

## Our Covenant God – Part Twenty

### As it was in the days of Noah – Part 2

When Jesus talked about the end of this Creation, He said that it would be just like in the days of Noah. Last week we started to examine what it was like in Noah's day. This week we are going to look at the progression of the deterioration of Mankind leading up to the Flood.

### Calling on the Name of the Lord = Taking the Name of the Lord

Last week we saw how the sons of God, being the people who knew God, intermarried with people who did not know God. We also saw that to be a son of God involved calling upon the Name of the Lord, which is an aggressive taking His Name as your own as you attach yourself to Him.

As a side-note, it is worth mentioning that even in today's English, if you say that you are going to "call on" someone, it is more than simply calling their name. For example, when a doctor calls on his patients, he does not simply pop his head through the door to say Hi. In the same way, people used to say that a gentleman was "calling on" a lady. That expression implied that there was romance involved and that the man was hoping for a deeper involvement with the woman.

In Acts 2:21, Peter tells the Jews that whoever calls upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved and then in verses 38-39 Peter tells them how to do so.

Acts 2:37-39 (NKJV) Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

### Calling on the Name of the Lord = Taking the Name of the Lord = Being baptized into the Name of the Lord

It is interesting to note that the "be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ" would be more accurately translated as "be baptized **INTO** the name of Jesus Christ", in other words "be fully immersed into the Name of Jesus Christ for your sins to be wiped away..."

This is how we call upon the Name of the Lord: We immerse ourselves completely into the Name of Jesus. We become one with Him in covenant union.

In Acts 16, Ananias gives Saul (Paul) these exact same instructions:

Acts 16:16 (NKJV) And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

Arise, be fully immersed into the Name of Jesus.

#### Consider also:

John 1:12 (NKJV) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe **INTO** His name:

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John 2:23 (NKJV) Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed INTO His name when they saw the signs which He did.

John 3:18 (NKJV) "He who believes INTO Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed INTO the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 14:12-14 (NKJV) "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes INTO Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

1 John 5:13 (NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe INTO the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe INTO the name of the Son of God.

This gives that sense of entering into an intimate connection and relationship with God. And so truly, when you believe in Christ, you have entered into Him, so to speak. Bearing this in mind, Ephesians 1 and 2 speaks much about being in Christ.

When we enter into the name of Jesus, we enter into who He is – for a person's name represents their identity.

Acts 17:28 (NKJV) in Him [Jesus] we live and move and have our being

**Homework Question #1:** Explain how calling on the Name of the Lord, taking the Name of the Lord, and being baptized into the Name of the Lord are all the same thing.

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### The Authority of the Name of Jesus

➤ **Sins are forgiven because of the authority of the Name of Jesus.**

Luke 24:46-48 (NKJV) Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.

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- **The Name of Jesus is the Ultimate Authority over demons and disease, and provides protection for the believer.**

Mark 16:16-18 (NKJV) He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Luke 10:16-17 (NKJV) He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me." Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

Acts 16:18 (NKJV) But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

**Homework Question #2:** Taking the Name of Jesus as your own is a great responsibility. How should we use it to see God's Kingdom come on this Earth (Matthew 6:10)?

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### Calling on / Taking the Name of the Lord makes you part of His family

Do you remember that God gave Abraham and Sarah both the prominent letter from His name when He changed their names? That was part of the covenant ritual where the parties involved in the covenant exchanged names. In the same way, when you enter into covenant with God, He gives you His name.

Ephesians 3:14-15 (NKJV) For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

### Taking the Name of the Lord in vain

Exodus 20:7 (NKJV) "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain.

The word translated there as 'take' means 'to lift, bear up, carry, take'. In other words, if you take God's name, you lift it up, place it upon yourself, and carry it with you wherever you go. Therefore, His name becomes part of you.

The word translated as 'vain' means 'emptiness, vanity, falsehood'.

Therefore, we understand that this verse tells us that we are not born naturally by physical birth into a covenant relationship with God, but that we must each individually make that commitment to God.

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Moreover, this commitment must not be an empty or deceitful thing for if we enter into covenant with God in such a manner, we will not reap the benefits of the covenants and God will deal with us.

**Homework Question #3:** Paraphrase Exodus 20:7 using everyday language.

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### Taking the Name of the Lord in vain

The first time we find calling on the Name of the Lord mentioned in the Bible is in Genesis 4:26.

Genesis 4:25-26 (NKJV) And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed." And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then *men* began to call on the name of the LORD.

The word translated there in the English as "began" in "began to call on the name of the LORD" is mistranslated. It means to profane or defile. Thus, what really happened in Genesis 4:25-26 is that men began to call on the name of the Lord in a profane, defiling way.

In a nutshell, they took the Name of the Lord in vain.

### Paul explains how man deteriorated

In Romans 1, Paul tells us what happens before God's judgment falls. I believe this same pattern happened in the Flood, in Sodom and Gomorrah, and in Ninevah (remember Jonah?) My comments are in the [].

Romans 1:18-21 (NKJV) For the wrath of God [God's judgment on sin] is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness [notice that it is sin that is judged, not the individuals], because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. For since the creation of the world [this is how it was from Adam onwards] His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. [God showed them who He was but they refused to allow His light into themselves and thus their hearts became dark and all they could then see was God's judgment].

Romans 1:22-23 (NKJV) Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. [Instead of calling on the Name of the Lord, they worshipped idols, false gods made with their own hands. In the context of Genesis 4:26, it seems that they may have called these false gods by the Name of YHWH]

Romans 1:24-25 (NKJV) Therefore **God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts**, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. [Because they had no light inside of them, their hearts were unclean. and God released them to their folly]

