

The Terror of Unbelief. – Elizabeth Jordaan

(I apologize for the long message, it is not possible to write it any shorter. I am not yet talking about the Hebrew Name Elohim in this message)

In our faith walk with God there is ONE basic requirement without which it is impossible to know God. And that is, we must BELIEVE THAT GOD EXISTS. The recognition that God is the Creator of heaven and earth is the first place where our faith stands or falls.

- "Because we BELIEVE, WE KNOW THAT THE WORLD WAS CREATED BY THE WORD OF GOD: the visible things therefore did not originate from something we see." (Heb.11:3)

- "Without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD; because he who goes to God MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS (exists) and is a rewarder of those who seek Him." (Heb.11:6)

We as humans always want God to reward us. However, reward does not come just by believing that God exists, we must seek Him. Many people believe that there is a God, but they do not seek nor honour Him. Demons also believe... "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" (Jam.2:19)

Paul summarised people's unbelief in God as Creator like this:

- "For his invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, EVER SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For ALTHOUGH THEY KNEW GOD, they DID NOT HONOUR HIM AS GOD OR GIVE THANKS to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and EXCHANGED THE GLORY of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore GOD GAVE THEM UP in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonouring of their bodies among themselves, because they EXCHANGED THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD FOR A LIE and worshiped and served the creature RATHER THAN THE CREATOR, who is blessed forever! Amen." (Rom.1:20-25)

People are quick to believe any scientific study or observations of the origin of the universe, the earth and man, too easily without consulting God about it. The reason? Satan has been tempting people since the Garden of Eden to question God and His Word. His main goal is to fill people's hearts and minds with unbelief. And when people don't believe in God anymore, Romans 1:20-32 happen to them. There are many scriptures in the Bible where God Himself talks about His creation. It all depends on whether you believe that God exists, that He is a Person who can speak, hear and see, and whether you honour Him as the Creator.

The apostasy of unbelief had already entered the life of Cain, Adam's firstborn son. He brought a sacrifice but he did not acknowledge and honour God. The result was that Cain killed his brother Abel because God rewarded Abel for his faith but not his.

- "We should not be like Cain, who WAS OF THE EVIL ONE and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous." (1 Joh.3:12)

- "By FAITH Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which HE OBTAINED WITNESS that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks." (Heb.11:4)

Genesis 4 recorded 6 generations in Cain's descendants. Among his descendants there were nomads (Jabal) and musicians (Jubal). There was also violence, murder and revenge (Lamech). It is quite possible that Cain's descendants had a part in the total decay of the people before the flood. His descendants were never referred to as believers.

Genesis 5 recorded 8 generations in the descendants of Seth, Adam's third son. People only started to invoke / call on / worship the Creator after the birth of Seth's son, Enos. (Gen.4:26)

In Genesis 5 one finds the following:

- Adam was 130 years old when Seth was born.
 - Adam was 235 years old when Enos was born and people began to call on the Name of the Lord.
 - Adam was 325 years old when Kenan was born.
 - Adam was 395 years old when Mahalalel was born.
 - Adam was 460 years old when Jared was born.
 - Adam was 622 years old when Enoch was born (7th generation after Adam).
 - Adam was 687 years old when Methuselah was born.
 - Adam was 874 years old when Lamech was born.
 - Adam died when Lamech was 56 years old, 726 years before the flood. All the people who lived at this point knew Adam and certainly heard from him about the events during the Creation and the Garden of Eden. They therefore had no excuse to fall into unbelief. It was their own choice to choose for or against God as Creator.
 - 57 years after Adam's death, Enoch was taken up into heaven, in the year 987.
 - Seth, Enos, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Methuselah and Lamech were still alive when Enoch was taken up to heaven, so they all knew Enoch.
 - Noah was born 14 years after Enoch was taken up into heaven, in the year 1056. Adam and Seth were no longer alive when Noah was born.
 - Lamech died 5 years before the flood.
 - Methuselah died in the year of the flood.
 - Noah was 600 years old when the flood came. All people, except Noah, his wife, his 3 sons and their wives, died in the flood.
- According to Bible experts, both Noah and Shem were still alive when the Tower of Babel was built and even in the time of Abram. It is very likely that both Noah and Shem talked about their experience of the flood, and Noah shared about how God warned him of impending judgment and instructed him to build the Ark. The generations after the flood therefore did not have an excuse to fall into unbelief. It was their own choice to worship idols and not worship the Creator of heaven and earth.

Besides the testimony about Abel, 2 more descendants of Adam who lived before the flood are singled out: Enoch and Noah.

Enoch was the first person on earth who did not die and was taken alive to heaven. (The second was Elijah). The special testimony about him was that he WALKED WITH GOD. Jude (Jesus' half-brother) warned believers in his letter that they must WATCH FOR THEIR FAITH because certain ungodly people have crept in, who, just like people from before, despised the grace of God, also denied God and Jesus Christ, and similar to the fallen angels and the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah lusted after strange flesh (sexual perversion). Jude warned that they may fall into unbelief like Cain, and wrote that even Enoch prophesied against such people (Jud.1:14).

In the book of Hebrews we find the record of Enoch's faith:

- "By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken HE HAD THIS TESTIMONY, that HE PLEASED GOD." (Heb.11:5)

Just after the testimony about Enoch's faith, comes Heb.11:6:

- "But WITHOUT FAITH it is IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, for he who comes to God MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS (exists), and that He is a rewarder of THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM." (Heb.11:6)

In the next verse, Heb.11:7 we read this testimony about Noah:

- "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, BY WHICH HE CONDEMNED THE WORLD and became heir of the righteousness which is ACCORDING TO FAITH." (Heb.11:7)

We also read this testimony about Noah in Genesis 6:

- "These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, BLAMELESS IN HIS GENERATION. NOAH WALKED WITH GOD." (Gen.6:9)

Jesus himself testified about the flood of Noah and how life was. People just went on with their lives without heeding the warning that God gave to Noah:

- "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all." (Luk.17:26-27)

Furthermore, Peter also testifies that God WAITED with great patience for people to repent of their unbelief, before He finally sent the flood:

- "... when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared..." (1Pet.3:20)

- "if He did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;" (2Pet.2:5)

If we read the history and testimonies, we should be convinced how very serious God feels about people knowing and honouring Him as Creator of heaven and earth. He was known as Creator during and after creation, during the 1656 years until the flood came, and since then. It is His intense desire that people will know Him again. That is why He sent His Son, and that is why He sent the Holy Spirit. The first work of the Holy Spirit, even before someone is saved and believes in Jesus, is to convince people all over the whole world that He IS (EXISTS):

- "And when He (Holy Spirit) comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, BECAUSE THEY DO NOT BELIEVE in Me;" (Joh.16:8-9)

PRAYER: After reading this message, don't you want to KNEEL before God and confess your faith in Him as Creator, and in Jesus Christ as His Son. If you've never done it before, now is your chance. Read Genesis 1 and Revelation 4 and then bow before Him together with the angels, the living creatures and the 24 elders, saying: "YOU ARE WORTHY, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; For YOU CREATED ALL THINGS, and BY YOUR WILL THEY EXIST and were created." (Rev.4:11)