

Luke 17: What Was It Like In The Days Of Noah And Lot?

Lesson 6

As It Was In The Days of Noah

- The tribulation period is compared to the times of Noah and Lot by Jesus in [Luke 17:28](#).
- Most people argue that Jesus was taking a pre-trib position by emphasizing that Lot's family and that Noah's family and 'ark animals' were taken out of harm's way to escape God's wrath.
- The Sequence for Noah's story was:
 - Build the ark
 - When completed, the animals gathered into the ark with Noah's family
 - The ark was 'shut up'
 - Then rain and destruction struck the entire earth and all life was destroyed except those on the ark
- The Sequence for Lot's story was:
 - Angelic visit to Abraham
 - Angelic overnight stay with Lot's family
 - Warned to flee Sodom immediately without looking back
 - Once they were far enough away, fire and brimstone struck Sodom and Gomorrah and all life was destroyed except for Lot's family (minus the turn-around wife).
- In doing so, they miss an important point.

As It Was In The Days Of Noah ...

- The two circumstances that the Noah and Lot situations have in common are
 - the removal of the righteous AND
 - the judgment of the unbelievers.
- Jesus expressly made Noah and Lot types of the end times.
 - Jesus compared the destruction by the flood to the destruction at the end.
 - He also compared the destruction of Sodom to the end-time destruction.
 - *All* unbelievers were destroyed by the flood *literally*. *All* unbelievers in Sodom were destroyed by fire and brimstone *literally*. If this is true in the antitypes, then how much more true it is of the day of the Lord, which is "very dark, and no brightness in it" ([Amos 5:20](#)).
- From these two accounts, we see that God prefers to remove His own when danger (judgment) is involved.

Who Do Noah And Lot Typify

- Who do Noah and Lot typify? Church saints or tribulation saints? They typify tribulation saints.
 - The days of Noah and Lot precede the *total destruction* of the wicked (which happens at the *end* of the tribulation).
 - Noah's flood symbolizes Armageddon, not the tribulation itself
 - In another application of Noah's flood, [2 Peter 3](#) makes the destruction by water a foretaste of destruction by fire after the millennium—Both water and fire cleanse the old world preparing the way for the new.)
 - Lot's wife who was slow to flee Sodom typifies those who are slow to flee at the abomination of desolation, and this is *during* the tribulation.
 - Verse [37](#) mentions the eagles being gathered together over dead bodies, and this happens at the end of the tribulation (see [Matthew 24:28](#)).

The 'Escape To Safety' Represent

- What does the *escape to safety* of Noah and Lot represent?
 - Noah entered into the ark" and
 - "Lot went out of Sodom."
 - What parallel do these escapes have in the latter days? Is it the rapture?
- Primarily Luke applies it to those who escape at the abomination of desolation at the midpoint of the tribulation (compare verse [31](#) to [Matthew 24:15-18](#)).
 - Lot's wife represents those who hesitate at this time while Lot typifies those who quickly flee without turning back (see [Genesis 19:26](#)).
 - Why does Luke make a special point of escaping at this time?
 - The abomination of desolation is the point when antichrist assumes world prominence and this is when he begins his persecution of the saints.
 - At the abomination people are forced to decide. Will they follow Christ or antichrist?
 - They are forced to decide because at this point, or shortly thereafter, they are forced "to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads" ([Revelation 13:16-17](#), [14:9-10](#)).
- Jesus is saying in [Luke 17:31–33](#), "Do not give in to antichrist and the temporary security his mark offers."
 - Don't remain behind and become part of the system, but flee; seek eternal salvation rather than temporal salvation.
 - Lot's wife is an example for anyone who wants to remain a part of the system."

Who Is Taken

- Church Saints, Tribulation Saints, Unbelievers?
- Since Noah and Lot represent tribulation saints, and since this entire section is in a tribulation context, then the time has to be *after* the tribulation.
- The disciples asked where they are taken, and Jesus' answer is revealing. He said, "Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together" (verse [37](#)). "Eagles" is better translated "vultures" (birds of prey), and "body" is explained in [Matthew 24:28](#) as "corpse." Vultures. Corpse.
- What does that tell you about who is taken? "Vultures" and "corpse" are not exactly a fitting description for the destination of believers.
- Those taken are *unbelievers*.

What's Common Between Jesus, Noah and Lot

Escape (verses 31–33)	Destruction (verses 34–37)
Noah entered into the ark	The flood came and destroyed them all
Lot went out of Sodom	It rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all
Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed	
On That day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.	I Tell you, in that night there will be two in bed. One will be taken the other left. There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left. And they said to him, "Where Lord?" He said to them, "Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather

Conclusion

- Sudden Destruction is the main emphasis of these verses in [Luke](#)
- [verses 34–37](#), explain the climactic destruction of the latter days, it becomes clear that "the one shall be taken" in judgment, not rapture. Who is taken? Unbelievers. Who is left? Believers.
- Thus the only viable Rapture theories are Pre-Trib, or Pre-Wrath (Mid-Trib) positions.