



Lesson 96

Reform Lines: Noah and Elijah

- **Noah's Reform Line**
 - God calls Noah
 - The ark is built
 - Animals board the ark
 - The shut door
 - The flood
- **Elijah's Reform Line**
 - God calls Elijah
 - The altar is built
 - Fire from Heaven
 - False prophets killed
 - The cloud and rain
- **Both Lines**
 - Reform line structure

This is part one of a two-part series on the reform lines. In this lesson, we are going to be looking at the reform lines of Noah and Elijah.

Noah's Reform Line

God calls Noah

The story of Noah and the flood can be put on a line. Before every reform line there is a period of darkness. In Genesis 6:5 it says that "...every imagination of the thoughts of" men's hearts "was only evil continually." Everything was corrupt and it grieved God to have made humans. When talking about the time of Noah in Matthew 24:38, Jesus also said, "in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking..." You eat and drink a message, so since during this time nearly everyone was corrupt this symbolizes a false message that they were all receiving. This was the period of darkness. So God made a plan to destroy the world with everyone in it except for Noah and his family because he was faithful. The beginning of Noah's line is when he was called by God. That is the first waymark. God gave Noah a message- the first message on the line- God told Noah that a flood was going to come and that he needed to make an ark to save some of every kind of animal along with his family. Noah was also to preach to the rest of the world to worship God correctly and warn them of the coming flood. God told him that the flood was coming in 120 years, so at the beginning of Noah's line he was told everything he needed to know about what was coming. This can symbolize the first angel's message from Revelation 14 where it says to fear God because judgment is coming- and that is the message Noah preached. The first message is also often a summary of the whole line (as we can see from Revelation 14) and that is exactly what happened in Noah's time. We can also call this waymark the "Time of the End" because when God gave Noah the message where he was being warned about the end of that world.

The ark is built

The second waymark after God calls Noah is when the ark is built. After God calls Noah, the second major event that takes place is the construction of the ark. In Genesis 6 God gives Noah instructions on how to build the ark, and at the end of chapter 6, he finishes building it. This is the next major event, so it can be considered the next waymark. There are [at least] two things we can understand from this waymark. The first is what the ark represents. Matthew 4:19 says, "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." This can also be found in Mark 1:17. So here Jesus is using a type of parable called natural to spiritual. Natural to spiritual is when natural or earthly examples are used to explain spiritual truths. The natural story here is the disciples throwing a net into the sea, and then bringing up fish into their boat. The spiritual truth Jesus states is for the disciples to give the gospel to the people, and bring them into the church. So, the fish represent people, the net represents the gospel, and the boat represents the church. Therefore, at the second waymark on Noah's line, the ark represents the church. The second point we can make from this waymark is the second message. We know that the first message was given when God called Noah. After the

first message, the second message is given. “The period of their probation was about to expire. Noah had faithfully followed the instructions which he had received from God. The ark was finished in every part as the Lord had directed, and was stored with food for man and beast. And now the servant of God made his last solemn appeal to the people...” *Patriarchs and Prophets* 97.3. So when the ark was complete, Noah gave the second message, calling people to come aboard the ark. And we can also connect this to the second angel’s message in Revelation. The second angel in Revelation chapter 14 says Babylon is fallen because it has become wicked. And Noah would be saying the same thing- the earth is “fallen” because it has become wicked- and it will be destroyed. So, the second waymark on Noah’s line is the completion of the ark, which represents the church; and this is where the second angel’s message is given.

Animals board the ark

“Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of everything that creepeth upon the earth, there went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, and male and the female, as God had commanded Noah.” Genesis 7:8,9. After the ark was completed, God began to send animals to board the ark. We know that Noah and his family represent the first group God called. Ellen Whites says in *Acts of the Apostles* 135.3, 136.3 that, “This vision conveyed to Peter both reproof and instruction. It revealed to him the purpose of God- that by the death of Christ the Gentiles should be made fellow heirs with the Jews to the blessing of salvation. By the vision of the sheet and its contents He sought to divest the apostle’s mind of this prejudice and to teach the important truth that in heaven there is no respect of persons; that Jew and Gentile alike are precious in God’s sight.” In Acts chapter 10:10-16, Peter has a vision where he sees both clean and unclean animals. According to Ellen White, the clean animals represent the Jews and the unclean animals represent the Gentiles. The same can be applied to the ark. The clean animals that board in 7’s can represent the “Jews”: those that come out of the Seventh-day Adventist church after the first group. The unclean animals can represent the “Gentiles”: the people from the world. “Angels were sent to collect from the forest and field the beasts which God had created. ... These beasts, from the most ferocious, down to the most gentle and harmless, peacefully and solemnly marched into the ark. The world looked on with wonder—some with fear, but they had become so hardened by rebellion that this most signal manifestation of God’s power had but momentary influence upon them,” *Spirit of Prophecy volume 1* page 71.3. Ellen White calls the gathering of the animals aboard the ark as a manifestation of God’s power. Says Ellen White in *Last Day Events* 209.3, 210.1, “There is to be in the churches a wonderful manifestation of the power of God, but it will not move upon those who have not humbled themselves before the Lord... The third angel’s message will not be comprehended.” Ellen White says that the third angel’s message is a wonderful manifestation of God’s power just as she said the animals boarding the ark was. That is how we mark the third angel at the third waymark on the line of Noah. Previously, we have mentioned three groups: Noah and his family, the clean animals, and the unclean animals. But technically they’re all one group: those that boarded the ark. Whether people, clean, or unclean animals, they’re all saved because they got on the ark. There is also a second group of people: the people that wouldn’t board the ark. We know that there is a second group because boarding the ark was a test, and in every test, people fail. The people that didn’t board the ark failed the test and as a result, and as we will later see, they are left out of the ark. A test always brings out two classes of people. Says Ellen White in *Signs of the Times* April 18, 1895, “There were many who at first received Noah’s message, but the fear of men was greater than the fear of God, and they turned away from the truth of God to believe a lie. As time passed

on, and reproach and ridicule were heaped upon them, their hearts failed them, and they did not bear the test. It is the testing time that will measure professed faith and assurance in God.”

The shut door

In every history there is a shut door. On the line of Noah this happened after all of the animals had gotten on board the ark. Noah and his family went inside and God sent an angel to close the door. The wicked people were shut out and the righteous people were shut in- and only God could open the door again. For seven days those inside the ark waited, and the wicked people outside rejoiced because they thought that Noah’s message was indeed false. In the ark Noah and his family were protected from the people outside who threatened them during that time, but their faith in God was still tested by the delay. Ellen G. White parallels this to the end of the world in *Patriarchs and Prophets* chapter 7. She says that when the door closed God’s mercy was over- just like it will be at the Close of Probation of Daniel 12:1. She also said that Satan will have full control of the wicked at the end of the world like he did after the door to the ark closed through those seven days. In both instances God’s people will be protected.

The flood

The last waymark on Noah’s line is the flood. Genesis 7:10 says, “And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.” After the seven days in the ark, it started to rain, and eventually the earth was covered with water. This is the final waymark on Noah’s line. One thing we can mark at this waymark is the ark. It is the same ark that was built at the second waymark; the ark that is visible at the second waymark goes all the way through until the end of the line. This is a type of Second Advent because the earth was destroyed and recreated.

Elijah's Reform Line

God calls Elijah

"And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word," 1 Kings 17:1. The period of drought can be marked as the darkness before the Time of End. Rain can represent a message, and before the Time of the End, there is no message for God's people. Then God called Elijah to take a message to Israel. "And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth," 1 Kings 18:1. We can mark the calling of Elijah at the Time of the End, with the promise of a message- or rain. This message of rain represents the first angel's message at the first waymark.

The altar is built

Elijah called all of Israel, including the king: Ahab, and the prophets of Baal to Mount Carmel. Together they made a plan to see who the true God was. The prophets of Baal went first- from the morning until the afternoon- trying to get their idol Baal to send fire onto their altar. Then Elijah made his altar; this is the next waymark on the line. Elijah made the altar out of twelve stones. In 1 Kings 18:32 it says, "And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:" The twelve tribes of Israel, or Ancient Israel, were God's church at that time. Now the twelve tribes represent God's church of today: this Movement. When Elijah made the altar, it symbolized the waymark where God's church is made. This is also the second waymark of the line so it parallels the second angel of Revelation 14. That angel calls people out of Babylon- Satan's church- so they can enter God's church that has just finished being built, as we can see from the line of Elijah.

Fire from Heaven

The third waymark on Elijah's line is the fire from Heaven. Two events take place at the third waymark on Elijah's line. The first was the preparation of the sacrifice. Elijah had it covered in water three times. Just like the third waymark on Noah's line, where the third angel's message was given, here we also see the number three. Deuteronomy 32:2 says, "My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew..." and Hosea 10:12 says, "...for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness on you." These verses show us that rain, or water, can represent righteousness and God's word; a message. So when we see water three times, this can represent the third message. The next event that takes place at the third waymark is the fire. After Elijah prayed, *Christ Triumphant* 162.5,6 says, "...Fire descended from heaven and consumed the sacrifice and the water with which it had been drenched. Seeing this wonderful manifestation of power, Israel cried, 'The Lord, he is the God.' While their hearts were touched and softened by the miracle they had witnessed." Here Ellen G. White calls the fire from Heaven a wonderful manifestation of power, just like she did when referring to the animals on Noah's line. Lastly, we can mark this third waymark as a test. It

was a test to see if Israel would stand on God's side, or with the prophets of Baal. Because of this test, two groups were formed God's people, and Satan's people.

False prophets killed

"And Elijah said unto them, take the prophets of Baal; and let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there." 1 Kings 18:40. After the Prophets of Baal were proven to be false prophets, Elijah had them killed. That was the end for them- it was their close of probation: their shut door. On a reform line, it would be the second-to-last waymark: the close of probation. After the killing of the prophets, Elijah told his servant to go and check for rain. "And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times," 1 Kings 18:43. The servant checked seven times. On the line of Noah, after the shut door, it did not rain for seven days. On the line of Elijah, after the shut door, the servant checked for rain seven times. Seven is a number that we mark after the close of probation.

The cloud and rain

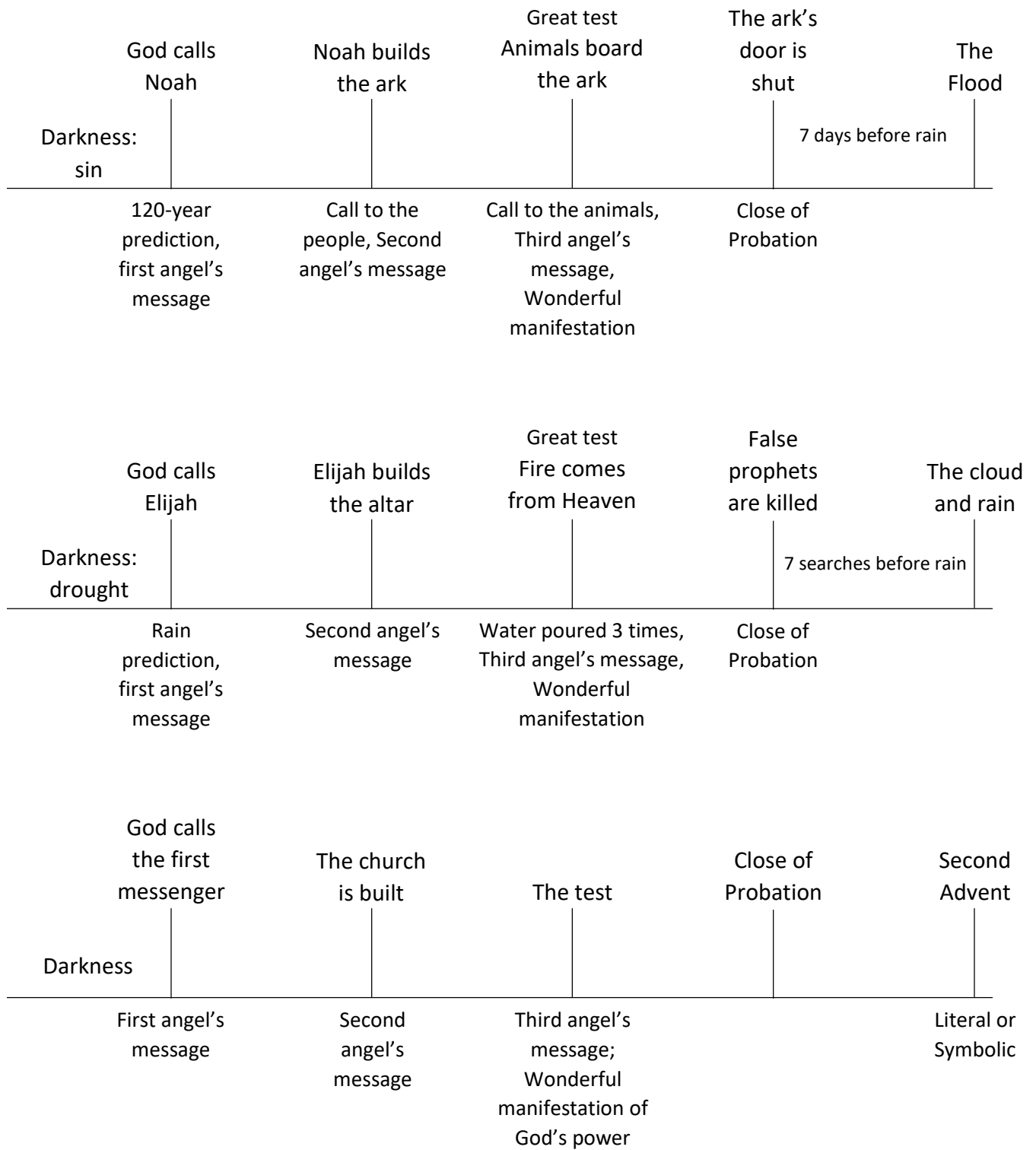
The seventh time Elijah sent his servant to look out over the sea he saw something. It says, "And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand" (1 Kings 18:44). This is the same thing that Ellen G. White says in *The Great Controversy*. "Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man's hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence they gaze upon it as it draws nearer the earth, becoming lighter and more glorious, until it is a great white cloud" (640.3). The first thing we see at the Second Coming is a black cloud half the size of a man's hand. The cloud then gets closer, whiter, and brighter until we see Jesus. This is a parallel to Elijah's line because in both stories there is a small dark cloud that grows bigger and bigger. On Elijah's line this happened until the sky was full of dark clouds and it rained. In our time the cloud will get bigger until we see Jesus. So, a cloud and rain marks the Second Coming on the line of Elijah since it parallels what Ellen White says the actual Second Coming will look like.

Both Lines

Reform line structure

When we combine both Elijah's and Noah's line, we can see patterns. When we parallel the two lines, we get a pattern of what a reform line should look like. It's called a reform line because it shows how God is reforming his people. In Noah's time God was reforming the whole world, and in Elijah's time God was reforming the Israelites- trying to get them to stop worshipping idols. So at the beginning of Noah's line there was sin throughout the world and at the beginning of Elijah's line there was a drought- so before the first waymark on a reform line there is what we can call darkness. At the first waymark two things happened, the first was the calling of Noah and Elijah. The second was a prediction, Noah's prediction was the flood and Elijah's was rain: these predictions represent a message- the first angel's message. So, at the first waymark of a reform line a group is called and the first angel's message is given. The ark and altar are built at the second waymark, and the second angel's message is given, so on a reform line at the second waymark the church is built, and the second angel gives its message. At the third waymark there is a test, on Noah's line it was whether you would get on the ark and on Elijah's line it was whether you would acknowledge Baal is a false god. Also, at the third waymark there is a manifestation of God's power and the third message is given; these three events characterize the third waymark on a reform line. At the fourth waymark on Noah's line the door was shut, and on Elijah's line the prophets of Baal were killed; marking a close of probation at the fourth waymark on a reform line. Lastly, at the fifth and final waymark, the earth is flooded on Noah's line and on Elijah's line the cloud is seen which ends the drought. In Noah's time there was a literal new earth, and in Elijah's time there was a symbolic new earth. When will there be a new earth in our time? After the Second Advent, so the fifth waymark represents a literal or symbolic second advent, on a reform line.

In summary:



Official Youth Prophecy Group website!

youthprophecygroup.org

If you have any questions or comments on any of the material contact us (YPG) at:

youthprophecygroup@gmail.com

Find all our YPG lesson videos at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeltzVajTXgSQRL-o2XOq_g

Link to YPG Zoom meetings which are at 10:00am Pacific Time on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87170293849>