

# *Howards Corner*

## **Knowing the Scriptures**

### **Chapter 6**

In chapter 5 I showed you a zoom out view of Genesis to Revelation so in this chapter I will go back and zoom in to take another look at what Genesis has to say about some other things that will build a foundation to help us understand things we need to know to properly see the plan of God moving forward with the seed line.

The seed line which I put on the website has now progressed to Noah. Keep your eyes on the seed line. Because one who is in the seed line does not mean that they are always righteous and could do evil as we all do in this “Suit of clay”. Noah was righteous in God’s eyes. The world had become nothing but evil. At this point Cain had gone east in the land of Mesopotamia or around what was to be Babylon and today Iraq. This is the area that many consider to be Satan’s territory today.

The evil became so bad and filled with violence that God said I will not contend with man forever and his days will be 120 years. God was grieved that He had made man and said He would wipe them from the face of the earth. God spoke to Noah to build an ark and it appears that the flood would happen in 120 years. So, Noah built the ark according to God’s specifications. He was also going to make a covenant with Noah. Noah brought all the animal species that God commanded into the ark. As the time came Noah and all his sons and their wives and his wife went into the ark.

### **Now an interlude to the number 8**

There were eight in total. This is another of those numbers which is significant. The number 8 is for new beginnings which was what was happening. They had a new world with only 8 people to repopulate the world.

You will find as the church started worshipping after Christ’s death and resurrection it did not start to worship on Saturday which was the Sabbath as was the Jew’s custom but instead worshiped on Sunday which was the day of the Lord’s

resurrection. This then is the new beginning day. Sunday is the first day of the calendar, but it is also the 8th day of new beginnings for the church and has stayed that way for 2000 years, but many have now tried to go back to the law of the sabbath but instead place this sabbath on Sunday and to mix law and grace together. You cannot be in law and grace at the same time. If you are in Christ, you are not under the law but under grace. They had left the old of Judaism and began anew on the eighth day. So why are we today trying to put new wine into old wine skins and put ourselves back under the law of sabbaths and such?

If you are worried about keeping the law to be righteous then if you are in Christ and follow His teachings, you will be more righteous than even the Pharisees who kept the letter of the law to the maximum but did not keep the spirit of the law. That is why when we are in the spirit of Christ, we will be more righteous than the Pharisees. For, Jesus is our righteousness. If you are worried about days of the week or other items of the law, then you are not in the freedom of grace for we are all guilty of something and have no hope of saving ourselves but must depend on the grace that Jesus provided on the cross. You have been set free from the law of sin and death. Take that burden of the law off yourself because you cannot keep it nor can anyone else. I am free and not under law. I operate in the freedom of grace.

## **Back to the Ark**

The day came and all went into the ark and God closed the door. They went in seven days before it started to rain. By faith they went in and waited 7 days for the rain to begin. You will find the number 7 throughout scripture. The book of Revelation is full of sevens, so seven is important to understanding the word.

## **Another Interlude to Look at the Ark from the New Testament**

The ark is known to be a Shadow/type of Christ being our salvation. He is the ark of our salvation. This is a shadow and type of the Messiah. In Matthew 24:36 Jesus said it will be like the days of Noah at the "**coming of the Lord**". This coming of the Lord is not His second coming but is the coming for the church. The entering into the ark seven days before the rain began represents the church being raptured before the judgement of tribulation. It apparently means the 7 days is equal to 7 years which is the length of the tribulation period of the nation Israel. This then is

a shadow/type of the rapture (caught up) of the church. The rapture is taught in Paul's writings in Thessalonians 2. It is also stated in Thessalonians 1:10 that the church is not appointed to wrath and the tribulation is God's wrath poured out on this world.

If you read Matt:24: 36 you will find that the days will be like the days of Noah. Then 2 will be at the mill and 1 taken and the other left and 2 will be in the fields and 1 taken and 1 left. Where were they taken? ***They were taken to be with the Lord.*** You will find also In Matt 25: 1 the parable of the ten virgins. Five had their oil and lamps ready and five did not. Five went in and the door was shut and the five not ready were left outside. ***They went in to be with the Lord.*** We are told to always be ready. This is our resurrection to receive our glorified bodies and will meet those that have already died in Christ in the air (Thessalonians 4:14-18). I give a full explanation in my section on prophecy under Matt 24 and 25 and Luke 21.

This is not understood well by the churches of today because scriptures are taken out of context and the whole word is not examined for clarification. The writings of Matthew 24 and 25 are written in a chiasmic form and is not easily understood by just straight reading of the scripture. A chiasm is layered with the first section related to the last section and middle two section are related to each other. (There will be chiasms that are more than just 4 sections. Some whole books are chiasms.) In Matthew 24 and 25 there are two events being described which are Jesus coming for the church and then later coming back to Judge the world and to rescue the remnant of Israel who have finally accepted Jesus as Messiah (see Zechariah 12:10) and to set up His Kingdom on this earth.

The first is the second coming of Jesus which is chapter 24:9-35 which is the first section and then it picks up again in chapter 25:31-46 which is the last section. In between there are two sections from chapter 24 :36 through 25:30 that describe the coming for the church.

Therefore, it is dangerous to interpret single scriptures without understanding the context and not searching the rest of the bible to clarify. Therefore, you must study the whole word to have a wide understanding of the scriptures. Theologies are often built on misunderstanding a scripture and once it gets off track the rest of the theology must be readjusted to fit.

## Other misinterpretations of Scripture

An example is Matt 25:31-46 if misunderstood you would think this is the judgement of the church and all that is used for judgement is the caring for the needy. This however is not the judgement of the church but is the judgement of those left on the earth after the tribulation after His second coming for the **Judgement of the Nations**. The church has already been raptured and we will come with him at his second coming. (Rev 19) Whole denominations are built on the idea of caring for the needy as being the main purpose of the church but that is only a part. We are to build the kingdom according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This includes making disciple throughout the world. This means we must be about evangelism to neighbor-friends-family-fellow workers as well as the world. Feeding the needy by itself is not enough unless we also lead them to the saving knowledge of Jesus. They are only fed food for their body, but their spirit is still hungry and cannot be satisfied unless they are born again in the spirit of Christ.

Another place many get off track is reading and understanding Matt 5:17 to say that we as Christians are still under the Law. However, when read and researched properly you will see that it must be read in context and harmonized with what the rest of the bible teaches. I explain it all in my section on Law and Grace. The rest of the scriptures clearly say, we are saved by grace through faith alone. We are not under the law and never were since the beginning of the church. Read Ephesians 2:8 and Acts 15 and many other scriptures in the New Testament. The whole reason Jesus came and died was to redeem us by His blood shed for our redemption. We are not under the law of Moses. Our righteousness is in Christ Jesus for one greater than Moses has come.

The church is judged for our rewards or lack of reward. We are justified by faith alone in Jesus' redemptive work on the cross and not our works although we will do good works when the Holy Spirit abides in us, and we follow the teaching of Jesus.

## Replacement Theology

In the history of the church you will find, if you study and are led by the Holy Spirit, the church got off track many years ago and it was continued to be taught by the Roman Catholic Church. The Lord had not returned, and many years had passed

and then people of the church decided, or at least the leadership of the church, that Jesus was not coming back to set up his kingdom and the church was to gradually grow to fill the earth with the kingdom. The theology of the church became that of the Replacement Theology.

This "Replacement Theology" believed that the church had replaced Israel in the plan of God and that the church had been chosen to complete the work of the kingdom and that Israel was no longer in the picture. To make this theology fit they had to start hiding the gospel in secret because if the people started to read for themselves, they would understand, and the power of the leaders would be gone. So, the church Rome shut up the word to the common man and only the elite could know the word and could give the people what they want them to know.

Under the Roman Catholic Church, the pope was considered the final word and the ordinary man was told what to believe. A system of hierarchy was developed. There were the clergy who itself was tiered with many layers of authority and then there were the lay people. This system was that of the Nicolaitans where there was a ruling class and then there were the subordinate class. Jesus said that He hated this system in Revelations. So, the word was buried for a thousand years.

Therefore, many of the scripture of the bible are not taught today because the churches that came out of the Roman church carried forward the teaching of Replacement Theology and is still believed but not openly taught by many of the mainline denominations today. This Replacement Theology cannot be defended because the scripture does not support it.

That is why you do not hear teaching on such books of the bible as Daniel, Revelation, or the prophets or a proper teaching on such verses as Matt 25 and 25 and Paul's writings on the rapture and the great tribulation (Time of Jacobs troubles) in the end times. If these were then taught Replacement Theology could not be defended because it would be evident that there will be a church rapture and there will be a final 7-year tribulation and that the church does not bring the kingdom of God to completion and that history tells us that there is a nation Israel back in the land. Daniel 2 tells us the end of the gentile age comes about when the "Rock not cut out by human hands falls down on the toes of the statue and destroys all the gentile kingdoms" and then and only then will the kingdom come on earth and be ruled by Jesus at His second coming.

I say all this to tell you why you must read and study for yourself because you do not know what has not been taught and are therefore at the mercy of church leaders who themselves may not know the truth. Are you willing to spend real time devouring the scripture or are you just taking someone else's word for what it says? Remember the name of this teaching is "Knowing the Scriptures" and that does not mean knowing the facts but knowing what they mean. I am trying to stretch you to open your mind to reason through the scriptures by the help of the Holy Spirit.

## **Now back to Noah and the Ark**

Now they had been in the ark for seven days and it started to rain and the flood gates of the deep opened. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. The earth was covered above the highest mountains and all that were on the earth both men and animals perished except those that were in the ark.

Now when the floods receded in 150 days they came out of the ark to dry ground. It was given to Noah and His three sons to begin to multiply and increase the worlds population. The seed line then progressed from Noah to Shem who was the one of the three sons to be the seed line. The seed line then progress through the years to Abraham. Shem was still alive when Abraham was called to go to Canaan. There were several generations that had passed before Abraham. I will not try to cover all the details of those years, but I have attached a map of where all the generations of Shem, Japheth and Ham scattered to on the earth.

Noah however prophesied over all his sons and cursed Canaan who was the son of Ham and said he would serve Shem. Remember Canaan you will find it again later. Shem was to be blessed to be the seed line to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob (Israel).

It is not my intent to go into all the details of Genesis but to hit key highlights. You can read for yourself and look for God's hand moving and making His will come to pass. Look for types/shadows and numbers or other signs of God speaking by those methods. One other point when you read the rest of Genesis, you will find the account of Nimrod trying to build a tower to heaven which was the tower of Babel. This is in the same area as Babylon or Mesopotamia which I told you was considered Satan's territory. Today it appears to be the same. That geographical area is an enemy of the church of Christ and of Israel.

Today men are still trying to build a tower of mans works and think they can reach heaven. There is the tower of science and knowledge and trust in man's mind to determine what is right. One example is the move about a century (although it happened in ancient Greece) or so ago man develop the thought of "Critical Thinking". This concept says that if man puts his mind to it, he can create utopia on earth. This concept I think infiltrated the church which then thought the church could heal and fix all the problems of this world by our works but as you can readily see the problems instead of getting better have gotten worse. We cannot fix this world because we have a sin problem and can only be solved by a new heart in mankind. There is only one heart transplant I know about, and it is being born again with a new heart and the only one I know who can perform that transplant is Jesus Christ.

### **Keep your eyes on the seed line and eternity.**

From this point on, keep your eyes on the seed line for it will end up being Jesus and it will be all the way though the Old Testament. Jesus is the end of the seed line because He is **the Seed**. However, all the prophesies about Jesus will not be fulfilled at His first coming because Israel did not accept Him at that time and because of that, room was made for the church age to take place. The major prophesies of the Old Testament contain things that have not taken place but will be at the appointed time. The golden age of Israel has not happened yet but will at Jesus' second coming and his millennial reign for 1000 years when we will be a part of that kingdom in our eternal glorified bodies after we are resurrected when He comes back for His church.

Keep you eyes on eternity and the goal of furthering the kingdom of God which we are to strive for. Our present life is to be lived in preparation for that time and for His glory!!

**Howard**

