

Joint Ventures: The Ark

Intro.

1. What is a joint venture?

The cooperation of two or more individuals or businesses--each agreeing to share profit, loss and control--in a specific enterprise.

- a. K-Dow – **K-Dow Petrochemicals** was to be a \$17.4 billion [joint venture](#) between [The Dow Chemical Company](#) and Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) of the [State of Kuwait](#), a [wholly-owned subsidiary](#) of [Kuwait Petroleum Corporation](#) (KPC). Kuwaiti government scuttled the partnership prior to its launch on December 28, 2008

2. Look at five Biblical construction projects – God’s activity accomplished with human obedience. Find one big principle for us.

3. With any project (including CrossOver), we cannot do it w/o God and he won’t do it w/o us. In these joint ventures, God has a role and we have a role. God will do what only he can do and we will do what only we can do. God will not do our part.

4. Big Idea: The environment you’re living in will determine your faith level!

5. Story – During a weekend visit with my sister, I read to her granddaughter Adrienna from her children's Bible story book. After our story time, I quizzed Adrienna on what we read.

Who was the man with the big boat?"

"Noah," she piped right up.

Then—I don't know why—I asked, "What was his last name?"

"Zark!" she replied with authority. By Donna M. Cotner,

The Environment of the World- Gen.6.1-13

A. The Environment of the World – Lawlessness in the End Times, pt.1 & 2, 6.09 Description of the “Days of Noah” – Gen.6.1–13

1. Intro – the end times will be a “replica” of Noah’s day.

2. Demonic & human co-mingling

- a. Who are these “son’s of God”? Based on other Scriptures and the historic understanding of these passages, they are the fallen angels.

- b. 2 Pet.2.4 & Jude 6 – They didn't stay w/in the limits of authority God gave them. They & humanity pushed past the moral restraint. This was mutual. They moved passed what was permissible.

- 3. Every thought was on wickedness constantly (v.5). This gives the complete picture of how evil mankind was. I have been around a few people who were like this. Always scheming and looking to get around the truth. This leads to all kinds of vicious behavior.
- 4. Corrupt (v.11f) – decaying, spoiling. Mankind was once “very good” in God's sight and now he is very bad. He was the very opposite of what God intended. Mankind's heart was polluted and hostile to God. Not only had the restraints been broken, but evil had been embraced. Rotten to the core.
- 5. Full of violence (v.11, 13) – Injustice, oppression, violent dealings. Violence is the natural outcome of removing restraint and replacing it with wickedness. Everyone is out for himself. There is no compassion for the weak.
 - a.
- 6. Why didn't the people respond to God's message through Noah? (from Intro remarks 4.e.) They had cast off restraint and there was no sense of right & wrong. The people saw nothing wrong with their lifestyle or beliefs that would cause them to be concerned about God's judgment. Sin was no longer sin. Though a huge boat stood before them, and Noah preached God's righteous standards to them, they didn't see that their lifestyle or beliefs were sinful).
 - a. This was the environment Noah lived in, so put yourself there. What kind of faith level would you have? 120 years – you work on a boat in that kind of environment.
 - b. Hostile, violent, clearly demonic oppression. Much worse than today. The environment normally determines the spiritual atmosphere, not the opposite. It was totally dark.
 - c. Appl – we are living in a terribly dark time. Violence and corruption fills the air; sin is called good and good is called evil; economic uncertainty is breeding fear & cultivating worry.
 - i. Top Events of the last decade: Dot.com bubble burst; 9/11; War in Iraq & Afghanistan; Terrorism; Hurricane Katrina & Rita & Ike; Sub-Prime Housing Crisis; Global Recession &

Collapse of Wall St; Tsunami; Major Earthquakes; Enron; Bernie Madoff; Shuttle disintegration

- ii. These things lower the emotional/spiritual ceiling; It compresses the spiritual environment & fills it with fear, worry, anxiety, and uncertainty. It's like a lead jacket that gradually was made heavier.
- d. We want to hold on to everything and release little. We become possessive. We want to do something significant for God, but we've allowed the environment of the culture to effect the temperature of our heart. We tell God we want to do the right thing, but then we don't want to seem too radical. The environment is like a black hole that is pulling the light out of us.
 - i. The environment we stay in (in your mind) will determine our spiritual temperature.
 - 1. Jesus said about His return, "Will I find faith?"
 - ii. Like camping, all I smell like is smoke. My body/clothes reflects the environment it is in.
 - iii. This is the challenge for us – Noah lived in the most difficult time of all human history and didn't smell like the world. How?

The Environment in Noah's Heart

- a. The very opposite with Noah – 6.9, 22; 7.5. It describes Noah as it does Enoch. One who walked in close proximity with God. How? Everything is working against him. He is in a dark environment. Why doesn't he smell like smoke?
- b. The key to keeping your heart fresh before God is ongoing fellowship with God just like Noah & Enoch. The world is spiraling downward, but you can be moving upward through ongoing fellowship with God.
- c. Illust – Christian witness – Paul Gunn Story
- d. Appl to the Joint Venture of the Cross Over campaign: We must not let the environment of the world determine our spiritual temperature. The most critical thing we can do is to keep our hearts and minds before God. Let the environment of the Kingdom determine your spiritual temperature.
 - i. When I'm walking in fear, dread, worry, agitation, restlessness, depression, cynical, critical, anger and the

like, it is a clear sign of the predominant environment that's influencing me.

- e. Press into the heart of God. His heart is filled with hope, joy, assurance, love, confidence, etc.
 - i. Remember: In order to heat your house, it requires a lot of energy either through the burning of gas or making of electricity. It's not heated automatically; it doesn't self heat; it's heated through energy. Likewise, the way we shift our current spiritual and emotional state is through intentional focus on our relationship with God. If you do little to nothing, your spiritual temperature will reflect this world – cold, indifferent, defeated, unbelief.

Living Like Noah

A. Live a pure life (6.9)

- a. This has to do with both his beliefs and practices. He didn't compromise his conscience and give into world around him.
- b. "Righteous" means that Noah conformed to God's standard. Everyone else changed God's standards, but Noah lived up to them. Righteous living is an active testimony to the culture.

B. Radically obey God – Heb.11.7. He radically followed God like Abel, Enoch, Abraham, & others. No one had such a hard assignment as he. He faced physical, emotional, societal and spiritual challenges unlike all the others. It took him over 100 years to complete the Ark. He also was responsible for repopulating the earth! He was also a preacher of righteousness. His words and actions testified to a man who was totally given to God.

- a. Gen.6.22 – Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded.
- b. 7.5 – Noah did everything as the Lord had commanded him.
- c. 7.9 – just as God commanded him.
- d. 7.16 – “ “ “ “ .
- e. No other generation has it as difficult as the end time generation. The pressure, hardship, demonic assaults, apathy, lukewarmness, persecution and challenges are more severe than any other generation that has ever lived. We must be radically obedient despite the messiness of the hour.

C. Walk in absolute confidence that God will protect us. The End Times are hard times, but they shouldn't shake our faith. Like Noah, God will provide a way to bear the hardships. As things intensify, we must be the ones who provide hope & protection to others. We must set the temperature of the environment for others. We must stand in confidence against the onslaught of the enemy that whether we live or die we will not bow the knee to the devil, the world system or any form of false security. We will serve the Lord. **We are most fortunate to live in this hour, to be the Noah's of our day, and to offer hope and security in the Ark of Jesus.**

Conclusion:

The environment you're living in will determine your faith level. Which environment will you live in?

Be like Noah. Focus your attention on the Lord & listen to His call on your life. The call is much larger than our Cross Over campaign.