

STRIVING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We start a new study entitled, **Days of Noah**, taken from Matt.24:37-39. This comes from the Parable of the Fig Tree section of Matt.24:32-41. However, our lessons on the Days of Noah will come from the study of **Gen.6-9**.

(Matt.24:37-39) **“For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying, and given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.”**

This lesson will study five aspects of Striving of Holy Spirit taken from Gen.6:3.

(Gen.6:3) **“Then the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless, his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.’”**

1. Gen.6:3 issued a warning and a promise from God to the Antediluvian Civilization.

- **WARNING:** “My Spirit shall not strive (lo din/ qal impf) with man **forever**, because he is flesh.”
- **PROMISE:** “Nevertheless his days shall be 120 years (Flood Schedule).”

(2 Pet.3:9) **“The Lord is not slow about His promise, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance (metanoia).”**

2. Holy Spirit has a specific ministry in each biblical dispensation.

Days of Noah (Flood)

- Gentile Age Strive with mankind (Gen.6:3)

Days of Son of Man (Second Coming)

- Jewish Age Abide along-side (John 14:16-17)
- Church Age Indwell forever (John 14:16-17)
- Millennial Age Pour upon (Joel 2:28-32)

NOTE: The Days of Noah had a limitation for the striving of The Spirit (**not forever/ 120 years/ Flood**).

3. The Holy Spirit strove through 10 generations of Antediluvian Civilization (ADC), from the Fall of Adam to Flood of Noah.

The Spirit strove before the Fall of Adam (Gen.2:16-17; 3:1-7) as well as during the last 120 years “because man was flesh.” (Gen.6:3; 1 John 4:4)

- The Spirit strove with 10 generations of Sethites (Gen.5; Luke 3:36-38) [Adam to Noah].
 - The Sethites were the divine agency with custodianship of evangelism and the word of God.

What was God's message to the Antediluvian Civilization? It was the same message as that preached "in the Days of Son of Man", the Grace Gospel of Jesus Christ! (1 Cor15:22, 45; Rom.5:12-21; 2 Pet.3:9).

(Gal.3:8) "The Scriptures, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by **faith, preached the gospel beforehand** to Abraham, saying, 'All the nations will be blessed in you (Christ/ Gal.3:16).' (It was the prophetic gospel) (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9)

4. There were three different races that The Holy Spirit strove with during the Antediluvian Civilization.

We will study them in more detail during the weeks to come from Gen.6-9.

We will learn that the Holy Spirit strived with three different races of people during the Antediluvian Civilization:

- Cainites (Gen.4)
- Sethites (Gen.5)
- Nephilim (Gen.6-9)

5. Despite the striving ministry of The Holy Spirit to the Antediluvian Civilization, evil permeated and corrupted it to the point that ONLY ONE FAMILY believed the gospel of grace salvation and were not destroyed by the Flood (Gen.6:8-9; 9:29).

It is the famous story of Noah's Ark that is taught to children attending a Bible teaching Church.

NOTE: The lesson we must learn from the study of the **Days of Noah** is how to battle and have victory over **EVIL in the Days of The Son of Man** (Eph.6:10-17).

The ministry of The Holy Spirit in the days of The Son of man is found in (John 16:7-11).

- "He will **convict** the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment." (John 16:8)
- "The Helper (The Holy Spirit) will be **with you forever.**"

(1 John 5:4) "For **whoever is born of God** overcomes the world; and **this is the victory** that has overcome the world - **our faith**. Who is the one who overcomes the world, **but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**"

(1 John 4:4) "You are from God, little children, and **have overcome** them; because greater is He who is in you (Holy Spirit) than he who is in the world." (1 John 5:19-20)