

EUROPEAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE—MALE CICHE

THE LIFE AND WORK THAT CHANGED THE AGE

Message Nine

Life in Resurrection

Scripture reading: Gen. 8:4, 7-17, 20-22; 9:1-2, 6-11; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; John 20:1; Rom. 8:1; 2 Cor. 12:9; 2 Tim. 1:10; 2 Tim. 2:1; Jude 24; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 Cor. 10:13

I. After the flood the ark rested on the mountains of Ararat; this is a sign, a type, and a shadow of the resurrection of Christ—Gen. 8:4:

- A. According to the Bible the ark is a type of Christ; the ark passing through the water signifies Christ passing through the death waters under God's judgment.
- B. When the ark rested upon the mountains, it signified that Christ was resurrected out of the death waters—1 Pet. 3:20-21:
 - 1. The ark rested on the seventeenth day of the seventh month—Gen. 8:4:
 - 2. If you read the Bible carefully along with history you will find out that the seventh month was changed to be the first month at the time of the exodus from Egypt and the Passover—cf. Exo. 12:2.
 - 3. The Lord Jesus was crucified, on the fourteenth day, the day of Passover of the very same month.
 - 4. Thus according to the calendar, it was on the seventeenth day of the first month (the old seventh month) that the Lord Jesus was resurrected.

II. The living of the eight persons after the flood is a type of the church life today:

- A. The number eight means resurrection; Christ was resurrected on the first day of the week, that is, on the eight day—John 20:1.
 - 1. The ark was a type of Christ and passing through the flood was a prefigure of baptism—1 Pet. 3:20-21.
 - 2. Now the living of those eight resurrected persons on the new earth must be a type of the church life; we the church people are a resurrected people, another community and another society in resurrection.
- B. The fleshly ones, signified by the raven, return to the world judged by God:
 - 1. Before the eight persons began their new living on the new earth, Noah conducted some tests; he sent forth a raven and a dove—Gen. 8:7-12.
 - a. The raven being an unclean bird represents the fleshly people; they are unclean because they eat dead things, the carcasses.
 - b. The clean birds are clean because they feed on seeds; they feed on life.
 - c. Do you feed on life or death, the carcasses or the seeds? Whoever eats carcasses is a raven and those who eat seeds are doves.
 - 2. When the raven was sent out by Noah, it left the ark as if it had come out of a cage; seeing all the carcasses floating there, it began to feast:
 - a. When the raven was confined in the ark, it was starving with nothing to feed on; but upon leaving the ark, there was very much death to eat.
 - b. This means that within the church there is no death and that all the ravens are being starved; when the opportunity comes to get out, they will fly away and begin to feed again on death.
- C. The spiritual ones, being signified by the dove, remain with the church and care for life in the Spirit:

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1. When Noah sent out the dove it could not find a resting place, because the earth was still covered with the death waters; so the dove returned to the ark—8:9.
 2. After seven days Noah sent out the dove again and this time it returned with a fresh olive leaf; olive signifies the Spirit, and the new, fresh, olive leaf signifies the new life in the Spirit.
 3. When Noah sent out the dove the third time, it did not return, because the land of life was exposed.
- D. The first thing the resurrected people did after they left the ark was build an altar and offer sacrifices to God—8:20-22.
- E. The church life in resurrection goes back to the beginning for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose—9:1-2, 6-7:
- F. The resurrected people, the church people, live under a covenant—9:8-11:
1. This covenant is mainly of one aspect—that never again would death come through the judgment of the death waters; this typifies the church life where there is no longer death but life:
 - a. After coming out of the ark, you may still be fearful, thinking that after awhile the flood may come again; you would have no assurance at all.
 - b. This signifies that even after we have been saved and brought into the church life, we are still threatened by besetting sins and the possibility of failure; like them, we may be under the fear of God's judgment—Rom. 8:1.
 - c. Do not believe your feelings and do not listen to your convictions; your convictions are lies and are not reliable; we live under God's promise, God's covenant—the rainbow:
 - (1) The covenant says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness." Do you believe this?—2 Cor. 12:9.
 - (2) The covenant also says, "Christ...nullified death." Do you believe this?—2 Tim. 1:10.
 - (3) Are you weak? You must say, "No," I am no longer weak because the covenant says, "be empowered in the grace which is in Christ Jesus."—2 Tim. 2:1
 - (4) We can declare that we will be kept from stumbling, because the covenant says, "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling..."—Jude 24.
 - (5) We are secured, guaranteed, and protected by the promises in God's covenant; these promises are great and precious, by which we may be partakers of the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world through lust—2 Pet. 1:4.
 2. God placing a rainbow in the sky as the sign of God's faithfulness in keeping His covenant; He is faithful to what He says, faithful to His word—9:12-17; 1 Cor. 10:13.