

FAMILY FIRST

In lesson one of the FLC; we studied the origin of the **first family** and Satan's attack upon it from outside. We learned that the family was 1 of 5 divine institutions established for the human race in Gen.1-11.

In lesson two of the FLC, we will study the importance of believing parents putting their **families first** to protect the best they can Satan's attack from the outside. Satan knows that as the family goes so goes the communities within a nation – "Blessed is the man who fears (reverences) the Lord, who finds great delight in His commands. His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed." (Ps.112:1-2)

We will study the family of Noah who put his family first amidst an evil civilization and was greatly rewarded by God (Gen.6-9). A biblical principle that we learn from Noah is that the family who puts God first will be the family that will be put first by God – "By faith Noah, being warned by God about the things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith." (Heb.13:7)

This lesson will study four aspects of the importance of each believer putting his Family First because Satan will attack it.

1. Noah reminds believers that their families and homes must be the first places to walk with the Lord and not the last places (Heb.13:7).

I heard a Believer once say that Christians should live in glass houses for the entire world to see the light of Jesus Christ. "Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you **shine like stars** in the universe as you hold out the word of life." (Phil.2:14-15, NIV)

Noah was living the glass house metaphor by building the ark in a community that had not seen rain or flood waters or heard the preaching of coming judgment (2 Pet.2:5).

Jesus said, "You are **the light of the world**. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **In the same way** let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matt.5:14-16, NIV)

2. Christian parents tend to want to blame evil trends of society for the spiritual misbehavior of their children.

They act as if nothing could have been done about their children's spiritual misbehavior.

The difference is in the approach we take about it. Let me compare Noah to Lot to explain the difference between two believing families and their different approach to living for Christ in an evil society. (Gen.13:9-13).

When Lot talked to his future son-in-laws about the coming of God's judgment upon Sodom, "he appeared to his son-in-laws to be jesting." (Gen.19:14b, NAS)

It was just the opposite with Noah and his daughter-in laws: "Then Noah and his sons and his wife and his son's wives with him entered the ark because of the water of the flood." (Gen.7:7)

3. Noah chose to put his family first because he understood the dangers of rearing children in the midst an evil society.

“Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.” (Gen.6:11-12)

Let me give you seven statistics on the state of the American home (Life Innovation, Inc. 11/7/07).

- 90% of Americans get married.
- 53% get married in a religious setting.
- Less than 50% will make it to their 25 anniversary.
- Most of these married couples separated within 7 years and divorce by the 8th.
- 60% of second marriage will end in divorce.
- 73% of third marriages will end in divorce.
- In the last 30 years, live-in couples have increased from 500,000 to 6 million.

Americans are like drunks in denial and the church must stop drinking with them! “I am grieved that I have made them. But Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord.” (Gen.6:7b-8, NIV).

4. Noah was a parent who chose to walk with God during a time of great social evil.

“These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.” (Gen.6:9, NAS)

Note four important spiritual characteristics of Noah that caused him to shine as the light of Christ to his world: (hayah / kal pf.) [was] righteous, blameless, walk, and favor.

Righteous (tsaddaq), **Blameless** (tamim), **Walk** (halak / hithpael perf.) and **Favor** (chen).

DO YOU FEEL LIKE THIS PARENT?

:

- What can one person do?
- How can one person make a difference?
- What can one person do against an entire degenerate civilization?
- I’m constantly being told that I’m the only parent who won’t let me _____!”

“I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you.” (2 Tim. 1:5) [Paul to Timothy]

Noah’s walk with God did not have a spiritual impact of conversions nor bring changes in society but it saved his family from God judgment upon the world. DID IT PAY FOR NOAH TO PUT HIS FAMILY FIRST?

While Noah never spiritually influenced his neighbors and friends for Christ, he did have a great spiritual impact upon his family by putting them first. DID IT PAY TO PUT HIS FAMILY FIRST?

- Noah walked with the Lord in the world. He did not walk with the world in the Lord.
- Noah was the last messianic link to the Antediluvian world and the first messianic link to the Postdiluvian world. DID IT PAY FOR NOAH TO PUT HIS FAMILY FIRST?

“Do not change yourselves to be like the people of this world, but be changed within by a new way of thinking. Then you will be able to decide what God wants for you; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect.” (Rom.12:2) (New Century Version)

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