Shall We Gather At The River?

**Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-21**

***[Revelation 22:1-2] And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.***

***[Ezekiel 47:1-7] Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. 2He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side. 3And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. 4Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. 5Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. 6He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this?” Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river. 7When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other.***

***[John 7:37-38] On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”***

***[John 4:7-14] A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.” 8For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. 10Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.” 11The woman said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? 12Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?” 13Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”***

**Genesis 6**

***(Genesis 6:1-3) Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, {2} that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. {3} And the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.”***

 ***(Genesis 6:5-7) Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (6) the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. {7} So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them. (v.13) And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.***

Here is God’s judgment... ***(Genesis 6:17-18 & 22) “And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. {18} “But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark; you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you…[22] Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.***

**Genesis 7**

***(Genesis 7:1) Then the LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.***

Noah wasn’t saved BEFORE he obeyed God; he was saved because he obeyed God.

***(Genesis 7:5 &16) And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him.... {16} So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in… (Acts 2:47) And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.***

***{10} And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. {11} In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.***

The main lesson to be found in Chapter 7 is that it’s possible to wait around too long to repent. ***(Genesis 7:17-21) Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. {18} The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. {19} And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. {20} The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. {21} And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man.***

Every man on earth died; but Noah wasn’t on the earth but in the water. ***(Genesis 7:22-23) All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. {23} So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive.***

It really doesn’t matter how many people died. What matters is that all who were obedient were saved.

**this aCCOUNT’S impact on peter**

Peter mentions this incident 3 times in his epistles.

***(1 Peter 3:20-21) ... when once the Divine long-suffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. {21} There is also an antitype which now saves us; baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,***

**the point of this lesson**

God says He will destroy all men who are guilty of sin. ***(2 Thessalonians 1:8-9) in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. {9} These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,***

If you wish to avoid this destruction here is what you do. Like Noah, be saved BY water in obedience to God’s word.