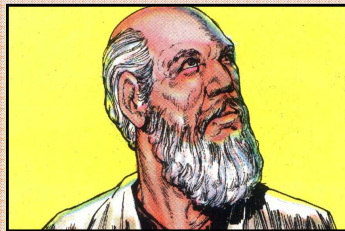


The Burden of Noah and his Family

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NOAH BELIEVED GOD

When Noah's grandfather, Methuselah, and his father Lamech were alive, so was Adam and his son Seth. Also, Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared and Enoch, the seventh from Adam, were all still alive. These "living" generations passed down knowledge of creation and of the first murder to all men.

When Noah was born, both Adam and Seth had died. After his birth, Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Noah's father Lamech, and finally, Methuselah, the oldest man that ever lived, also died as wickedness prevailed.

Enoch (*and Elisha the Prophet*) are the only two men that have never died. Both were taken to heaven for a special purpose found in *Revelation 11:3*.*

Enoch preached to the world of men before his departure, saying, "...Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him" (JUDE 1:14-15).

Enoch's warning was heard by all the generations, but it fell on deaf ears by those who were content to walk in unbelief. According to *Genesis 5:30*, Noah had brothers and sisters, but none of them went with him on the Ark.

Noah's wife was with her husband, but there is no mention of her family believing the message that Noah preached. Noah's three daughter-in-laws entered with Noah, but their families did not.

Noah preached for 120 years before "the Lord shut him in" (*GENESIS 7:16*) the Ark. Undoubtedly, everyone in

the Ark witnessed that final moment of closing from the rest of the world. It must had been a moment of sadness to everyone in the Ark, leaving family, relatives and friends behind in their unbelief.

"By FAITH Noah, being WARNED of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by FAITH" (*HEBREWS 11:7*).



Noah and his family sat in the Ark for seven days before the flood (*GENESIS 7:10*), but when the rains came, they must have been thinking of their families, their friends and their neighbors outside the Ark.

Were their family members beating on that Ark after the rains started? Were their friends and neighbors out there too? We do not know. But today, believers suffer the same burden for their love ones too, because of their rejection of the Word of God.

Yet, Jesus did say that a prophet is without honor in his own country, among his own kin, and they of his own household (*MARK 6:4*), the very people closest to believers. What a tremendous burden to bear.

But, "knowing therefore the TERROR of the Lord, we persuade men" (*2 COR. 5:11*), as God brings forth the "increase" through the "hearing" of His Word, including our families and friends.

Nevertheless, God will "...wipe away all tears from [our] eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (*REV. 21:4*). Amen, and Amen.

*Some believe that Moses, instead of Enoch, is with Elisha as the second witness (*Matt. 17:3*), but, "comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (*1 Cor. 2:13*), we know that it is appointed unto all men once to die (*Heb. 9:27*) and that "flesh and blood CANNOT inherit the kingdom of God" (*1 Cor. 15:50*).

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