

# Scriptural Truths

## E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

No. 101

July 2020

### Escape For Thy Life

#### Introduction

Many centuries ago God brought two major catastrophic happenings on the population of earth. One was local and the other worldwide. The first was the flood (Gen. 6:17) and the second was His judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24). The judgments were so major that God spoke of them several times in the scriptures and even our Lord spoke concerning them. Before the world wide flood God gave man ample warning. In the judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah the warning was quite brief. The point being, in both cases warning was given and a way of escape from the judgment was available. Sadly, of the entire population of the world at the time of Noah, only eight people took advantage of the way of escape. In the fiery judgement on Sodom and Gomorrah only three people accepted the offer of escape. Four left but Lot's wife turned back and was made into a pillar of salt (Gen. 19:26). For some 900 years God's message concerning the flood was, "There is coming a day of judgment," but for generation after generation thousands rejected the warning. They possibly thought, "when it comes then I will get ready". After the centuries rolled by the way of escape was ready. The ark was built, Noah and his family went into the ark while people outside mocked the foolishness of it. For seven more days God left the door of the ark open. All anyone had to do was to go to the door, no questions asked, and enter into safety. After those seven days God shut the door and the rain began to fall. For forty days and nights the rains came and the water reservoirs in the earth opened up and the flood came. At this point of time there was no escape. They lived knowing they were doomed, they were going to die. They had mocked and rejected the way of escape for the last time.

When it came to Sodom and Gomorrah, the warning was very brief but humanity was warned. God did not send a flood of water but upon the two cities He brought fire from Heaven (possibly lightening) which resulted in the two cities being burned and all in them killed. Lot told of a way of escape but again man mocked at the idea of a judgment. To Lot and those with him the message was clear, "escape for thy life", but it was mocked.

#### The Message For Today

Just as the people of Noah and Lot's day, people have heard the message of warning. They have heard and know there is a way of escape but rejecting it choose rather to live as they were. The Lord Jesus said, "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded" (Lk. 17:26-28). Those ancients lived life disregarding the warnings and the words of the writer to the Hebrews could have said to them, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" (Heb. 2:3).

The warnings of God were not empty threats but rather warnings of love and sincerity. Those who heard the message were too busy getting ready for weddings, socializing, in business dealings, farming etc. to worry about a flood of water or fire from heaven. Life was good. The only disruption they had was those who kept warning of the judgment to come. The attitude would have been the same as today, "Stop ramming your religion down our throats", "Judgment and retribution is a lot of nonsense, today we eat, drink and tomorrow we die".

I see the same today with the coronavirus. Instead of listening and seriously considering the warnings, thousands were ignoring them determined to enjoy themselves. In March, during Spring Break, thousands of young people descended to the beaches of Florida. They were warned to stay away from others and the danger of contracting the virus, but their response was, "I came here to have a good time, to party and I am going to do that", "If I catch the virus then I will worry". I say how foolish, putting oneself in danger of severe illness or even death, but the thought mainly is, "It will not happen to me". How small mindedness and sad. If only they were wise and considered reality asking, "Is this severe illness and possibly death worth rejecting the warning?"

However, severe as this is and dire the warning, there is a greater danger more real and more severe and longer lasting than any illness of the coronavirus. It is the danger of standing before God in one's sins. If only we all, saved and unsaved, got caught by the realistic truth that to face God in all His fury is frightening. It is even more, it is overwhelmingly terrifying, for dreadful as that is, the next words of the Lord are more horrific, "Depart from me I never knew you" (Matt. 7:23). When God says "Depart", it means never to hear the call of the gospel again and never to know the slightest ease from eternal judgment. All the pleasures of earth, all that gave life meaning will be gone. To die unsaved is to be cast into the caverns of the damned for all eternity. God says, "O that they were wise, that they would consider their latter end!" (Deut. 32:29). Who are these to whom the Lord says, "Depart from me I never knew you?" It was not to the worst of people, the prostitutes and sinners, but the religious people who thought they did not need to listen to God's warning, the people who did good works and sought to be a good neighbor (Matt. 7:21-22). They thought that by good works, showing kindness, using their own money and effort they would win God's favour.

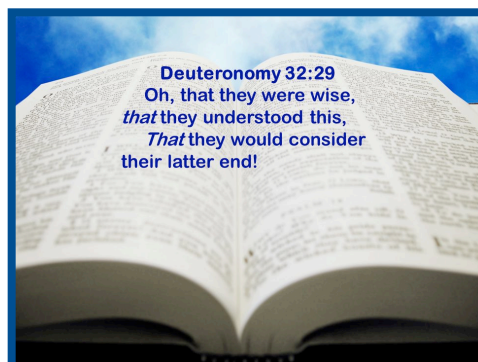
In telling how to have eternal life God said nothing about good works. It is only for those who have accepted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. God said:

- a) "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 Jn. 5:12)
- b) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (Jn. 5:24).

To have everlasting life is to be released from the condemnation of guilt and Hell. It means going to bed at night knowing that the worst that can happen is death and it is just the doorway to heaven and home. Christ is the only way of escape. Jesus said, "I am the way" (Jn. 14:6), "I am the Door" (Jn. 10:9). Judas came to the Lord and kissed Him. What a truth, he kissed the Door of Heaven and died and went to Hell. How many there will be like that! They know the gospel having heard it for years, they know the way of salvation is not by works which they have done or ever will do, it is a gift (Eph. 2:8-9). Salvation is based solely on the finished work of Christ on the cross of Calvary. It was there God laid upon Him the iniquity of us all, it was there He was bruised for our iniquities and was chastised by God as if it was us (Isa. 53:5-6). He became our substitute, swapping places with us, suffering the penalty for our sins and offering the way of escape from eternal damnation.

The individual makes their own choice and decision. God will not force them to accept the way of escape. The door of salvation is open to all. The individual can enter that door to escape the judgment, or reject it and know they will live under the condemnation of God, and by choice are heading to a Christless eternity. That is their decision. Again I repeat, "O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end" (Deut. 32:29).

. . . Rowan Jennings



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