And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.

8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we *are* brethren. **9** *Is* not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If *you take* the left, then I will go to the right; or, if *you go* to the right, then I will go to the left."

10 And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it *was* well watered everywhere (before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. **11** Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. **12** Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched *his* tent even as far as Sodom. **13** But the men of Sodom *were* exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord.

Genesis 19:1-26, 30-38

19 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw *them*, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. **2** And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way."

And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square."

3 But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

4 Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. **5** And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them *carnally*."

6 So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, **7** and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! **8** See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof."

9 And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to [a]stay *here*, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. **10** But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. **11** And they struck the men who *were* at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary *trying* to find the door.

Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed

12 Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take *them* out of this place! **13** For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it."

14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

15 When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city." **16** And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. **17** So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that [b]he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be [c]destroyed."

18 Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords! **19** Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. **20** See now, this city *is* near *enough* to flee to, and it *is* a little one; please let me escape there (*is* it not a little one?) and my soul shall live."

21 And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken. **22** Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there."

Therefore the name of the city was called [d]Zoar.

23 The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. **24** Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens. **25** So He [e]overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

30 Then Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountains, and his two daughters were with him; for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar. And he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave. **31** Now the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father *is* old, and *there is* no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth. **32** Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we

will lie with him, that we may preserve the [f]lineage of our father.” **33** So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

34 It happened on the next day that the firstborn said to the younger, “Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go in *and* lie with him, that we may preserve the [g]lineage of our father.” **35** Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

36 Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. **37** The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he *is* the father of the Moabites to this day. **38** And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he *is* the father of the people of Ammon to this day.

Living among such ungodly people affected the world view of Lot’s daughters...

Their descendants were ungodly people...

Lot obviously did not know what his daughters were worrying about, or he would have asked God for the courage as a father to return to Abraham or to move to a place where they could have gotten married and had families... As parents, we have to be involved in the lives of our children...

We also have to minister to our spouses

1 Corinthians 7:25-34

25 Now concerning virgins: I have no commandment from the Lord; yet I give judgment as one whom the Lord in His mercy has made trustworthy. **26** I suppose therefore that this is good because of the present distress—that *it is* good for a man to remain as he is: **27** Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be loosed. Are you loosed from a wife? Do not seek a wife. **28** But even if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin

marries, she has not sinned. Nevertheless such will have trouble in the flesh, but I would spare you.

29 But this I say, brethren, the time *is* short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, **30** those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess, **31** and those who use this world as not misusing *it*. For the form of this world is passing away.

32 But I want you to be without [b]care. He who is unmarried [c]cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord. **33** But he who is married cares about the things of the world—how he may please *his* wife. **34** There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world—how she may please *her* husband.

If Lot had spent more time ministering to his wife, she may have never turned into a pillar of salt...

Our elders are also important...

1 Timothy 5:3-8

3 Honor widows who are really widows. **4** But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is [a]good and acceptable before God. **5** Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. **6** But she who lives in [b]pleasure is dead while she lives. **7** And these things command, that they may be blameless. **8** But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

The Lord Jesus wants us to help strangers, especially the poor

Proverbs 19:17

17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord,
And He will pay back what he has given.

It is true that we should only obey those things that agree with God's Word...

Ephesians 6:1-3

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **2** "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: **3** "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

However, the family that God gives us should definitely be our first priority, starting with our nuclear family, whether biological or adoptive; our extended family; our church family; the body of Christ in general; humankind; and all creation.

Mark 7:5-13

5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"

6 He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

'This people honors Me with *their* lips,
But their heart is far from Me.

7 And in vain they worship Me,
Teaching *as* doctrines the commandments of men.'

8 For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—[d]the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do."

9 He said to them, "*All too* well you [e]reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. **10** For Moses said, 'Honor your father and

your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' **11** But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me *is* Corban"—' (that is, a gift *to* God), **12** then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, **13** making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."