

Lawlessness in the End Times

Discerning the Times, pt.1

Intro.

1. Vision that God gave Renetta, Stephanie & myself. We are in a time where respect for authority is being challenged. It is the outward manifestation of an inward moral restraint and guide that has been changed. It is lawlessness. It's more than disobeying the outward forms of authority; it is a casting off of the moral dimensions of our character.
2. The purpose of this message is to challenge you to open your spiritual eyes to discern the times we are living in, to see lawlessness differently and to show you how to live like Noah.
 - a. My statements about my beliefs. I try to be clear when I'm stating my opinion, which is based on the Word & my walk with God. But, it still is my opinion & I may be absolutely wrong, so pray that the Lord will give us both discernment about His truth & my opinion!
3. Def of lawlessness – a person who is unrestrained by his conscience. He disregards God's laws written on the conscience. Moral restraints have been removed and moral obligations are discarded.
 - a. Everyone has been given a sense of right & wrong. Lawlessness is the removal or disregarding of the sense of right & wrong.
4. Mt.24.37–39
 - a. "People didn't realize what was going to happen" – they didn't discern what was going to happen. How is that possible?
 - b. Heb.11.7 – His construction of the boat was a living testimony to the people that something significant would happen.
 - c. 2 Pet.2.5 – Noah warned the world of God's judgment.
 - d. Jude 14 – Enoch warned the people of coming judgment

- e. The people followed their ordinary pursuits while God's righteous standards were being preached and a way of escape was being constructed. God had a plan of protection, but it was ignored. Why?
5. Three Kinds of End Time Believers – the end times will be like Noah's & Lot's days, which means most people won't even see it coming, including Christians. My perspective of the end times is that believers will go through the judgment. Jesus refers to Noah & Lot as the pattern for His second coming and both men went through the judgment though they were delivered out of it.
- a. Overwhelmed Christian – Blinded by hardships; full of anger or fear. The crushing pressure of the end times causes him to react in overwhelming worry or frustration.
 - b. Unaware Christian – Blinded by clutter. They are so caught up in life they don't see the tide of discipline coming towards them. It's just business as usual.
 - c. On alert Christian – watching, vigilant, prepared, discerning of what's happening. He's a source of encouragement, direction & hope to others.

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. Angels have physical bodies (Gen.18 & 19) and though we will be like the angels in eternity (Mt.22.30), this doesn't mean we are genderless and it doesn't preclude the fact that they could reproduce.
 - i. If the HS can impregnate Mary, than it is conceivable that other parapsychical beings could do the same with the daughters of men.
 - 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.

c. *You see this moral restraint being broken again in Jude 7 which further validates this co-mingling of demonic and human. NLT/NIV – “In a similar way...” slides over a key thought. A more lit transl – “just as Sodom & Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which practiced immorality in the same way as these (referring to the fallen angels in v.6) and lusted after different flesh.”

i. “Different Flesh” – not the same flesh, but a flesh of a different kind.

ii. Jude focuses upon not so much their homosexual practice, but upon Sodom’s similarity between their actions and the fallen angel’s action of v.6. The fallen angels and the Sodomites had made their sin all the more appalling b/c they both lusted after different flesh. The fallen angels sought relations with women and the homosexual’s of Sodom sought relations with angels. What brought down God’s flood in Noah’s day is what brought down God’s fire in Lot’s day.

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 demonic hybrid has nothing but contempt for God’s standard.

- a. It is estimated that at this time on earth there were between 200 million & 2 billion people. There was a lot of wickedness.
- 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).
- 7. Luke 17.28–30 – Ex of Sodom & Gommorah
 - a. These two generation (Noah & Lot's) experienced the discipline of God unlike any other generation, except for the last one. Jesus is making a point that the end time generation will be just like Noah & Lot's. What are the commonalities betw the two?
 - i. Sexual perversion.
 - ii. Didn't take care of the poor, but took advantage of the poor(Ezek.16.49). How a nation treats its most vulnerable (youngest, oldest, handicapped, minorities, poorest) is a clear indicator of it morality.
 - iii. In both Noah's day & Lot's, they breached their conscience, and restraint that God had placed in them.

God's Judgment

1. The demonic/human commingling – Satan's plan was to pervert God's redemptive plan from Gen.3.15. He wanted to pollute mankind's bloodline with that of the fallen angels so that a child would not be born who would crush his head.
2. This incursion of the demonic realm into the human realm & the acceptance of it by humans was a huge breach in God's laws. **It eventually broke down the restraint in every part of humanity. The restraint was broken and like a cascading waterfall in other areas. It was a gateway that became a floodgate.** This led to God calling for the destruction of mankind & the imprisonment of these demonic beings.

- a. This literally may happen (or is) again! If Noah & Lot's days are to be replicated during the end times then it is quite possible the breeding of the two will occur.
 - b. Move past the action of hybrid entities and look at the real issue...rebellion against God's moral law.
3. Intentionally removing or changing the internal moral compass aligns us with demonic powers. It is a co-mingling of demonic DNA with human DNA which eventually leads to deeper layers of perversion. When you call good evil & evil good, it's more than a choice it's an alignment. The demons are always looking for partnership/host.
- a. It often begins with sexual restraints being compromised. In this case, it was the merging of the demonic with human. In Sodom & Gomorah, it was male to male. It is any form of sexual practice that is outside of a husband and wife marital relationship.
 - b. Fornication, adultery, homosexuality, etc is alignment with the Devil and, if true repentance doesn't happen, the moral restraints will break down in other areas. These sexual expressions are doorways into the demonic. You are agreeing with satan's perspective. As a culture agrees the more it's in agreement with Satan.
 - c. The fallen angels of Noah's day were limited in their ability until there was agreement by mankind just like today.
 - d. The rejection of God's truth is displayed today. Few want to believe there are universal truth, but only an individual's truth. The philosophy of the day is for each person to have their own truth and not to impose it on anyone else. "If God's truth works for you, then good, but don't saddle me with it." Like Noah's day, no one wants to listen, b/c it's consider a personal choice.
4. We are in a time of increased alignment of the demonic with humanity. We need people who can discern this and do something about it.

- a. Paul Keith Davis vision of Billy Graham crusade & modern day crusade. One is orderly and the other is filled with contorted, diseased bodies & demonized people. “What’s coming won’t be like that. What was once relegated to Africa & India is coming to America & somebody better get ready.”
 - b. This alignment will lead to tremendous opportunities and challenges. I believe both the level of physical ailments and psychological problems that the medical profession has been able to assist will grow smaller. As people/culture become more aligned with the demonic through their choices the type and amount of more bizarre and difficult physical & mental cases will increase and only “on alert Christians” will be able to respond.
5. Perversion/sin (anything out of alignment with God’s truth) is being normalized and this is accelerating the rate at which restraint is being lifted over a nation. The more vigilant we are in prayer & righteous living will strengthen the restrainer (and the opposite).

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2 Tim.3.1–5 – Characteristics of the Last Days

- 1. Sounds very similar to Noah’s day. Look at the children today compared to those 30 years ago. Kids at a consistently younger age are involved in types of sinful behavior you would expect an adult do.
- 2. Lack of self-control; cruel; puffed up; cruel; hate what is good. Everyone will cast off restraint.
 - a. Sim. to Sodom. They cast off restraint & it led to their destruction.
 - b. Righteous living is a counter-balance to lawlessness. Our lives count for righteousness even if we’re on our deathbed or have a debilitating illness.

2 Thes.2.1–12 – The Lawless One

1. v.3f – Two culminating features of the the Day of the Lord (a short season of time when Jesus returns and vanquishes evil) – the Great Rebellion & the Man of Lawlessness
 - a. The Great Rebellion is the word “apostacy.” It means people will turn from the truth. Many believe this is referring to believers who will fall away from the faith. The text doesn’t say. I believe it will include both believers and unbelievers who will radically turn away from truth God has established in our conscience.
 - i. Mt.24.10–12 is very similar to this passage. “b/c of the increase of lawlessness the love of most will grow cold.”
 1. As lawlessness abounds callousness increases. People’s hearts are hardened to the needs of others. This is the way it was in Genesis 6 & 19.
 2. Ezek.16.49 – describes the heartlessness of Sodom towards the poor.
 - ii. One of the clear impacts of rejecting God’s truth in our conscience is that it leads to ever increasing cold heartedness. The most atrocious crimes ever committed against humanity were perpetrated by those who rejected the moral restraints & obligations that God had established – genocide in Rwanda, Sudan & Yugoslavia, to the Killing Fields of Cambodia, to the Nazis extermination of Jews, gypsies and Christians.
 - iii. By changing the moral standards that God has established, you become hardened and cold to truth.
 - b. The Man of Lawlessness – He’s the one with no restraint. He throws off God’s law and exalts himself as God. He not only rejects God’s law, but rejects God and takes his place (v.4)
 - c. Dan.7.25 – He will try to change the times and laws
2. v.6f. – The spirit of lawlessness is at work, but the full expression of lawlessness will be revealed when the Restrainer is lifted. Currently, there is a universal restraining force that is keeping the full measure of lawlessness from being expressed.

- a. Occasionally it is lifted over countries during times of great sin, but eventually it succumbs to righteousness and justice. As people, esp leaders, choose lawlessness the restrainer's (I believe who is the HS) influence diminishes. The lifting of His influence then gives way for lawlessness to abound.
 - b. I believe that as we align ourselves with lawlessness it acts as an ax blow against the Restrainer. I don't think the Restrainer will be removed and we'll move automatically into lawlessness. I believe there is a ripening of lawlessness and at some point he's removed and then we descend into deeper levels of darkness.
 - c. I believe it's our normalizing of evil that weakens the Restrainer
 - d. Illustr - layers of restraint over individual & cultural conscience. The more we reject the truth & accept deceit the more it weakens the Restrainer.
 - e. I don't believe the Restrainer will be unexpectedly removed and then the world will get lawless. There will be a build up of lawlessness all across the world & eventually His presence will be lifted and most will never know it.
3. v.9 - 10a - The anti-Christ will affirm these new values, and practices through false signs & wonders. People will give themselves more fully to lawlessness as they see supposed divine approval to their choices.
- a. Ps.2.1-3: It's worldwide rebellion against God. They think that restraining their sin is binding them up & legitimizing their sin will liberate them. In fact, it's just the opposite. Legitimizing = bondage; restraining = life.
 - b.
4. v.10b - 12 - Notice what the people failed to do...They refused to love and accept the truth. They perish b/c they choose to reject the truth and embrace lawlessness. They aligned with the darkness and God allowed for a greater deception. They will enjoy the darkness and they will be condemned to it.

- a. Pharaoh in Exodus is an example of this kind of deception & destruction. He refused to acknowledge the God of the Jews & he continued to oppress them. God gave him many opportunities to embrace the truth, but he refused. His heart grew hard b/c of this rejection. This eventually led to the demise of his army & his own death.

Living Like Noah

A. Live a pure life (6.9f.)

a. This has to do with both his beliefs and practices. He didn't compromise his conscience and give into world around him. The end time generation is compared to Noah & Lot's day. We have to be like Noah.

1. This couldn't be said of Lot. He was called a righteous man, but he hesitated when it was time to leave, he offered up his daughters to a gang, his sons in law didn't believe him, his wife looked back at the burning cities turned to salt., and his daughters had incestuous relations with him. He had compromised so much that on the day it counted most he barely made it out.

2. "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. He didn't pollute his families dna with the demonic (6.9 – only blameless person). He remained both spiritually and genetically pure and in mankind's darkest hour God had a servant He could use. Don't compromise your convictions or restraints.

1. Watch your relationships – 2 Cor.6.14f.. Bad company corrupts God character.

2. There are dramatic consequences to compromise which aren't readily seen until much later in life. A small erosion of your beliefs and practices over time can lead to dramatic change. If Noah hadn't kept his life pure, God would have destroyed all mankind. B/c he kept himself pure, God had a person to use.

3. It is interesting to note the meticulous detail of Jewish lineage. This is witnessed in Genesis 5 as the line is traced all the way to Adam. Its purpose might be to reveal that Noah didn't have any demonic entanglement.

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. Isa.32.18ff. As things intensify, we must be the ones who provide hope & protection to 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. Euphemistically, whether the onslaught of Hell or the high waters of adversity, we stand in confidence of the Lord's ability to save us. **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

We must discern the times and take action. We must be like Noah who lived a pure life, preached righteousness and trusted in God's ability to protect. Throwing off restraint (lawlessness) is an act of alignment with

the demonic and opens the door for greater demonization and the weakening of the Restrainer.

Isa.60.2 – See darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. All the nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see your radiance.

Ex.10.21–23 illustrates how this happens. As God is disciplining Egypt b/c Pharaoh will not release the Jews, God spares His people. “Then the Lord said to Moses, “Lift your hand toward heaven, and the land of Egypt will be covered with a darkness so thick you can feel it.” So Moses lifted his hand to the sky and a deep darkness covered the entire land of Egypt for three days. During all that time the people could not see each other, and no one moved. But there was light as usual where the people of Israel lived.

It will be darker than it has ever been (morally, spiritually, economically) but upon God’s people it will be brighter (the Lord’s presence) than anywhere else.

1 Thes.5.4–6 – ⁴ But you aren’t in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won’t be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don’t belong to darkness and night. ⁶ So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.

Deliverance Training opportunities on Wednesdays in July.