

AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF NOE

-Sam. Popoola

“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; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed” (Lk. 17 vs. 26-30). Prophetically times of significant changes on Divine timetable are marked by religious apostasy, lethargy, insensitivity and increased human activity. The Lord through the scriptures quoted above has hinted on the characteristic events, which are prophetic pointers to times of God’s interventions in the programme of man.

The Lord fingered Noah and Lot as prophetic types for our time. Language symbols, signs, types and shadows are strategic keys under God to unravelling prophetic scriptures. Certain events are mentioned above as being common to both the days of Noah and Lot. These events are for us as types and shadows. They are for us as pointers as to God’s manner of intervening in human affairs. Paul speaking concerning certain scriptural events said that such events happened to serve to us as examples and the account of such events were written for our admonition, (I Cor. 10 vs. 11). The word admonition means **“warning”**. We can then infer that the events that happened in the days of the two prophetic types in the persons of Noah and Lot as fingered by the Lord were written to forewarn us. The implication for us is to be sensitive to identify certain elements in prophetic events and as wise men address ourselves to what the will and the mind of God are for us. There are certain lessons we can briefly highlight for our spiritual benefits from the types of Noah and Lot as quoted above. These lessons bother on the event which characterised their time because we can easily relate those events to what is happening in our contemporary day.

They did **eat**; they **drank**. These two events were common to the days of both Noah and Lot. In I Cor 10 vs. 7, Paul informing us about the spiritual state of the natural Israel while in the wilderness said, **“neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play”**. A third dimension is here added to **eating** and **drinking** – **rising up to play!** This suggests that rising up to play is a natural sequence that follows eating and drinking. Paul said, **“neither be ye idolaters,”** It means the eating and the drinking relate to idolatry.

When the Lord therefore fingered the events of eating and drinking in the days of Noah and Lot, he was revealing to us that idolatry was a remarkable event both in the days of Noah and of Lot.

But this is written for our admonition. Paul said in Gal. 5 vs. 19-20, **“now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these...idolatry, witchcraft.”** And in Col. 3 vs. 5 he said, **“mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication... inordinate affection... and covetousness, which is idolatry: for which things sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.”** From the admonition of Paul we understand that

idolatry means covetousness, (Col 3 vs. 5). In II Tim 3 vs. 1-5 are listed signs characteristic of perilous times. In the listing the word “Covetous” ranks second. Two different words have been used in the Greek original to convey to us the meaning of covetous (ness). The word covetousness in Col. 3 vs. 5 relates to avarice or greed, fraudulency and extortion whereas the word “covetous” in 2 Tim. 3 vs. 2 simply means to be fond of silver, to be avaricious or to exhibit eagerness to have or to keep. The Word idolatry itself translates to “image worship”. When the Lord singled out Noah and Lot as Prophetic types for our day and put his finger on idolatry as one of the remarkable events in their contemporary days, he was simply admonishing us to flee from every semblance of idolatry in our day if what happen to the people of Noah and Lot’s days is not to happen to us.

Idolatry is **image worship**. It can be image of men or of things. Whatever has the tendency of taking the place of Christ in our lives or the tendency to compete with the Lordship of Christ in our lives is an idol. When our attention is directed to ourselves, to men or to things, and we get emotionally involved, we are straying into idolatry. When we get into a tendency of elevating gifts above the giver or creations above the creator, we are moving from a safe boundary into idolatry. Idolatry involves covetousness. It is avarice. It relates to love of money, power, fame, ungodly wealth, greed and extortional tendencies. It expresses itself in the eagerness to have and to keep. There is a very thin line between sincerity and righteousness in principle. Sincerity relates to men; righteousness is divine. Paul said, **“let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first...”** (2 Thes. 2 vs. 3). The word falling away means **“apostasy”** in the Greek. Apostasy is simply a defection from the truth. It means to forsake the truth. Truth and untruth can be very close in principle. Idolatry can be very subtle. But when we see its semblance we should run if we are not to be children of disobedience. The Scripture says that idolatry is one of the principal reasons why **“the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience”**, (Col. 3 vs. 5-6). John admonished concerning this when he said **“Little children, keep yourselves from idols”**, (1 John 5 vs. 21).

They married wives. They were given in marriage. When the Lord was speaking, his address was to the religious men of his day. This is to point our attention in a prophetic sense to the religious atmosphere or the state of the Church in our contemporary day. The fact of marriage here is to be understood from two different perspectives. While there may be increased human activities, which may include marriages in the natural, the Spiritual lesson to be learnt will go beyond this. In Jer. 3 vs. 14, God said to his people, **“turn, O backsliding children... for I am married unto you...”**.

In Hos. 2 vs. 2, God figuratively speaking to Israel said, **“plead with your mother, plead: for she is not my wife, neither am I her husband...”** The concept of marriage indicated by the Lord as typified in the days of Noah and Lot relates to covenant relationships. It is to emphasise the fact that God’s covenant children will have the tendency to enter into emotional relationships which have little or no relevance in promoting God’s interest. It may take the form of Christian men and women putting emphasis on material things or getting distracted from their primary calling or have misplacement of priorities with regards to Spiritual things or Divine Service. When the Lord spoke of being married or being given in marriage, he was speaking with regards to Spiritual unfaithfulness which characterised the days of Noah and Lot and which is to characterise our contemporary day. His focus was God’s people with

relation to God, as touching covenant relationships. Christians are so predicted by this prophecy as to entering into covenant relationships, which may occupy a primary place in their heart. We are to understand that this prediction bothers on preferential love: the love for materials, which do not promote God's interest, taking precedence over the love for God and care for things outweighing care for God. Being married and being given in marriage is a summary of whole lot of Christian activities, which may be mere forms and ceremonies. The prediction forewarned on tendencies, which emphasise on things temporal above things of eternal value. Paul said, **“the unmarried ...careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world...”** (1 Cor. 7 vs. 34). A Christian can be fully occupied with Church activities or be very involved in **“serving the Lord”** and yet be married to other than to the Lord. The wisdom is in what the Christian is involved with. If it is relevant to God's primary purpose in the now, his covenant of marriage is with the Lord. If however his religious activities have no present relevance to God's primary interest in the now, the Christian has broken his marriage vow with the Lord; he is married to other than the Lord. Although he may be very “busy for the Lord” as it is easy to claim, all are mere dead works as much as God is concerned. The Lord's warning in citing the types of Noah and Lot's days involves our ability to decipher between what is serving the Lord from what is serving him not. The Lord will have his people discern the operations of his hand. The Lord's people have a need to set their bearings right. It is important to have an idea of the times in which we live. It is important to know God's plan for our day. It is important to move in consonance and not out of tune with divine purposes with reference to divine timings. God's people have a need to be able to discern the mind of the Lord and his emphasis, his desires and his will and to be able to make a difference between that which is vile and that which is precious, (Jer. 15 vs. 19). It is significant divine act that on the day of Pentecost the greater majority of God's people were deeply engrossed by their ceremonies, forms and religion. While the religious ceremony of Pentecost was physically going on in the temple the actual fulfilment was taking place in one small obscure upper room with only 120 men and women who before now have been watching and waiting. What a great danger is in religion. It brings spiritual blindness to those who naturally should be custodian of the knowledge of Spiritual things.

They **sold**, they **planted** they **buildded**. These are very significant.

In John 2 vs. 14-16, we are informed that Jesus **“found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting. And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep and the oxen; and poured out the changers money, and overthrew the tables. And said unto them that sold doves, take these things hence; make not my father's house an house of merchandise”**.

The message is clear, as it was in the days of Noah... as it was in the days of Lot, there is to be expected activities of buying and selling in the temple in our day. The temple points to the Church of the living God. We are thus forewarned of merchandise in the house of God. This is supposed to mean that Spiritual things are not to carry commercial label. Said differently, nothing should be mentioned along with the Church of God that gives the impression of turning the redemptive benefits to financial advantage. This is speaking to those who have a heart to protect their covenant relationship with their **“Ishi”**. **“And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali”** (Hos. 2 vs. 16). **Ishi** means my husband. That is speaking of unbroken covenant relationship. It is relating to a vital union with the Lord. Where this exists every other thing becomes a shadow in the Light of him.

They **planted**. In 1 Cor. 3 vs. 6, Paul said, **“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase”**. Planting, relates to Spiritual activities. The Lord’s emphasis is that many planted in the days of Noah and Lot, which was not according to divine pattern. If the the Lord indicates concerning the contemporary

Day, it is to inform us that there will be a lot of planting. But may we be found planting with God’s primary interest at heart. May his interest be ours and may we be found doing his very will.

They **builded**. Paul said further in 1 Cor. 3 vs. 9-15, **“ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building... as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon...”** Building can relate to the lives of men and it can relate to edifices. One is temporal the other is eternal. One investment has a transient value the other is of a continuing value. We are hinted that men builded then and men will build now, but Paul warned, **“let every man take heed how he buildeth...”** Emphasis should be seen in building the lives of men for this alone will endure all eternity. **“We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal”**(II Cor. 4 vs. 18). The Lord blesses you.