

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

## Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide SB 11.21.2021

### PREPARE YOUR ARK!

#### Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

In the days of Noah, people did not realize a flood was coming until it was too late. On the day Noah entered the ark through the large door, the world was engrossed with their own plans, with no time for God. They thought their day was going to be the same as any other day, but it was not. The flood of judgement came, and before they knew it, they were swept away. So, it will be when Jesus comes again. There will be no outward indication or sign that day has arrived. Suddenly, Jesus will appear (Rev. 16:15). Those who are absorbed in their own plans for this life will be caught off guard and unprepared. Just as in the Days of Noah, we are living in prophetic times. The signs and birthing pangs cannot be more evident. And when there are birthing pangs, there will be a birth. Something brand new, the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven. The time is now, to prepare your ark. Let's get into our study...

1. Share a time you were unprepared for something. What was the result?
2. Given the prophetic times we live in, how might we best prepare for the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven?
3. What stood out to you during this week's study?

#### Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

#### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 10:22-23, GENESIS 35:18, & Luke 22:69

Israel is God's clock on the wall. On the Jewish calendar, we are now in the month of Kislev. In Noah's time, it is the month when the rain of judgement ceased, and the sky was illuminated with a rainbow of God's promise. It is also the darkest month with the longest nights and the shortest days. This is the month when the Light of God pierces the darkness. Hanukkah, also called the "Festival of Lights" is celebrated by the Jews in this month. This winter celebration is centered around the lighting of a nine-candle menorah. This too is the month the story of Benjamin is read by the Jews. As Rachel was dying in childbirth near the city of Bethlehem, she named her son Ben-Oni meaning "Son of Sorrow"; however, Jacob then changed his name to Benjamin meaning "Son of the Right Hand". This is a type and shadow of Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem and faced excruciating pain and suffering, and ultimately paying for our sins on the cross, after which He dies physically, rose from the dead, and is now seated in the place of power at God's right hand.

1. Why is it important to know what time it is on "God's clock on the wall"?
2. The rainbow was the sign in the sky that God would never flood the earth again (Genesis 9:15-17). God uses signs in the sky. This past week was a dark lunar eclipse that lasted 6 hours long. This is said to be the longest eclipse in 600 years. Read Luke 21:25, 28. What prophetic sign is given here by Jesus?
3. On the Jewish calendar, we are in the winter month of Kislev. This is the darkest month of the year. What are some practical ways Christians can shine the light of Jesus in this time of darkness?
4. Jacob renamed Ben-Oni to Benjamin, "Son of the Right Hand". Jesus is now seated in the place of power at God's right hand. How does this encourage you?

## Visitation/Restoration in 2021

The Abraham Accords is a joint declaration between the State of Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America, reached on August 13, 2020. Subsequently, the term was used to refer collectively to agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, respectively. Implications of the Abraham Accords strengthen Israel's position as a new global center of energy and trade. Strongly opposing the Abraham Accords has become a diplomatic priority for Iran. As a result, the top US Air Force general in the Mideast said the U.S. could hold a joint air drill with Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain after the nations carried out a Red Sea exercise to show strength against Iran.

5. Joel Rosenberg predicts Saudi Arabia will join the Abraham Accords. Saudi Arabia is largely populated with Sunni Muslims. Iran is largely populated with the more radical Shiite Muslims. As a result, if Iran receives nuclear capability, Saudi Arabia would likely be a primary target. How do you think joining the Abraham Accords will benefit Saudi Arabia?
6. Sunni Islam is by far the largest branch of Islam which is followed by 85–90% of the world's Muslims. What are some implications surrounding the Temple Mount if Saudi Arabia joins the Abraham Accords?
7. While Jews are descendants of Isaac, Sarah's son, Arabs and Sunni Muslims trace their lineage to Hagar and Ishmael. Read Genesis 17:20-21. Ishmael means "I have heard you". God heard Abraham and blessed Ishmael with twelve nations, but God's covenant was with Isaac and the 12 tribes. What is the connection between Ishmael (Muslims) and Isaac (Jews)?
8. In the UAE, an Abrahamic House is under construction and is expected to be finished next year. This "house", which includes a synagogue, a church, and a mosque, is meant to be a beacon of understanding and peaceful coexistence, inspired by the Document on Human Fraternity. What do you think are some implications as a result of this soon to be cultural landmark?
9. Orthodox Rabbis have found the red heifer necessary to bring the world into the Noahic Covenant. The Temple institute in Jerusalem estimates it will only take 8 months to construct a new Temple. This will mark a prophetic milestone required for the tribulation to begin. How might this inspire Christians to be prepared?

### Applying God's Word

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

Though Noah was a preacher of righteousness, the people paid no attention to him or the warnings that God had given him of the coming disaster. They did not know, understand, or comprehend what God was doing. So, they went about expecting to carry out their own big plans and were caught unaware when the flood came that swept them all away. Once God shut the only door, it was too late for them to enter the ark and avoid judgement.

1. John 10:9 says, "Jesus is the Door. If anyone enters by Him, they will be saved. The ark had one door protecting those within from judgement. Are you prepared in the ark?"
2. God is on the move. People are coming into the Ark of Christ like never before. What are some specific ways you can participate in this movement?

### PRAYER

Lord, thank You for providing a way for us to enter the protection of the Ark through Your Son Jesus. We are thankful for Your prophetic signs. In the midst of all the trials and tribulations in this world, remind us to look up, and know that our redemption draws near.

*"Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."  
Luke 21:28*