the generations of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth; and unto them were sons born after the flood.” (Gen. 10:1) “These are the generations of Shem: Shem was an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad two years after the flood; and Shem lived after he begat Arphaxad five hundred years, and begat sons and daughters.”—Genesis 11:10, 11.

There is no evidence that any children were taken into the ark, but, on the contrary, the Scriptural record is that Noah and his wife and his three sons and their wives, that is, eight persons in all, were taken into the ark: “And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons’ wives, with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.” (Gen. 7:1, 7) “And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons’ wives with him.” (Gen. 8:18) “The ark... wherein few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water.” (1 Pet. 3:20) These scriptures support the conclusion that the beginning of the “filling of the earth” is not due before Armageddon; and in further support thereof mark the words of Jesus, which definitely seem to discourage the bearing of children immediately before or during Armageddon: “And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!”—Matt. 24:13.

There are Jonadabs now who are fully devoted to God and his kingdom and many of which now have children; what must be expected for them? The obligation is upon the parents to teach their children the truth of and concerning Jehovah and his kingdom under Christ and thus to lead them that they may seek righteousness and meekness, and, so doing, the divine promise will apply to such children, to wit: “Seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord’s anger.” (Zeph. 2:3) Children born before Armageddon are brought into the world while Satan’s wicked, oppressive organization affects the lives of all on the earth, and there is but one way of finding protection and safety for such children, as well as others, and that is to devote themselves to God and his kingdom and find refuge in the organization of Jehovah under Christ. They must seek to learn the truth and conform themselves to God’s expressed will. Therefore the Jonadabs should see to it that their children are properly taught and afforded an opportunity to place themselves fully under the protection of the kingdom of God. It would therefore appear that there is no reasonable or Scriptural injunction to bring children into the world immediately before Armageddon, where we now are. If children are born, then the parents should see to it that such children are properly instructed concerning the Lord and his kingdom until the child reaches the age when it must freely exercise its own will and bear its own responsibility. While it is not the obligation of the remnant to seek out children not their own and to give them instruction, yet all children who accompany their parents or foster parents or those friendly to them, and who desire to attend and do attend study meetings with the grownups and there seek righteousness and meekness, should be given aid and encouragement. Such aid and encouragement can be given by having the children sit quietly at such study meetings and listen to the instructions that are given. At the “feast of weeks” those other than Israelites were permitted to attend, concerning which God there gave the commandment, to wit: “And thou shalt rejoice before the Lord thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy maidservant, and thy manservant, and thy herdman, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which the Lord thy God hath chosen to place his name there.” (Deut. 16:11) At the “feast of tabernacles”, when his people assembled at the temple, God commanded thus: “Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and that the fear of your God, and of the words of this law, may be upon your children.”—Deut. 31:12.

Separate meetings called “Sunday schools”, which are used for the juveniles, are not Scriptural, but the children should accompany their parents to the place of study of God’s Word, the place of worship; and when other children come with them that they too might learn, such should be required to sit quietly in the meeting and learn. (For a more complete consideration of instruction of children see The Watchtower of April 15 and May 1, 1938.)

AFTER ARMAGEDDON

Adam and his wife Eve were commanded to “multiply and fill the earth”. They were then righteous and Adam and Eve failed to raise up a righteous generation because they both sinned before beginning to exercise the function of bringing children into the world. After Armageddon the willful violators of God’s law will all be gone from the earth, and the survivors, being righteous, by God’s grace, and being thus counted by him, may then fulfill the divine mandate. The Devil will then be bound, so that he cannot interfere with or influence the upbringing of the children of the Jonadabs. (Rev. 20:1-3) The degenerate or wicked offspring of Adam will then be dead, so that they cannot exercise any influence over children of the great multitude, such as Nimrod exercised over the generation of Noah’s sons. (Gen. 10:8-10) The kingdom of God then in full operation being unto life for the obedient, the children of the great multitude conceived under the kingdom would be conceived unto life by the grace of God through Christ Jesus. Lucifer, as man’s overlord, failed in the performance of the commission given to him because he rebelled and then

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