



## SoulShare

September 11, 2021, 9:00—10:30 am Breakfast & Discussion

### Noah's Neighbor

You don't know my name, but you are familiar with my famous former neighbor, Noah. I am one of his converts. That probably surprises you because only Noah and his family made it on the ark. Let's say I was a little late in responding to his preaching. I was very skeptical when he said that there would be a judgement from the LORD. I was skeptical that there even was a LORD. But when the flood started, my wife and I became believers, even though we had "missed the boat."

I had known Noah for maybe 300 years or so. He married late and they did not have children until he was about 500. But a few decades after that when he put out the call for carpenters, I and my sons worked for him. He paid well, but as part of the deal, we had to listen to his sermons. I knew that we lived in a dangerous world with robbery, murder and rape commonplace occurrences. But his solution seemed too simple, just turn to "The Creator," someone that most people considered a legend.

My wife and I repented as soon as the waters began to rise. It was exactly what Noah had prophesied. My sons remained skeptical and focused on working really hard to build their own boat. I know they did not survive the flood and neither did they make it to the realm of the LORD, where we now live, together with Noah and his family. We are here by the grace of the Creator whom we did not admit existed. And the absence of our descendants from the earth was part of the LORD's plan, which was much bigger than we could have ever understood at the time.

We have been allowed to communicate with you because there is an event coming soon to your age. The words were spoken by the Lord Himself, written to preserve them and preached by those who believe them. "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man." There is a judgement coming and those who obey the LORD will be rescued ahead of time. When that happens, there will be an opportunity for those who did not believe at first to repent. They will experience the consequences of their unbelief – physical suffering and death, just as we did. But they will have a chance for a greater salvation, just as we did.

We not only got to reunite with Noah and his family, we got to meet – more than meet – fellowship, with the LORD Himself. What a joy and privilege! What grace He has for the hard-hearted like us. But it sometimes takes extreme measures to get through to some people.

And a small corner of the veil of mystery has been lifted for us to see the eternal plan, both the mercy and the justice. God the Son, begotten of the Father, eternally the Lamb of God, sacrificed from the foundation of the world to pay the penalty for human sin, sending the Spirit to dwell in the hearts of those who voluntarily acknowledge His Lordship. Here in heaven it is the talk of the obedient spirits and we are told that it

is clearly perceived as doom by Satan and his rebels.

One of your human authors wrote, "It was the best of time, it was the worst of times." Although he was speaking of yet another time, that statement applied to us and it applies to you. Are you like Noah? Are you not only destined to be rescued from the catastrophe but pleading with your neighbors to join you? Or are you closing your eyes to the signs of your times and the offered mercy of the LORD? Even worse, are you helping build the structure, hearing the sermons, but not getting in?

### ***Noah's Neighbor Discussion***

*Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.*

*Is it reasonable that there were converts among those left behind by the ark and Noah's family?*

*Noah is described as a preacher of righteousness in 2 Peter 2:4-5.*

*How do you suppose he gathered a crowd? What is the usual response in our day to the message, "The world is coming to an end"?*

*What was the difference between the fictional neighbor and his sons?*

*Do we have people living today whose attitude is, "We can fix this"?*

*What is the meaning of "As it was in the days of Noah"?*

*Did Noah or his neighbors know exactly when the flood would come?*

*As Noah's ark neared completion, what were the possible reactions of his neighbors?*

*How does something like this separate people according to the content of their hearts?*

*The event referred to as the Rapture is portrayed in the Scripture as imminent.*

*Why does God not give us an exact timetable? (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)*

*What is the life response to believing that the Lord may return at any time?*

*Because there have been times of great turmoil in the past and predictions of the Lord's return that did not come true, is there a temptation to stop talking about the possibility that it may be soon?*

*What is the purpose of prophecy?*

*Would it be reasonable for a person to claim that the Lord's return is not imminent because one particular prophecy has not yet been fulfilled (like the rebuilding of the Temple)?*

*Are the "Left Behind" movie series (2000 and 2014) useful in helping believers and unbelievers understand the concept of the Rapture?*

*Will the tools of evangelism left by Raptured believers likely be useful in causing many to turn to the Lord?*

*Do you think that God had all this in mind when he allowed the mass media and internet to be developed to communicate the gospel?*

*Should we stop telling the message because people reject it or persecute us*