

## CHAPTER ONE

### THE DAYS OF NOAH

"Between 3,500 and 4,000 churches close their doors each year in the USA."

- Dr. Woodrow Kroll,  
*The Vanishing Ministry.*

"We are a society poised on the brink of self-destruction. Our culture is plagued with crime and violence, drug abuse, racial and ethnic tension, broken families and corruption."

- Billy Graham,  
upon receiving the Congressional  
Gold Medal from the US Congress  
and President Clinton.

"Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

- Matthew 24:3.

The Disciples asked for a sign that would show how close we are to the end of the world. On two separate occasions Christ had cautioned them against speculating about the exact time (Matthew 24:36; Acts 1:7). However, He did give them a number of signs that would indicate its approaching nearness:

"When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28).

Since all the signs are currently visible on the world stage, it appears that we are now moving rapidly toward the end of history, and the close of this present age. Here are five of the most important signs:

- The reestablishment of Israel, with the Jews

returning to their God-given homeland, Luke 21:24; Matthew 24:32-34; Ezekiel 37:21; 38:8.

- The rise of the "Common Market," a coalition of nations in Europe, moving toward union, Daniel 2:40-45; Revelation 17:12.
- The increase of world-wide persecution against Christians and Jews, Matthew 24:9-10; Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12:1.
- The increase of world-wide famines and imbalanced ecology, Matthew 24:7.
- The rise of apostasy in Christianity, II Thessalonians 2:3; Matthew 24:11-12.

The greatest sign, however, is given in Matthew 24:37-39, where Jesus said:

"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

Dr. M. R. DeHaan, the late prophetic radio preacher, gave the following comments on those verses:

Jesus says, if you want to know the signs of My coming, study the days of Noah before the flood. When the conditions which existed before the flood are repeated, then know that it is near. This leaves anyone who has a Bible without excuse. Everything we know about the days before the flood is recorded in three chapters of the Bible (Genesis 4, 5, and 6). These three chapters can be read in thirty minutes...Since all we know about the days to which Jesus refers as the days of Noah is found in the

Bible, no one can plead ignorance. To understand Jesus' words concerning the sign of His return we need only to study the three chapters dealing with the subject (Genesis 4, 5, and 6).<sup>1</sup>

Since the purpose of this book is conversion, we will examine the days of Noah from that perspective.

Genesis 4:26 tells us:

"And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then men began to call upon the name of the Lord."

Enos died in the year 1140 after the Creation, eighty-four years after Noah was born (1056 years after the Creation). Since people lived between eight and nine hundred years, many thousands of people who "called on the name of the Lord" in Enos' day were still living in Noah's day. It should be remembered that there were only two lifetimes between the Creation and the Flood.

Dr. Henry M. Morris indicates that "Adam lived until Lamech, the father of Noah, was fifty-six years old, and Noah was born only fourteen years after the death of Seth."<sup>2</sup> This means that there were many people still living who had "called on the name of the Lord" when the Flood came. If each couple had an average of ten children, that would mean that there were about eight million people on earth at the time of the Flood.

### **They Called on the Name of the Lord, Yet Drowned in the Flood**

Genesis 4:26 says, "then *began* men to call upon the name of the Lord." The verse indicates that this "calling" continued for some time, which means that *a large number of those who drowned in the Flood had called on the Lord's name, but were not saved.* As God said later to the prophet Isaiah:

"This people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me" (Isaiah 29:13).

















