

What if it Takes 100 Years?

Some people have said that the reason it took so long to build our first *Yellow Deli* was that I kept tearing down what we built, that is, if it wasn't built right, until we built it right. It's kind of a joke now, but if you *don't* build it right, it won't last. So it's not worthy to be in the café.

I just found a note in this old Bible of mine. It was written when we were building the first *Yellow Delis*; it was a long time ago.

“The reason it took Noah 100 years to build the ark is because God kept tearing down what he built, until he built it right. He had to endure through hardship... What would have happened if Noah hadn't endured?”

There is a reason it took Noah 100 years to build the ark. What a great and awesome task it was! Noah didn't have screw guns, or nail guns, or chop saws, or any of those modern labor-saving conveniences. But that's not why it took so long.

The ark had to be built right to endure the storm, and we must endure hardship in building what we're building. What will happen if we don't endure? What would have happened if Noah had not endured? (1 Pet 3:20-21)

What would happen if we do not endure to build the temple *right*? That's what we're building: His temple (Rev 21:3), habitation, home, dwelling, tabernacle, tent, or whatever your translation says. Our Father is homeless, and we're building a dwelling place for Him — His home for all eternity.

Superior Building

Lk 6:46-49 — Can His house be like the house built upon the sand? It's got to be built on solid rock. No matter how long it takes you to dig the foundation, you've got to go all the way down until you hit *solid rock*. Then you can start building the foundation. Otherwise, when the storms come, that house will be destroyed. Verse 48 — It might take many years to dig down that far. But what will happen if we do not endure to build

that dwelling place? What will happen if we do not build His temple *right*? We must build His house *right* to endure for all eternity.

The Eternal Habitation

That is who we are: His eternal body. Our Elohim is going to dwell eternally in what is being built *NOW*, even if it takes 100 years as it did Noah. We have to *endure* that 100 years of building, and we can't give up, or what will become of mankind?

But he who endures to the end will be saved. (Mt 24:13)

Whoever *endures* through the building process until *the end of the age* (Mt 24:13-14), until it brings about the next age, until our Master's return, they are the ones who are saved for the kingdom, who are worthy of the kingdom. We who bring about His return and the end of the age do so by our endurance, our long-suffering, our love, obeying all the commandments our Master gave. As you read in Mt 24:9-12, you see the people who didn't endure, even children who turn against their parents (Mt 10:21), and even turn their parents over to be put to death.

In Mt 24:9-11, our Master says "they" will deliver you up and kill you, and again "they" will betray you, meaning *those who didn't endure*. When the hard times really come, then the real ones will endure, and those who aren't real won't. Somehow, it's going to take that long to reveal what everyone is made of.

The kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea... (Mt 13:47)

They gathered hundreds or thousands of fish, *both good and bad*, in this great, big net:

When it was filled, they drew it up on the beach, and they sat down, and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. So it will be at the end of the age; the angels shall come forth, and take out the wicked from among the righteous... (Mt 13:48-49)

We have to make sure we are the real fish, the clean fish to be put on His table. So, this is what the word *endure* means. You can only endure by the power of the Holy Spirit, because our Father will make it so that those who are without the power of the

Holy Spirit *cannot* endure. Thousands have left because they couldn't endure. They really *didn't* receive the Spirit; maybe they believed in their mind, but they didn't have Him in their heart.

Great Expectations

What are Christians building right now? What have they been building for the last 1900 years?

David Zerubbabel — A dwelling place for demons (Rev 18:2).

Yes, right, exactly.

But Paul was living for a great expectation, as seen in 2 Tim 4:6-8. He had a great expectation, looking to be crowned with the crown of righteousness. He was wearing a diadem in the expectation of the crown.

So then, the next question is this: What if it takes us a hundred years? It took Noah 100 years. He probably built the foundation for so many years, and then he started to build the structure. He really had to make the infrastructure *strong*, in order to take the waves of the sea, and everything else the storms would bring, that it wouldn't crack open and all the animals onboard be drowned, and the eight people who were saved would be lost also.

What would have happened then? What if Noah hadn't completed the Ark in time, before the storms came, and the rains, and the flood? Where would we be today? Then where will our Father be if we don't build His dwelling place? As I've always said, "God is homeless. He is looking for a home." He wants a permanent home, one that will endure forever and ever.

The Completed Home of God

So what if it takes us 100 years to build what we're building in these last days? What does Eph 2:22 say we are building? The same thing as Rev 21:3, right? *The dwelling place of God*. He will dwell in us by His Spirit. He will dwell in us and be *among*

men — the men (male and female) of the nations of the eternal age, of which there will be countless millions, continuing to propagate life. They are those who had lived a good life, so they will be worthy of a second life. Our Father will visit them, through us. When you go to a planet, they will say, “Immanuel! God is with us!” God is with *them* through *us*, His dwelling place. We will love them and help them and guide them and lead them throughout eternity, as that is what man is created to do: colonize and fill the whole universe. Of course, you can’t ever fill it. It will be a continual filling, forever and ever. Our children will continue to be propagated also, spiritually, as Messiah is our husband and we’re his wife (Rev 21:9,12). Ps 102:28 and Isa 9:7 speak of the perpetual increase of His government.

Rev 22:2 — The nations eat of the *leaves*, but we eat of the *fruit* of the tree of life, unlike Adam, who never ate from that tree. Divine nature never dwelt in him, whereas we partake of divine nature (2 Pet 1:4). Our Master had *divine nature* dwelling in Him, and we do also. He’s our savior, but we’re also His brothers (Heb 2:11-15).

The earth, and the stars, and the planets will be qualitatively renewed (Ps 102:26) to never “burn out.” Everything will be eternal. Right now, scientists say stars are exploding all the time, wearing out. But we’re going to be eternal, and the people of the nations are going to be eternal, so they can’t dwell on a planet that is not made eternally habitable (1 Cor 2:9-10).

So it’s an eternal home that we’re building right now, and we’ve got to build it by every person doing his part, causing the growth of the Body, building it up in love (Eph 4:11-16). If we’re not doing that, what *are* we doing? If we’re not doing it, we’re not going to be His dwelling place. He’s going to dwell in those who are *building* that dwelling place, His habitation, as in Col 2:19, growing with a growth that IS from God. It is not a growth from *leaven*, but from God; it doesn’t come from the evil one to “puff up” as in Christianity (Col 2:8,18-19).

A Great and Mighty Task

What a great and mighty task Yahshua bore in his humanity, in his human flesh. What a great and mighty task our Father gave Him to do in His own human flesh. He was dependent upon His Father just as we are. He became like us, right? How else could we ever become like Him, if He wasn't human?

Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sons of the people. Because He Himself had suffered, when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted. (Heb 2:17-18)

Isn't that wonderful? He suffered; He was tempted, just like us. We can thus be like Him. He didn't give in, not once; but we do. But what does He do if we do give in?

David Zerubbabel — He's faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 Jn 1:9).

So what a great and mighty task that our Master bore, in His human flesh, and knowing what His Father in heaven had prepared for Him. He knew that He had to *prove faithful* under severe testing. What if He had failed? What a reproach it would have been for His Father! What a loss to mankind! It's like the task Noah was given, building the ark with his sons. What if they failed while building the ark? What if we fail building the Body? What a tremendous task we have to undertake.

So it would have been a terrible loss to mankind if our Master had failed, because of all that would be accomplished by means of His death. When eternal life was offered to the rich young ruler, he turned away from it. But we didn't turn away. We follow our Master Yahshua, no matter what we have to give up. And of course, the greatest thing you have to give up is *your own life* — including your wife, or your children, or whatever else holds you back from following Him, whoever will not come with you. What if the children don't want to follow our Master Yahshua with the parents? Well, the parents have got to give them up. And the same goes for a wife, or a husband, or money, property, and possessions. That is the gospel. Our Master is worth everything.

The husband loves his wife more than *anything*, more than his own children, or mother and father. The wife has priority over all things. But then, when our Master Yahshua comes along, He has priority even over a wife. The love you have for Him must surpass all other loves. We have to do what the rich young ruler would not do.

A Memorial Gospel

Memorial — a monument or holiday, intended to celebrate/honor the memory of a person, event, etc.

Now look at what our Master said:

*This gospel will be preached in the entire world as **a memorial** to the woman in Bethany, who did “all she could.” (Mk 14:9)*

She did all she could, in preparation for our Master’s death. Everything she had was invested in that oil, and she lavished it upon our Master Yahshua.

*“Why this waste? It might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they criticized her sharply. But Yahshua said, “Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me... She has done what she could... What this woman has done also will be told as a **memorial** to her.” (Mk 14:5,6,8,9)*

We *memorialize* our Master in the breaking of the bread, after each Sabbath comes to an end, on the eve of the first day, when He rose from the dead.

He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” (Lk 22:19)

How could we *commemorate* Him? How could we *not* commemorate His death? He said, “Remember My death until I return. Do this in *remembrance* of Me,” thus remembering that He died in our place.

We judge thus: if One died for all, all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them. (2 Cor 5:14-15)

That’s the end of selfishness. It is normal for natural people to be selfish. Everyone is selfish. But we *absolutely* have to get to the end of it in the Body. You can’t do it in the world, because you have to keep on working for “my four and no more.”

The Key to Salvation

Working to make a living for oneself doesn't do anything to build the Body. But still, our Father doesn't *condemn* people for it, because they have to make a living. They've never even heard of the Messiah — not the real one — and so it's good that they work for a living. According to the natural law, Adam had to work by the sweat of his brow to support his family. But that is still working for self. And then you see someone with great means, like the rich young ruler, who keeps gaining wealth. He can never get enough, so he just keeps on filling up his Swiss bank account.

I am thankful for 2 Cor 5:15, because that is the *key to salvation*; and if that is *not* going on, someone's ears are just being tickled. "*Well, He didn't really mean that.*" That's what *tickling their ears* means (2 Tim 4:3).

Salvation is to reach the end of selfishness. No longer living for self is the end of selfishness. Now we live for Him who died and rose again on our behalf. Living for Him is living for one another, in His Body. Whatever we do, it's for Him, not for ourselves. And others do everything they do for you while you're doing everything for them. So that's how we have food and clothes (Mt 6:31-33).

And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. (1 Tim 6:8)

Memorial Meal

So the breaking of bread happens right after the Sabbath, on the eve of the first day, when He rose from the dead. And how could we *not* commemorate¹ Him? So we partake in a memorial meal:

For as often as you eat this bread, and drink the cup, you proclaim the Master's death, until He comes. (1 Cor 11:26)

That is what the breaking of bread is: a *memorial meal*, a call to special attention to the significance of His death, the outworking of the eternal purpose of our God. That's

¹ *Commemorate* — call to mind; to honor/keep alive the memory of

why we have to enter the breaking of bread *sinless*. There might be some faults, but we can still drink the victory cup. But we can't drink the victory cup in pretense.

The Day When He Acts

Our Father is getting ready for something to happen; He's getting ready, but He hasn't done it yet. The day is coming when He will act (Mal 4:3). There will come a time when He actually *acts*. He hasn't done it yet, but we're getting prepared for the day that is coming, "*on the day when I act*" (Mal 4:3).

So then, what about the one hundred years? What if it takes 100 years to do what we're doing? Okay, let's see:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 1970 - 2020 & = & 50 \text{ years} \\ 2020 - 2070 & = & 50 \text{ years} \\ \hline & & 100 \text{ years} \end{array}$$

So then, from 1970 until 2070 is 100 years. That's 2000 years since our Master's prophecy in Lk 19:41-44 was fulfilled, when Titus of Rome utterly destroyed Jerusalem. Then consider what it says in Hos 6:2, together with 2 Pet 3:8.

After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live before Him. (Hos 6:2)

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (2 Pet 3:8)

I'm not prophesying; I'm just saying to think about it.

So this is what I wrote in my old Bible back in the old *Yellow Deli* days:

"And the reason it took Noah 100 years to build the ark is because God kept tearing down what he built, until he built it right. And he endured the hardship; but what would have happened if he did not endure?"

Isn't it wonderful that we can endure through great obstacles? No matter what we have to go through, we have to endure for Him, and Him alone. We can't let *anything* hinder that. And if we've fallen, if we can repent, we can repent. Our Father grants repentance to anyone who *CAN* repent. He's merciful.

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Yahshua ha Mashiyach. Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Pet 1:6-9)

John (our newest disciple) — I was thinking how you were saying, “What if Noah didn’t endure?” But then there is also the question: What if God didn’t test his work while he was building that boat, and He let him get away with building it improperly? It wouldn’t endure. So it was a blessing that He kept tearing things apart.

Soreph Gamaliel — All this makes me really ponder what we’re building. As we always say, *the work is there for us*. We don’t simply tear out the defective booth in the café because it won’t last. I mean, we do tear it out, but it is symbolic of what may need to be torn out of our life that won’t last, like ways of relating to people, or ways of relating to difficulty and correction.

Gad — Heb 11:7 says, “Noah, out of reverence, prepared an ark of salvation...” What if he hadn’t done that? All humanity would have come to an end. Noah’s family would’ve drowned, pulled down by the prevailing undertow of wickedness.

The coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah... before the flood they were eating, drinking, marrying (Mt 24:37-38)

What if we don’t endure in building *that* ark? What will happen?

And as Isaiah said before: “Unless the LORD of Hosts had left us a seed, we would have become like Sodom, and we would have been made like Gomorrah.” (Rom 9:29)

All humanity will be lost, all utterly destroyed by selfishness; and not just that, but God will also be destroyed, cut in two (Gen 15:17; Jer 34:18-20).

The flood of deception in Christianity, thinking they can be saved outside of that Ark, is becoming so massively popularized that people believe that gospel saves them. They think it is going to keep them afloat.

If they just stay in their little dinghy, it’s not going to work. They’re not going to endure the hard times to come in their own little dinghy. They have to get on the ship.

And they can't just keep their own little dinghy tied onto our ship. They've got to get on aboard and let go of their dinghy.

When Gader Peretz was saved in Saint Joseph, Missouri, he was rowing in a dinghy and left it behind. So we made a parable:

People are out in the ocean, each in their own little dinghy, paddling along. Then they see this big ship coming along, and hear everybody on board singing and praising, and everyone is shouting, "Come aboard our ship! We'll stop for you."

So that is what Gader did. He got out of his dinghy, and let it go, and then got on the ship. He didn't hold onto anything; he didn't keep his dinghy. He didn't even tie it to the ship. He could have just stayed in the dinghy, and said, "Oh, no thanks. I'm all set. I've got my little dinghy." Then the great storm comes, and so what is going to happen? I'm glad John's family didn't keep their little dinghy.

Neshef — You can see that you can't "see" with natural eyes what only spiritual eyes can see and spiritual ears can hear; you have to be far-sighted, and have long-term vision. As we sing in the West Coast Tour song,

*If you watch intently, you might see it growing...
It's not so impressive, to the natural eye.*

With eternal vision, it's very impressive. The natural eye can't see that.