

# Welcome to “J-Talk”

Sunnyside Road Church of Christ

September 4, 2022

## The Year 1524



Last Sunday night, it poured rain, lightning flashed, and thunder boomed. Many of us were trapped in the building waiting for the rain to let up enough for us to race to our cars. For a few moments, it seemed like we needed to start work on another ark!

Predictions of the end of the world are perennial headline grabbers. We are fascinated with end-times – both Christians and non-Christians alike. In the year 1524, Europe was gripped with the belief that there would be a second Noah-like flood.

Johannes Stoeffler occupied the first-ever chair of mathematics and astronomy at the University of Tübingen in 1507 and was elected rector in 1522. Several years before, in 1499, Stoeffler predicted that a flood would deluge the world

on February 24, 1524. He based his prediction on the fact that Mercury, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn would all align themselves in Pisces, the water sign. As the fateful day approached, hundreds of pamphlets were published warning of the impending doom.

The astrologers in London were not to be outdone. They predicted the flood would begin in London (where else?) on February 1, 1524. The Prior of St. Bartholomew's built a fortress in which he stocked enough food and water to last for two months. As February 1st approached, 20,000 people fled their homes. However, when no rain appeared, people simply went home more than a little embarrassed.

Over on the continent, Johannes Stoeffler was adamant regarding his date and the Europeans believed him. In Toulouse, French President Auriac built an ark. Many people in ports throughout Europe took refuge in the boats at anchor. In Germany, Count von Iggleheim built a luxurious, three-story ark. People from the city watched as the Count and his friends boarded his boat on that fateful morning. They made fun of him – until it began to rain. Then the mob rushed the ark

demanding seats. Hundreds were trampled to death in the melee. They pulled the Count from the ark and stoned him to death for not giving them a seat. How different it would have been if only people had studied their Bibles.

Genesis 9:12-15 reads, “And God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.’”

Incidentally, the Encyclopedia Britannica says 1524 was “a year, as it turned out, distinguished for drought.”

*Blessings,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'John' or similar, written in a cursive style.