

## **As In The Days Of Noah, So It Will Be**

Matthew 24:37 to 39: 'As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage, until the very day when Noah went into the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and swept them all away -- so will be the coming of the Son of Man'.

Luke 17:26 to 30: 'As it was in the days of Noah, so it will also be in the day of the Son of Man. People ate, they drank, they married, they were given in marriage, until the day when Noah went into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. As it was in the days of Lot. People ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the very day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. That is the way it will be on the day that the Son of Man is revealed'.

The violence, immorality and uncertainty of our world are not unique to our time; it has been part of humanity since Cain slew Abel thousands of years ago. Left to itself, mankind always falls into depravity. The Lord can work wonderful repentance and will pull back from the brink of judgement, and after a while a new generation comes along and they fall back again. Noah's generation was one of extreme depravity, which brought about extreme judgement such as never before or since. Noah was born about a thousand years after creation, and since the people lived for hundreds of years in those days, the people would have known about creation and the fall, but even that knowledge did not stop them from become depraved. However, the Lord has used the judgement of the flood to show His mercy to our generation. Since the coming of Jesus, baptism has been a significant symbol of God's mercy and grace towards repentant sinners, and the Lord has likened Noah's universal flood to a symbol of baptism. Noah's generation were disobedient sinners, but Jesus showed them great mercy thousands of years after the flood. 'For Jesus the Messiah died for sins once for all, the Righteous for the unrighteous, so that He might bring us to God. In His human body He was put to death, but He was made alive in the Spirit in which He went and preached to the spirits in prison; to the souls of those who in the days of Noah, had been disobedient; when God's patience waited during the building of the ark in which a few people, actually eight in number, were saved through water. Baptism, which is a symbol of their deliverance, does now also save you, not by the removing dirt, but by giving you the answer of a clear conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus our Messiah' (1 Peter 3:18 to 21).

The depravity of Noah's generation was what brought about severe judgement. The similar depravity of this generation will also bring severe judgement. Genesis gives us a picture of the world in which Noah lived. 'When men began to multiply on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God (rebellious angels) saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they took wives of all they chose. The Lord said, "My Spirit will not strive with man forever, for he too is flesh; but his days shall yet be 120 years." Nephilim were on the earth in those days -- and also afterward -- when the sons of God (rebellious angels) lived with the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination and intention of all mankind was only evil continually. The Lord regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved at heart. The Lord said, "I will destroy mankind whom I have created from the ground -- not only man, but the beasts and the creeping things and the birds of the air, for I regret that I have made them." But Noah found favour in the eyes of the Lord ... Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God ... the earth was depraved in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. God looked upon the world and saw how corrupt and violent it was, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth and lost their true direction' (Genesis 6:1 to 12).

If we look at the current world events, we can see we are living in the days prophesied by Jesus that are akin to Noah's day, and that is of great importance to us. One of the things that marked that generation was violence and we live in a very violent world. Wars, street violence, domestic violence, gang violence, abortion, rape, even children are becoming violent. Violent crime is on the increase all over the world, encouraged largely by violent movies and computer games that serve to desensitise people to it. Children are most susceptible and some accept violence as the norm. Violence brings God's judgement. The earth was filled with violence and the Lord said He would destroy the earth because it. Violence was the reason the Lord was going to destroy Nineveh. 'Let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands' (Jonah 3:8). The people repented when Jonah warned them and so averted God's judgement. After a while a new generation were born who forgot and they fell back into sin. The Lord hates violence. 'The Lord tests the righteous, but His soul hates the wicked and him who loves violence' (Psalm 11:5).

During these days of extreme violence, we have a Father Who can protect us. There are scriptures we can stand on and claim for our protection. 'It is God Who delivers me from my enemies; yes, You lift me up above those who rise up against me; You deliver me from violent men' (Psalm 18:48). 'He will redeem their lives from oppression and violence' (Psalm 72:14). 'Deliver me, O Lord, from evil men; preserve me from violent men' (Psalm 140:1). 'Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from the violent men who have purposed to trip me up' (Psalm 140:4).

Another evil that permeated Noah's generation was wickedness and corruption on every level of their society. Every intention they had was continuously evil. Selfishness, self-centredness, greed, dishonesty and every form of sexual immorality was rampant. Another thing that marked that generation was homosexuality. That was one activity that helped bring down the Lord's judgement. There are some parallels between the immorality of Noah's generation and that of our generation. According to written history, in the days of Noah homosexual couples were given certificates of marriage. Noah preached righteousness. 'God did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness. He brought a flood upon the world of ungodly people' (2 Peter 2:5). The whole population ignored Noah's warnings and continued living their depraved lives as though nothing was going to happen. Jesus said the people did not understand until it was too late – and the flood came. Noah must have been a shining light in his dark world. We also need to shine brightly as the righteousness of God. Noah was the only man who chose to stand against the moral decay of his generation. He was so righteous God said He was perfect in his generation. That means Noah did not have any wrong attitudes, motives or activities. His relationship with God was so strong God could speak to him directly. Noah would have made a deliberate decision to avoid sin. We also have to make the decision not to sin. Noah walked with God – we have to walk with God. To walk with God means to walk in His presence every day like Noah did. He habitually walked with God consistently all day, every day, and in no way erratically but unchangingly. The Lord has written the story of Noah to inform and warn us.

When we look at Noah's example, we need to look at the phenomenon that took place then. Noah was righteous and was accustomed to hearing the voice of God. He was obedient and followed the Lord's directions exactly. Imagine how people in our day would react if a believer began to build a massive ship right in the middle of a desert where everyone knew rain never fell, and that man said God had told him to build a ship there because a flood was coming. Then amazingly, wild and domestic animals from all over the world began to quietly amass themselves around the ship. The ship-builder would be ridiculed, mocked, derided; he and his ship would become a tourist attraction, and no doubt well meaning 'conservationists' would sedate and truck all the animals back to where they came from. Churchgoers would preach against such stupidity and some would denounce him. That is similar to what Noah and his family went through for one hundred and twenty years as he laboured to build the ark. We know the animals were already amassing there because it took only a week to load them into the ark once it was completed (Genesis 7:7 to 10).

So how depraved were the people in Noah's day? Extremely. Their depravity was abhorrent almost beyond belief. Doing research on this topic has been disturbing and offensive, but we are living in the days just before the return of Jesus, and these days are becoming like the days of Noah, and Christians have to know what we are up against. We need to know what to look out for. There have been leather and stone 'books' found buried deep underground in ancient libraries, in cities around ancient Mesopotamia, the area where Noah lived. Some of what has been revealed is quite shocking. For example, they had certificates of marriage in the days before the flood, and some were issued to homosexual couples. Although the Bible mentions the wickedness of the day, it doesn't give a lot of detail. Ancient civilisations that were destroyed in the flood left behind etchings and writings on stone that had advanced technological terms in their language. The ancient people had libraries full of books that have been unearthed by archaeology only within the past one hundred years. It is possible that the Lord had this information uncovered to inform our generation exactly what He meant by, 'As in the days of Noah, so it will be'. If this knowledge was not uncovered, we would never be able to fully understand what Jesus meant. Some of those books had generations worth of recorded knowledge. The people before and during the days of Noah were unique, in that they lived for hundreds of years – all the while accumulating knowledge of evil. It stands to reason, if a person studies one subject for five hundred years, he will obviously know more than someone who has studied the subject for fifty years. So in parallel with our day, their knowledge increased with each passing year, just as our knowledge increases with each passing year. Where the people in Noah's day had hundreds of years to fill their heads with knowledge and memories, mankind in this day may have only seventy or so years on earth, but we have the artificial 'memories' of copied books and the computer age to keep our knowledge increasing, and not all of it is good. The immense accumulation of knowledge, skill and experience of the people in Noah's day would logically, have advanced science with a rapidity that would be almost inconceivable to us. We can only imagine the inventions and manufacture of the appliances of such an

advanced civilisation. The design of the ark itself was so advanced that ship builders copied its design for thousands of years, and some aspects are still used today. Another example of their advanced knowledge is the structure of the sphinx and the first pyramid, which involve an accurate knowledge of astronomy on a level with modern science. It has been scientifically proven that the sphinx was at one time completely submerged in water for an extended period of time about five thousand years ago – the time of the flood. They had the equivalent of universities and outer space observatories. They were able to accurately predict weather patterns; they mined gold and other metals. Their jewellery was very intricate – much more so than today's jewellery which seems crude in comparison. The ancients had a civilisation so advanced, that in the thousands of years since the flood, mankind has not been able to equal it – as much as we want to believe we are the most advanced in history – we are not. Certainly in our time in history we are far more advanced in many ways, such as in space travel, technology and medical advances, but in fine art and the knowledge of astronomy, we are way behind. Noah's contemporaries gave little thought to worshipping their Creator. That brought the breakdown of society.

The Bible is more explicit regarding the wickedness in Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:20 to 19:29). When the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, the Lord did not destroy the whole world, only the depraved cities. 'He condemned to total destruction the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, reducing them to ashes, making them an example to those who would be ungodly. He rescued righteous Lot, who was greatly distressed by the wickedness, for that righteous man living among them, was tormented in his righteous soul every day with what he saw and heard of their lawless and wicked deeds' (2 Peter 2:6 to 8). 'As Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them which behaved in the same way, in unnatural sexual immorality, are laid out as an example of eternal fire' (Jude 1:7). So the Lord has warned all mankind that the wages of sin is destruction. That is why Jesus spoke clearly about that warning; so we could discern and guard against falling into the same temptations.

What were the three major differences for the reasons for judgement on the whole earth in Noah's day, and the judgement of only the wicked cities in Lot's day? (1) In Noah's day they were publicly sanctioning homosexual marriage by issuing certificates of marriage to homosexual couples. There was rampant homosexual activity in Lot's day, but they never issued marriage certificates for them. (2) In Noah's day the rebellious fallen angels (called the sons of God) were having sex with women and producing half-breed, sub-human, wicked beings, with supernatural height, size and strength called Nephilim. It is strictly against God's law of nature for different species to mate and breed. Angels and humans are very alike, but that does not mean they could interbreed. The angels who left heaven to come to earth were severely punished and will be for eternity. 'God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell, delivering them to be kept there in pits of darkness till the judgment' (2 Peter 2:4). 'Angels who did not keep their own first place of power but abandoned their proper dwelling place, He has reserved in eternal chains under darkness until the judgment of the great day (Judgement Day)' (Jude 1:6). (3) God had already sent His rainbow to remind the earth that He promised He would never again destroy the whole earth with a flood. "I will establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood; neither shall there ever again be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the token of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be that when I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow is seen in the clouds, I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters will no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the rainbow is in the clouds and I look upon it, I will remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth." God said to Noah, "This rainbow is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh upon the earth" (Genesis 9:11 to 17).

God promised never to send another flood to destroy the earth and He could not renege on that promise even when the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah were shrieking out at the Lord. 'The Lord said, "Because the shriek of the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is exceedingly grievous, I will go down now and see whether their deeds are as bad as the cry of it which has come to Me; if not, I will know"' (Genesis 18:20). The Lord did not promise not to destroy the earth, He promised not to destroy the earth with a flood. Next time the Lord judges and destroys the whole earth, it will be by fire, not by flood. 'For they wilfully forget this fact, that the heavens were created and the earth was formed out of water and by means of water by the Word of God, by which the world was deluged with water and perished. But by the same Word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly people. Do not forget this one fact beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow about what He promises, but He is long-suffering and patient toward us, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance. But the day of

the Lord will come like a thief in the night, then the heavens will vanish with a thunderous crash, and the universe will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. Since all these things are in the process of being dissolved, what kind of person ought each of you to be in holy behaviour and devout Godliness, as we are earnestly longing for the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved, and the elements will melt with heat? But we look for a new heavens and a new earth according to His promise, in which righteousness dwells' (2 Peter 3:5 to 13).

The reason heaven and this whole earth will be destroyed by fire is because it has been corrupted by sin. Our sin was dealt with at the cross of Jesus so we will not experience judgement. The depravity of the wicked has corrupted the earth. Fire is the only way to destroy corruption, so heaven and the earth will be destroyed to rid the universe of the vile practices of the rebellious angels. Heaven is the natural abode of angels so therefore, they were polluting heaven as well as earth. Homosexuality is evil enough but the formal sanctioning of this abomination by allowing marriages between depraved couples is worse. God the Father ordained marriage to be holy and undefiled. The Lord created woman for the man. Marriage is the holy union that likens in type, to the pure, holy marriage supper of the Lamb of which Jesus is the Head. To defile marriage is in direct rebellion of God's divine order and rebellion brings supernatural judgement. 'When you see this, your heart shall rejoice; your bones shall flourish like green grass. The hand of the Lord shall be revealed to be with His servants, but His indignation will be revealed to be against His enemies, for behold, the Lord will come in fire, and His chariots will be like the stormy wind to render His anger with fierceness, and His rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by His sword will the Lord execute judgment upon all flesh, and the slain of the Lord will be many' (Isaiah 66:14 to 16).

As the population increased, so did the depravity as recorded in Genesis 6:1 to 12. The population increased, knowledge increased, sin increased, rebellion increased, depravity increased, immorality increased, and it seems there was no moral fibre within those people to bring restraint, then the rebellious angels began having sex with women and producing evil offspring. That brought depravity to a point where the population could not be redeemed and so were destroyed. In the original Hebrew language – the language of the Bible, the 'sons of God' were carefully and deliberately distinguished from 'the daughters of men'. They were not human beings. Angels are called sons of God. 'There was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord' (Job 1:6; 2:1). In Noah's day, the sons of God were rebellious fallen angels. The term 'sons of God' is used only to represent those who were directly created by God, and not born of humans. Adam is called a son of God (Luke 3:38). Jesus is able to give to people who receive Him power to be called the sons of God as we are born of the Holy Spirit. 'But to as many as did receive Him, He gave the authority, power, privilege and right to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in His name, who owe their birth neither to blood nor to the will of the flesh nor to the will of man, but to God' (John 1:12 & 13). At the resurrection, we will be clothed with a spiritual body, a building of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:1 & 17). We will be in every respect equal to the angels, being altogether a new creation (Luke 20:36). 'When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy' (Job 38:7). "Behold, I see four men walking in the midst of the fire and they are not hurt! And the form of the fourth is like the Son of God!" (Daniel 3:25).

The sons of God are created by God and not born of man. Those particular rebellious angels are no longer found among the spirits of darkness, which now inhabit the earth. They no longer have their position or freedom as principalities and powers. They are the imprisoned criminals who after they had sinned, God cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness to be reserved unto judgment, and the context of either passage in 2 Peter 2:4 & Jude 1:6, indicates with sufficient clearness the nature of their sin. They chose to leave their own world. Therefore He forced them down to His lowest dungeons as a punishment for their vile behaviour, and to deprive them forever of the power of producing further evil offspring. If we look closely at the implications of the fallen angels coming down to have sex with women on earth, it is a most horrifying thought. Not only did the Lord, holy and pure, have to look down on earth at mankind, his favourite creation as they became increasingly depraved and wicked, the evil of those fallen angels was freely travelling between earth and heaven, polluting both heaven and earth. Then God pronounced a death sentence on the wicked, giving them one hundred and twenty years to repent as Noah built the ark, but no one repented and all were lost. There is a hint in Genesis 6:4, that implies that the fallen angels continued producing evil offspring because it says they were in those days (of Noah) and afterwards. But since we know all flesh was destroyed in the flood, then it is possible one of the daughter's in-law of Noah continued the Nephilim bloodline.

The Bible does not say how the Nephilim race continued, only that they were later called the sons of Anak (Numbers 13:33) and they were driven from the promised land by the children of Israel. The word Naphal

(singular) or Nephilim (plural) is Hebrew for 'fallen ones'. What is supremely significant here, is that not only were they driven from the promised land by Jewish people, Goliath was one of these evil beings who was slain by King David who was also a Jewish man, and Jesus proudly claimed to be the Son or descendant of King David. "I, Jesus ... am the Root and the Offspring of David, the radiant bright Morning Star" (Revelation 22:16). Later on, the whole tribe of the Anakim were destroyed by the Israelites under the leadership of Joshua. The rebellious angels have been removed forever from heaven and set in chains by God, and God's people on earth have destroyed their evil offspring forever. What is also significant, is the name Joshua and the name Jesus – Yeshua in Hebrew is the same name. So we can see the Lord God worked with His chosen people to cleanse the earth of the wickedness that began in the days of Noah.

Some translations of the Bible call the Nephilim giants. They were more than just giants. They were an evil race of mixed birth that displayed supernatural height, size and strength, with twelve fingers and twelve toes. They were more than just giants – they were utterly evil. Their angelic fathers, as evil as they were, chose to leave heaven and lust after woman. They despised their royal position in the Kingdom of God and the responsibility that came with that God-given role. The Bible says the Nephilim were well known mighty men (Genesis 6:4), they were not called mighty spirits, so clearly they were very human-like as Goliath was. There have been fictional legends and stories written about half-god/half-human species that have supernatural strength. Some of our modern 'super heroes' are such creatures. Modern movies about this subject are on the increase. The concept of such beings comes straight from the devil and Christians should never indulge themselves with movies or computer games with those evil things acting like 'heroes'.

Normal people in our day would naturally be horrified at the thought of rebellious angels and people cohabiting, and that shows the unrestrained depravity of the people in Noah's day because they tolerated it. The average person today would never accept such behaviour. Today's close equivalent is the rise in people involved in spiritism, satanism and other variations of witchcraft. It is utterly evil and is a wicked deception of the devil. We need to be aware of this and stand against it, because it was this practice that brought the judgement on the whole earth. The people in Noah's day slipped away from being close to God, to doing whatever was right by them. They coveted possessions and used violence and bloodshed to secure their desires until the whole earth was filled with violence, much like it is becoming today. They were extremely immoral, like most of our world today. They were gluttonous, like many in our obese world today. Many were drunkards, like many are in our world today. Yet through all this, just like in our day, the ancients had a great appreciation of fine art, music, sculpture, dance, poetry, literature, luxuries and a refined culture. There were poetry recitals for entertainment, dance, public dining and many things we have today. Some of these things are not at all sinful, but the overall rise in depravity goes along with the seemingly innocent behaviours.

For righteous people who live in the times described as the days like Noah lived, life will become increasingly difficult. Genuine believers feel like Lot did (2 Peter 2:7 to 9) and we feel 'tortured' in our souls when we see the terrible wickedness around us. We have the same level of extreme wickedness today, but this generation has more pressure. We have the same rampant homosexuality, violence and wars they had to endure, but we also have the breakdown of family life and structure, financial woes, suicide, advances in science and technology, natural disasters, and with those things, often a feeling of helplessness. The hearts of people are being stirred. Outwardly people are continuing as usual, but inwardly people are on edge. We can see mankind deteriorating rapidly. The world is acting strangely. Birds die as they fly and there have been instances of thousands falling from the sky dead, for no apparent reason. The same is occurring with thousands of fish dying for no apparent reason. Some wild animals are becoming reluctant to breed and are being forced by man into 'breeding programs'. Seismic activity is on the increase coupled with an increase in volcanic activity. Immense, powerful storms, cyclones, hurricanes etc, of a size previously unheard of in modern history are on the increase. But ... Jesus said: 'Now when these things begin to occur, look up because your redemption is drawing near' (Luke 21:28). We must focus in the return of our Messiah Who will appear in the clouds, literally from above. We must keep looking upwards towards heaven and not across at the wickedness of today. Millions of people all over the world, believers and non-believers know something huge is about to happen. Some think the end of the world is near; some think the Messiah will come, whether they believe in religion or not; some are frightened because they are confused, yet people are outwardly behaving as though nothing is afoot; eating, drinking, marrying, planting, reaping, building and living as normal and will continue to do so right up till the day Jesus arrives.

One can only imagine how Noah was feeling, knowing not one person had repented. Only he and his immediately family were to be saved, plus the animals that God had rounded up for him. He was proclaimed righteous. The Lord never said his family were righteous, but Noah needed his family to repopulate the earth so the Lord saved them too. Noah knew the one hundred and twenty years were up and the wrath of God

was being restrained only until the ark was ready. In God's mercy, Noah's parents had died just five years earlier, so Noah did not have to watch them drown, but he had brothers and sisters, possibly nieces and nephews who were lost, and he would have known they were going to die. Imagine how he felt. Noah may have had friends who were swept away. Many of us will see our close friends and some of our family lost for eternity. It is the Lord Jesus Himself Who said they were unaware they were about to die. They had refused to listen to the voice of the Lord speaking through His prophet Noah. They continued eating, drinking and being merry, right up until the flood came. For the people, the rain would have been terrifying because until then, no rain ever fell but the earth was watered by a nightly mist (Genesis 2:6). Imagine never having seen rain before, and certainly not strong wind, thunder or lightning, then suddenly there was a storm like a cyclone or hurricane that didn't stop for over a month. On top of that, the earth opened up in a massive seismic event that poured water from under the earth. It would have been utterly terrifying. People would have been scrambling for higher and higher ground – indeed, remains of people have been discovered on the highest mountain peaks. Remains of animals have been found with grass still in their mouths, so they would have died almost instantly. Dinosaurs died out, as did millions of animals. When the ark came to rest, the earth was completely different. Continents and lands had shifted. Islands were formed. People and animals began to eat flesh, something that had never happened before.

The story of Noah is not only a warning for this age, it is proof, that if mankind is left to itself and tries to live without God, we devolve into beings of lust, violence, self-will, impiety and finally end up in the lake of fire. The rebellion and freedom God allowed through Adam failed mankind miserably. Praise God for the Second Adam, Who has restored mankind to the glory of God; Who has restored the spiritually dead back to life. 'Thus it is written, the first man Adam, became a living soul; the last Adam (Jesus) became a life-giving Spirit' (1 Corinthians 15:45). Thank God we know Him, for without Him we too would perish.

We must be as strong in the Lord as Noah was, during our time of intense pressure. As in the days of Noah, as sin increases we must also warn mankind of the impending judgement that is to come upon the whole earth. It is our duty as believers to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. We must be open to hearing the voice of God even when He tells us to do something others consider to be peculiar. We cannot feel uneasy about sharing the only way of salvation – it is our commission; our mandate. We need to walk righteously like Noah did if we want to see our whole family saved from the 'flood' of lawlessness. Just as Noah would have endured derision in his fallen world, so we also may have to cope with derision. Not only did Noah have to tolerate open scorn, he had to openly and publicly make the ark, which was the only way of their salvation. We must not listen to the so-called 'experts' who say the universal flood was an impossibility and contrary to all laws of nature. We must believe by faith and speak as openly as Noah did. We have to walk blamelessly before God, no matter what the cost and in due time we will be rewarded.

Amen and God bless you.

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