

Not Ashamed of the Godhead



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

OPENING COMMENTS



- ❧ This journey has taken us on many unexpected twists and turns
- ❧ For me personally, this has challenged me more than I ever imagined
- ❧ I've had sleepless nights captivated and provoked by what we've been learning
- ❧ I can't help but feel like we're on an island the further we go on this journey
- ❧ I can't help but feel like I'm losing my mind and gone mad
- ❧ Yet that's where this journey took us when we relied on Scripture and Scripture alone
- ❧ When we decided to come to Scripture as a blank slate and allow God's Word to paint and shape our faith and understanding – this is where the journey took us

AM I GOING CRAZY?!



- ❧ For example, I never foresaw myself making the argument and case that the Father is greater than Jesus – it goes against every grain and fabric of everything we know and were taught
- ❧ With unpopular learnings like this, I can't help but feel like I'm going crazy
- ❧ Just like when Festus raised his voice at the apostle Paul as he was making his defense and proclaiming the resurrection of the dead said "Paul, you are out of your mind! Your great learning is driving you mad."
- ❧ I find me rebuking myself "Alex, you are out of your mind! Your learning is drive you mad! Alex, you are walking yourself off of a cliff – and if you don't STOP and REPENT you will shipwreck your faith!"

NO – I’M NOT GOING MAD!



- ❧ But when I allow the truth in Scripture to settle within me and allow it to run its course and perfect its work,
- ❧ When I submit to it, have a teachable heart, allow it to correct me and only after I obey the truth,
- ❧ Can I say in good conscience before you and before our God, that I am not out of my mind, I have not gone mad – I am UNASHAMED OF THE GODHEAD!
- ❧ Yes, of course there is a hierarchy within the Godhead and the Father is on top
- ❧ Yes, of course I can say that ALL Authority belongs to the Father and He has chosen to bestow that Authority to His One and Only Son (Phi 2)
- ❧ As Paul even said “But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ” -1Co 11:3
 - ❧ Head in the Greek means Chief in Command
- ❧ Just like Christ is Chief over the church, just like the husband is Chief of his wife, even so is the Father Chief in Command over His Son in the family of God

CRUX OF ISSUE: Jesus is God



- ❧ So folks I haven't gone mad, I haven't lost my mind, but something went really sideways with the church
- ❧ Here is where I think the crux of the issue is
- ❧ It is behind the statement "Jesus is God"
- ❧ I believe there were some well intentioned, but unintended consequences regarding traditions, Creeds and doctrine around the Person and Deity of Jesus Christ and behind the statement "Jesus is God"
- ❧ I would like to take a moment to make myself very clear...

YES – JESUS IS GOD!



- ✧ If there was any hesitation on my part saying Jesus is God – I REPENT!
- ✧ Yes, Jesus was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, Jesus was with God the Father in the beginning and that all things were created through Him – is saying that **Jesus is God and Creator** - Jn 1
- ✧ Yes, when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us means **God became man** - Jn 1
- ✧ Yes, although Christ Jesus being in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped means that **Jesus is indeed God in the flesh**, but set His divine prerogatives aside for the sake of living obedience to His Father - Phi 2
- ✧ Yes, when Paul says we are looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great **God and Savior, Christ Jesus**, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, this indeed means that **Jesus like His Father is both God and Savior!** – Tit 2

YES – JESUS IS GOD!



- ✧ Yes, when Paul speaking of Christ proclaims “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together... 19 For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him” clearly means that **Jesus is God Incarnate, Sovereign and Creator** – Col 1
- ✧ Yes, when the writer of Hebrews quotes the Father:
8 But of the Son He says,
“YOUR THRONE, **O GOD**, IS FOREVER AND EVER,
AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.
9 “YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS;
THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU
WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS.” – Heb 1

CHURCH WENT SIDEWAYS



- ❧ The Father calls the Son 'O GOD' - even as the Father is GOD - case closed JESUS IS GOD!
- ❧ But here is where I think where the church and our doctrines went sideways...
- ❧ It was interpreting what it means that Jesus is God Incarnate, Creator, Sovereign, God and Savior, etc.
- ❧ It was interpreting what it means when Jesus claimed to be equal with God
- ❧ It was interpreting when Jesus would say things like "the Father and I are One"
- ❧ It was interpreting when Jesus said "Before Abraham was, I AM!"
- ❧ It was determining how to interpret this and form sound doctrine from it

HERE IS WHY I STRUGGLED



- ❧ Sadly, such efforts to explain the Person and Deity of Christ, has diminished the role of the Father from His rightful place as Father – MOST HIGH GOD
- ❧ Because of much teachings we know or have been taught today, the Father just became the “Other Person” in the Trinity with equal Power and Authority equally divided among the 3 of Them
- ❧ Many teachings today claim that No One in the Trinity is GREATER than the Other – all are CO-EQUALS
- ❧ This is why I struggled and had sleepless nights – everything we’ve been learning as of late – using Scripture alone – led us to the truth that there is indeed a hierarchy in God
- ❧ Not only is there a hierarchy, but the Father is the G.G.O.A.T.E.
 - ❧ The Father is the Greatest God of All Time and Eternity!
- ❧ So what happened over the centuries?...

CHURCH DIDN'T UPHOLD OTHER CLAIMS OF JESUS



- ❧ It is my conviction that when tradition and man began to write doctrine concerning the Person and Deity of Christ, when Councils and Creeds began to be written to combat false teachings, etc., that's when things went sideways
- ❧ What wasn't balanced in many teachings, Creeds, Doctrines, theology books and not taught in many seminaries today are other aspects of Jesus, including statements and claims He made about Himself and His subordinate and subservient role in the Godhead
- ❧ They didn't consider things like Jesus used other Titles/Designations to describe Himself, such as:
 - ❧ Son of Man
 - ❧ Son of God, the Son, only begotten Son
 - ❧ The Light
 - ❧ Messiah or Christ
 - ❧ Son of David, Living Bread, Living Waters, the Door, the Gate, Good Shepherd, etc.

CHURCH DIDN'T UPHOLD OTHER CLAIMS OF JESUS



☞ They didn't consider when Jesus would say things like:

John 5:26-27

26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; 27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.

☞ TRUTH: Jesus is LIFE, because His Father gave Him LIFE

☞ TRUTH: Jesus has AUTHORITY to execute judgment because His Father gave Him such authority

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

TRUTH: Although the Father and Jesus are One, the Father has His own will and the Son has His own will

John 5:43 I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him.

☞ TRUTH: Jesus has authority because He came in the name (aka authority) of His Father

CHURCH DIDN'T UPHOLD OTHER CLAIMS OF JESUS



❧ They didn't consider when Jesus said:

John 6:46 Not that anyone has seen the Father, except **the One who is from God**; He has seen the Father.

❧ TRUTH: Although Jesus is GOD, He is from GOD – distinct from GOD

Or even at Jesus's baptism:

❧ When Jesus was baptized, the Spirit was manifested as a dove and the Father spoke from heaven saying "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased"

❧ TRUTH: Although Jesus is GOD on earth, yet GOD was in heaven and spoke from heaven

CHURCH DIDN'T UPHOLD OTHER CLAIMS OF JESUS



Or when Jesus said :

John 13:16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him

John 14:28 You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I..

Mt 27:46 "...MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

Or when He told Mary

Jn 20:17 "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'

✧ TRUTH: Although Jesus is GOD, He is not greater than GOD His Father

✧ This is why I said it was more balanced to say Jesus is GOD because He is the Son of God

✧ Jesus does not rival His Father, Jesus is the Son of His Father

✧ Then we get into other issues the church has neglected...

CHURCH DIDN'T UPHOLD OTHER ASPECTS OF JESUS



- ❧ It was behind Jesus's equality with God statement
- ❧ Many teachings say that since Jesus is GOD He is fully Omniscient (all knowing)
- ❧ But what such teachings neglect to consider is when Jesus made the statement that leaves the door open that maybe, just maybe He's not as Omniscient as His Father
- ❧ For example when Jesus said concerning His return:
 - ❧ Matthew 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, **nor the Son**, but the Father alone.
 - ❧ TRUTH: This statement alone proves that Jesus was NOT fully Omniscient; He's definitely Omniscient, but not fully Omniscient like His Father!
 - ❧ But some will counter that and say something like - well Jesus didn't know because of His humanity - His humanness was speaking - but in heaven He knows all!
 - ❧ My comeback to that is - didn't the Scripture also say that in Christ "the fullness of the Deity dwelt" in Him - BEFORE He was glorified? - Jesus was always full Deity and yet He did not know of that day and hour of His return - only His Father

CHURCH DIDN'T UPHOLD OTHER ASPECTS OF JESUS



☞ This is consistent with what we learned in the very opening of Revelation:

Revelation 1:1-3

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, **which God gave Him** to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, 2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

- ☞ The Father gave Jesus the book of Revelation! Christ Jesus in turn commanded an angel to deliver this message to His bond-servant, John
- ☞ TRUTH: Jesus didn't know the day or hour concerning His return, until this prophecy was given Him by His Father! At the time this prophecy was given, both the Son and the angels NOW know the day and hour of our Lord's return!
- ☞ CASE IN POINT: The Father is the One in the Godhead Who is fully Omniscient and the Son only knows what the Father chooses to show Him!
- ☞ Still not convinced? How about you hear it from our very Lord's own lips...

CHURCH DIDN'T UPHOLD OTHER ASPECTS OF JESUS



John 5:20 For the Father loves the Son, and **shows Him** all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father **will show Him** greater works than these, so that you will marvel.

- ❧ IMPLICATION: Remember Jesus was Deity and Divine His entire earthly life. But if Jesus was truly fully Omniscient, then the Father doesn't need to show Him anything, for the Son already knows – this teaching robs and takes away from the beauty between God the Father/God the Son relationship
- ❧ CASE IN POINT: Although Jesus God, is Co-Equal with His Father, is and always was fully God and fully man, yet there were some aspects about the Son that limits even His greatness within the Godhead

AGAIN NO - I HAVE NOT LOST MY MARBLES



- ❧ So folks I haven't gone made, I haven't lost my mind, like I said something went really sideways with the church and doctrine
- ❧ And it is behind the statement "Jesus is God", "The Father and I are One", "Equality with God" - and much teachings today tipped the scales out of balance concerning the hierarchy in the Godhead
- ❧ If the church missed these things, then would it surprise us that the church will also be off on most other things?
- ❧ Which brings us to our next question...

WHY ARE WE NOT ALL UNITED?



- ❧ I believe there are a lot of reasons why we're not all united as the body of Christ
- ❧ A lot of it is because we're stubborn
- ❧ A lot of it is because we're worldly
- ❧ A lot of it is because we're prideful
- ❧ I believe a lot of us are guilty as much as the Corinthians were:
1 Corinthians 1:12-13
12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." 13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?
- ❧ Since the beginning of the church (from 1st century - now), many of us pick our favorite pastors, teachers, theologians, stack themselves against each other, we all have our favorite doctrines, Creeds, traditions, etc. and then look down on others who aren't on the same page, or on the same level - "I am more spiritual than they"

HEART OF DISUNITY: PRIDE



- ❧ Its things like these that contribute why we're not all united
- ❧ It's because of the many different denominations, traditions, doctrines, Creeds, etc.
– we're each out to prove how much more spiritually elite we are over the rest
- ❧ I believe spiritual pride, arrogance, and lack of love for one another is one of the greater reasons why we're not all united
- ❧ Of course there are other factors as to why we're all not united
- ❧ One of them is what Paul warned Timothy...

WARNING: ITCHING EARS



☞ Paul warned Timothy:

2 Timothy 4:3-4

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but **wanting to have their ears tickled**, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

☞ “they” = those within the church

☞ So another reason the church isn't united is because of “itching ears”

☞ Many in churches today would rather have an inspirational speech or entertained with stories or a pastor/teacher with charisma or personality to keep and hold their attention

☞ Many in churches today would rather want to hear what God can do for them vs. what can we do for God

☞ Many in churches today want to hear how can they get rich and blessed in this life rather vs. rather storing up treasures in heaven

MOST OF THE CHURCH IS SELF-CENTERED



- ❧ Many in churches today want to hear how God is their Personal Genie, at their beckon call, and that the entire universe revolves around them – that each of us are in the center of God's universe
- ❧ Many in the churches today don't want to hear about the pursuit of holiness, sanctification, the killing of sin, abstaining from sexual immorality, self-denial, self-control - and the GRAVE warnings it gives
- ❧ Many in churches would rather hear how God loves them and understands them and that it's ok to continue to sin and just ask God for forgiveness later
 - ❧ These definitely don't want to hear our Lord's warning to Sardis, you better stop soiling your garments - OR ELSE HE WILL COME UPON THEM LIKE A THIEF!
- ❧ Take this together with the fact that we have an enemy of our souls whose sole purpose is to seek, kill and destroy – and may I add his mission is to DIVIDE the church!

THE STORY OF NOAH



- ❧ As for being in the minority in what we've been learning, I was also drawn to the story of Noah...
- ❧ Only Noah and his family (8 in all) believed the Word of God
- ❧ As he was building the ark, those around him thought he was a mad man, he was a maniac building an ark in the middle of a desert when it has never rained
- ❧ And our Lord says concerning the days before His return, that it will be just like that:
Matthew 24:37-39
For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- ❧ From here I'd like to do a bit of reflection

REFLECTION ON THE STORY OF NOAH



- ❧ It is estimated that from Creation to the Flood is: 4004BC-2348BC
 - ❧ 1,656 years of human civilization
- ❧ It is gwestimated that with how long humans lived (lived several hundreds of years) that there may have been MILLIONS – if not BILLIONS alive in Noah’s day
- ❧ TRUTH REFLECTION: Only 8 out of MILLIONS if not BILLIONS in Noah’s day were saved
 - ❧ If you were to be conservative and let’s say there were only 1 MILLION alive in Noah’s day
 - ❧ $8 / 1,000,000 = 0.000008\%!!!$
- ❧ Let’s put this in further perspective

REFLECTION ON THE STORY OF NOAH



CONJECTURE: if we were to take that conservative estimate (1M) and try to calculate approximately how many true born again Christians there are in the World today we can have some calculated guesses:

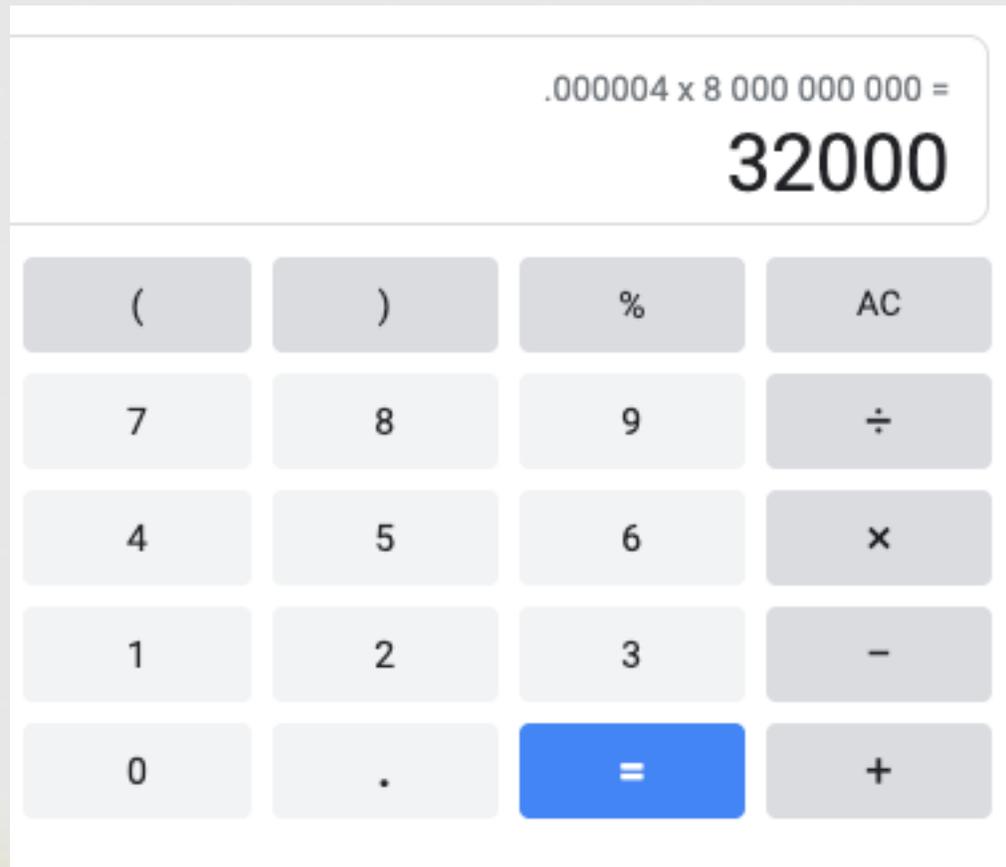
Here are those calculations:

- Estimated world population: 8 Billion
- If we were to multiply $0.000008\% \times 8,000,000,000 = 64,000$ saved people
- But 64,000 is a CONSERVATIVE NUMBER (based on 1M population in Noah's day)!
- What if there were more people alive in Noah's day, then that means there are even less saved people on earth right now!
- Here are more estimates...

THE HIGHER THE POPULATION IN NOAH'S DAY - THE LOWER THAT ARE TRULY SAVED TODAY



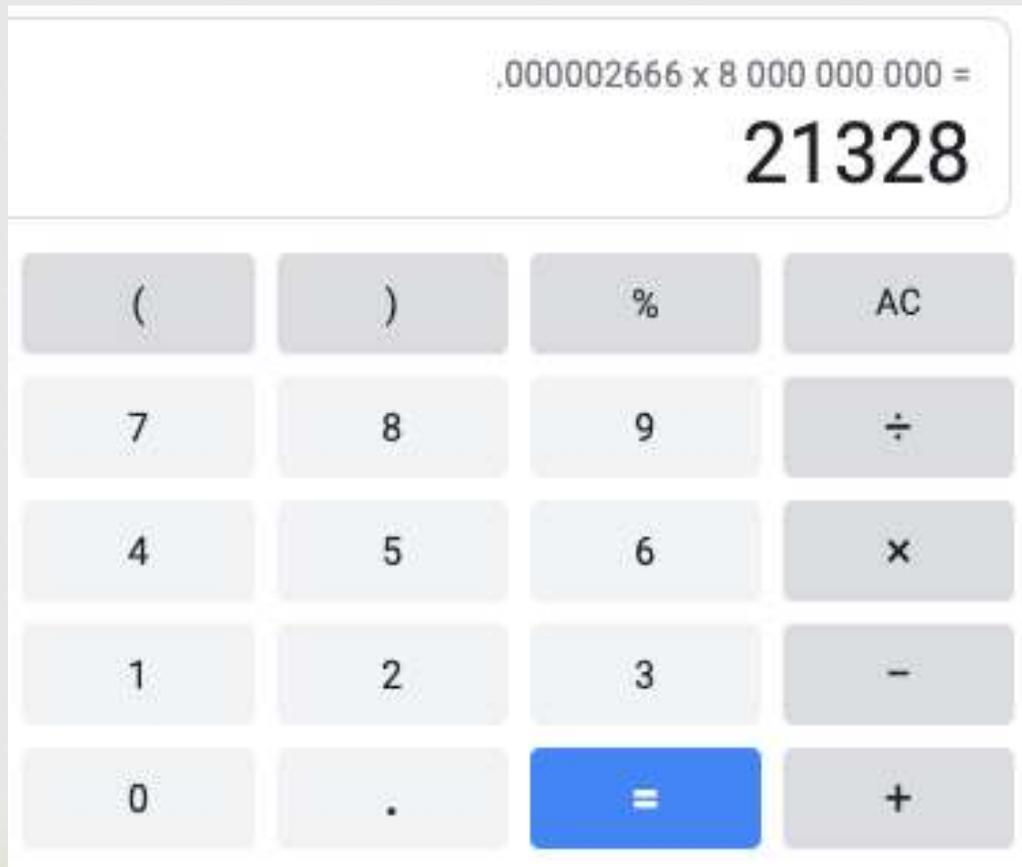
☞ If there were 2 million people in Noah's day, it drops to 0.000004%: only 32,000 saved!



THE HIGHER THE POPULATION IN NOAH'S DAY - THE LOWER THAT ARE TRULY SAVED TODAY



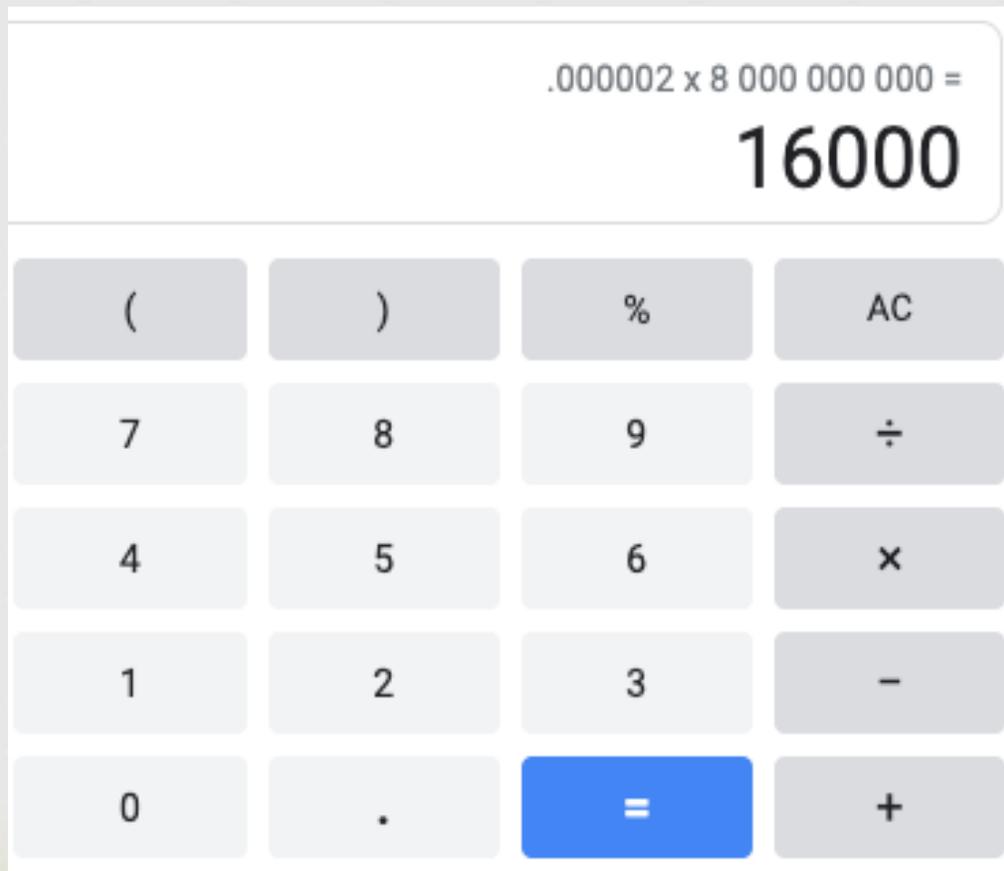
☞ If there were 3 million people in Noah's day, it drops to 0.000002666%: only 21,328 saved!



THE HIGHER THE POPULATION IN NOAH'S DAY - THE LOWER THAT ARE TRULY SAVED TODAY



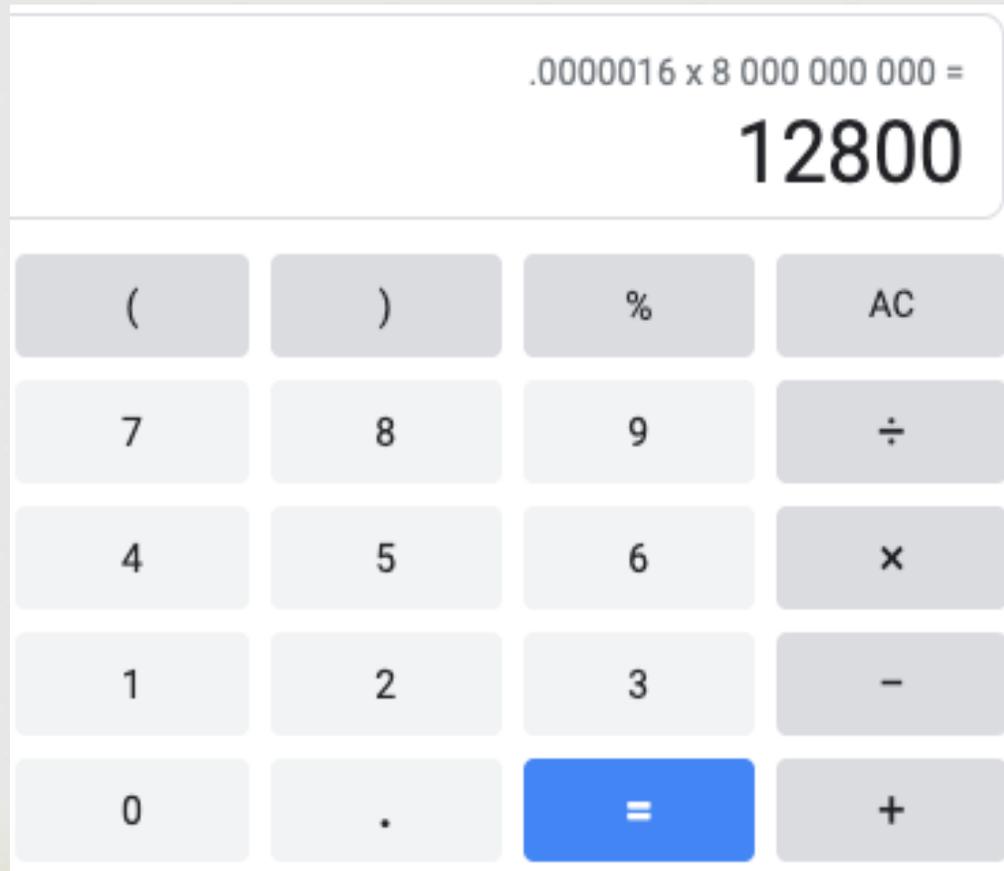
☞ If there were 4 million people in Noah's day, it drops to 0.000002%: only 16,000 saved!



THE HIGHER THE POPULATION IN NOAH'S DAY - THE LOWER THAT ARE TRULY SAVED TODAY



☞ If there were 5 million people in Noah's day, it drops to 0.0000016%: only 12,800 saved!



You get the picture, the more people there were, the less saved people there will be in proportion to the population. Which means, there's not many of us! And this shouldn't surprise us because our Lord told us of this reality...

CASE IN POINT: Only a few will be saved. This helps shed more lights behind our Lord's teachings about the Wide/Narrow Road/Gate...

ONLY A FEW WILL BE SAVED



Matthew 7:13-23

13 “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and **there are few** who find it.

15 “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? 17 So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 So then, you will know them by their fruits.

21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

ONLY A FEW WILL BE SAVED



BACK TO MY CASE IN POINT:

- ❧ If only Noah and his family (8 in all) believed the Word of God
- ❧ If only Noah and his family (8 in all) were saved when God flooded the earth
- ❧ They must have felt like they were on an island too!
- ❧ Actually, much worse, they were even in a smaller isolated place, in an ark (only about 500 feet long) boarded with animals
- ❧ Noah and his family were separated from the rest of the ungodly, all of whom perished when the Flood came unexpectedly to them
- ❧ All this is to say, I think they felt like they were on an island too
- ❧ So if you feel like that too, join Noah's family! 😊

CLOSING REFLECTIONS



- ❧ If you ask me, I believe the church as a whole is in an APOSTATE state
- ❧ As Paul warned Timothy, in the last days not many will endure sound doctrine
- ❧ Yes there are some good churches out there, just like there were some good churches of the 7 churches in Revelation, but good quality churches, bible teaching, bible believing, bound in the unity of love and Spirit of peace, not bound by traditions, Creeds and doctrines of man - are hard to come by

CLOSING REFLECTIONS



- ❧ If you ask me, I believe that the church body should be a living and growing organism
- ❧ I believe that Pastors and teachers of a church are not to “know it all” when they hear God’s call to lead His flock and begin shepherding – I believe you learn on the fly
- ❧ I believe that Pastors and teachers should NOT go to seminary just to learn and pass down traditions, Creeds, or Doctrines of man
- ❧ I believe that Pastors and teachers are to feel compelled and are to grow in discovery while leading the sheep entrusted to them
- ❧ When Jesus’s disciples became apostles - they didn’t know it all – they relied on the Holy Spirit
- ❧ They needed to meet and in wisdom seek out what the Spirit in them and the Scripture said the will of God is for any given situation

CLOSING REFLECTIONS



- ❧ Romans 11
- ❧ Church is repeating what Israel did when they elevated tradition
- ❧ There were many traditions in Israel when Jesus arrived
- ❧ There will be many traditions in the church when Jesus returns
- ❧ Just like many of the Jews weren't saved because they held on to their traditions
- ❧ So to many within the church won't be saved because they held on to their traditions
- ❧ Sadly many cannot break away from that and would rather not be corrected by Scripture
- ❧ This could very well be behind Paul's statement that "For God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all." - Rm 11:32

CLOSING REFLECTIONS



- ❧ If you ask me, I do believe there is only ONE interpretation in Scripture not many
- ❧ I now believe that ALL sound doctrine is essential
- ❧ I don't believe that there are non-essential doctrines
- ❧ I believe the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is telling ONE consistent story concerning the God's redemptive will, plan and purpose
- ❧ I believe we as a body can break out of the stronghold of tradition and the opinions of men, if we played by the rules and principles modeled for us by both the OT and NT authors of Scripture

CLOSING REFLECTIONS



- ❧ I believe if we played by the right rules whose heart of hearts is to let God be true and every man a liar – that there wouldn't be different denominations or sects in the church of Jesus Christ
 - ❧ There wouldn't be different doctrines, creeds or camps
 - ❧ There wouldn't be different views on God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, election, predestination, human will, eschatology, etc...
-
- ❧ This is why I'm thankful that we set out our ROEs before we began this journey...

Rules of Engagement



Thou shalt interpret Scripture
w/Scripture

Thou shalt not add or take away from
Scripture

Thou shalt not take Scripture out of
context

Thou shalt interpret Scripture w/literal
fulfillment

Thou shalt not impose personal bias

Thou shalt not pass down man's
opinion

Thou shalt not over spiritualize
Scripture

Thou shalt not present speculation as
truth

Thou shalt not resist what the Spirit
says to the churches

Thou shalt not sensationalize Scripture

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT 2.0

I

You shall interpret Scripture with Scripture

VI

You shall not over spiritualize and explain away Scripture

II

You shall not add or take away from Scripture

VII

*You shall not make church tradition,
Creeds or Doctrines on par with Scripture*

III

You shall not take Scripture out of context

VIII

You shall not elevate man's teachings with Scripture

IV

You shall not cancel Scripture with Scripture

IX

You shall not impose personal bias

V

You shall interpret Scripture with a literal fulfillment

X

You shall be corrected by and obey Scripture

IN CLOSING



- ❧ So if you think our learning is making us mad, there is some truth to that in that there's just a few of us who are open and willing to be corrected by Scripture and obey the truth
- ❧ I'm not going crazy
- ❧ You're not going crazy
- ❧ The Word of God is living and active and sharper than any 2 edged sword
- ❧ It's been living in me, and I'm sure it's been living in you and perfecting its work
- ❧ This is why I'm Unashamed of the Godhead and for proclaiming with the Spirit's help, the true relationship within God - with God the Father on top and Jesus Christ His Son in subjection to Him
- ❧ Despite this subordinate relationship - the Father wants us to come to His Son, to love His Son, to obey His Son - to worship the Son as God as the Father is God!
- ❧ This is why among many reasons why I'm UNASHAMED OF THE GODHEAD Amen. Amen.