

It's Your Turn Now

Play "The Noah Interview"

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Matt 24:37 "As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be at the coming of the Son of Man."

These were Jesus' words about the Last Days as He brought to memory Gen. 6 – Approximately 1,600 years had passed since the creation of Adam and Eve Genesis 1:26–27.

- As the earth's population exploded in number, it also exploded with evil.
- Long forgotten was the righteous sacrifice of Abel Genesis 4:4 as "the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" Genesis 6:5.
- Verses 11 and 12 say, "Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth."
- However, "Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord" (verse 8).

They were eating, drinking, and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all" Luke 17:26–27.

Jesus was pointing out that, although the people of Noah's day were totally depraved, they were not the least bit concerned about it.

They were carrying on the events of their lives without a single thought of the judgment of God.

Noah is described as a "preacher of righteousness" 2 Peter 2:5, meaning he had spent years warning his friends and neighbors what the Holy God was about to do. No one listened.

Jesus said that the world will be much the same before He returns to set up His earthly kingdom Matthew 25:31–33. He warned us to "be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him."

2 Timothy 3:1–4 gives us a clear picture of the state of the world before Jesus comes and describes the world in the days of Noah.

"But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents,

ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”

As we saw displayed in the Noah Interview as his wife commented:

2 Peter 3:3-4 “Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. ⁴They will say, “What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.”

Paul described our day: 2 Tim 4:3 “The time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.”

- To want one’s ears “tickled” is to desire massages rather than messages—sermons that **charm** rather than **challenge**, **entertain** rather than **edify**, and **please** rather than **preach**.

The people Paul warns about will have, as one commentator put it, “ears which have to be continually titillated with novelties.”

The desires that impel a person to believe whatever he *wants* to believe rather than the actual truth itself.

When people have “itching ears,” they decide for themselves what is right or wrong, and they seek out others to support their notions.

“Itching ears” are concerned with what feels good or comfortable, not with the truth.

Evidence today of people having “itching ears” includes the popularity of messages:

- People are not required to change, as if repentance were outmoded.
- People are basically good; that God is too loving to judge anyone.
- The cross, with all its blood, is not really necessary.
- God wants His children to be healthy, wealthy, and content in this world.

As people turn their backs on the truth about sin and condemnation, they disregard their need for repentance and forgiveness.

They develop a craving for “new” and “fresher” ideas—even though there is “nothing new under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9–10)—

Accompanied by a longing to feel good about who they are and where they’re going.

Messages that tickle ears can fill a lot of churches, sell a lot of books, and YouTube likes

There were early followers of Jesus that complained about the Lord's words: "Many of his disciples said, 'This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?' . . . From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him" John 6:60, 66.

Walking away from hard truth is easy to do!

In today's postmodern church, we see many walking away from the hard truth:

- Some churches that once preached sound doctrine now teach as acceptable the very evils the Bible condemns.
- Some pastors are afraid to preach on certain passages of the Bible.
- "Christian feminists" deny God as a heavenly Father, calling Him a "**she**."
- "Gay & Trans Christians" [which is an impossibility] are welcomed **without repentance** into church fellowship but into the pulpit, as well.

In honesty to the Word of God, we, as God does – love all people.

Loving all people the way God does – does not mean their way of life that is contrary to God's Word requires us to accept a sinful life that is clearly outlined in scripture as against God's Word and Kingdom principles:

1 Cor 6:9-11 "Do you not know that the **unrighteous** will not inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived**: neither **the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,** ¹⁰ **nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers** will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. **But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

The church's remedy for those who have "itching ears" is found in the same passage of 2 Timothy:

"Preach the Word.

be prepared in season and out of season.

correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction."

2 Timothy 4:2. It is a solemn charge, made “in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom” (verse 1).

It contains all the elements needed to combat the temptation to tickle ears: **preach, correct, rebuke, and encourage.**

The content of preaching **must** be the written Word of God, and it must be preached when convenient and when inconvenient.

The church’s temptation to manage the comfort level of its audience must never take priority over preaching the Word!

The fear of offending people’s sensibilities can never supersede the fear of offending God!

The church must follow the example of the original apostles:

“We have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the Word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God” 2 Corinthians 4:2

We, as the church today, more than ever, needs to re-examine the teachings we endorse.

We need to ask ourselves the following questions:

- Are our teachings truly from God or simply itches to be scratched?
- Are you standing on solid biblical grounds, or have you allowed the world to influence your thinking?
- Have you guarded yourselves from the schemes of satan Ephesians 6:11?
“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”
- Are you keeping yourself “blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”?
1 Thessalonians 5:23
“May the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”