

Waiting

Noah and his family had no doubt spent years building the ark. Now Noah and his family were inside the ark and the Lord Himself had closed the door. *The waiting now began.* For seven days Noah and his family waited. And waited.

I wonder what went through the mind of Noah during these seven days of waiting? Did Noah wonder whether God would be faithful to His promise? Did Noah ever fear his labor had been in vain? These seven days of waiting must have seemed like an eternity! But finally, any questions Noah might have had were answered as the sky began to grow dark and the rain began to fall. The waiting was over!

As Christians today we too are in a period of waiting. According to 1 John 3:2, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear



what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

Yes, someday we are going to see the One who walked up Calvary's hill for us. We are going to be changed as the "mortal puts on immortality" (1 Cor. 15:53). We do not yet know what we shall be, but we know "we shall be like Him." We then shall be taken to that "city of gold"¹ whose "builder and maker is God."² But this

is something for which we must wait!

We must also sometimes wait for God to answer prayers in our lives. Sometimes He responds to our prayers by saying "yes," at other times "no," and then sometimes "later." But whatever the answer, we must be willing to wait for the Lord to bring about His will in our lives.

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall

renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Is. 40:31).

Noah was a man who waited on the Lord and so must we!

Gaylon Williams, Broad Street Banner
Edited by Pastor Arvin Devers

(¹Rev. 21:18; ²Heb.11:10)

Fathers an endangered species



- About 36 percent of American children live apart from their biological father.
- About 70 percent of juveniles and young adults in long-term correctional facilities did not live with both parents while growing up.



A study by the Centers for Disease Control found that teenage smokers prefer the most heavily-advertised brands of cigarettes. The three biggest advertisers, Marlboro, Newport and Camel, accounted for 80 percent of teen consumption. Despite the fact that 19.8

- Fatherlessness is judged a contributing factor in as many as 3 out of 4 teen suicides and 4 of 5 teen psychiatric admissions.
- More than 30 percent of births today are to unmarried women; most of these children will always live in mother-only homes.
- About half of all children in the United States will experience parental divorce.

percent of all deaths in American men relate to smoking, the slick ads attract teenagers. The issue of smoking aside, this shows the persuasive might of ads. **What a difference we could make in the lives of our youth if they saw more "living billboards" advertising the good news of Christ.** Matthew 5:16 calls for greater publicity.

* Houston Post, March 13, 1992, p. A-15



Who's Crazy?

Pastor Evans had been unsuccessfully counseling with a very disturbed church member for several weeks. He was getting more and more agitated with the man's crazy and bizarre stories. The guy was always claiming to be a different, famous person and would share the resulting problems that this famed persona had brought him. On one particular day, he was complaining about all of the problems he was facing as the Invisible Man. As he rambled nonstop for several minutes, Pastor Evans began to gloat. He had the perfect response to shut down this lunatic's ridiculous story. When the man stopped long enough for the pastor to speak, Reverend Evans quickly shouted, "If you're the Invisible Man, how come I can see you?" The wild-eyed man calmly replied, "Because it's my day off."

Adapted from the Houston Chronicle, April 22, 1998, p. 11D