

Matthew 24:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Analysis

But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be—Jesus draws a typological parallel between Noah's generation and the end-times. The Greek construction emphasizes exact correspondence: 'just as...so also.' The comparison isn't about wickedness levels but about unpreparedness and suddenness. Noah (Νῶε, Νῶε) preached for 120 years while building the ark (2 Peter 2:5), yet his generation ignored the warning.

The parousia (παρουσία = coming/presence) of the Son of Man will catch an unbelieving world in the same spiritual stupor. They knew judgment was coming—Noah's preaching and the ark's construction were unmistakable—but they 'knew not' (v.39), meaning they refused to believe and prepare. Willful ignorance, not lack of information, condemned them.

Historical Context

Genesis 6-9 records the flood account, which Jesus treats as historical fact, not myth. Jewish tradition (Book of Enoch, Jubilees) elaborated Noah's story, and Jesus assumes His audience knows the narrative. The flood became the archetype for divine judgment—total, unexpected to the wicked, salvation for the righteous remnant. Peter later uses the same parallel (2 Peter 3:5-7) to warn scoffers.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What parallels between Noah's generation and contemporary culture do you observe—prosperity, violence, spiritual apathy?
2. How can you be a 'Noah' in your generation—building the ark (spiritual preparation) while warning others?
3. Why do humans consistently ignore clear warnings about coming judgment, and how can you avoid this pattern?

Interlinear Text

ὥσπερ	δὲ	αἱ	ἡμέραι	τοῦ	Νῶε	οὕτως	ἔσται	καὶ	ἡ
as	But	G3588	the days	G3588	of Noe	were so	be	also	G3588
G5618	G1161		G2250		G3575	G3779	G2071	G2532	
παρουσία	τοῦ	υἱοῦ	τοῦ	ἀνθρώπου					
the coming	G3588	of the Son	G3588	of man					
G3952		G5207		G444					

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 11:7 (Parallel theme): By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

2 Peter 2:5 (Parallel theme): And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

2 Peter 3:6 (Parallel theme): Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

Matthew 24:39 (Parallel theme): And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

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