

As in the Days of Noah

(Living Faithfully While Awaiting the King's Return)

“As in the Days of Noah”

September 13, 2026

Pastor David Bardowell

*“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.”
(Matthew 24:37, NIV)*

Big Idea:

Jesus compared the days before His return to the days of Noah. Faithful disciple-makers walk with God and engage the world while there is still time.

Kingdom Response:

Walk faithfully with God. Build faithfully. Engage people in spiritual conversations.

Series Heartbeat:

The return of Christ is not an escape from the mission—it is the motivation for the mission.

I. Faithful Disciple-Makers _____ in a World Walking Away from God. (Genesis 6:5-12)

“Noah found favor with the Lord.” (Genesis 6:8)

“Noah walked with God.” (Genesis 6:9)

Key Truth:

Faithfulness to God does not depend on the faithfulness of the culture around us.

II. Faithful Disciple-Makers _____ While They Wait (Genesis 6:13-22; Hebrews 11:7)

“By faith Noah, after he was warned about what was not yet seen and motivated by godly fear, built an ark... (Hebrews 11:7, CSB)

“Noah did everything just as God commanded him.” (Genesis 6:22, NIV)

Key Truth:

Biblical faith takes God at His Word and faithfully does what He has called us to do.

II. Faithful Disciple-Makers _____ While There Is Still Time (2 Peter 2:5; Matthew 24:37–39)

“Noah, a preacher of righteousness.” (2 Peter 2:5, NIV)

“For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;” (Matthew 24:38, NIV)

“They didn’t know until the flood came and swept them all away. This is the way the coming of the Son of Man will be.” (Matthew 24:39, CSB)

Key Truth:

One of the greatest spiritual dangers is living as though this world will continue forever.

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Small Group Questions — Week 1

As in the Days of Noah

Week 1: As in the Days of Noah

Texts: Matthew 24:36–44; Genesis 6:5–22; Hebrews 11:7; 2 Peter 2:5

Start Here — Reflective Question

When you hear the words “**the return of Christ**” or “**the end times**,” what is your first reaction—hope, curiosity, uncertainty, concern, excitement, or something else? Why?

Read the Passage

Have someone read **Matthew 24:36–44** and **Genesis 6:5–9** aloud before discussion.

As you listen, notice both **what Jesus says about the days of Noah** and **what made Noah different from the world around him**.

Discussion Questions

1. WALK WITH GOD — Genesis 6:5–12

Genesis describes Noah’s world as increasingly wicked, corrupt, and violent. In the middle of that description, Scripture says:

“Noah walked with God.”

- What stands out to you about the contrast between Noah and the culture around him?
- What do you think it means practically to “**walk with God**”?
- Why can it become more difficult to faithfully follow God when the values of the culture around us move farther away from Him?
- The sermon emphasized: “**Faithfulness to God does not depend upon the faithfulness of the culture around us.**” Where do you find that especially challenging in your life today?
- What is one area in which God may be calling you to walk more closely with Him?

2. BUILD BY FAITH — Genesis 6:13–22; Hebrews 11:7

Hebrews says Noah was warned by God “**about things not yet seen.**” Noah believed God’s Word and acted on it.

- What does Noah’s response teach us about the relationship between **faith and obedience**?
- Genesis 6:22 says Noah did everything God commanded him. Why is obedience an important evidence of genuine faith?
- Noah spent years building something because he trusted what God said about the future. How should believing that Jesus will return affect the way we live **today**?
- The sermon emphasized that waiting for Jesus is not passive. What has Jesus given His followers to be doing while we wait for Him?
- What might God be asking you to faithfully **build, continue, or complete** even though you cannot yet see the outcome?

3. ENGAGE THE WORLD — Matthew 24:37–44; 2 Peter 2:5

Jesus says the people of Noah’s generation were eating, drinking, marrying, and continuing with ordinary life until the flood came. Peter also describes Noah as a “**preacher of righteousness.**”

- Why do you think Jesus emphasizes the ordinary activities of Noah’s generation rather than only their wickedness?
- What does this teach us about the danger of becoming spiritually distracted by everyday life?
- How does knowing that Christ will return create urgency without creating fear?
- Noah could proclaim God’s truth, but he could not make people respond. How should that shape the way we think about sharing our faith?
- Who has God already placed in your life with whom you could begin or deepen a spiritual conversation?

Disciple-Making Connection

The **Kingdom Response** this week is: **Walk faithfully with God. Build faithfully. Engage people in spiritual conversations.**

- How do **WALK — BUILD — ENGAGE** give us a picture of what faithful disciple-making looks like while we await Christ’s return?
- Why must our own walk with Jesus come before trying to help someone else follow Jesus?
- What can keep Christians from engaging people who are far from God—fear, busyness, uncertainty about what to say, or something else?
- How would your week look different if you genuinely lived with the expectation that **Jesus could return**?

Series Heartbeat

Throughout this series we will return to this truth: “**The return of Christ is not an escape from the mission—it is the motivation for the mission.**”

What do you think that statement means? How could believing it change the way Christians approach the end times?

Close Together

Spend time praying together. Pray that God would:

- Help you walk faithfully with Him regardless of what is happening around you.
- Give you faith to obey His Word even when you cannot see the outcome.
- Keep you from becoming spiritually distracted by everyday life.
- Give you courage and sensitivity to initiate spiritual conversations.
- Make your group faithful disciple-makers while you await the return of King Jesus.