

God's Helping Hand

#0545

Study by W.D. Frazee—February 5, 1960

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me” Isaiah 6:8.

Yes, God is calling for workers. He is calling my name. He is calling your name. I hope we will all answer the way Isaiah answered. The Lord grant it with everyone.

David wanted to build a house for God. God said, No, David, you must not do that, but your son can do it. David said, All right, I will gather the material. I will lay the plans. God's Spirit helped him in that. He finally called the people together and told them what he had gotten together. Then he said:

“The gold for things of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD” 1 Chronicles 29:5.

David said, I have done what God told me to do, now what will you do? I like the way it is put in the margin. To consecrate is to fill the hand. If your hand is consecrated, it is full. And if you have your hands full, there is not much room for the Devil to get in with other things.

Who then is willing to fill his hands? Who is willing to take on the burdens and problems, the responsibilities and labor that the love of God is longing to see carried by human beings? Who is willing to fill his hand for God?

I read something very interesting that the messenger of the Lord wrote a number of years ago. Listen:

“In God's great plan for the redemption of the lost race He has placed Himself under the necessity of using human agencies as His helping hands. He must have a helping hand in order to reach humanity. He must have the cooperation of those who will be active, quick to see opportunities, quick to discern what must be done for their fellowmen” *Bible Commentary*, Volume 4, page 1151.

We often think of God as omnipotent and almighty, and He is. We often say God can do anything, and He can. But this says that God has limited Himself. If God can do anything and everything, then God can limit Himself, can't He? He chooses to in certain lines and for certain reasons. How has He limited Himself? He

has placed Himself under the necessity of using human agencies as His helping hands. So the great God who made the universe is looking for hands.

Will you be a hand for God? God's helping hand? Will you be one of God's hand reaching out to a lost world, a needy world, a desperate world? Oh, it is a wonderful thing to be one of God's hands.

If we will do it, think of the wonderful possibilities. I am so glad that God hasn't asked us to be heads. I hardly think we have what it takes. I think we had better leave that to Him. But thank God, we can each of us be a hand. Let God move that hand. Let God reach out through that hand to touch needy souls and lay hold of them, and lift them out of the swift running current, and put them on the solid Rock. Reach out that hand and get that hand around somebody and take them with us to the kingdom of God. Yes, God's helping hand is what you and I can be.

I have been studying about Noah. Jesus says:

"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" Matthew 24:37-39.

Our day is like Noah's day, so we need to study it. I found two texts that tell us two very interesting things about Noah.

"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 2:5.

Noah was a preacher. That is what it says. He was a preacher of righteousness. How long did he preach? A 120 years. Think of it. What did he preach about? The coming flood, the end of the world, the great destruction that was about to overtake the antediluvians. God always uses the crisis of the hour to direct the attention of men to the great need of the righteousness of His Son. That's God's way to get the attention of men. And there is something very practical about the Gospel. It deals with practical problems concerning life here and life hereafter.

Noah was a preacher of righteousness pointing those men and women to Jesus as the way of salvation; pointing to the need of getting rid of sin and finding hope through Christ. Along with it, and as a part of it, he preached about the coming flood and what God was going to do to the world because of the sins of the people.

"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" Hebrews 11:7.

Noah was not only a preacher. He practiced what he preached. Notice the intimate connection between his preaching and building the ark. You can see that his talking about the coming flood called for something. When the disaster came that he predicted, his converts would need a place of refuge. What would be the point of going out over the world and telling there was a great flood coming unless there was something they could do about it? And the same God who revealed to Noah that the flood was coming told him exactly what to do about it.

What was it? Build an ark. God gave Noah the plans for it. He told Noah how big to make it. It was all there. Noah was following the plans of God. He preached what God told him to preach, and he built what God told him to build. That's the reason Paul says Noah did it by faith. That's what faith is—believing what God says, and believing it enough to do something about it. If he hadn't done it, it would have shown that he didn't believe it. The fact he believed it was demonstrated by his actions. So he preached the message God gave him to preach, and he prepared an ark, a place of refuge.

Did it cost Noah something? Oh, yes. In fact, it cost him everything. All that he possessed he invested in the ark. I have tried to visualize what that means. The people back in those days were not poor like so many people are today. The world abounded in wealth of all kinds. But I can picture the day when Noah called his family together and said, Shim, Ham, Japheth, we are going to have to draw out the last money we have in the bank if we go ahead with this ark. What conclusion did they come to? What decision did Noah make? We know what the result was. All he had he invested in the ark. Later he broke the news to them that they were going to have to get some more nails to finish the ark, and would have to sell the furniture in the house.

But when the rain finally started and the flood rose, and that ark was born upon the billows, Noah never had the sorrow of seeing any of his wealth or property floating around as driftwood. Everything Noah had was in the ark. It is a wonderful thing. He gave to the world an example of believing just what God said.

The interesting thing is that through those 120 years people called Noah crazy, foolish, a fanatic. But as the flood came people called him a wise man.

All Noah had he invested in the ark. Was it worth it? I am sure Noah would tell you it was worth it. It saved his family. Would it be worth it to you to invest in something that would save your family? That message was by revelation and had a practical plan connected with it. Down here today God has given us a message by revelation, and there is a practical plan connected with it. The two are related intimately.

You and I believe that we are living in the time when the promise of Jesus is going to be fulfilled, and He is going to come back to this world again. We all believe that. He said He would, and He is going to do it. We not only believe that promise is going to be fulfilled, but we believe it is going to be fulfilled very soon. Jesus is not only coming again, but soon, very soon. Yet a little while He that shall come will come and will not tarry. What a glorious day it will be when He comes. We want to see Him, don't we?

Do we know anything about the experiences between now and the time He come? Yes, just as Noah knew. "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." It was because of the warning he had of coming events that he did what he did. What has God told us about the time between now and the coming of Jesus? Are things going to get better or worse? Worse. We have been telling people that for a number of years.

How are things working out? Are things getting worse? Are there more problems over the world? Yes. Greater fears and greater troubles, and the world is wondering what is next. Millions of people get up every morning and look at the newspaper or watch TV or listen to the radio and wonder what has happened during the night and is about to burst upon the world. Men's hearts failing them for fear and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth.

But these troubles that have been increasing are getting worse all the time. They are going to get still worse. Do you believe that? Oh, yes. And finally that is going to culminate in that little time just before the appearing of Jesus in the time which the Bible calls the time of trouble. A time of trouble greater than has ever been since the world began.

What is the event in Heaven that marks that time of trouble? The close of probation. Michael stands up. He ceases His work as Priest. He begins His reign as King. Have we come to that time yet? No, but that time is just ahead of us.

Do we know about anything that is going to take place between now and the close of probation? Yes, we know some things about that. We know that just before the close of probation there is going to be the greatest burst of glory in the work of God that this world has ever seen.

"And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory" Revelation 18:1.

We call the message that is given at that time the loud cry. Are you going to have a part in it? God grant that every one of us will. Oh, let's make our calling and election sure.

The great thing that the world does at that time that causes the loud cry to be focused on the apostasy of Babylon is the passing and enforcing of a National Sunday Law. That fills up the cup of Babylon's iniquity. When the mark of apostasy is enforced, men who cannot give the consent of their conscience to accept that mark will be boycotted. No man might buy or sell save he that has the mark or the name of the beast or the number of his name. (See Revelation 13:16-17.) Economic pressure will be so exerted that men and women who choose to obey God will be put in a vise as it were. And it is economic pressure that no man might buy or sell.

Look down the pages of history and you will see that much of the persecution has been concerned with physical force and violence. Men have been led out and

burned at the stake, beheaded, taken to the torture chamber and been racked. They have been drowned and thrown to the lions. They have been tortured and murdered in every way that men and devils could invent. How much of that will be done in the future? God only knows. But there is something that we don't have to guess at. The spearhead of that persecution here in the United States is plainly stated to be an economic pressure.

What is going to happen to these hundreds and thousands of people who accept this wonderful message under the loud cry? If at that same time the iron hand of persecution is coming down relentlessly and trying to crush them out, do you not see that everyone who at that time accepts this message will come under tremendous pressure?

The religious world will be united. The dragon, the beast, and the false prophet will combine their forces to persecute the people of God. And in that will be not only the religious elements, but the economic and labor forces.

I was interested in some statements in this little book, *Country Living* where the Spirit of Prophecy gives us clear warning about some of these times that are ahead:

"The time is coming when the controlling power of the labor unions will be very oppressive. Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities into the country where they can raise their own provisions, for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one" *Country Living*, page 9.

"The trade unions will be one of the agencies that will bring upon this earth a time of trouble such as has not been since the world began" *ibid.*, page 10.

"These unions are one of the signs of the last days. Men are binding up in bundles ready to be burned. The turmoil and confusion, the conditions brought about by the labor unions, would prove a great hindrance to our work" *ibid.*, page 11.

Warning after warning has been given us about this. We see fulfilling before our eyes the unions becoming more powerful. The great unions of this country are linked up with one another, and in many places they are already giving their influence to the Sunday movement as they never have before.

Back there the trouble that Noah told the people was coming was a flood. It came. Did God have any way to get His people through that flood of water? Yes. Will He have a way to get His people through today? Oh, yes.

In view of that, God's instructions to our people is to get out of the cities. Get where? Into the country where we can do what? Raise our own provisions. Do you see that this is very practical instructions? And a man who looks ahead and sees

this coming will want to do today what Noah did back there in his time. He will want to carry out the plan of God and build the ark that God has told us to do at this time.

I come to another practical question. You and I know that under the loud cry there are going to be hundreds and thousands that are going to be coming in. What are they going to do? Will all of them come in as entire families and groups? No. Sometimes it is one out of a family, or two. And what happens in days of persecution when a man steps out to serve God with all His heart? What happens when the enemy has control of the other minds that are opposing him? He is cast out. Men will be cast out of their jobs if they embrace this message. If the labor unions are not seeing that they lose their job over that, they lose it over the Sabbath. But many of them will not only be cast out of their jobs, they will be cast out of their homes. What are they going to do?

We have been talking about building a tabernacle so more people can come and hear this message. But what is the point of creating a problem unless we do something to solve the problem? What is the point of preaching a message that causes people to lose their jobs and be cast out of their families unless we do something about creating a refuge for those people to come?

Noah not only preached that a flood was coming, but he prepared an ark. When he said to men and women that a flood was coming, he said I am building an ark. You can get into it and ride safely through the storm. Oh, that you and I might have the faith that Noah had.

You know that Isaiah 58 is a prophecy of later-day Sabbath reform. It is very clear in verses 12 to 14. In that setting God says:

“Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?” Isaiah 58:7.

I want to read something interesting:

“Special pains should be taken to help those who for the truth’s sake are cast out from their homes and are obliged to suffer. More and more there will be need of large, open, generous hearts, those who will deny self and will take hold of the cases of these very ones whom the Lord loves” *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 6, page 269.

The Lord loves them. They step out of the popular churches. They step out to lose their jobs. They step out even if it means to sever the ties of flesh and blood and friendship. They step out to obey God and keep His Sabbath, and embrace the whole message. Shall they be left stranded? More and more there will be need of generous hearts who will deny self and take hold of those very ones whom the Lord loves.

Again:

“Years ago I was shown that God’s people would be tested upon this point of making homes for the homeless; that there would be many without homes in consequence of their believing the truth. Opposition and persecution would deprive believers of their homes, and it was the duty of those who had homes to open a wide door to those who had not”
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2, page 27.

What kind of an ark are you going to build? What kind of a refuge are you dreaming about? Is it something that is just about big enough to take care of you? What are your thoughts? What would Jesus do?

When that multitude of people were out there on the hillside, the disciples thought it would be impossible to undertake any feeding program for them. But Jesus, without suggesting anything at all about how the disciples were to eat, told them to take what was available and do what? Feed the multitude.

The more the Spirit of heaven grips our hearts the more we are going to want to take hold of those who God causes to embrace this message, and help them to see the love of Jesus revealed in a very practical way. The arks we build, the places of refuge we establish in the country, must be planned in such a way that we are able to take hold of those who have been cast out and leave the cities in the days of persecution. We must plan that just as definitely as Noah planned that ark. And if we will let God move upon our hearts, we will do it.

You can see that this is all very practical. It gets right down to three dimensional problems. It gets down to building homes. It gets down to having land to grow things. It gets down to having helpers who can teach people who come out from the cities how to grow food and how to prepare it, and to live off of what is raised on the soil instead of depending upon the markets and the factories.

And it means to educate people who can teach those who come to do simple nursing, simple cooking, simple gardening, simple building. And most of all it means fathers and mothers in Israel who will open up their hearts and homes to care for and instruct the children of all ages.

I want to lay it on your hearts that we ought to face the practical problems. One thing that has cheered me is the work of John the Baptist. He reached the people back there in his day. How did he do it? They came to hear the message. When the people come to hear the message, they not only need to come and hear, they need to come and see. They need to see a practical demonstration that you and I believe the thing we are preaching about.

When the people came to hear Noah preach, did they see anything going on? What did they see? They saw an ark being built. And most of the time when they came it wasn’t all built yet. There were still some problems to be solved. The ark wasn’t finished until just before the flood came. And I think there is plenty for you and I to keep busy on until the storm breaks. But that shouldn’t discourage us. We

ought to be doing the thing that gives evidence of our faith that these problems are just ahead of us.

Is your home ready? Are you ready to share it? As I go over this place I must tell you that these things are upon my heart.

Just the other day I was looking at our greenhouse, and I saw that lovely building with those metal supports and glass. I was thinking about what it would take to convert that into a place to put a dozen or twenty people in there for a place to sleep.

You say, "Brother Frazee, what are you talking about?"

I am talking about getting down to the practical part of it. These things are ahead. These things are going to happen very soon unless the coming of Jesus will be delayed longer. And if He is coming soon, all this will take place before He comes. With rapidity these things will follow one another, and you and I, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, must prepare arks for the saving of those whose hearts God stirs up with the message we preach.

So while my heart goes out in great longing that we may gather the funds and the men to help build the tabernacle where this message may be preached to a larger number than this chapel can hold, along with it I am thinking of the practical problems that come as we preach that message. And I pray that God will help us to cope with them and have ourselves so organized that we will be able to care for these people.

That brings me back to what we started with in this study. What was it? God's helping hands.

Is there a hand here tonight that will wield the axe to fell the trees for timber, and clear the land for crops? Is there a hand here tonight that will gather the rocks to form the foundations and fireplaces in these homes? Is there a hand here that will take the mortar and lay those rocks? Is there a hand here that will milk the cows and feed the chickens and gather the eggs?

Is there a hand that will place the fomentations on the sick, and the charcoal poultices upon those who need them? God's helping hand through which His healing flows? Is there a hand that will take the towel and bath the sick and the little children?

Is there a hand that will write checks to provide the money to buy the nails and the glass and the mortar and the paint? Is there a hand that will lift the hammer and drive the nails?

Is there a hand that will sew the garments to clothe the poor, and to cover the nakedness of those who wake up to the shame of modern fashions?

Is there a hand that will grasp the hoe and cultivate the corn? Is there a hand that will turn the mill that grinds the grain and makes it into meal? Is there a hand here that will bring the wood to keep the fires burning?

Is there a hand here that will prepare the meals that make men strong to labor? Is there a hand that will use the dishtowel and broom when the meal is over?

Is there a hand that will open the Bible so that the weary ones may see the plans and the purposes of God and His rich promises? Is there a hand that will be lifted in prayer as the hands of Moses were on the mountain while Israel fought in the plain below?

Ah, we need them all. God needs them all. God is looking for hands to help build the ark, the little places of refuge in the country where men and women can come now and in the near future with ever increasing numbers to escape the terrible conditions in these cities physically, spiritually, and in every way.

Those men and women can escape those things and come and learn God's way, and be feed and taught and prepared for the seal of the living God. Oh, God's hands. Will you be one? God grant it.

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