



[Genesis 6:11-13](#)

(11) Now the earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. (12) And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt—for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth. (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.

A Faithful Version

We can easily reach a conclusion about humanity by comparing the Bible's overview of mankind's pre-Flood activities with our more detailed daily news reports. Together, they suggest that we are experiencing times increasingly similar to those just before the Flood. This leads us to an unavoidable conclusion: What [God](#) did through the Flood proves that the cataclysm did not solve the problems that reside in the hearts of human beings. What is in man's heart created the necessity for humanity to witness that major disaster as part of its history. The internal stain was still there after the Flood waters drained away; the massive execution of earth's population did not erase the evil motivations of man's self-centered nature. That must be accomplished by another means.

By putting them to death, the Flood did clear the population of a vast number of troublemakers. However, only God's [merciful](#) and generous grace, as Noah and his family received, changes a person's heart and thus his or her conduct. Our hearts are changed by God initiating our calling, revealing Himself, granting [repentance](#), giving His Spirit, and then personally working with us in a close, personal relationship. By this means, we are created in the [image of God](#). This is the only permanent solution.

This fact should have the effect of causing us to resolve to follow through by willingly cooperating with God within the relationship created by His merciful calling. What practical, spiritual counsel will enable us to negotiate these times, which are so similar to what Noah went through?

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In short, our salvation is to yield to God's guidance, as seen in Noah's story. His attitude and conduct become our practical, human example and spiritual guide. Just as he persevered in building the ark and trusting God to preserve his family through the Flood, we should put the same effort into preparing for God's Kingdom.

[Genesis 7:1](#) provides us with a simple but meaningful instruction: "Then the LORD said to Noah, 'Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.'" Noah did not hesitate when God commanded him to do this, as his labors in building the ark were ending. This command states the qualification to meet our time's spiritual challenges. Noah faithfully lived righteously within the difficulties of the times.

The biblical record shows that God oversaw and provided safety for Noah and his family during those challenges beyond their control. He will do for us as He did for them. The Flood of our times is not one of water but an overwhelming "flood" of deception combined with threats of violence against us. It is already upon us to some small degree. As far as can be determined, nothing of [this world](#) will turn it aside. In fact, it is already named in the Bible—our Flood is called the Tribulation and the Day of the Lord.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Leadership and Covenants \(Part Ten\)](#)

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