

“HOW HIGH’S THE WATER PAPA?”

Jeremiah 12:5

Intro: In March of 1959, Johnny Cash recorded a story song he had written about a flood that his family experienced when he was young.

“HOW HIGH’S THE WATER PAPA?”

How high’s the water, mama?

Two feet high and risin’

How high’s the water papa?

Two feet high and risin’

We can make to the road in a homemade boat

That’s the only thing we got left that’ll float

It’s already over all the wheat and the oats,

Two feet high and risin’

How high’s the water mama?

Three feet high and risin’

How high’s the water papa?

Three feet high and risin’

Well, the hives are gone,

I’ve lost my bees

The chickens are sleepin’

In the willow trees

Cow’s in water up to her knees,

Three feet high and risin’

How high’s the water mama?

Four feet high and risin’

How high’s the water papa?

Four feet high and risin’

Hey, come look through the window pane,

The bus is comin, gonna take us to the train

Looks like we’ll be blessed with a little more rain

four feet high and risin’

How high's the water mama?
Five feet high and risin"
How high's the water papa?
Five feet high and risen"

Well, the rails are washed out north of town
We gotta head for higher ground
We can't come back till the water comes down,
Five feet high and risin"

Well, it's five feet high and risin" (Johnny Cash)

Papa, the floods waters are rising against your children, wife and others. There are going to be storms of adversity in life. But as we look to the Lord in faith, we can truly see a silver lining to the storm clouds.

Of the song "How High's the Water Papa", Johnny Cash said: "My mama always taught me that good things come from adversity if we put our faith in the Lord. We couldn't see much good in the flood waters when they were causing us to leave home. But when the water went down, we found a load of rich black bottom dirt across our land. The following year, we had the best cotton crop we'd ever had."

Dear men of God here today, we need to be reminded that the waters of adversity are rising, the flood of liberalism and moral decay is drowning many families. Think once again of our text and ponder this thought: "If the footmen tire you, what will the horses do?"

The spiritual Jordan River is swelling, and we see its destructive course. If we are wearied in this time of relative peace, how will we handle it when every vestige of our Christian heritage is assaulted? It is time for us to confront the rising tide and build a seawall of faith in the home.

I. THE RISING TIDE AGAINST THE BIBLE

A. The Bible is being attacked from all sides in this day and age. The liberals attack it as do some conservatives. The liberals want every vestige of Christianity destroyed from the Ten Commandments on down; while conservatives accept anything with the name Jesus attached to it.

1. The creation of the so-called Bibles that use Dynamic Equivalence instead of word for word translation is one of the ways that the Devil is duping the masses into believing a lie.

2. Well known expositor John MacArthur says: “We live in a day when the culture is telling the church what the Bible is allowed to say. A great illustration of this is the publication of the TNIV. Zondervan Publishing Company produces a Bible called the TNIV. The TNIV is distinguished in its deference to the feminist movement. It has altered the Word of God, changed the Word of God, to make it compatible to the contemporary feminist movement and that is not the only [one] that has done that, others... have done that as well. The Word of God is not ever to be used in such a way as to accommodate cultural perception. You do not take the Word of God, twist the Word of God, alter the Word of God, change the Word of God, embellish the Word of God, diminish the Word of God in order to achieve something that accommodates cultural expectations. But that is being done, and it is being done at the very core when it is being done with Bible translation.” (Sermon: Assorted Attacks on the Bible)
3. The TNIV and the NIV are to be rejected because they both come from Alexandrian texts that deny, among other things, the Trinity. The attack on the Trinity started in the third and fourth centuries; the corrupt text from which these versions come is claimed to have its origin in the fourth or fifth centuries. There is no coincidence here. Fathers stand for the Word of God. 1 John 5:7 is completely removed from the NIV; this is a vital verse when it comes to the doctrine of the Trinity. The Authorized Version reads: “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” It is to be noted that the Jehovah’s Witness Bible leaves this verse out.
4. The water is rising against the Word of God. One of the newest surges of the tide is recently released, “The Message Bible”. In the Message Bible, the Antichrist is an anarchist. The words “falling away,” speaking of the apostasy of the latter days, are removed from 2 Thessalonians 2:3. To 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, the Message adds this PC phrase while giving homosexuality a pass, “Those who use and abuse each other, use and abuse

sex, use and abuse the earth and everything in it, don't qualify as citizens in God's kingdom..."

- B. Dad's, how do we sand bag the levy and protect our families? By teaching our children that the Bible is the inerrant, inspired and preserved Word of God. Teach them that the King James Bible can be trusted and followed.
 - 1. Proverbs 22:5 says: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." How are we to do this? Through the Word of God, the Bible, that's how.
 - a. Psalm 119:9: "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto, according to thy word." To do this you need a Bible that can be trusted.
 - b. Psalm 119:11: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
 - 2. 2 Timothy 3:15 zeros in on the need for early childhood instruction in the Holy Scriptures: "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." The Gospel is plainly declared in the Word of God (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

II. THE RISING TIDE AGAINST BIBLICAL MORALITY

- A. Fisher Ames (1758-1808 a Massachusetts Congressman) said: "Should not the Bible regain the place it once held as a textbook? Its morals are pure, its examples are captivating and noble." The Bible is not wanted today because morals are not wanted today. All one has to do is turn on the TV, take a look at the tabloids at the check out counter, or watch the latest dance moves, to see that the flood waters of immorality are about to swamp us.
- B. Dad, once again we run to the Bible for the help that we need to get our sons and daughters to safety.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 6:18: "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body, but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."
 - 2. "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Tim. 2:22).

- C. The movie industry, the music industry, the internet will all continue to promote immoral behavior. How high is the water papa? We are about to drown in the sexual revolution. Don't dip your colors, and don't stop standing for what is good and right.

III. THE RISING TIDE OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

- A. The headlines from around this country and the world point to the fact that drugs are a major problem and emblematic of the shortness of time before the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Note these headlines:
 1. Mexican drugs flooding US
 2. Canadian made Ecstasy-Meth Drug flooding US
 3. Flood of Caribbean drug mules flooding European authorities
 4. Flood of Afghan Heroin fuels drug plaque in Russia
 5. Cocaine Crisis prompts Spain to unleash flood of anti-drug...
- B. Dad, you need to fill your children with a godly perspective of life. They do not need more of the world; they need more of Christ. Mind altering drugs are destroying this country and the world.
 1. The Bible tells us to be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 3:18: "Be not drunk with wine wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit..."
 2. The mind altering we need is the transforming work of God (Romans 12:1-2).
 3. To be overcomers in this world, we need to be "Strong in the grace that is Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 2:1).

Conclusion: Men we have dealt with only a few of the floods that are coming against our Children, our families, our nation. 1 Corinthians 16:13 exhorts us to: " Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." The Greek word for "quit" is *andrizoami* meaning "to show one's self a man, be brave."

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