

"It's better to be prepared for that which does not come,
then unprepared for that which does."



Preparing For The Worst

Ray Evans

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by

Ray Evans



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Dedication

To God, who so loved the world that he gave his only son that we might have life, and have it more abundantly.

Forward

An apology to God and his people

Ten years ago I was so convinced that God had told me to “build an ark” that my brother and I spent close to ten thousand dollars to have an architect draw up plans. We were about to place a deposit on 240 acres of land with a 40-acre lake in rural Oklahoma when my father was diagnosed with cancer.

We scrapped the plans and returned to Texas to be with my father. He died of cancer in 1994.

While we didn’t build the “ark,” it has always been in my spirit to do so. My father had purchased 40 acres of land in rural Texas. Was God directing me to Texas? Was God telling me that a structure costing several million dollars was not what he meant? Or had I just put my own wants and needs above those of God? God knows...I don’t.

I left Oklahoma with a peaceful heart. Texas was our home and it would be fitting to build the “ark” in Texas.

For the record, we’re not building a boat...and the architectural plans for a multi-million dollar facility disappeared long ago. We don’t have as

much land, but we have enough. There's still a lot to do, but I know what needs to be done...I pray God will forgive my unbelief and grant me the time to complete the work.

Do I believe the end is coming? Absolutely. Do I believe it's coming soon? Most assuredly I do. Will it be when or as bad as the book says? I don't know...but I'm preparing for the worst.

I wrote this book in 1997 under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The original title was *Just Call Me Noah*. I didn't have the money to self-publish...and since no publisher was willing to publish the book I assumed it wasn't God's will, or the right time for the book.

In retrospect, maybe I just wasn't persistent enough, or perhaps I was swayed by the negative opinions of others, or maybe I just had a bad case of self-doubt.

Whatever the reason I must apologize to you, the reader, and to all those who perished in the tragic events of September 11, 2001...and to God...for my unbelief.

In today's secular society it's not difficult for people, even spiritual people, to be filled with self-doubt about the things of God. Science and Technology have become our "gods". We only believe what we can see and prove; and like "doubting Thomas" we scream, "Show me the holes".

In 1997, when I wrote this book, very few people believed what was written...and even with all that I had seen and heard, I too had my doubts. Who was I that God would choose me to deliver a message to his people?

Today, you can pick up any newspaper or turn on the radio or television and “see” these things coming to pass. I only hope and pray, by the time you read this, it won’t be too late for you to prepare.

I should have been strong enough to withstand the criticism. I should have been more persistent in finding a publisher. I should have...well, you know how it goes, I (and I’m sure you too at times) “should have” done a lot of things. But one thing is certain...we can never “should have” any thing, or we “would have.”

While the book is a warning to prepare, its purpose is to help you understand the importance of taking God and his word seriously.

Whether the end comes or not, it does matter how you live your life. Applying the principles God laid out in his word will give you a happier, healthier, wealthier life; no matter what happens.

God never said it would be easy...only that it would be worth it. I can tell you from experience...it is worth it.

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Introduction

“And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.”

Luke 17:26-27 (KJV)

It's September 11, 2001. Millions of Americans have been glued to the television since early morning watching in horror the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the United States. The World Trade Center is demolished. The Pentagon is in shambles. And no less than four commercial aircraft have crashed...taking with them hundreds of innocent lives. It is a day that no American, or citizen of any other country, will soon forget.

I chose the original title, *Just Call Me Noah*, because I believed God told me to build an ark...not a boat, but a place of refuge. I changed the title

because had it not been for my unbelief, the prophecy contained in this book concerning the meltdown of the economy would have saved me a lot of money. Fortunately, my unbelief only cost me a little money. It could have been a lot worse. And since I believe the worst is yet to come, *Preparing For The Worst* seemed infinitely more appropriate.

Noah's Ark was physical. While I believe it is important to be prepared physically, it is infinitely more important to be prepared spiritually. If you're not prepared physically, you could lose your earthly life. But if you're not prepared spiritually, you could lose your eternal life. Which do you think is more important?

I believed then, as I do now, that God inspired this book. The words flowed effortlessly. The title has changed...but except for some minor changes in grammar punctuation and sentence structure by the editors, the content of the book is unchanged. The temptation to revise the work in light of today's events was great, but I felt compelled to leave the work as it was.

The book is alarming, and you have every right to be skeptical of the contents of this book...you should be skeptical of any book or person who purports to "speak" for God. God is certainly able to speak for himself and does so quite readily through his word...if people would just read it.

The Bible tells us very clearly that God uses Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers *"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. Eph 4:12-13 (KJV)*

It is not unusual or unscriptural for God to use a human to deliver a message. Be skeptical, but don't be foolish. God has ordained people to

preach and teach...just be careful whom you choose to follow. Test every spirit.

The End...and The Beginning

It is not my intention to “speak” for God, simply to be a witness of what I have seen and heard.

In a little while there will be a lot of talk about “the end of the world”. It’s not the end of the world. It is just the end of the world, as we know it. There’s a new world coming; but it won’t be man’s world, it will be God’s world...where every knee will bow and tongue proclaims that Jesus is Lord.

This is not doom and gloom...it’s Good News. The Bible says the day is coming when you shall look for the wicked and shall not find them, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet.

“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Son of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts. Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I

come and smite the earth with a curse." Mal 4:1-6 (KJV)

What we are witnessing is the beginning of the end. I am not asking you to believe me...study the scriptures for yourself, meditate on the word, and pray that God would give you wisdom to discern the truth.

From the start of the third millennium...the economic meltdown of 2000, the fall and rise of the Soviet Union, the entrance of China into the World market, and now the first terrorist attack on the United States...the time and timing of the end of the age contained in the Bible has never been more precise than it is right now.

The stage is set and the players are in place for God to return the inheritance to his people. And if, as I believe, the seven-year tribulation period has begun...then things are going to get worse, a whole lot worse, before they get better.

Not Time to Quit

It's not time to quit your job and "head for the hills," give away all your worldly possessions, or go on a spending spree; that would be foolish. It is, however, time to start taking God and his word seriously.

This book is not about death and dying...we're all going to die someday. It's about life and living. I didn't write the book for those who are going to die, I wrote it for those who are going to live. The Bible says things are going to be so bad that people will pray for death. It's only going to be bad for those who are unprepared for what's coming.

The events of September 11, 2001 were indeed tragic. The sound of airplanes crashing into the World Trade Center and the rumble of the buildings as they came crashing to the ground must have been horrific for those who heard them. But I can't imagine a more horrible sound in the

entire world then the screams and cries of the men women and children who were scratching and clawing at the door of Noah's Ark. Can you?

Whether you take this book seriously or not is up to you, but here is the message I bring you from God: ***"It's better to be prepared for that which does not come...then unprepared for that which does."***

Although God has all but disappeared from the nightly news, he is not dead. He is real and alive and there is nothing he cannot do.

If you don't know God, I mean really know God, I urge you to get down on your knees and pray as I prayed so many years ago, "God, if you're real, I want to know."

If you're sincere in your request, God will reveal himself in a way that there will be no doubt; and you will no longer believe God is real.

You will know it.

Chapter One

The Essence

“See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.”

Deuteronomy 30:15-16 (KJV)

I wasn't looking for God. I wasn't deaf, dumb, or blind. I wasn't lame or halt, sick or poor. I didn't do drugs or have an alcohol problem.

I lived with my wife and daughter in a fifty-three hundred square foot house on the thirteenth tee in a fairly exclusive neighborhood across from the Mayor of Oklahoma City.

We took in close to six figures a year and really lacked for nothing.

I was the General Manager of an automobile dealership. In short, life was good.

At the time, God was the furthest thing from my mind.

A Change in Circumstances

In the fall of 1986 my boss, the owner, began to act very strangely. Our relationship was a bit more than employer/employee. Many times my wife and I had gone to their house for dinner and cards, gone to the movies, and played golf. It was what you might call an ordinary solid friendship between co-workers. Then one day, for all practical purposes, my boss stopped talking to me.

I've been around awhile and I know when the boss stops talking to you it's not a good sign...recalling the truism that "a barking dog can't bite."

It wasn't that he completely stopped talking...that's not entirely possible in an employer/employee relationship. Still, he was definitely putting distance between us. I was a little concerned, but not to the point of doing anything drastic. I figured he'd get over it. Besides, I thought, it probably didn't have anything to do with me anyway.

After a few weeks of the silent treatment I began to get more concerned. I knew I hadn't done anything wrong, but he was showing a lot of attention to one of my sales managers.

You know how it goes...they're having a conversation until you walk up, and then the conversation stops. It makes you think they're talking about you, or at least something they don't want you to hear. It was really

beginning to play on my nerves

If I had done something wrong, or offended him in some way, why didn't he just tell me? Why the silent treatment? And why did he keep his door shut all the time? What was he hiding?

Finally, I got up the nerve to ask him. I knocked on the door, entered, and there he was reading the Bible.

When I asked him if I had done something wrong, he began to recount how his wife had convinced him to go to a Bible study a few weeks earlier and in the course of those few weeks he had found Jesus.

Boy was I relieved. I thought I was going to get fired and all it amounted to was that he had gotten religion. I didn't have anything against religion. After all, my wife was Catholic. You go to church, leave just before communion, and then go out to eat...and you go on Saturday night if possible, so you can sleep in on Sunday morning. If he wanted religion it was okay with me, as long as he kept writing the payroll checks.

I still had a few problems to work through. If he wanted to hide in his office and read the Bible that was his business, after all it was his dealership. But there was still this little matter of the sales manager.

It seems he was a Christian, and now that my boss had found Jesus they had a lot more in common than my boss and I. My boss said something about not being able to associate with an unbeliever. An unbeliever? What was he talking about? I believed in God. Heck I was raised a Methodist...and had the attendance pins to prove it. When I was ten I got an award from Weekday Religious Education and got to go see the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. I even got the God and Country medal from the Boy Scouts of America...unbeliever my foot.

I'm not a violent person, but this "religion thing" was really beginning to tick me off, so I decided to find out for myself what it was all about.

Humble Beginnings

We didn't have a Bible in the house, but I found a paperback New Testament in the Service Department waiting room and took it home (I assume my boss placed it there for us unbelievers). It was Saturday and the service department was closed. Since I was going to return the book Monday morning, I figured no one would care if I borrowed it for the weekend.

Since it was Saturday, my wife had gone to church. It was the perfect time to read...there was no one home to see me reading. I got about halfway into the first chapter of Matthew and fell asleep on the couch.

This was one boring book. I didn't see how my boss, or anyone else for that matter, could sit and read the Bible for hours on end. One thing was sure though, my boss had changed. For better or worse I couldn't tell, but he had definitely changed.

In the back of the book was a bookmark with "The Sinner's Prayer." I didn't consider myself a sinner—oh, I'd done some things I wasn't real proud of, but all-in-all I had always considered myself one of the good guys.

Nevertheless, I went back into my closet (I sure didn't want anyone to see or hear me) and read that prayer aloud.

I don't know what I expected, angels singing or trumpets blaring maybe, but nothing happened. But for whatever reason I went back into my

closet every night and repeated that prayer until I finally got up the nerve to say what I really wanted to say, "God, if you're real, I want to know."

It was close to Christmas, and this year Christmas was at our house. All the family would be together for the first time in a long time.

My brother had just gotten divorced and didn't have much money so he suggested that each of us (four brothers and a sister etal) tape a special Christmas message to our parents...sing a song, recite a poem, whatever we wanted to do...and he would create a master tape and give it to our parents for Christmas.

After my parents opened the tape I put it in the tape player so they, and we, could listen to the final results of our efforts. The tape was beautiful. It still amazes me how you think you know people, and then you find out you really don't really know them at all.

Unbeknownst to me my brother had included some songs I had written—and we had recorded in my living room—twelve years earlier. We never became famous songwriters or musicians like we were sure we would, but when one of the songs, "Distant Voices," began to play...a rush went through me that I can only describe as love. I saw my parents, my family, my brothers and sisters, through new eyes...and suddenly, I was intensely aware of how much I loved them.

I began to cry...something I hadn't done in a long, long time. It was more of a weeping, sobbing from deep inside. I tried to hide my face and tears, but it was evident to me that something had happened; I didn't know what, but something really wonderful. It was Christmas day 1986...a Christmas I would never forget.

"I Am That Jesus Whom You Seek"

On January thirteenth my boss invited the staff to his church to hear a special speaker from Texas. Since all the other managers were going I felt somewhat obligated to go...not that I believed any differently. Oh, I was still asking God to reveal himself, but that was about it.

The speaker, whose name escapes me, was teaching on "Headship in the family"...how the husband is the head of the family, etc. Selfishly, I said to myself, "My wife needs to hear this."

The next night was "ladies night" and all the other managers were bringing their wives, so I invited my wife to join us as well.

My wife was Catholic. Her parents were Catholic. Her Grandparents were Catholic, and I'm reasonably sure her Great Grandparents were Catholic. She was less than thrilled at the prospect of attending a non-Catholic church. But she understood the importance of her attendance as the wife of the General Manager, so she agreed to go.

I was raised a Methodist. Although my father was not a church-goer, my mother saw to it that we boys went to church every Sunday. I went, but as soon as I was old enough I stopped going to church.

It's not that I didn't like church...it was just kids' stuff to me. I was an adult, I thought. I didn't need to go to church anymore. That is, until I got married.

If nothing else, Catholics go to church. They were, and I suspect still are, a very close-knit group. As a non-Catholic, I had to sign a paper that I would raise my children as Catholics.

It didn't matter to me...religion was religion and church was church. One was no better, or worse, than the other. I loved my wife, and if that's what it took to get married, so be it. After all, what was the big deal, I'd spent sixteen years in church and it didn't kill me. Besides, my wife was a Catholic and she turned out okay.

I will have to say, my bosses' church was unlike anything I'd ever experienced. The people seemed friendlier, the singing was more upbeat, and the sermons seemed more relevant. It was just more alive than any church service I could remember. I liked that.

I was looking forward to the service that night. It was ladies night and the speaker pulled no punches. He even glared down one lady who was not happy with the command "wives obey your husbands." I had never heard anyone preach the way that man preached. In retrospect, I don't know if it was what I needed to hear, but it was definitely what I wanted to hear.

At the end of the service the choir (three people) and orchestra (a piano and drums) began to play...it was a real small church...and everyone stood up and started singing. We didn't know the words, but we stood up anyway and pretended to sing along.

About halfway through the song it got silent...I mean I could see lips moving, but there was no sound. It was like I had gone deaf. And then I heard a voice...from within or without I cannot say, but it was very clear..."I am that Jesus whom you seek." You could have knocked me over with a feather, but there was no need. I got down on my knees in the midst of the congregation and committed my life to the Lord...and I began to weep again.

When I arose, my wife was a bit embarrassed...a grown man down on his knees crying like a baby. But when I arose I was a new creation, I was truly born again. And I knew without a doubt that God was real.

Dreams and Verses

Thus began an incredible journey of walking and talking with God. But I'm not the subject of this book. My testimonies of healing, miracles, even raising the dead would fill a book by themselves. For the purposes of this book I would just like to share a few pertinent events that led to its writing.

I hadn't been illuminated very long when God appeared to me in a dream. In the dream, I was standing in my den or perhaps a library, all I remember is dark wood and lots of books. Then appeared a huge robed figure glowing white gold like the brightness of the sun. From the area inside the hood emanated a brilliant blue light. As I looked up in awe I began to rise in the air and my eyes turned to blue light.

I sat straight up in bed. It was so real. A chapter and verse, Acts 22:14,15 came into my head. It was the first time a scripture had come into my mind, although it would not be the last. I got out of bed and went to get my Bible, finding the correct chapter and verse I began to read, *"And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard."*

As you might expect, no one believed I had seen God. Oh they believed I had a dream, but it was just an overactive imagination or something I ate, or maybe swamp gas—but it was not God.

In time, even I began to think it was just a dream. After all, it's not like we slew a dragon or saved the world, or anything of any importance. But I couldn't get it out of my mind...it was so real.

Then one night, about a year later, my brother looked up from an encyclopedia he was reading and said..."Did you know humans don't dream in color?" I just smiled.

Not long after the dream the men's group at church was going on a retreat. God was working mightily in my life and I looked forward to the retreat with great anticipation. There were seven of us (I told you it was a small church). The other six men shared rooms. I had a room to myself.

We arrived late in the evening, so we just ate and went to our rooms. The Pastor was going to teach the next day, but for some reason he wouldn't reveal the subject.

That night I was impressed by the Spirit that God was going to make a star fall from the sky. I sat next to the window and peered through the curtains, not wanting to be seen by passers-by lest I would have to explain why I was crouched down on the floor in my motel room.

Wonder of wonders, there was only one star in the sky and I watched that star for what seemed like hours. Nothing happened, so I decided to take my shower and go to bed.

After my shower, I returned to the window for one last look...giving God one more chance to make the star fall before I went to bed.

Lo and behold the star was gone. I was shocked beyond belief. Then a still small voice within me said, "Where is your patience?" Once again chapter and verse came into my head, Daniel 12:3, *"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."*

I was distraught. I had disappointed God with my lack of patience. I got on my knees and prayed for forgiveness. The Spirit of the Lord then

began to take me on a tour of the Tabernacle...I saw the altar and the showbread...it was a remarkable experience that lasted for well over an hour.

The next day as we entered the meeting room I noticed the easel was covered. The Pastor then stood up and as he uncovered the easel said, "Today I'm going to take you on a tour of the Tabernacle." I just smiled.

During the afternoon session one of the other Pastors said that God had told him that someone there had been called to a higher calling and we were to pray for him. Although my spirit leapt with joy my Pastor said that it was he who had been called, so we prayed for him. Afterwards, the other Pastor said while we were praying God had told him someone else in the room had been called to a higher calling. At this point I raised my hand; everyone gathered around me, laid hands on me and prayed. I didn't know what, but I knew with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, God had called me for a purpose. It was at this meeting that I first prophesied.

A Prophecy

A few months later two prophetic psalmists from California, Charles and Paula Slagle, came to our church. I didn't know what a prophetic psalmist was, but the service was really interesting. They would read a letter (to or from God I can't remember which) and then anyone who felt moved by the letter would stand up and they would pick people, as the Spirit led them, revealing family or medical problems or other information about the person, and then prophesy over them. All in all it was a pretty remarkable.

That evening as they were finishing their opening song Charles wheeled around pointed at me and said, *"Doing one thing a little different tonight. It just kept coming to me that literature is going to be real strong in your life sir. I don't know anything about you, but writing and printed materials will pour forth from you both. And the gospel will be heralded and heard in many quarters of the world. Not only in what you speak but in what you write as well..."* Now I knew my calling, I was going to preach the gospel...and it was going to be a worldwide ministry. I was ecstatic.

I can still remember the day, although I don't remember what day, when I asked God "What am I Lord? An Apostle? A Prophet?" I must have sounded like James and John, the sons of thunder, "Who's the greatest in the Kingdom Lord?" But I heard God gently laugh as he answered, "Titles, you worry about titles, it is enough that you are my son." I never asked again, neither did it matter. I was a son of God, heir to a throne, and joint heirs with Christ...as are all those who are called by his name.

As I began to read in Matthew 24 the words literally jumped off the page *"But he that endures unto the end, the same shall be saved. And **THIS** gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then the end shall come."*

God had told me I would be his witness to the world. I had seen and heard so much. From the beginning God showed me the "end." I knew in my heart the revelation, the understanding God had given me, would be important one day. It had been prophesied in what I wrote and spoke the gospel would be heralded and heard in many quarters of the world. And now, in one scripture, God seemed to be summing up all that was within me.

On the Road to Damascus

The next ten years would be my "desert" years. I often wondered why Paul, after seeing Jesus on the road to Damascus, had to wait sixteen years before his ministry began, or why Jesus first had to spend forty days in the wilderness. I now understand; whoever is called to do God's work must be prepared to complete the work God called them to do, whether it takes forty days or forty years.

For over ten years God has been preparing me. It's not the end of the world, as some might have you believe, but it is the end of the world as we know it; and the beginning of a new world...a thousand years of peace on earth. Those who are prepared physically and spiritually, as was Noah, will remain to rule and reign with Christ in the coming kingdom. Those who aren't...God help them.

Like most new Christians I watched only Christian television, listened only to Christian radio, and went to church as much as was humanly possible...but the more I watched, listened, and went, the more confused I got. Everyone said they knew the truth, but which one was right?

I was standing in my game room pondering that question when God spoke these words to me and it changed my life forever: ***"Stop listening to the words of man, and start listening to the word of God."***

Needless to say I turned off the television and radio, stopped going to church, and spent the next nine months at the feet of Jesus, growing in wisdom knowledge and understanding.

What was revealed to me was this simple truth, *Christianity is not a religion, it's a way of life; a way of living life the way God intended it to be...in peace, without fear.*

At the time, my life was a physical manifestation of scripture. The Bible and everything in it was coming to life before my eyes. Speaking in tongues, healing, miracles, raising the dead, prophesy...these were so real, so tangible in my life I wondered why everyone wasn't experiencing God and his word as I was.

The bad news...I had developed an extreme case of Christian Pride and the Bible became a sword in my hand.

There was nothing wrong with preaching the truth...and if the truth hurt, so be it. I was going to be a great man of God. Boy did I have a lot to learn about God and his ways.

Then one night in a dream I saw a pile rocks, and God said to me, ***"A lot of little stones put together won't make a boulder, but a boulder when it's broken makes a lot of little stones."*** I knew God had called me for a purpose. What I didn't know was that I was a boulder about to be broken. I was headed for a fall.

It wasn't all-bad...every time God would speak to me my faith grew stronger...but it was like I was reading a different Bible than everyone else.

It's not that I couldn't see how they were arriving at their interpretations, but what God was showing me made more sense; it was more logical, more rational, and more applicable. The scriptures were the same...the understanding was different.

I preached my first sermon at a layman's conference. It was titled "The body of Christ doesn't look like the church, the body of Christ looks like Jesus." It was well received by the congregation...the leadership however was a little putout. It was a pretty simple message; the more one "looked" like a church, with its "Christian Soldier" attitude, the less one "looked" like

Jesus who said, *"I am meek and lowly in heart"* (Matthew 11:29).

In the Desert

It wasn't long before God separated me from the church. Was it my foolish pride, as some said, that caused the split? Or was it my disobedient spirit, as others indicated? The Pastor told me I acted like all I needed was the Bible and the Holy Spirit. I thought this was a strange comment coming from a Pastor. I got down on my knees and prayed for forgiveness and guidance.

If I was doing something wrong I wanted to stop it. I really enjoyed the fellowship at church; they were some of the best days of my young Christian life. While praying I was gently reminded, *"And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. No man also having drunk old wine straightaway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better."* (Luke 5:37,39)

It was clear to me now, I had new wine to share, but the establishment would not readily receive it. It was okay, I had my job to do and the Pastor his. Besides, I figured I was in good company; Jesus had a few problems with the establishment himself.

Still, I would miss the good times, the good people, and the good friends we had met through the church. But I knew God was working in my life and that he would never leave me or forsake me. He had called me for purpose. If I needed to leave the comfort of the church in order to fulfill that purpose, so be it.

By this time the dealership had closed, rather God had closed it, and everyone except my wife and I had gone back to Texas. They had offered me my old job as General Manager of the Texas dealership, my house in Texas had suddenly become available again (our renters were moving), and everything looked as if God was opening the doors for us to move back to Texas.

But in my heart, against everything logical, and over the objections of my boss, my friends, and my family, I believed God wanted me to stay in Oklahoma and I was not going to disobey what I believed in my heart God was telling me to do, even if it meant losing my family.

I spent a few months writing for The Christian Digest. In the beginning I thought this would be the fulfillment of the prophecy, but it was not to be. I had been unemployed for over 9 months and the Digest didn't pay very well. The money was running out and my wife was headed for a nervous breakdown.

A man whom I had met at church was a partner in an athletic club and needed someone to run it. He was having problems with his partner and while the circumstances are a testimony in itself, suffice it to say in January 1988 I took over management of the club.

Ultimately, we bought the man out and took over ownership. It was here that God would prepare me to fulfill his purpose. It was here the "boulder" would be broken.

As an owner, one might think life would be grand. The club was fairly exclusive, catering to an elite group of State Senators, Congressmen, and other government officials, as well as oil barons, insurance executives, and the like. I suppose, in a way, the club was the political hub of Oklahoma City. Who knows how many major decisions were made on our racquetball

courts?

All I knew was that it meant getting up at three a.m. and getting home around ten p.m. I did more laundry in a week than most people do in a year. I cleaned more toilets in a day than most people clean in a month. And I vacuumed more carpet in an hour than most people in a week.

It was not a glamorous job. It was a menial, task heavy, laborious occupation; but through it I would develop a servant's heart and learn to trust God in every situation. But more than that, I would continue to grow in wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of Gods way.

The lessons were hard and many, both physical and spiritual. It was in the weight room that God would show me, ***"Faith is your spiritual muscle...the more you use it the stronger it becomes."*** In the spas, which required constant monitoring for acidity and alkalinity, I would learn about balance, ***"Too spiritual and you miss the pleasures of life, too physical and you miss the meaning of life."***

While every lesson was wonderfully important, it was here God showed me a vision, the foundation upon which I would build for the next ten years...and I believe, the key to his blessings.

Another Vision

In the vision I was standing on a riverbank. On one side of the river was "Belief." On the other side was "Obedience." A great bridge connected the two sides, and the word written on the bridge was "Understanding."

At the time I had little tolerance for people who knowing disobeyed

God's word. I wasn't being "holier than thou," God's word is very clear, *"See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it."* (Deuteronomy 30: 15, 16)

How could anyone say they believed in God and not obey...to me they were just hypocrites and undeserving of anything from God except to be slain like sheep.

Obedience was not a difficult concept. After the vision it became clear to me that it was possible for someone to believe and not obey.

Obedience, not belief, was the key to life and blessing...and understanding was the key to obedience. It was also clear to me that in order to fulfill my purpose, I must focus on understanding, not belief.

Most Christians already believe the end is coming; but they also believe God is going to somehow supernaturally protect them, and then magically whisk them off to heaven.

It's a great thought, but it's not scriptural...unless you have a huge scripture-wrench (that's a device for twisting scripture). What they lack, is understanding...and that's what this book is about.

The Essence: Preparation

The purpose of this book is to help you understand the who, what, when, where, why, and how it's going to happen...so you can prepare

physically and spiritually, as did Noah, for the coming kingdom.

Remember, Noah wasn't immune from the ravages of the flood...he was warned. If he hadn't obeyed God and built the Ark, he would have perished with the rest of the world.

Solomon said, *"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.* (Proverbs 4:7).

Preparing and being prepared is not paranoia, it's wisdom. Most of life's problems could be avoided or lessened if people were better prepared.

Unfortunately most people are unprepared for even minor setbacks. Losing a job or the car breaking down become major disasters. God established the tithe for just this purpose (I know churches say you're supposed to give it to them, but read Deuteronomy 14).

Examining the Principle of Tithing

Tithing is a very simple principle. You don't know what the future will bring, but if you keep just ten percent (a tithe) in your "storehouse" you'll always have food, something to fall back on, if the flood, drought, pestilence etc. were to wipe out your "crops." If it was a good year, you praised God for your abundance, spent the money for whatever your heart desired (not forgetting the priest) and started over the next year. Every third year you gave it to the poor. That way you learned to trust God and his provision, not your savings account.

Today, we just keep building larger storehouses for our money and trust God less and less the more money we sock away.

The funny thing is...we never seem to have enough money to feel secure about the future. And what about the poor? The current attitude seems to be...let them get a job.

Remember, tithing is a principle, not a law. It's not something you have to do, but there is great wisdom in applying God's principles; and after all, we're only talking about ten percent.

Tithing is the only thing God said to test him on, *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."* (Malachi 3:10)

That's a pretty strong statement; unfortunately the church has used and abused the scripture to promote its own end.

Nevertheless, the principle is sound; just make sure you're doing it for the right reason. Giving ten percent to get ten times that amount is the wrong reason. ***"One doesn't give to get, one gets because one is giving."*** It's a matter of the heart, not the head.

I don't believe God wants his people to be poor. The problem is, most people ignore the wisdom God has laid out in his word and live way beyond their means, going deep into debt and spending much more than they make.

Borrowing was not a part of God's plan for his people. *"The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow."* (Deuteronomy 28:12) His plan involved working for a living. Sowing and reaping, trusting him to provide the increase.

So what happened? Either we forgot the principles that God laid out for us, or we never learned them in the first place. My suspicion is a little of both.

Choosing Your Church

Most people don't take time to study God's word, relying on the leadership of the church to give them instruction.

Unfortunately the church has its own agenda...and helping you grow in wisdom, knowledge, and understanding is generally not very high on the "To Do" list of most churches.

They preach, but they don't teach; and as a general rule, don't even practice what they preach.

It's unfortunate, but you need to be very careful when choosing a church or Pastor. *"Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying the scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers."* (Matthew 23:2,4)

You might be saying to yourself, why wouldn't the church want me to know the truth? Most churches are preoccupied with growth. Growth means more dollars in the collection plate, hence more dollars in the Pastor's pocket. I'm not against Pastors making big salaries, but it doesn't seem right to me that Pastors make big salaries while some members of their

congregation can't pay their electric bill. Does it seem right to you?

Most churches preach a watered down gospel so they don't offend the members, the truth is in there somewhere but you have to look real hard to find it.

Have you ever heard a Pastor say, "Abortion is wrong, except when the mother's life is at stake?" Show me in God's word where it says, "except." Do you know how many babies die each year because of the word, "except?"

Or, "Wives obey your husbands, except when you think he's wrong." Again, show me in God's word where it says, "except." Do you know how many divorces each year are the results of the word "except?"

Is it okay to lie or steal? What if the truth hurts someone really bad...is it okay to lie then, just a little one? Is taking a pencil home from work really "stealing."

It has been said God hates the sin, but loves the sinner. Does he really? Are you sure? *"I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness."* (Mal 1:2-3)

Sin is sin and the wages of sin are death. I don't believe God wishes to see any perish, but God is no "respector of persons." He has told you what is right and what is wrong; and you always have the choice to do right.

The choice to do right may not be easy; the consequences may cost you your job, your family, even your life, but it is still your choice.

Choosing God

God doesn't grade on a curve. If you choose to do wrong, you do so willingly; and God, being just, must punish accordingly. *"Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live? But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die."* (Ezek 18:23-24)

We are all sinners; but there is no acceptable excuse for sinning. Does God love a sinner? He may, but that won't keep the sinner from being punished.

In our society we seem to blame everyone but ourselves for our shortcomings. We were abused as children, not raised in the proper environment, or have some psychological or physiological malfunction. We blame genetics, or as last resort we blame the devil...it's never our fault.

The Bible says when you sin you do so by choice. I'm not saying you won't make mistakes or can't be forgiven. God has made provisions through repentance for the forgiveness of sin. And he clearly says if you will turn from your ways and do right, you will live.

Just understand...even if your Pastor says it's okay...using the "world's" excuses for sinning will not hold water with God. Or as my daddy used to say, "That dog won't hunt."

Knowing the end is an absolute certainty in scripture, and Jesus said,

"Be ready always," how many messages has your Pastor preached on "Being ready?"

Aside from the usual "salvation" message I'll wager not too many. Why? Well we sure don't want to frighten anyone, make him or her nervous, or upset the economy. Besides, it would look really foolish to tell people to get ready for something and then not have it happen.

It doesn't matter that when you're prepared, your children are also prepared, and their children, and their children's children. Being prepared is not foolish paranoia...its wisdom.

"Preparing" is a legacy you can leave with your children.

It also makes life much easier. Regardless of your age, how much money would you have in the bank, and how much easier would life be now, if you had started saving when you started earning?

The high cost of prescription drugs would not be an issue for any senior who had saved ten percent of their income for forty years...they would all be millionaires. Instead, most of them are "wards of the State", living just above poverty level...because they ignored the wisdom of preparing.

When you're prepared for the worst, it doesn't matter what happens or when. And if you're prepared for the worst, think how prepared you'll be for anything less than the worst.

If you think preparing for the end is stupid or foolish, here is wisdom:

"It's better to be prepared for that which does not come, than unprepared for that which does."

Talking about "the end of the world" is not a subject welcomed with open arms by too many people. Why do we avoid the subject? Let's face it;

"the end" conjures up images of old men with long gray beards carrying signs saying, "the end is coming." No rational, sane person would ever take it, him, or her, seriously.

But preparing and being prepared is not the act of an irrational insane person. We prepare for vacation. We prepare for college. We prepare for retirement. So what's the problem with preparing for the "end?"

Like previous generations, we just don't believe it's going to happen, and certainly not in our lifetime. *"And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."* (2 Peter 3:4)

The Beginning of the End

It's only been in the last 100 years or so that God has been disappearing from our society. And only in the last thirty years or so has a concerted effort to eliminate God taken place.

Until the 1960's we had prayer in school, abortion was illegal, and we didn't know what euthanasia was, much less accept it. But just because God is disappearing from the nightly news doesn't mean he's dead.

Our view of God has changed dramatically. We want a "loving" God, one who would never hurt anyone...especially us.

Poor misguided murderers. Poor misunderstood homosexuals. Yet we cringe at the thought of a child molester living in our neighborhood.

It wasn't long ago throwing "spitballs" was the worst offense in grade

school...now we have metal detectors for the eight year olds who carry guns to school.

Each generation gets worse and worse. Can you imagine what kind of children these gun-toting eight years olds will be raising?

No matter what we do, or how much we want it to be, it's not going to get better, *"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."* (2 Timothy 3:13)

At no other time in history has man had the capability to totally destroy himself.

No, it's not time to "head for the hills," but it is time to start preparing.

In the first place, do you have any "hills" to head for? Do you have a place prepared to run to? *"In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife."* (Luke 17:31,32)

Chances are...you don't. And if "all hell broke loose" tomorrow, you'd probably be in pretty bad shape, wouldn't you agree?

How long could you go before you had to buy food and water? A week? A month? A year?

Very few people (if any) are prepared for what the Bible says will happen. *"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."* (Malachi 4:1)

Time and Money

The sooner you start preparing, the easier life will be when the worst begins. The two basic elements to consider are time and money. Of course it really depends on how comfortable you want to be. If you don't mind living in a "hole in the mountain," you may not need to do much except find a hole. I discuss time in a later chapter, but I believe the "chosen," no matter what their situation now, will have the time and money necessary to prepare. But choosing to wait or believing it won't happen could have disastrous effects on your ability to be ready in time.

It's not for me to say who will and will not survive, but I doubt Noah would've made it in "half-an-ark." However, I'm a firm believer that 10% of something is better than 100% of nothing, so any preparation is better than none.

It took Noah about 100 years to build the Ark. Scripture provides few details of the building, but we would have to assume "shipbuilding" was probably unknown to Noah at the time so I doubt Noah said to himself, "I think I'll wait fifty or sixty years and then get started."

Noah, we would have to assume, dedicated his life to building the Ark. And he would do it in an ungodly society, amidst the ridicule of his neighbors.

That's not an easy thing to do, but God never said it would be easy, only that it would be worth it.

Those who put it off because they don't think it's going to happen or think they'll have plenty of time to do it later will be sorely disappointed.

"But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his

coming; and shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 24:48,51)

It's not my intention to scare anyone; neither is this a prophecy of doom and gloom, but a message of hope. The day is coming when you will look for the wicked, but they will be gone. *"For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be." (Psalms 37:10)*

Personally I think that's great news. Just imagine a world without lying, cheating and stealing. No more drive by shootings, no drug addicts, no sickness or disease.

Unfortunately, most Christians believe if it happens at all, they're on the "first bus out of here" or will be supernaturally protected and escape the wrath of God.

To those who think they "leave" before the tribulation starts and those who think they "leave" in the middle before the really bad stuff happens; I hope and pray you're right...time will tell.

"Just do it"

To those who think they will be protected through it all, I will only say...that wasn't the case with Noah. Yes, God could have held Noah in his hand above the flood, but he didn't; Noah had to build an ark to be saved.

Scripture doesn't say, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, trusted God to save him and his family." What scripture does say is, *"by faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness, which is by faith."* (Hebrews 11:7)

And if you remember when the angel of death "passed over" the Israelites in Egypt, they had to place the blood of the lamb on the doorposts to be "passed over," otherwise they too would have lost their firstborn. God is no respecter of persons. He tells you what needs to be done; it is up to you to do it.

It should be noted; I'm not talking about "salvation." The salvation of the world was purchased by the blood of the Lamb that was sacrificed on the cross at Calvary. All God's children have eternal salvation. There is nothing they can do to earn it, and only one thing they can do to lose it.

Contrary to popular belief, "freewill" is not the choice to believe or not believe in God, it's the choice to obey or not obey.

You're either a child of God, or you're not. Sheep do not become goats. And try as they might, goats cannot become sheep. Wheat is wheat; tares (weeds) are tares. *Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots?* (Jeremiah 13:23)

You did not choose your earthly father, neither do you choose your heavenly father. Your choice is to obey or disobey, to receive life and blessing or death and cursing. That's "freewill."

What about all these people who act like Christians, but lie, cheat and steal...among other things? *"Not as though the word of God hath taken*

none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are from Israel." (Romans 9:6)

It doesn't take much to "look" like a Christian, but "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." (1 John 3:9,10)

It's the age-old "salvation" question. Did you lose it, or did you ever really have it?

Of all that God has shown me, this is perhaps the most important...*Salvation is not an external change in the way you act, it's an internal change in the way you think.*

Believing in God, or being a child of God, doesn't guarantee a happy, healthy, wealthy life. Life and blessing come from obedience, not belief.

There are lots of things you can do to lose your reward, but there's only one unforgivable sin that will cause you to lose your salvation.

Who this book is for

When I was illuminated, I was still the same guy, living in the same house, working at the same job, with the same problems. What changed was the way I thought about things. My perspective and perception changed. I had an insatiable desire to please God. And a tremendous hunger and thirst for his word. Whereas before my illumination I rarely thought about God...after my illumination, I couldn't stop thinking about him.

How do you know if you're a child of God? *"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. (Galatians 4:6)* And, *"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. (Romans 8:16)*

If you're a child of God, you know it because the Spirit of God dwells within you.

Notwithstanding, you don't need to concern yourself with those who say they're Christians, but really aren't. You have enough to do to get ready yourself. Besides, they, as well as the vast majority of the world, will not believe the time has come; neither will they be ready for what is coming.

It's okay...this book is not for them. It's for the remnant that will remain to rule and reign with Christ in the coming kingdom...their spirit will "quicken" when they read this book. *"Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit."* (2 Corinthians 5:5) And, *"He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me"* (Luke 10:16)

There is nothing revealed in this book that is not already revealed in God's word. You must simply pray for understanding and diligently seek the answers.

I am not a biblical scholar and I fully expect many to take me to task over the writing of this book. However, it's not my intent to convince you of anything. I'm not trying to sell you land, or survival equipment. I'm not trying to get you to join my congregation or send me money. I'm not asking you to follow me or even believe me. Study the scriptures for yourself. Seek out the truth.

Most of all start taking God and his word seriously. It does not take a genius to figure out the truth. God's word is simple and direct. He says what he means and means what he says.

When you sincerely ask God for wisdom, he will give you wisdom. *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."* (James 1:5,6) And don't let anyone tell you the devil can intercept your prayers and relay false information (yes, I was really told that could happen).

When you pray to God, he hears your prayers; and he will answer them in his time, according to his purpose; but when you pray, pray "thy will be done" and then rest; trusting that whatever happens, good or bad, is God's will. *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* (Proverbs 3:5,6)

Let's be honest. What you do, whether you believe me or not, whether you prepare or not, has little effect on me. I'm building an "ark" because I know with all my heart, mind, soul and strength, my testimonies are true. I cannot un-know what I know or un-see what I have seen.

While you may have your doubts, I know I'm not crazy. I know I haven't gone off the deep end, or lost control of my senses. I know God appeared to me in a dream and spoke to me in a vision. And I cannot deny his presence in my life. I would ask you...if you believed with all your heart God had called you to do something that was going to make you look like a fool, what would you do?

Would you think about how others might perceive you? Would you

think about how embarrassed you might be? Would you wonder if your friends and relatives would disown you? Would you question whether God really told you to do it? Would you wonder if you would become a target for some anti-Christian lunatic? Would you wonder how much the devil was going to throw at you? I can tell you...you would question all these things and more. But in the final tally, you must make a decision one way or the other.

In light of scripture, it's not really that difficult to come to a conclusion. *"For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:"* (Luke 12:48)

It would not be wise to take what God has given me and "bury" it. What has been revealed to me, what I know in my heart to be true, is not for me alone. Will it change lives, turning many to righteousness, as revealed in Daniel 12:3? God only knows. Will it make a difference? Will any heed the warning revealed in Matthew 24? God only knows.

I don't know what the result will be, but I know this, and of this one thing I am sure, life and blessing come from obedience. To willfully disobey what I believe in my heart to be true would be a sin...and the wages of sin are death.

What this book is for

In a little while I will begin to unfold all that has been revealed to me. What I believe, and why I believe it.

There are no directions for building an "ark." I know what I'm going to

do, but I don't know what God wants you to do.

At one time the Spirit impressed on me, ***"A lighthouse stands on a hill to warn passing ships of impending danger. For some lighthouses many ships pass by; for others, only a few. But the importance of the lighthouse is still the same."*** On another occasion, ***"An ocean begins with a single drop of rain."***

The purpose of this book is to warn you of impending danger.

Whether this book is for one or many, and whether it becomes an ocean or not, only God knows. I am simply the messenger. What you do with the information is between you and God. *"If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; If the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. So thou, Oh son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me."* (Ezekiel 33:3,7)


It's not the end of the world, as some might have you believe...but it is the end of the world, as we know it. There is a "sword" on the horizon. And while it may sound corny and archaic..."Prepare ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Chapter Two

The Enlightened

"Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name."

Malachi 3:16 (KJV)

 have often said, "This world would be a great place to live, if it weren't for people."

It's not that I don't like people, but let's be honest...with the exception of possibly getting eaten by a lion, most of our problems are people related.

A World Gone Astray

Tanks and airplanes don't start wars...people start wars. Cars and guns don't kill...people kill. And it's not the grocery basket filled with fifteen items in the ten items or less checkout lane that causes anger, it's the person pushing the cart.

It is selfish inconsiderate people that create problems. And whether that person is a power-hungry dictator, a greedy businessman, or a disgruntled housewife, the result is the same...someone is going to hurt as a result of their action. Some may think this is a bit harsh, but think about it the next time you cut someone off in traffic, run a red light, or drive while drunk.

There was a time when disobedient children were stoned to death. *"And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear."* (Deuteronomy 21:20,21)

Sounds horrendous...but disobedient children grow up to be disobedient adults; with no respect for the law or the person or the property of others. Here is wisdom: If you want to eliminate crime, eliminate the criminal.

Perhaps the world would've been better off if we had continued to stone disobedient children. Now, we can't even spank them. It just goes to show how far from God's instruction we have gotten...spare the rod and spoil the child. *"Foolishness is bound in the heart of the child; but the rod of*

correction shall drive it far from him" (Proverbs 22: 15)

Stoning children may seem a little rash, but the principle is sound. Without meaningful consequences, you will not get good behavior. I'm not suggesting you beat your children (although I've seen some who could use a good beating). I'm suggesting we cannot stray from God's way without paying the consequences. God's law is immutable, not one jot or tittle has passed away.

Changing Your World

You can't change the world, its fate is already sealed, but you can change your world. Although you live in the world, you don't have to live by the world's standards. While our laws no longer reflect God's way, neither do they restrict you from following God's way...the choice is up to you.

You will not be convicted for spanking your child in a disciplinary fashion. You might be convicted if you severely beat the child for no reason...and you should be convicted. There are no laws that require you to lie, cheat, or steal. None that require you get an abortion or in any other way take the life of an innocent person. While the government is doing all it can to make this a genderless, godless society, there is still no law that requires you to commit adultery or work on the Sabbath. And there are no laws, as yet, that require you to worship the devil.

Lying, cheating, stealing, killing etc. are all choices you make willingly; and whatever consequences come as a result are yours and yours alone...'the devil made me do it' won't hold water with God.

Why are things so out of whack? The answer is really quite simple. *"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."* (Matthew 13:24-30)

There are only two kinds of people in this world...the children of God and the children of the devil. Jesus goes on to explain the meaning of this parable to his disciples so it would be easy to understand. *"Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."* (Matthew 13:36-43)

The "Rapture"

It's interesting to note, for those who think God is going to "rapture" them away. Who got taken away? The wheat? Sorry, the tares... *"so shall it be in the end of this world...they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;"* (v40, 41)

Remember Noah wasn't taken out of the world, he stayed to begin again...the unrighteous were destroyed in the flood, not the righteous.

I don't know how or why the "rapture" became so popular, I can only assume. For the uninitiated, the "rapture" is where God supernaturally lifts his people from the earth before, during, or after the great tribulation period that precedes the new millennium. This is a pre-millennial position, that is, those who believe in a literal thousand years of peace. There are two other millennial views to be aware of...a-millennial, a symbolic view of the "millennium" referring only to Christ's spiritual rule from heaven; and post-millennial, referring to Christ's spiritual rule through preaching and teaching that gradually improves the world until his return.

Creative Scriptural Accounting

I don't wholeheartedly agree with any of these positions. Accountants, through a process known as "creative accounting" can make numbers "say" anything they want. I believe Preachers, with a big enough scripture wrench, can make scripture "say" anything they want as well. So how do

you know the truth? *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."* (John 16:13)

To know the truth you must have the Spirit of God within you...because the things of God are not of this world. *"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."* (1 Corinthians 2:13-14)

How do you get the Spirit of God? Ask. *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"* (Luke 11:13)
It's the Spirit that will lead you into all truth and show you things to come.

What is the truth? Only a remnant will be saved. *"Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth."* (Romans 9:27-28)

Among the remnant are the Elect of God, those who have been chosen to remain to rule and reign in the coming kingdom. *"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more*

thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD."
(Isaiah 65:17-25)

This is a "picture" of the new world...the coming kingdom of God. While this will be a glorious period, there are some interesting things to note in this passage.

Certainly it will be a joyous time (v18, 19) and we will live longer (v20); not an unusual condition once air and water pollution are gone, murder has stopped, and sickness and disease are no longer rampant: but note what Isaiah says, "the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed." In the coming kingdom there will be both saints and sinners...not quite the picture painted by the church, is it?

The Elect: Spirit-Filled People

Keep in mind, this will not be a perfect world...and it won't be a

perfect world until after the judgment, which takes place after the thousand years of peace on earth. *"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison"* (Revelations 20:7). It won't be perfect, but it will be peaceful...where the wolf and lamb feed together, and the lions eat straw instead of people. (V25)

The elect will be there (v22) to reign on earth. *"And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."* (Revelations 5:10)

Who are the elect? They are God-fearing people. *"Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him."* (Malachi 3:16-17)

Remember, this is God's world, where every knee will bow and tongue proclaims that Jesus is Lord. A world ruled by Christ from heaven through the elect on earth.

The elect are Spirit-filled people, who love the Lord with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. These people have an innate sense of right and wrong, justice, and mercy. They are the true lovers of God and followers of Christ who have been anxiously waiting this day. *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that*

mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves. For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them. For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the LORD hath blessed." (Isaiah 61:1-9)

Sinners, Too

As Isaiah said, there will also be sinners in the new world. How can that be? I will try to take this real slow. This is not the end of the world...it is the end of the age and the beginning of a thousand years of peace. It will not be a perfect world until Christ returns after the thousand years are completed and Satan and all whose names are not written in the book of life have been cast into the lake of fire. *"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."* (Revelations 20:15) That

time is coming, but it is not yet. *"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."* (Revelations 20:14)

First there's a thousand years of peace where Christ rules and reigns from heaven with the saints. *"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."* (Revelation 20:4)

At the end of the thousand years is the Great White Throne Judgment where everyone will stand before God. *"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."* (Revelation 20:11-12)

Then Christ will come in all his glory to dwell with his people on earth. *"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."* (Revelation 21:2-3)

I don't want to disappoint anyone, but Jesus is not coming on a white horse to take all the "good" people to heaven. God is simply removing the "evil" and returning the earth (the inheritance) to his people. *"For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the*

earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." (Psalms 37:9-11) The earth is our inheritance. *"For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off."* (Psalms 37:22)

Did you forget what Jesus said? *"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."* (Matthew 5:5) Do you think it was just a symbolic gesture? I don't know about you, but to me, inheriting the earth sounds like a much better reward than sitting on a cloud with a harp.

Imagine a world where there is no lying, no cheating, no stealing, and no killing...where everyone believes the same. *"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."* (Ephesians 4:4-6) A world filled with "good" people. Sound like heaven? It's the kingdom of heaven...on earth.

If "good" people inherit the earth, what about the sinners Isaiah spoke about? It's certainly not for me to say who will and will not survive, but remember we are all sinners and this is not the judgment so there could be several explanations.

One, when Noah was forewarned he built an ark. Since Noah is described as a "preacher of righteousness" *"And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;"* (2 Peter 2:5) I feel reasonably sure he did not keep the news to himself...just as I'm writing this book for you.

Of course, no one listened to Noah (whether anyone listens to me, God

knows). But if some had listened and built arks, irrespective of their "righteousness," they might well have survived the flood. So there could easily be unbelievers reading this book who take this word of warning seriously and prepare, in which case they may or may not survive. I don't believe however, after going through what's coming, they would remain unbelievers for very long.

Two, while the flood covered the whole earth, scripture tells us this time there will be places in the mountains where a lot of people will go to escape. *"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;"* (Revelations 6:15) Isn't it interesting that we have "safe havens" for government officials (and their rich friends I'm sure) buried deep within mountains in the event of nuclear war? Will it save them from God's wrath? God only knows.

Scripture tells us things will be so bad they'll wish they were dead, but it's not clear they actually die, *"And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"* (Revelation 6:16-17), so some may well survive.

Three, and probably most likely, we cannot un-know what we know; whoever survives will still have the knowledge of sin. They will know all about drugs and alcohol, gambling and prostitution, pornography, rape, incest, murder and all manner of temptations.

Although Noah was righteous in God's sight, his family wasn't quite as righteous as he. They hadn't been out of the ark too long before Ham committed a heinous act that brought a curse from his father. *"And Ham,*

the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren." (Genesis 9:22-25) So even though the elect may be "righteous," their family...even though they are God's children...may be "unrighteous."

There could be many other explanations, but I think you get the point. While it will be a thousand years of peace, the Bible does not say it will be a thousand years without sin. It's definitely possible to have peace and still have sin. Sin is not evil...it's unrighteousness. The children of God will inherit the earth; the children of Satan will be gone. Although the world will be better than the one we have now, it still won't be perfect.

Unrighteousness: Sin without Satan

One thing we do know, Satan will be bound. *"And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season." (Revelations 20: 2-3)*

So what does that mean? We'll have sin, but we won't have Satan, or his children, to blame it on. Sin is unrighteousness. Husbands and wives

will still argue. Children will still be disobedient. It will take a while for the survivors to forget "God's ways," but it will happen. The world will again gradually get worse and worse until judgment day.

This generation, saints and sinners, will be the last of the old and the first of the new. In our lifetime, we will bury the dead, rebuild the old places, and lay the foundation of peace through our children and our children's children. We will sit on thrones and reign on earth, as God returns the inheritance to his people.

Those who remain will enter into a glorious new world of peace and righteousness. The wicked and evil will be gone. *"But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts."* (Malachi 4:2-3)

Victory will be sweet.

Chapter Three

The Effect

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before."

Matthew 24:24-25 (KJV)

While this may not be entirely accurate...at present there are over five billion people in the world. A "remnant," as defined by Webster's, is a small remaining part, piece, amount etc.

Thinking in Scale: How Much is a Remnant?

Lets assume for a moment a remnant represents ten percent (that

would be a tithe). That means the population of the world would drop to about five hundred million, or about twice the size of the United States. Another way to look at it...the United States will have a total population of approximately twenty five million people, or roughly the population of California.

There's nothing I can find in scripture that says each country will be left with equal percentages of people, so we would have to assume that some countries would fare better than others. But no matter how you look at it, there's not going to be a whole lot of people left. What could possibly happen to wipe out ninety percent of the world's population?

One thing is fairly certain...it won't be a flood. *"And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth."* (Genesis 9:11-13) I wouldn't rule out a flood, except a flood is not what God has indicated to me.

Another Vision

Early in my walk with God I was seeking direction for my life, and he showed me a vision. I was standing by a barren tree next to a river when one like the Son of man appeared. "What shall I do?" I asked. "Follow me" was his reply. Immediately we were walking through a lush tropical forest with all kinds of flowers in every color imaginable. When we came to the

edge of the forest, for as far as the eye could see the land was smoldering like the remains of a forest fire; and the Lord said, "This is the world with all its hypocrisy, greed, and avarice, I will burn them up with the fire from my mouth." Again I asked the Lord, "What shall I do?" And again the Lord said, "Follow me." Immediately we were back at the tree, only now the tree was filled with all kinds of fruit and covered with all kinds of birds and in the trunk of the tree was carved the word "Life." And the Lord said, "Follow me, and your life will be fruitful; and the birds you see are the people who will be helped by your fruitfulness."

I committed my life to following the Lord...and while I don't know how many people have been helped, my life has definitely been blessed.

This vision was long before I knew my calling. In retrospect, God was showing me the end from the beginning. But this was just one more piece of the puzzle that would become my life's work. "I will burn them up with the fire from my mouth." I'm reasonably sure this is symbolic, since I don't expect Jesus to come down from heaven riding a white horse breathing fire from his mouth. I also don't believe it will happen in one fell swoop. There will be many social political and economic events leading to the final destruction.

Will you have time to prepare once you see the signs? Perhaps, but when you understand what's about to happen, I don't know why you would want to put off preparing in the first place.

Most of us are not privy to the closed door sessions of the world's power centers (at least I'm not), so it's improbable we will know anything more than what we read in the newspapers, but that's enough. It's not difficult to ascertain the social political and economic condition of the world today as we rapidly move toward a global society.

International Tensions

You know how difficult it is to get two people to agree, imagine how difficult it will be to get five billion people to agree. There will certainly be problems on the social side as the stronger nations flex their muscles on issues like human rights. We are seeing the tip of the iceberg in China.

China has about one-fifth of the world's population; who's going to make them do anything? And even if their leader goes along with the program, there are over one billion people in China; their army is over two hundred million...that's almost equal to the entire population of the United States. What would it take to stop their army if they decided to move against another country?

Iran wants to open a dialogue with the United States, but we're not going to talk to them as long as they support terrorism and continue to build weapons of mass destruction.

Okay, so you get the leaders of Iran to agree to our demands; do you really think the sixty million Iranians who loathe the United States will go along? Even if they convert half of them, that leaves thirty million angry folks who think nothing of blowing up airplanes. Are you starting to get the picture?

You cannot have a global society without global participation. What you have is a bunch of bullies dictating to the rest of world how it's going to be. But the rest of the world is filled with people who have very little to lose; that's a dangerous situation.

Politically it gets worse. World leaders are in power positions...not too many, if any, are going to want to give up their power. There are also many different forms of government. Each one believing they have the best possible solution. Getting them to agree on any policy will be a battle. And even if they agree, who's going to do what to whom if they don't comply?

Would the world go to war against the Soviet Union (I know the USSR doesn't exist anymore; but it will in the not-too-distant future) because they didn't live up to their end of the bargain? Who's going to make them pay? There has to be a reason for world leaders to want to get together in the first place...that reason is power.

Paying for the World: An Economic Disaster

Economically the world will become a disaster area. On the outside there appear to be tremendous opportunities available to market goods and services. In reality, cheap labor in foreign countries will increase profits to corporations but will result in a loss of jobs and reduced wages in other countries. The new paradigm that inflation is all but dead will prove to be a fallacy, leading to severe economic problems worldwide.

Employers will hold down or reduce wages while increasing profit margins...and the rich will get richer and poor will become poorer.

A world economy means individual wealth is being spread over a much larger area, so we will not only pay for living in our own country, we will also pay for living in the world.

Governments have one primary source of revenue, taxes. Look for

taxes to increase as governments increase spending. I'm not talking about "income taxes"; in all likelihood they will decrease under political pressure. It's all the "subtle" taxes like property tax, payroll tax, sales tax, fuel tax, sin tax (tobacco and alcohol), and a myriad of miscellaneous faux taxes masquerading as fees, which allow the government to take even more of your money. Whether it's global warming or peacekeeping, someone has to pay the bill for these global programs. A more dangerous situation is that debt will increase substantially.

Expect the unexpected

You probably think none of this can happen today. Okay, let's have a show of hands, how many people expected the World Trade Center to be bombed in 1993? Most of you, huh? What about the Oklahoma Federal Building the following year? Oh, I see, you expected that too. How about the Japanese Subway or any of the sabotaged airliners? Were these just random acts of violence? How many people do you think stayed away from the Japanese subway the next day? Didn't security get beefed up considerably in Federal Buildings across the country after the Oklahoma City Bombing? And a year later, on the anniversary of the bombing, how many federal employees do you think stayed home from work?

Pick up any newspaper and you will see that violence is escalating throughout the world. Whole villages in Africa wiped out. Mass murders in countries most of us have never heard of...two to three hundred victims at a time.

Granted it would take a long time to eliminate five billion people at the

rate of two to three hundred each time, but as Jesus said, the end is not yet. *"And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."* (Matthew 24:6-8)

Since God is not going to come down with a handful of lightning bolts to wrench away the world for his people, what is going to happen?

Rumors of War: Opening the Book

Jesus said there would be wars and rumors of wars, famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes all over the world. Everything will appear normal and natural. After surviving the initial social, political, and economic turmoil, there will be a semblance of peace in the world. This causes people to believe even stronger in the "savior" of the world, a military and economic power described as "the beast from the sea." *"And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."* (Revelations 13:4-8)

I talk more about the beast in chapter six. Suffice it to say the world will become more and more "ungodly." There will be religion, but it will not be the true faith. *"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live."* (Revelations 13:11-14)

You can't change the world. God has already sealed its fate...when Jesus, the lamb who was slain, begins opening those seals, there will be a period of destruction as we have never seen before. *"And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."* (Revelations 5:1-5)

The first four seals are commonly known as the "Four horseman of the Apocalypse." The first seal is "The White Horse." *"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white*

horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer." (Revelations 6: 1-2)

The first seal is tyranny. A tyrant will arise who will seek to destroy the true faith. *"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another."* (Matthew 24: 9-10)

Okay, you say that could never happen, particularly in the United States. Perhaps, but let's play what if.

From What If...to Reality?

What if one day you wake up and go to work like normal and then suddenly you hear a loud explosion and feel the building shake. You run to the window and luckily for you it's the building next door...but it's completely demolished with hundreds maybe thousands dead and dying. Someone turns on the radio and you're horrified to learn that ten buildings in your city have been similarly destroyed. You frantically call your wife at work. And what about the kids? You're fortunate, your whole family is safe, but neighbors and relatives weren't so lucky.

Then horrors of horrors the television reports that incidents like this have happened in fifty cities across the United States. Worse, a video message has been delivered to each of the major television stations. The group responsible for the carnage is "The Soldiers of Islam"...and they have planted thousands of bombs in buildings all over the United States and will continue to plant bombs for as long as there is breath in any of them.

Perception is reality to most people. A scenario like this would paralyze the United States. Apply the same scenario to the World. People would be so afraid to go to work, or even leave their homes. Rioting and looting would become commonplace. Can you imagine the anger by those who lost friends and family? Think it can't happen?

How secure is your workplace? How secure are the shopping malls, restaurants, schools...the movie theater? How many people would it take to blow up fifty buildings, five hundred buildings, or five thousand buildings?

With our liberal open door policy, do you really think there aren't people in the United States already, who truly hate the United States? What about the thirty million Iranians we talked about earlier? How about the Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabs, North Koreans, Germans, or Russians? What about African-Americans? Mexican-Americans? Muslims, Buddhists, or Hindus? What about gays? Or any number of radical militia groups? What about Saddam Hussein? Osama bin Laden? Yassar Arafat? Do any of these people or groups have a beef with the United States? With "Christians?"

A "witch-hunt" will ensue that will put Salem to shame...all in the name of "God." *"Yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me."* (John 16:2-3)

I think you get the point. Christians will become the target for the tyrant who has been given the power to go "conquering and to conquer." A coalition will arise to fight the tyrant, but the tyrant has more power than the world realizes and is far more destructive than anyone could imagine. He will spread terror and terrorism throughout the world...and then the second seal will be loosed.

The second seal is "The Red Horse." *"And when he had opened the*

second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword." (Revelations 6:3-4)

The Red Horse is war. Today it appears the world is reducing its military might. There's a great push by the major powers for all countries to limit their military power...reducing the "stockpile" of weapons, smaller armed forces, less equipment, etc. This is certainly a wonderful thought, but one must question the motives.

Powers only remain powers until someone becomes more powerful. Or put another way...you get to keep what you have as long as no one is big enough or strong enough to take it from you. *"When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils."* (Luke 11:21-22)

What's the first law of nature, "only the strong survive?" We have weapons because we're afraid someone, somewhere will try to "spoil our goods." But controlling who has what, and keeping anyone from getting more, is not only difficult, it's near impossible. Ask Mr. Hussein.

The only reason armed forces are getting smaller is that weapons are now more destructive and computer controlled. Have you noticed how many times the words "weapons of mass destruction" appear in the media today?

Nuclear warheads have been a threat to the world for some time and we know what kind of damage they cause. At last count, at least ten countries have nuclear capabilities. All it takes is one irrational over-emotional person to get trigger happy, have some terminal illness, or just want to seal his or her name in the history books. Remember, all things are

rational to an irrational person.

Of course if and when that should happen there would be plenty of warning...it takes a few minutes after launch before the missile would actually hit the ground. So you would have a few minutes to get ready.

Is nuclear a threat? Not if you believe the powers to be. The cold war is over...but it's not the cold war we need to be concerned with, it's the HOT one.

With Nuclear weapons there would be a fair amount of warning, but there would be no stopping it. Sure our defense systems would stop some, but some would get through.

Perhaps the one targeted at your city wouldn't make it. But remember, in our new global society, any aggressive action on the part of any country would affect every other country in some way. And even if your city survived an initial launch, chances are we would be thrust into war as the result of the action...and the next war will have very few survivors. Nuclear capabilities are not a threat...it's the people behind the nuclear capabilities that are cause for concern.

On the other hand (or should I say, *in* the other hand), Johns Hopkins University's Center for Civilian Biodefense Studies says, 100 kilograms of Anthrax released over Washington D.C. would kill 130,000 to 3 million people. Real or imagined, chemical and biological weapons should not be taken lightly...ask the Japanese subway riders. Of course Iraq denies having Anthrax, everyone denies having Anthrax; but you'll notice the United States is now inoculating its military forces against Anthrax.

What is Anthrax? According to Webster's, it's "an infectious, often fatal disease in sheep and cattle, caused by the bacterium *Bacillus Anthracis*;

a virulent infectious disease in man, contracted by exposure to infected animals or animal products and characterized by malignant pustules." Delightful.

Okay so maybe they don't blow up five thousand buildings, maybe they just mail a few million "Anthrax laced" letters, drop it in the water supply, or slip it into a granary to infect the sheep and cattle.

Of course that's just Anthrax. There are a multitude of deadly chemical and biological weapons, and they've been around for quite a while. Anyone heard of Smallpox? Pneumonic Plague? Ebola? Mustard Gas? Nerve Gas?

Ask the Kurds or Afghans about chemical and biological weapons. The incident in the Japanese subway, was it a random act of violence or a test by an international terrorist organization? The bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma...was it a terrorist attack or simply a warning of the vulnerability of the United States to terrorist attacks?

The problem with chemical and biological weapons is that they are typically colorless, odorless, and invisible. They are primarily airborne. They kill quickly and have symptoms similar to the common cold or flu. A gas mask might provide some protection...but chances are, you won't even know you've been infected until it's too late to do anything about it. The government and media downplay the threat of chemical and biological weapons, but let me assure you, they are real...and for the most part the United States is totally unprepared to deal with them.

What has kept man from using weapons of mass destruction? God has. *"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and*

shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: " (2 Thessalonians 2:7-8)

We forget that God is still on the throne, still in control, and still working his plan to return the inheritance to his people. When you see weapons of mass destruction being used and the "Wicked" revealed...you'll know that this is the time God has chosen to complete his work.

God hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and all the Egyptians, to show his power to deliver his people. *"And the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants, that I might shew these my signs before him: And that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; that ye may know how that I am the LORD."* (Exodus 10:1-2) Do you think God cannot do the same to Saddam Hussein, Yassar Arafat, Osama bin Laden, or anyone else he chooses...to show his power to his people?

The more weapons of mass destruction there are in the world...the more likely someone will set them off. Whether it's an irrational dictator who has them, or an international terrorist group who steals them. Remember, things are not the problem...people are the problem. As long as hypocrisy greed and avarice are alive and well in the world, the potential exists for war. And there will be war...count on it. As if that weren't enough, then the third seal will be opened.

The Third and Fourth Seals: Extremely Dark Days

The third seal is "The Black Horse." *"And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a*

black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." (Revelations 6:5-6)

The Black horse is famine. I'm not talking about no corn in Iowa or wheat in Kansas famine...this ain't Kansas, Toto.

And I'm not talking about the starving children we see on television. I'm talking about a tremendous shortage of food worldwide. A nuclear, chemical or biological war will destroy a lot more than people. It will wipe out or taint nearly all agricultural products. There will still be a lot of mouths to feed, but very little to feed them with. It doesn't take a Prophet to see what a famine will do to the people who are left...you can die because you have no food, or because you've eaten contaminated food. Two great choices, wouldn't you say?

Of course in the beginning there will be some food available, but the prices will be so high only the richest of the rich will be able to afford it. This is not a lawless society, simply one that has gone through war and now struggles with the aftermath. There will still be a semblance of government. It's interesting to note that God's elect (the oil and wine) escape...these are those who believed God and prepared themselves. The fourth seal is now opened.

The fourth seal is the Pale Horse. It won't take long for the "masses" to turn on the government. The grocery stores, provided there is anything left on the shelves, will be wiped out in short order (they won't need cashiers, because these people won't be "paying" for their groceries). The rich will still have their "storehouses," but they will become the primary target of a starving populace and killing will become the rule rather than the

exception.

If anything will cause "brother to turn against brother" it will be food, or the lack thereof would be a better way to put it. Nations will go to war for gold and silver, oil, and other valuable resources...but those things pale against the fight for survival.

What would a man give to save his life? Everything he has...even his own family. Scripture says that twenty-five percent of the remaining population of the earth will die at this time.

These will be extremely dark days. It's one thing to do without electricity (which you will), it's quite another to do without food and water (which you will also). People will be literally starving to death. Do you think cannibalism is out of the question? *"And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they shall eat every one the flesh of his friend in the siege and straitness, wherewith their enemies, and they that seek their lives, shall straiten them."* (Jeremiah 19:9).

The Fifth and Sixth Seals: Nature Shaken

The fifth seal is a plea from the martyrs for judgment and vengeance to take place on the earth. *"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"* (Revelations 6:9-10) God gives them white robes and tells them to be patient...vengeance is coming.

The sixth seal are the natural phenomenon. *"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;"* (Revelations 6:12)

This will not be your normal everyday earthquake...you won't measure this one on the Richter scale. This earthquake will be felt all over the world.

Scripture says, "Every mountain and island were moved out of their places." The people of the world finally acknowledge this is God's wrath, and things will be so bad they will pray for death; but the end is still not yet. The seventh and final seal is still to come, but before the seventh seal is opened the elect will be "sealed" by God. All the saints who would die in the tribulation have now died...all that are left are the elect of God and the ungodly.

The Seventh Seal: Intermission, and then...

Scripture says when the seventh seal is opened there is silence in heaven for a short period of time. *"And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. "And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets."* (Revelations 8:1-2)

This "rest" is nothing but an intermission before the second act begins. Those that remain will feel a sigh of relief that they have survived, but the worst is yet to come.

Another Angel takes a golden censer, fills it with fire from the altar and

casts it to the earth. *"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."* (Malachi 4:1) And the seven trumpets begin to sound.

The first four trumpets are again more damage and destruction to the natural resources...the earth is burning with fire, the waters are contaminated.

The fifth trumpet brings more death and carnage. These woes do not affect the elect of God; they are the wrath of God toward his enemies. *"And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads."* (Revelations 9:4)

It will not be pleasant. *"And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them."* (Revelations 9:6) While it is the Angels who sound the trumpets, it is man who is the instrument of destruction.

The "description" closely resembles "attack helicopters." *"And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months."* (Revelations 9:9-10) There are still ungodly men on the earth fighting for their lives.

The sixth trumpet clears the way for an army of two hundred million to come from the east (isn't it "ironic" China has such an army). *"And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose*

the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them." (Revelations 9:13-16)

There is a break and seven thunders are heard but not recorded by scripture. This is a mystery yet to be revealed...but then the seventh trumpet sounds.

This is the final act of God when the mystery of God is finished. *"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets." (Revelations 10:7)*

The mystery of God is when all men who dwell on the earth will acknowledge the one true God...he will no longer be a mystery to anyone. The earth and the fullness thereof will be returned to its former glory and his people shall dwell in peace. *"For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." (Ps 37:9-11)*

What to look for

There are also mentioned seven vials containing the wrath of God, which is poured out on the earth. *"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is*

filled up the wrath of God. " (Revelations 15:1)

The seven vials are much the same as the seven trumpets...grievous sores (Nuclear fallout, Anthrax?), contaminated water, blasting heat, darkness, and earthquakes. Whether they are poured after or during the time of the seven trumpets is a matter of debate. The important thing is to understand the gravity of the events that will occur and the necessity to be prepared. At the risk of oversimplification, here are some of the events to look for:

1. An economic collapse.
2. The revealing of an anti-Christian tyrant.
3. An alliance of Europe Russia and England.
4. Antagonism of the United States.
5. A "falling away" from the true faith.
6. The use of weapons of mass destruction.
7. The "fall" of Jerusalem.

This is certainly not meant to be a complete list, and doesn't mean one should wait for these events before preparing. If Noah had waited until the first drop of rain, it would have been too late.

I have tried to provide you with a glimpse of what scripture says will come. Will these events happen as I describe? God knows. It is neither my intent nor purpose to prophesy events, merely point out these events are possible, even highly probable, given the state of world affairs at this time in

history. Very few Christians doubt the world will end at some point. The question is when.

Chapter Four

The Event

"So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."

Matthew 24: 33-34 (KJV)

It would be foolish for me to say I know the day or the hour when all this is going to happen. No one knows the day or hour. *"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."* (Matthew 24:36)

Some say it is not for us to know the future, but Jesus said the Spirit of truth would show you things to come. *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."* (John 16:13) And God said he would show you if you

would ask. *"Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me. I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded."* (Isaiah 45:11-12)

Don't Ignore Prophecy or Be Deceived

It's not unusual for God's people to have foreknowledge of future events, especially as it applies to keeping them safe. When we choose to ignore the Spirit of truth we are left to our own devices and suffer the consequences of our actions.

Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians warned them to be careful not to ignore the Spirit or Prophecy, but to test everything against the word of God. *"Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."* (1Thes 5:19-21) Given these instructions, the prophecy in this book must hold up to the ultimate authority, the word of God. It's not my word I'm asking you to consider...its God's word.

The disciples asked Jesus to tell them how they could know when the end would come. *"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"* (Matthew 24:3)

Jesus didn't ignore them or tell them to "have faith" or indicate in any way that it was not for them to know, he answered them *"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For*

many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." (Matthew 24:4-13)

First and foremost Jesus said don't let any man deceive you. I realize this line has been interpreted to mean many people would come claiming to be "The Christ," but I submit to you "false Christs" are not the issue here. Jesus was telling his disciples many would come in the name of Jesus, saying that Jesus was the messiah, but they would deceive many people.

Think about it, there are many "Pastors" preaching in the name of Jesus, acknowledging that Jesus was the Son of God, who are deceiving their congregations. Jesus warned us time and again to beware of religious leaders and their false doctrines. *"Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."* (Matthew 16:12)

This same message is repeated many times throughout his teachings, *"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."* (Matthew 7:15) *"And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces, And the chief seats in the*

synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts: Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation." (Mark 12:38-40)

False teaching was perhaps the central theme of Jesus' ministry. As I have already said, these are the words God spoke to me that changed my life, **"Stop listening to the words of man, and start listening to the word of God."** It prompted me to read and seriously study God's word.

We are responsible to work out our own salvation, and while it may be better for a deceiver to have a millstone hung about his neck, we suffer the consequences when we choose to take man's word for God's word.

With all I know and believe about what's coming, I strongly encourage you to read and study for your own benefit. This book is a warning and I have included biblical references for your convenience; but don't let this book, or any book, replace your own study of God's word.

God will not hold you accountable for your actions if you truly believe in your heart your actions are God's will, *"And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God."* (I John 3:19-21) He will hold you accountable if you take someone's word for the truth without finding out for yourself.

Let Pastors and others instruct you, but don't take their word as gospel. If anyone says, "thus saith the Lord," you would be wise to compare his words to God's word.

If Satan were dressed in a red suit and carried a pitchfork he would be fairly easy to identify, but the Bible says he will appear as an angel of

light...can you think of a better way to deceive, than from the pulpit? *"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."* (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

I'm not saying Pastors are wicked evil people, neither am I implying the mission of the church is to deceive you. I'm simply saying, not I but the Lord, be careful whom you choose to follow. *"And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?"* (Luke 6:39)

If a Pastor told you God told him, if he didn't raise twenty million dollars to build a new church he was going to die, would you believe him? Or if someone said, "These angel figurines are blessed by God, they will protect you from evil and only cost \$19.95..." would you believe him? You may not, but many do.

Jesus said, *"Many will come in my name saying, I am the Christ, and deceive many."* It happens somewhere almost every Sunday, don't let it happen to you.

After Jesus warned his disciples of the deceivers he gives a description of what will precede the end...it would start with wars, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes; then would come persecution, betrayal, and hatred of believers followed by a rise in false prophets who would deceive many. Sin will be the accepted norm and there will be a lot of people who have chosen man's way over God's way.

All in the Timing

It's really not difficult to comprehend the events or the sequence of events; it's only difficult to believe it could happen today. But that's precisely the reason it will happen today. *"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."* (1Thes 5:3)

It's not for us to know the day or the hour, but that doesn't mean God's word avoids the time and timing of his plan. God reveals what he chooses, and when. That it was heretofore unknown simply means God chose not to reveal the details: *"The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."* (Deuteronomy 29:29) Jesus said there was nothing that would not be revealed. *"For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known."* (Luke 12:2)

When we look at time and timing it is important to understand that Jesus spoke in parables. *"All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world."* (Matthew 13:34-35)

A parable, according to Webster's, is a story designed to teach a moral or religious principle by suggesting a parallel. To see the time and timing we must simply look at the "stories" in scripture and draw the parallel.

First it's necessary to establish the ground rules and Peter does this in

2 Pet 3:8 *"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."* We find the same instruction in the Book of Psalms, *"For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night."* (Ps 90:4)

This doesn't mean every time we see a "day" in scripture it refers to a thousand years; it's simply the key to understanding time and timing. It is also important to understand, and I will remind you often in this chapter, this is not a theological discussion of scripture. I have highlighted those passages I feel are most important to make the point; this is not a complete discussion of every passage where parallels can be drawn, neither is it intended to imply that this is the interpretation of the scripture, simply an application.

For my purposes, we make two basic assumptions. 1. Time is a relative concept...particularly in ancient languages. Days, weeks, months and years were analogous terms. And: 2. We assume the foundation of the earth was four thousand years, four millennia, before Christ. While scientists and historians may not agree with religion on the creation, they have established and generally agree that "civilization" began approximately four thousand BC. Since the beginning of the Jewish calendar was approximately six thousand years ago, or six millennia, we are about to enter the seventh millennium.

This may seem too simple, but the biggest mistake most people make is trying to make it too complex. I've found it pays to be simple if you want to understand God's word. *"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."* (Ps 119:130)

Significant Scriptures

To "see" when all these things are going to happen we must simply look at the parallels in scripture, both Old and New Testaments. *"Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old."* (Matthew 13:52) We will begin the countdown with seven.

God told Noah he would bring the flood upon the earth after seven days, *"For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth."* (Genesis 7:4) *"And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth."* (Genesis 7:10) It would be seven days before the flood would destroy "every living creature." The final judgment would be after the seventh millennia...until then, man will inhabit the earth.

Next we look at the battle of Jericho and Gods instructions to Joshua, *"And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days."* (Josh 6:3) *"And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city."* (Josh 6:15-16) See the parallel? God gives the city (the inheritance) to his people on the seventh day, after compassing the city seven times (the seven years of tribulation).

The feast of unleavened bread was for seven days. *"Seven days shall*

ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel." (Exodus 12:15)

This is not a discussion on the benefits and consequences of eating unleavened bread...only that God said we would eat bread "seven days."

It also took seven days to consecrate the Priests and make atonement for sin. *"And thus shalt thou do unto Aaron, and to his sons, according to all things which I have commanded thee: seven days shalt thou consecrate them."* (Exodus 29:35) Consecrate means "to be, make, or pronounce clean." Again, it would take seven days for the priests to be made clean and seven days for atonement. *"Seven days thou shalt make an atonement for the altar, and sanctify it; and it shall be an altar most holy: whatsoever toucheth the altar shall be holy."* (Exodus 29:37) See the parallels? Seven days (seven millennia) to make clean and atone for sin.

Leviticus makes this parallel even clearer: *"And that which remaineth of the flesh and of the bread shall ye burn with fire. And ye shall not go out of the door of the tabernacle of the congregation in seven days, until the days of your consecration be at an end: for seven days shall he consecrate you."* (Leviticus 8:32-33) At the end of the seven days of consecration all flesh and any bread that remained will be burned.

There are many more examples. Uncleanness, sickness, plagues, diseases, took seven days to make clean. In this passage, if the earth is the "woman" and mankind is the "seed," what parallel can you draw? *"Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean."* (Leviticus 12:2)

Scripture says Satan would be bound for a thousand years and then loosed for a short time. Can you see the parallel in this scripture? *"And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him, Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place."* (Acts 21:27-28) Remember, this is not a theological discussion. We are not concerned that the man is Paul and the Jews wrongly accused him; what's important is the parallel: "And when the seven days were almost ended."

While much more could be said about seven days, I will close the examples with the ultimate parallel: *"And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made."* (Genesis 2:2) The writer of Hebrews expands this thought: *"For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest."* (Hebrews 4:3-5)

It is interesting to note, everything, from the beginning to the end, had been finished from the "foundation of the world." The seventh day (seventh millennia) is the time of rest for God's people.

God created the earth and all that was in it in six days. *"For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."* (Exodus 20:11) It doesn't matter whether you believe the earth was created in six thousand years or six billion, the parallel is clear.

"Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:" (Exodus 20:9-10) Six days (six millennia) we will "work."

Most of you are probably familiar with the "transfiguration," when Jesus reveals his true nature to his most trusted disciples. The event takes place after six days. *"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light."* (Matthew 17:1-2)

I know some of you are saying, "Aha, the rapture." Perhaps, but it is important to note two things: One, it is after six days; at the beginning or end is not clear. And two, Jesus took them to a mountain; where a voice speaks to them from heaven, so it's obvious he didn't take them to heaven: *"While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."* (Matthew 17:5)

Again, the "rapture" is not the subject of this book and I would only warn those who think it's unnecessary to prepare with these words of wisdom that were given to me by God: "It's better to be prepared for that which does not come, then unprepared for that which does." The question is not whether you'll be on the first bus out of here, but what you may have to go through to get on the bus. At any rate, for our purpose here, it's after six days (six millennia).

On the fifth day God created "life." *"And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may*

fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day." (Genesis 1:20-23)

The first century AD was the beginning of Jesus' ministry, the coming of the Holy Spirit and the start of the "Church." This was the "birth" of Christianity, which grew and multiplied upon the earth.

On the fourth day God created the greater and lesser lights. *"And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day."* (Genesis 1:16-19)

We see here a parallel to Jesus the greater light, and Satan the lesser light; as well as the angels of heaven. While some may argue, it is very clear that God made TWO lights, not one. This in no way implies that Satan has more power than Jesus, it clearly indicates he does not; but to deny the existence of Satan or that he has any power would be a grave mistake. Light or darkness is your choice. *"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."* (John 8:12) It is interesting to note that the references of the fourth day all point to the coming of Jesus.

In the story of Lazarus, the man Jesus raised from the dead, we see a shadow of things to come. But for our purpose, what's most important is when the event takes place. *"Then when Jesus came, he found that he had*

lain in the grave four days already." (John 11:17) When Jesus comes, it's four days (four millennia) from the beginning. He is crucified, buried, then rises from the grave. ...*"Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?"* (John 11:40)

Another significant passage about the fourth day is the conversion of Cornelius. *"And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,"* (Acts 10:30) A reference to the "appearance" of Christ after four days (four millennia).

Counting Down the "Days"

Now, let's summarize the four days. Seven days (seven millennia) until the end, the final judgment. Six days (six millennia) of "work," not that we won't work during the seventh; but God said his people would enjoy the work of their hands. I have always been a big believer in the premise...*"If you enjoy your job, you'll never work a day in your life."* Five days (five millennia) we see the beginning of Christianity and the "Church." Four days (four millennia) extols the coming of Christ. Now we begin to look at the importance of the last three days (millennia) of God's plan for his people.

This may seem confusing to some, since the "fifth" day counting backwards is different from the "fifth" day counting forward, but we are not looking at the seven days as consecutive days forward or backward. We are simply looking at the time and timing contained in scripture. Now that I have sufficiently confused you, let's continue with the final three days of God's plan.

It has been two days, two thousand years, two millennia, since the coming of Christ. Jesus said, "Let no man deceive you." I want this to be perfectly clear. The world is not coming to an end. In the days ahead there will be many who will try to convince you the world is ending, and in a little while it may even appear to be so, but the end is not yet. We have seen in scripture God ordained seven days for the atonement of sin and to make clean.

We have one day, one millennia, one thousand years left before scripture is fulfilled...a thousand years of peace on earth. But before that time begins, there will be a period of tribulation, such as we have never seen. *"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."* (Matthew 24:21)

We can read about the calamities of past times and some even remember the horrors that have befallen some, even in our modern society, but Jesus said this time will be the worst it has ever been. That should be enough to cause Christians to prepare, but alas many will not. *"For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."* (Matthew 24:38-39)

From the coming of Christ, there are three days, three thousand years, three millennia, before our final rest. We see this clearly in the journey of the Israelites.

After the Israelites met God, they journeyed three days. The ark of the Lord went before them to seek out a resting place. *"And they departed from the mount of the LORD three days' journey: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them in the three days' journey, to*

search out a resting place for them." (Numbers 10:33)

We "met" Jesus two days ago...he is our "ark of the Lord" who has gone before us to seek our resting place. *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."* (John 14:2) The journey is three days...we have gone two. We see this parallel repeated time and again.

In Joshua (a type of Christ) we see that "within" three days we would inherit the land...not before or after, but within three days. *"Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it."* (Josh 1:11)

Preparing for the Third Day

It's also interesting to note that Joshua commanded the people to "prepare." There are numerous parallels in the Old Testament concerning three-day journeys. It would behoove you to read them all.

We find the clearest indication it will be three days, in the words of the Lord Jesus. When asked by the Pharisees to give them a sign, Jesus replied no sign would be given except that of Jonah. *"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."* (Matthew 12:40)

We see here a picture of Jesus dwelling in our hearts. We are the "heart" of the earth. If Jesus were coming back "in the flesh" now, in just two days...there would be no reason for him to be in our heart for three

days. We see this again as Jesus tells his disciples the people have been with him three days, *"Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way."* (Matthew 15:32)

Jesus repeatedly said, on the third day I will rise again. *"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day."* (Matthew 16:21)

These scriptures indicate Jesus is returning the third day. Since we are about to enter the third day, it could be construed that Jesus is coming "in the flesh" at the beginning of the third day; but if we look deeper into scripture we get a much clearer picture. *"And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."* (Mark 8:31)

Note that Jesus says after three days. And again, *"Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."* (John 2:19) *"And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected. Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the day following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem."* (Luke 13:32-33)

Today, tomorrow, and the day following...three days, three millennia, three thousand years before the Lord returns "in the flesh." Jesus will be in our hearts for three days, but he will not return until the end of the third day.

As we examine the parallels for two days, the picture becomes even clearer. *"After two days was the feast of the Passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death."* (Mark 14:1)

Passover is when the angel of death destroys all those who are unprepared. We see here the parallel that the Passover will come after two days, two millennia, two thousand years. We see the same message in the Old Testament, *"After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight."* (Hosea 6:2)

There are many scriptures one could use to make the same points. Again I urge you to study God's word for yourself, draw your own conclusions; but most of all remember this: *"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* (Matthew 24:42-51)

The Book of Daniel

We have looked at the time and timing in parallels; but we get an even better picture by looking at the prophecy found in Daniel. *"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy."* (Daniel 9:24) Daniel asks and is given the answer to the end of things.

While Daniel's prophecy has been studied thoroughly and by more knowledgeable people than I, this is my understanding of the time and timing contained in Daniel's prophesy.

Seventy weeks is translated literally to mean seventy weeks of years or four hundred ninety years (seventy times seven). We get a reminder of this when Peter asks Jesus how many times a man is to be forgiven. *"Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."* (Matthew 18:22) This period will finish the transgression, make an end of sins, and make reconciliation for iniquity; it will also bring in everlasting righteousness, seal up the vision, and anoint the most Holy.

I have always believed the Old Testament to be physical and the New Testament to be spiritual. *"Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual."* (1 Corinthians 15:46)

The Old Testament was given for our example, so we could "see" the physical manifestation of the spiritual. We "see" a physical world and then a Spiritual world; both requiring four hundred and ninety years.

Daniel's prophecy goes on to break down the four hundred and ninety years: *"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined."* (Daniel 9:25-26)

We must now make one basic assumption. If we consider the Protestant Reformation the rebuilding of the "temple" spiritually and the command to restore are Luther's 95 Theses posted in 1517, then four hundred ninety years would be the year 2007.

If we break that down into the segments described by Daniel, there are seven weeks (forty nine years) and sixty-two weeks (four hundred thirty four years) when Messiah is cut-off...the beginning of the tribulation would be the year two thousand. Then one week (seven years) of tribulation, ending in the year two thousand seven.

It would be unwise to assume these dates are specific. Although Luther's 95 Theses are considered to be the start of the Protestant Reformation, Luther might have gotten the "command" years earlier. Chances are Luther did not get the "command," write and then post them in one day, maybe not in one year; most likely it was something that happened over time.

Is the Protestant Reformation a good reference point?

The Protestant Reformation was a movement that rejected the notion that divine authority came through a particular institution (the church) or

specific human (the pope) and stressed the Bible as sole source of authority. The second basic tenant of the Reformation was salvation by grace, through faith, rather than works. It was, and is, a "spiritual" movement.

Is this the reference point referred to in Daniel? Only God knows, but it quickened my spirit.

Aside from the ministry of Jesus and the church of the first century, it is one of the most significant religious events in history. It literally changed the religious world.

Could Protestants be the ten lost tribes of Israel? Didn't Jesus say he came to seek and to save that which was lost? *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."* (Luke 19:10) It's interesting to note this passage immediately precedes Jesus relating a parable of ten servants.

We must also remember these dates are based on the Gregorian calendar and modern chronology has "adjusted" the calendar by four years, thus the birth of Christ is now thought to be 4 BC. Four years may seem insignificant compared to six thousand years, but it could have a dramatic effect on the seven years of tribulation, thus no one knows the day or the hour and this book was not intended to prophesy the time of the end, only the timing.

Whether it's 2007, 2012 or even 2020, it is evident to me that as we enter the seventh millennia things are going to get worse...and wisdom would dictate that, **"It's better to be prepared for that which does not come, then unprepared for that which does."**

Waiting a few years to start preparing could be disastrous.

Preparing: Dealing with Debt

I wouldn't feel right telling anyone to wait even a day to begin preparing, but there are some factors that affect more people than others. For instance, what is your debt situation? If you are heavily in debt, you need to get out of debt.

In my opinion, debt is the ultimate form of bondage. It keeps you working at a job you don't enjoy, which makes you unhappy and creates more stress on relationships than any other factor. It really takes very little money to live...it takes a lot of money to live in debt. I have often wondered, given the choice, would people rather be rich or happy?

It appears most people choose rich, thinking it will make them happy; and when it doesn't, they think it's because they're not rich enough; so they keep pursuing more and more money. I find this to be most sad.

Jesus said it best, *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."* (Matthew 6:24)

Unquestionably the "god of this world" is money. It's the only thing universally worshipped without regard to race, creed, color, religion, or national origin. And whether it takes the shape of beads, animals, or paper, people would rather have wealth than happiness. I am not anti-wealth, but Jesus said where your treasure is there will your heart be also. The love of money is truly the root of all evil.

I've been there. I know what it's like to lose a car and a home. I know what it's like to cringe every time the phone rings, wondering which collector is calling. I know what it's like to live on twenty-five dollars a

week. I know what it's like to slave at a job you absolutely hate. And I know what a strain it puts on a marriage.

The answer is not more money...it's less debt. If you do nothing else, get out of debt...because when the economy starts failing, the pressure will be intense on those who owe. Scripture says the time is coming when you can neither buy nor sell without the mark of the beast. *"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."* (Revelations 13:16-17)

This is not as difficult a concept as it appears. When the world economy goes, a new economic system will be implemented. What is the mark? I don't know, but we will know when it happens. You will not be able to "buy or sell" without it. Will you be in a position to refuse the mark? How will you buy food? Pay rent? Utility bills? How will you pay the Doctor when your children get ill?

Will you be prepared or will you take the "mark of the beast" to save your life? *"In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife. Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it."* (Luke 17:31-33)

Do you have a place to run to? If not, you need to start planning to get one. As the scripture says, you won't be able to even gather your things or return home from work. You may think this sounds foolish and ridiculous; nothing could happen that fast. What does scripture say? "Remember Lot's wife."

I'm not saying you need to build a fortress in the side of a mountain. If you can live in a tent and eat wild berries, you may well survive. However, wouldn't it be much better to live in a palace? Wouldn't it be much better to eat real food...and know there was enough to last? Remember, in the aftermath the food and water supply will probably be contaminated. There's a big difference between living, and surviving. That difference, is preparing.

Self-Sufficiency

Preparing is not quitting your job and moving to the country. It's preparing to quit your job and move to the country. Again, if you're in debt it will take you some time to get out. If you have no land, it will take you time to find and develop a place of refuge. It's not going to happen overnight, but neither can you afford to put it off. Noah made building an ark his purpose in life. I would recommend the same to you.

A simple self-sufficient (that is to say God-sufficient) life in the country is not a bad way to live, but it's not the only way. You can build a "vacation" retreat that could serve the same purpose. I would only say this, "make life your work, not work your life." You'll have a much happier life, no matter what happens.

Short Term Signs

So when is it time to leave? We find the answer clearly stated in

scripture: *"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled."* (Luke 21:20-22)

Daniel's prophecy confirms the destruction of Jerusalem. *"And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."* (Daniel 9:26-27)

In mid-week (three and a half years) we will see the "abomination of desolation." *"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes."* (Matthew 24:15-18)

If the tribulation begins in the year 2000 then the "abomination" will occur sometime during 2003-2004. According to Daniel's prophesy that is when you should be prepared to leave. 2003 may seem like a long way off, but time has a way of slipping by quickly.

If the time and timing in this book are correct, then the economic

collapse will begin in the year 2000. During the three and a half years following, expect to see wars and rumors of wars, the surrounding of Israel, and the destruction of Jerusalem by her enemies. Jesus said, when you begin to see all these things know that the time is nigh.

But again, it is not my intent to prophesy the time of the end, only the timing...it could be sooner or later.

Pay close attention to the Middle East, especially a "peace accord." *"And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries."* (Daniel 11:21)

Peace is wonderful concept, but if it happens at all it will be a false peace, a false sense of security, and very short-lived. *"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."* (1Thes 5:3)

It will be the most deceptive event in history. *"To wit, the prophets of Israel which prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and which see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, saith the Lord GOD."* (Ezekiel 13:16)

There will be no true peace until the tribulation period is over and the earth is returned to God's people, then it will be a world of peace ruled by the Prince of Peace. *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."* (Isaiah 9:6-7)

The world cannot get better, it can only get worse. *"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."* (2 Tim 3:12-13)

Although the world will get worse and worse, you can make your world better. As I have said many times, and will say many more times throughout this book... **"When you're prepared for the worst, it doesn't matter what happens, or when."**

Chapter Five

The Environment

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth."

Luke 21:34-35 (KJV)

You may be wondering if any place on earth will be safe? While the righteous could be safe in a tent, there's no place safe enough for the wicked. God's hand is not too short to reach anywhere, anytime he wants. And since the wicked will be destroyed, it makes little difference where they are or what they do to prepare. Certainly there are those who have the ability to build physical strongholds, but their strongholds will not save them from the wrath of God if they have not built spiritual strongholds as well.

Do You Have Enough Faith?

It's much more important to be spiritually strong than physically strong, especially during a time of intense persecution. It's easy to proclaim faith, or say, "I'm a Christian," when there's no negative consequence. Would it be as easy if the punishment were death or dismemberment?

There are parts of the world where death and dismemberment are very real. Scripture has already told us the day is coming when we would be hated by all men and killed for our beliefs. Do you feel hated as a Christian? Is anyone trying to kill you for your beliefs? That time is coming.

Most people don't have enough faith to face a headache without aspirin (please, I'm not saying aspirin is wicked and evil, only that most people have more faith in the aspirin's ability to heal, than in God's ability).

Do we really believe we have enough faith to face death for our beliefs? Jesus wondered the same thing: "*Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:*" (Luke 18:8-9)

How can we continue to sin and still believe we are righteous? And how can we say we love God, and hate our brother? It's not possible...if the love of God is within us.

Godless America?

Scripture says to be ready because everyone will be subject to the wrath that will come. Does that include America? The answer is an obvious yes.

Some may say America is not mentioned in the Bible, but I submit to you the apostle John, in The Book of the Revelation, describes America quite well. *"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:"* (Revelations 12:1)

Does not the Statue of Liberty come to mind?

"And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days." (Revelations 12:5-6)

America was a "wilderness" settled by Christians who fled from persecution in Europe. A place prepared by God as a refuge for his children. It still offers the most freedom (although that is certainly changing) of any place on earth. And for all practical purposes, it is still the most "Christian."

It's interesting to note in the passage that "a thousand two hundred and threescore days" is three and a half years, the time allotted for the most intense persecution of the tribulation period. *"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."* (Revelations 12:17)

No matter how "godless" America is becoming, a remnant of faithful

followers are hidden here. America, for all her goodness, has some very wicked ways; and not only will she come under the wrath of God, but as might be expected, is a major player in the end-time events. America, as the scripture indicates, will be the target of the anti-Christian tyrant.

Let me show you another "picture," as seen by John. *"So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."* (Revelations 17:3-5)

This is not "the wilderness" (America)...it's a place "in the wilderness." We see a great, wealthy "woman" sitting on a beast, holding a golden cup full of abominations.

America is the richest, most powerful, nation on earth. Through Washington, we control or influence in some way almost every other nation on the planet. Or to paraphrase a well-known saying, "As America goes, so goes the world."

But this is not a pretty picture in scripture. Washington has spread "capitalism" and "democracy" throughout the world.

Capitalism, as defined by Webster's, is an economic system in which the means of production, distribution and exchange are privately owned and operated for private profit. Capitalism is a profit-oriented system that encourages and promotes "self." While there is nothing wrong with profit and even scripture says, "the laborer is worthy of his hire," encouraging and

promoting "self" runs contrary to scripture.

Webster defines democracy as government by the people, usually through elected representatives. Democracy sounds great, but God's preferred form of government is a Theocracy...a government ruled by priests...men who know the will of God.

Capitalism and democracy are not inherently wicked or evil, but when God is left out or legislated out of the equation, the systems become corrupt. The problem with society in general is we no longer have one set of rules for the good of everyone...everyone has their own set of rules for the good of themselves.

No one likes to be told what to do. And Washington is becoming a big bully in the world. There are countries that hate the United States. There are others, even current allies who will turn against us in the future.

Scripture says the beast (see Chapter 7) hates the whore, turns on her and makes her desolate. *"And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled."* (Revelations 17:16-17)

It may seem ludicrous, even impossible, that the world could turn against us. It may also seem impossible that any nation could be stronger than us. We will soon see it's not only possible...it's highly probable.

Israel and the Beast

The Middle East has always been a hotbed of activity, and will continue to be. God has always used Israel to manifest his plan. The United States has always (at least until recently) protected Israel. This is one of the reasons America has been so blessed. When the beast rears its ugly head, we will either be unable or unwilling to help Israel...and Israel will be destroyed.

China will remain a mystery to the world. However, as we have seen, with its two hundred million strong army, China will be playing an important role in the final destruction. Whether Japan, Korea and other oriental nations join with China I do not know.

Europe will unite and become a part of the beast. God, in his sovereignty, will destroy Europe when he destroys the beast.

No part of the world will be immune. Whether as a result of nuclear, chemical, or biological warfare, contamination of the atmosphere food and water, or some natural disaster, no place will escape the tribulation that's coming on the earth.

No place, but the "ark." Those with the foresight to see the evil coming will ready themselves and their families. They will be tucked away in obscurity, in self-sufficient (that is to say God-sufficient) refuges with a clean water supply food and a shelter that is not dependent on man for it's existence.

Of course you could try to hide in a hole in a mountain or perhaps some desolate place like Antarctica and may not feel the full brunt of the tribulation. A less populated area like Siberia or one of the islands in the Pacific would provide some protection, at least from the rioting and looting sure to take place. But food and water might be difficult to come by in places such as these.

Build Your "Ark"

The wisest choice would be to simply plan ahead and prepare a place of refuge...build an "ark." *"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished."* (Proverbs 22:3)

The places that will be hardest hit are the major cities...particularly those with government or military ties. These would most definitely be major targets of nuclear warheads and terrorist attacks. Obviously avoid Washington D.C. Cities with high populations like Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago would also be extremely good targets and hotbeds of rioting and looting.

They would probably be the most lawless as well. Fear is a major contributor to panic and the more people, the more fear...the more fear, the more panic. But whether you live in a large metropolitan area or a small town there will be consequences if you choose to stay in the city. My advice is to get out of the city...and be as discreet as possible.

This is going to be really controversial, probably raise some eyebrows, and not make me very popular...but another place I would avoid, is the church. Before you burn this book in effigy, what does the scripture say? *"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."* (Matthew 24:9-12)

Christians are not going to be popular people in the "new world order."

They will be persecuted and killed. At best, they will be hated. This is going to be a "holy war". Churches Synagogues and Mosques will definitely be targets of destruction. But scripture goes on to say that people will hate and betray one another. How many people in your congregation would "sell you out" to save themselves? Is your Pastor a shepherd, or a hireling? *"But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep."* (John 10:12-13)

This may seem cruel and heartless, but sometimes the truth hurts. In this case, it could be the difference between life and death. False prophets won't be in the local grocery store...they'll be in the church.

Are you grounded in God's word or do you rely on the Pastor to tell you the truth? How do you know when he's not telling the truth? And if he's not telling the truth, why are you listening to him at all? There are a lot more hirelings than shepherds; and scripture says there will be many false prophets and many people will be deceived. I know it's hard to imagine a time like this could ever come to pass, but this is not my word, it's God's word...it will come to pass.

I'm not saying leave your church. I'm suggesting you take a close, hard look at the church, the Pastor, and the members. Is your Pastor there because he wants to be, or because he makes forty two thousand a year? Are you growing spiritually? Is the church? Are the members only there for "social" reasons? It's difficult to look in a mirror and examine who you really are and what you really believe, but at some point you have to ask yourself...would I die for them? Would they die for me? These are difficult questions that require honest answers.

Show this book to your Pastor and see his/her reaction. Does s/he take it seriously or write it off as the ramblings of a fool? Does s/he think "preparing" is a foolish thing to do? Why? Remember what Jesus said, *"But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."* (Matthew 24:43-44) Do you think it's not going to happen? Does your Pastor?

Remember, Noah was not immune from the ravages of the flood, he was warned. If Noah had not obeyed God and built an ark he would have perished with the rest of the world.

Preparing is not paranoia...its wisdom. There will be no place to run or hide from the wrath of God and no one will escape the effects unless they are prepared physically and spiritually, as was Noah, for what is coming. None of this may happen, or at least happen in your lifetime, but here again is wisdom: "It's better to be prepared for that which does not come, then unprepared for that which does."

The question is not "What if it doesn't happen?" The question is, "What if it does?"

Chapter Six

The Explanation

"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

1 Corinthians 13:12 (KJV)

Someday we may have all the answers, but this is not that day. As Paul said, it's like looking through a dirty window, things are not as clear as they will be when Christ returns at the end of the age.

We believe what we see...what we don't see, we don't believe. But it's the unseen that is the substance of faith. *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."* (Hebrews 11:1-3)

When we look at a seed we cannot see what the seed will become...but

we know with proper planting and care it will become what it was intended to be. It doesn't become something it's not. You cannot plant tomato seeds and reap corn. A pumpkin seed won't produce a sunflower. Neither when planted does the seed of Gods children become the children of Satan, nor vice versa.

Someone once said "We're not physical beings having a spiritual experience, we're spiritual beings having a physical experience." We may not know all the mysteries of God, but we know we're God's children because our spirit bears witness it's true. *"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"* (Romans 8:16) We're spiritual beings in an earthly body being conformed to the image of his Son. *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."* (Romans 8:29) *"And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."* (1 Corinthians 15:49)

Contrary to what you might believe, it's not your choice to be a child of God...you either are or you're not.

Sheep do not become goats and tares do not become wheat. And no one comes to the Son unless the Father ordains it. *"And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father."* (John 6:65)

Your choice, freewill, is to obey...plain and simple. It's disobedience that brings the wrath of God *"For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them."*

(Ephesians 5: 5-7)

The Chosen Generation

The earth is our inheritance, our promise from God. *"For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."* (Ps 37:9-11) And again, *"What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth."* (Ps 25:12-13) Jesus in his sermon on the mount confirmed it. *"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."* (Matthew 5:5)

We're not talking about a piece or parcel of the land...the meek shall inherit the earth and delight themselves in the abundance of peace. This is not a glorious hope...it is a promise.

God said the day would come when the earth will burn with fire and the wicked would no longer be found. *"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."* (Malachi 4:1)

That day will be followed by a world of peace ruled in righteousness by the Prince of Peace. *"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow*

unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:2-4)

Just because God has been silent for the last five hundred years doesn't mean he's dead or that his promise won't be fulfilled. And while it has been a long time coming, those days have finally arrived...this is the chosen generation. *"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled." (Matthew 24:32-34)*

The fig tree has long been the symbol of Israel, but Israel had no "home" until 1948 (a tender branch). Now Israel is a formidable power in the Middle East, expanding its reach (putting forth leaves). As scripture indicates, that means the time is near, even at the doors.

This generation is the last of the old, and the first of the new. *"And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last." (Luke 13:29-30)*

In the last day all those who came before shall rise first. *"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain*

unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (1Thes 4:15-17)

Remember, this is the last day when Jesus comes down from heaven with the New Jerusalem and all the saints, and dwells on the earth. This is not what's happening now.

There is an order of things, and according to scripture there must first be a thousand years of peace on earth. *"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season." (Revelations 20:1-3)* That has not happened.

Satan is then loosed at the end of the thousand years for a short period, but God himself casts Satan into the lake of fire. *"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." (Revelations 20:7-9)*

It won't be a perfect world. Our descendants will see Satan again; and we'll all stand before God at the final judgment. *"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."* (Revelations 20:11-15)

Finally, the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven and God dwells on earth with his people. *"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."* (Revelations 21:1-3)

Appreciation and Obedience

So why make us wait seven thousand years? Why not just create the perfect world to begin with, and be done with it? It was a perfect world...but to appreciate good, one must experience evil. God did not want his children to be robots, so he gave them freewill to obey or disobey.

Obedience is the result of respect, but true respect cannot be demanded...it must be commanded. To demand respect is tyrannical...not born of love, but fear. And as scripture tells us, God is love...and so loved the world that he gave his only Son that we might have life, and have it more abundantly.

Our way is everything now or sooner, but God's way is little by little...it's a growing process. *"Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:"* (Isaiah 28:9-10)

You don't get pregnant and give birth the same day; it's a growing process. As children, even spiritual children, we must be taught right from wrong. Even the earth must grow and mature. But rest assured, God will fulfill his promises to his people. *"Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God."* (Isaiah 66:8-9) Seven thousand years seems like a long time, but to God it's one week.

Scripture says there is a thousand year period when evil doesn't exist. *"And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."* (Revelations 20:2-3) Why now? Why not later?

Scripture clearly indicates the tribulation period precedes the thousand years of peace. If seven days (millennia) are required for consecration and the seventh day is the "day" of rest...and we are entering the seventh "day"...then it must follow that we are about to enter into the tribulation period.

It could not be at any other time past or future and line up with the time and timing in the Bible as well as it does right now. Six days you will labor, the seventh day is the day of rest; the day God will return the inheritance he has prepared for those who love him since the foundation of the world. This is not doom and gloom, its good news for God's people...his promises are about to be fulfilled.

There are over five billion people in the world. If just half of them have a child each year, we would add almost two billion more people to this planet in the next seven years. The United Nations projects the world's population to exceed eleven billion by the year 2025. If you think it's crowded now, just wait a few years. If we can't feed, clothe, and house five billion people, how are we ever going to feed, clothe, and house, eleven billion people?

China has an army of two hundred million, the number given in scripture. *"And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them."* (Revelations 9:16) It's possible, given enough time for the birth rate, that another country could produce an army of that magnitude, but there's no need, the stage is already set and the players are already in place for scripture to be fulfilled.

And tell me...is this not a picture of our world today? *"As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy*

paths." (Isaiah 3:12)

God Made the Rules: Men and Women

Call me old fashioned, call me a chauvinist, call me a pig, but I didn't make the rules...God did. *"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."* (Ephesians 5:22-23)

You can argue with me, but you can't argue with God. If wives stayed home and took care of their husbands and raised their children in the Lord, we would have fewer divorces and disobedient children. And whether your husband is a House Painter or a President makes little difference to God...the command is the same, you are to reverence your husband.

Our society is clearly indicative of how far we have gotten from God's way. If women want to be independent they should stay single and not have children. Wives who want to be independent are the same as divorced (and predictably, most of them are). *"But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. "For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered."* (1 Corinthians 11:5-6)

This is not to say men are without blame. It's simply to point out how far we have strayed from God, walking after the imagination of our own hearts, listening to man instead of God. Scripture tells us it was the woman who was deceived, not the man. *"For Adam was first formed, then Eve.*

And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." (1 Tim 2:13-14) Adam's sin was obeying his wife, instead of God.

It should be a lesson to us all. No matter how good, bad, or indifferent your husband may be...he is still ordained by God to be the head of the house. If you have a problem with your husband, let God take care of it...don't try to do it yourself. Trust God, he is more than able to handle any difficulty.

Two wrongs don't make a right. *"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"* (Matthew 7:3) Before you start telling your husband "how the cow ate the cabbage," make sure you're "on the side of angels."

Likewise husbands, you are to treat your wife as the weaker vessel; knowing she is easily deceived and taken in by the world, don't be bitter towards her, help her...laying down your life if necessary; for this is right in the Lord.

Nevertheless, it must come to pass that children oppress and women rule for scripture to be fulfilled. It is surely coming to pass right now.

I don't see how it's possible for the circumstances pertaining to the end of the age to be any better or clearer than it is at this present time. The rapid advancement of technology, the emphasis on removing God from society, the wanton public display of perverseness in men and woman, the increasing violence toward innocent people, corruption in high places, the lack of respect and disregard for law and order, the breakdown of the family, the obsession with material objects and money...from a Godly perspective, how much worse can it get?

Hang in there brothers and sisters, the day is coming when you will look for the wicked and shall not find them; for they shall be as ashes under the soles of your feet.

Chapter Seven

The Encounter

“A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.”

Proverbs 27:12 (KJV)

I heard it said on television the other night that eighty percent of American households are invested in the stock market. I'm not an economics expert, but economics is a relatively simple concept...buying and selling. As long as there are enough buyers to match the production of the sellers, the economy stays strong.

When buyers stop buying (for whatever reason), sellers must stop producing or lower prices until buyers again start buying. Although economists may argue, supply and demand is and always will be the basic tenet of economics.

Basic Economics: Buyers and Sellers

A product or service is only worth what someone will pay, and everyone puts a value on everything...even if the value is zero. For example, a farmer can charge a dollar for a dozen eggs as long as enough buyers will pay a dollar for a dozen eggs to exhaust production. If everyone decided to stop buying eggs, either the farmer must stop producing eggs (although in this example he has little control) or the price of eggs will fall.

The same is true for every commodity and service. When the demand for cars ceases the price of cars must come down, or they must stop producing cars. When they stop producing cars, salaries and/or employees are reduced leading to people being unable to buy cars (and other things) and the economy goes into recession. The larger the drop, the deeper the recession...a depression results when the drop is large enough or long enough.

In order for an economy to remain stable there must be buyers willing and able to pay the price sellers are asking. Debt, the ability to buy on credit, is a way to coerce people who would otherwise not buy into becoming buyers. The more buyers, the more goods and services can be produced and sold by the sellers; and generally at higher prices, since the buyer focuses on the smaller "payments" rather than price. It doesn't make the economy stronger...it makes the sellers richer.

Ultimately the credit-buyer must pay for the goods or services, plus a premium called "interest." If the buyer can't or won't repay, someone loses...either the producer or the lender. If enough people can't repay it could cause a producer or a lender to go out of business...that also reduces employment and the ability of those employees to repay. And so it

continues on a downward spiral until the whole economy collapses. And what caused it all? Debt.

What if you lose your job tomorrow, could you find another? What if there were no jobs, would you be able to repay or would you "throw in the towel."

During the Great Depression of the twenties and thirties the moral condition of our country was such that we could ride out the storm. There will always be those with no moral fiber who turn to crime as an easy way out. But back then the majority of people were raised in homes with strong Christian values, they understood and believed the work ethic put forth by Paul. *"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."* (2 Thessalonians 3:10) This was not a "something for nothing" society as we have today.

In our present society, people not only don't repay their debts, they don't even feel bad about it. This is another sign of how far we have strayed from God's way and how close we are to God finishing his work. *"But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away. The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth. For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off."* (Ps 37:20-22)

Debt and its Effects

Failing economies lead to an increase in crime...only this time it won't be gangsters with machine-guns, it'll be countries with nuclear warheads

and chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. Survival is a potent motivator.

We are seeing a shadow of things to come. The economies of Mexico and Japan are in trouble; Korea is broke. Granted, none of these have led to war, but only because other countries have picked up the slack. What happens when no one is able to come to the rescue? Do you think anyone is going to starve to death without a fight? What would a dying man give to save his life? Everything he has.

When I was young we had a little store in the neighborhood where everyone shopped. We bought what we needed and what we could afford. You could "run an account" until payday, but if you didn't pay your bill, you lost the privilege. We had a drugstore and two churches, one Protestant one Catholic, that housed the Scout troops, pancake breakfasts and bean suppers. Everyone knew almost everyone and there was a tremendous sense of community.

The "shopping" district contained a furniture store, a drug store, a shoe store, a five and dime, a mortuary, and a Dairy Queen, which served the surrounding neighborhoods.

When I was a banker, loans were primarily for purchasing or remodeling homes; credit cards didn't exist. Automobile loans were for two years and required at least twenty percent down payment...and we didn't finance taxes or insurance.

We're things better then? We didn't have the luxuries we enjoy today. Television was just beginning and the word computer wasn't even in the dictionary. But children did play together and adults visited on front porches. A major crime was having your hubcaps stolen; and no one considered discipline, child abuse.

These things are gone...replaced by Mega-malls and Mega-churches, fast-food restaurants, high divorce rates, teen pregnancy, and drive-by shootings. But we do have two cars, three televisions and a microwave oven. Was the trade-off worth it?

Since eighty percent of American households are invested in the stock market, a crash in the market would have a dramatic effect on America. They say it could never happen, we now have "safeguards" to protect us.

Do we? The safeguard is closing the market so no one can buy or sell. Remember in order to sell anything there must be a buyer. If everyone decides to sell and there are no buyers, the stock becomes worthless.

At the same time, you probably already know banks don't physically have the money to back up their deposits. Most of the funds are "loaned" to other people and/or companies. If everyone decided to withdraw their money, the banks would have to "call their loans," which would put tremendous pressure on anyone who is indebted to the bank.

What if they don't pay? The government guarantees the deposits up to a certain amount, as long as the government can pay...but the government is trillions of dollars in debt. What if the creditors of the government "call their loans?" How would the government pay? Could it happen? Absolutely.

Fear and Terrorism

All it takes is fear and panic by enough people...it doesn't even take everyone. What could cause that kind of fear and panic? How about

terrorism? When the buildings start exploding, when people fear walking the streets or going to work, the first thing they will do is start withdrawing their money and hoarding it under their mattress.

Terrorism doesn't even have to happen in the United States to produce the effect. All it requires is a very real possibility that it could happen.

Fear is the most powerful motivator in existence. It works whether it's fear of embarrassment, fear of poverty, fear of death, or any number of other fears...real or imagined. Why do you think the United States is so concerned with keeping terrorism away from its shores? Yet it will happen, whether from within or without remains to be seen.

Terrorism and/or the threat of terrorism and its economic consequences, will ultimately lead to coalitions between nations...and give rise to "the beast." *"And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."*
(Rev 13:2)

This is the "picture" John saw of the world power that would usher in the end of things. The beast is symbolic, but we need only look at the symbolism to get a clear picture of the beast.

Napoleon was known as "the leopard" and his empire stretched throughout the whole of Europe. Russia has always been symbolized as "a bear." It is also easy to understand who represents "the lion..." far and away one of the most recognized symbols, the British Empire.

What we see in John's "beast" is a coalition between Europe, Russia, and Great Britain.

Remember the "woman" riding the beast? This is Washington D.C.

"And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." (Rev 17:18)

Although Washington D.C. is technically not a part of the United States...it definitely represents the United States to the rest of the world. So we have a coalition of Europe, Russia, Great Britain, and the United States. Would this not create the most powerful alliance in the world?

This coalition will be the strongest economic and military power the world has ever seen. Very few countries would be able to stand against such an alliance. *"And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?" (Rev 13:4)*

The United States is a part of the coalition, but is not a part of the beast. It is the power that influences and controls the beast (the "woman" riding the beast)...at least temporarily.

Targeting Terrorism?

John says the beast hates the woman and turns on her. *"And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth (Rev 17:16-18 KJV)*

It might be difficult to believe that these three nations...Europe,

Russia, and Great Britain...would seek to destroy the United States, but it's not difficult to imagine that the leaders of these three world powers will tire of the control that the United States exercises over them. No one likes to be told what to do, especially powerful leaders of powerful countries.

The coalition will not be formed to destroy the United States (remember, the United States is a part of the coalition). It will be formed to combat terrorist activity and to stabilize the spiraling economic condition.

The United States will be the primary target of terrorists. But when the terrorists begin targeting the other countries for their support of the United States then the "beast" will turn against the United States and leave her to burn. *"And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. (Rev 18: 9-10 KJV)*

The "dragon" worshipped by the beast is not Satan per se...this will not be a Satan-worshipping alliance. This will be a humanistic alliance, where the "god of this world" (i.e. money) will reign supreme. It will not be anti-religion...it will be anti-truth. This will be a time of subtle deception when many will fall away from the truth.

Make no mistake about it. The war that is coming will not be over gold, silver, or oil. It will be a Holy War.

While no country will be immune, the brunt of the attacks will be against Israel and the United States.

This is neither new, nor a revelation. The Arabs and Jews (and Christians by their association with Jews) have been fighting for centuries.

This is simply the culmination of the hatred between the religions.

The War to Come: The Beast Victorious

The Arab States will unite against Jews and Christians, and seek to destroy Israel and the United States. The "beast" will make peace with the terrorists, but they will ultimately battle one another. *"And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over."* (Dan 11:40)

The beast will occupy but will not overcome. *"He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape."* (Dan 11:41-42)

But news from the East (China?) and the North (civil unrest at home?) will rile him even more and he will seek to destroy all who move against him. *"But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many."* (Dan 11:44)

But though destruction will be great he will not be victorious. *"And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him."* (Dan 11:45)

It may not look like it now, and it may be hard to believe that in ten years we could see destruction such as the world has never seen, or will see again. *"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened"* (Matt 24:21-22 KJV) But the scriptures are clear, only the time and timing is in question.

Just because it hasn't happened, doesn't mean it won't happen...the time is coming when God will make good on his promises. *"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land."* (Jeremiah 33:14-15)

I believe with all my heart, mind, soul, and strength...the time is near. God has placed it in my spirit to get ready and my own study of scripture and the understanding given me, confirms it. Whether the events transpire as described, only God knows for sure...but I know this, ***"It's better to be prepared for that which does not come, then unprepared for that which does."***

Prepare Now: What Righteousness Is

Changing your life and lifestyle may or may not be required. You may already be prepared or partially prepared. It may have been in your spirit, as it was in mine...and while you didn't know when, you knew the time was

close. Perhaps you have never given it any thought or felt it would never happen. Or perhaps you still don't believe it ever will. *"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."* (2 Pet 3:1-4)

While the wicked will be destroyed, the plight of God's people who are walking in disobedience will be much worse. *"For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."* (Hebrews 10:30-31)

If this convicts you, there is hope...because although you may have strayed from God and his ways, it's not too late to turn your heart back to God.

The road to "life" is not a complex series of highways running helter-skelter. You won't get lost on some dim-lit back road or caught in some never-ending cloverleaf. The road to life is a two-lane highway. Everyone is headed one way or the other...and everyone knows which way they're headed.

You know right from wrong...it's in your heart and mind. *"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them."* (Hebrews 10:16)

There is no acceptable excuse for disobeying God's word. Not that we

don't disobey, but when we lie cheat and steal we know it. We may be able to fool others, but we cannot fool God...or ourselves.

How you live your life does make a difference. If you're going in the wrong direction, all you have to do is stop, turn around, and start going in the right direction.

The Bible says, "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be..." The righteous will be saved. Who is righteous? *"Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother."* (I John 3:7-10)

Yet Paul said in Romans there are no righteous. *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"* (Romans 3:10)

Righteousness is doing right, unrighteousness is doing wrong...it's that simple. Do we always do right? Not likely. We live in a world filled with temptation, but because we are tempted to do wrong, God has also made a way out through repentance.

It's those who continually do wrong that must question whether the love of God is in them. *"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."* (I John 2:4) No child of God can do wrong without the Spirit of God convicting them.

Living and doing right is a matter of choice...your freewill to obey or

disobey God. Not everyone will be saved, nor will everyone enter the coming kingdom to rule and reign with Christ. This will be God's world. Those who remain will not be those who see themselves as righteous, but whom God sees as righteous before him.

Does that mean you can't play golf? Smoke? Drink? Go to movies? None of these things have anything to do with righteousness. Righteousness is in the heart of the righteous. It is in your heart to do right.

While there may be consequences to smoking, drinking, and even playing golf...none of these is sin or unrighteousness. What do we need to do? Move to a mountain? Enter a monastery? A convent?

Here is the simple formula God gave me for living a good life... ***"Live for today, Prepare for tomorrow."***

You don't need to stop playing golf or going to the movies. You can still buy that new car, television or VCR. You can take your family out to dinner or on vacation. You should enjoy life, it's the gift of God, but you should also be wise; and that means being prepared. *"There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up. He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour."* (Proverbs 21:20-21)

Righteousness leads to life, unrighteousness leads to death. Never has this been more important than now. *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."* (Hebrews 10:25-27)

Should you move to the country? Buy an island? These are not for me to say. My recommendation is to first commit yourself to the Lord and let him guide you on the path he has chosen for you. *"Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday."* (Ps 37:5-6)

You might be looking at your current situation and consider it hopeless. You don't see how you could be able to do anything to prepare. You don't have to be able, just willing. God is more than able and nothing is too hard for him.

Several years ago God placed these words in my heart, ***"When you can see the invisible, you can do the impossible."***

What Now?

With God all things are possible, you must simply walk in his ways and obey his voice...this is the road to life and blessing. And these are they who will inherit the earth. *"For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off. The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand."* (Ps 37:22-24)

Do you need to prepare? I can't answer that question. Only you and God know your heart and mind. Being unprepared may well mean you will suffer greatly and lose your earthly life, but salvation belongs to God. As a child of God you have eternal life through the shed blood of Christ on the

cross.

Can you lose your salvation? Jesus said you could speak anything against him and still be forgiven, but there was one unforgivable sin that no one would be forgiven. *"Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."* (Matthew 12:31-32)

The unforgivable sin has probably not been an issue for anyone living in the United States where we enjoy almost complete religious freedom. There are parts of the world where expounding one's belief in God means death. What is the unforgivable sin Jesus was talking about? When you know, I mean really know, God is real...you can only know that through the experience of being "born again."

It's not something you believe because your parents told you to believe. It's not something you believe because you're "covering your bases." It's not something you believe because it's better than the alternative. It's something you believe because the Holy Spirit is dwelling within you.

Once you know that you know, you can no longer deny that you know. *"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning."* (2 Pet 2:20) *"For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall*

devour the adversaries." (Hebrews 10:26-27)

If it were not possible to lose your salvation, Jesus would have had no occasion to mention it. I believe many will commit the unforgivable sin during the time of the tribulation.

Would you die for your beliefs? Most would say yes, but what if someone said they were going to cut off the arms and legs of your children...would you have enough faith then?

Many will believe they can deny Christ and then run inside and ask for forgiveness, but Jesus said, *"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."* (Matthew 10:32-33)

Some may say Peter denied Christ three times and he didn't lose his salvation. *"And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly."* (Luke 22:61-62)

Spiritual Rebirth

Remember, the Holy Spirit did not come until after Jesus was crucified. Had the situation occurred AFTER Peter had received the Holy Spirit, he would have committed the "unforgivable sin" and no matter how bitterly he wept, he could not have been forgiven. Once you are "born again," you no longer have any excuse for denying the existence of God. Like natural birth,

spiritual birth cannot be explained...it must be experienced.

Men will never understand what a woman goes through in giving birth to a child, it's an experience only a woman who has gone through it can understand. Neither can a woman who has never experienced natural birth know what it's like. Only those women who have given birth understand.

Spiritual birth is no different. It's an experience only those who have gone through it will understand. It cannot be explained any more than you can explain the taste of salt to someone who has never tasted salt.

When you are "born again" you no longer believe God exists, you KNOW it. And since you cannot un-know what you know, only deny that you know it...if you deny it, that makes you a liar. And all liars will burn in the lake of fire. *"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."* (Rev 21:8)

If that doesn't make you stop and consider every time you tell a lie, or even think about lying, then you must question whether the truth is in you.

There is an old adage that goes, "if you keep on doing what you've always done, you'll keep on getting what you've always gotten." You can't change the world, but you can change your world by turning your heart to God...walking in his ways and obeying his voice.

Chapter Eight

The Ending

“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

Matthew 24:13-14 (KJV)

I'm not asking you to believe what I believe. Study the scriptures and draw your own conclusions.

At the risk of repeating myself, this is what is in my spirit:

The great and dreadful day of the Lord is coming soon. Those who are prepared physically and spiritually, as was Noah, will remain to rule and reign with Christ in the coming kingdom.

A Practical "Ark"

Physically you need to build an "ark"...a place of safety for yourself and your family away from the city.

You need to become self-sufficient (God-sufficient) with a fresh water supply and a source of food. You should have enough provisions on hand or accessible to last at least three and a half years. There should be a natural power supply, either solar, wind, or water, or be content to live without power. Generations have lived by candlelight, without electric stoves and refrigerators, without computers or microwaves, and survived quite well.

How much and what you stock depends on how important any item is to your survival. Do you need toilet paper or toothpaste? These things you must decide for yourself and your loved ones based on your own level of comfort. Some items will be necessities, like tools for building and repairing and seeds for planting.

What does it really take to survive in life? The bottom-line is food and water. Food will become a precious commodity. You can survive quite a while without food; but probably not three and a half years, so some food will be required. You will not however, survive very long without water.

Water is probably the most important item necessary for survival, so it is imperative to have a fresh water supply...that is why I recommend moving to the country.

It could be difficult, if not impossible, to dig a well in the city. Wells require power to operate, so if you don't intend to have a natural power supply make sure the well is equipped with a hand pump.

You can survive in a tent or even a lean-to made of brush, but it probably won't be the most comfortable place you've ever lived. A forty-room mansion is not a necessity (unless you plan on having a lot of people living with you). Neither is building a fortress.

When those days come, most people will be too preoccupied with ransacking the city to worry about you.

Do you need firearms? This is a debatable question. My gut says yes, but for hunting not killing intruders.

Guns don't kill people, people kill people; and since only the righteous will be left, killing won't be an issue because everyone will know killing is wrong. I have never been a fan of guns and don't own any personally, but I leave that to you and God.

Whatever shelter you decide, tent, trailer, or mansion, will probably depend largely on the time and money allocated for building. If you put it off and/or have no money, a tent may be your only option. If you start planning now, a mansion may be a consideration. Again whatever you decide will depend on the wants and needs of your family.

I had a friend who, when talking about going to heaven, said, "I don't care if my feet are smoking', as long as I get in." This was a reference to the scripture that some would just barely make it with their feet on fire. It may be true, but "doing only what it takes to get in" is not a very good attitude, and remember Jesus did say that those who were lukewarm would be spewed from his mouth.

"A house is not a home," so no matter what you choose, just keep in mind the better prepared you are the easier it will be. You may consider living in a tent acceptable...your wife and kids may not.

If you decide to heed the warning and build an ark, many of your friends and family will disown you, or at best think you've lost your mind. Try to remember them when building and plan some extra room. And remember what Jesus said, a prophet is not without honor except in his own house. Most of the people who know you will not believe you. It's okay...those same people will hold you in high esteem when "all hell breaks loose."

No Manual is Complete without Faith

Obviously this is not intended to be a complete manual of construction. And if you're not prepared spiritually, all the physical preparation in the world won't save you. It's more important to prepare spiritually.

Commit your life and your ways to God and he will order your steps. This will be God's world, not man's world. There will be no wicked or unbelieving. That doesn't mean everyone will be at the same maturity level, only that everyone will be of one mind...the mind of Christ.

Those who are left will all believe in the one true and living God. Although some may just come to the knowledge shortly before or after all this takes place.

While there may still be differences over some doctrinal issues, the basics will be firmly rooted and grounded. Gods law is Gods law...it cannot be disputed or argued. Everyone will know lying is wrong, cheating is wrong, stealing is wrong, killing is wrong...you won't need to lock your doors at night or be afraid to walk the streets. You must however be walking in faith to even get there (the righteous walk by faith, not by sight).

Remember, faith is your spiritual muscle; the more you exercise it, the stronger it becomes. It would behoove you to start exercising your faith...you're going to need all you can get.

The elect will rule and reign with Christ...so if you are among the elect, you need a thorough understanding of God and his word. You need to study scripture, meditate on it day and night, until it becomes not second nature, but first nature. You cannot judge with righteous judgment unless you are firmly grounded in the word...not man's understanding of God's word, but the understanding that comes only from God through prayer and meditation.

Be honest, you wouldn't give the keys to your car to a six year old...neither will God give the keys to the kingdom to anyone who is not ready.

This will not happen overnight, you will not become "all-knowing" when you wake in the morning, so the sooner you start the better equipped you will be, and the more likely you will be to rule and reign with Christ.

Preparing: Get to Know God

It probably goes without saying, but I'm going to say it anyway. If you believe in God, but you don't know God, I mean REALLY know God...now would be a good time to get to know him. Ask him to reveal himself in a way there will be no doubt; don't ask for a specific sign or make some sort of demand, just let God reveal himself in his own way.

How do you get to know someone? You spend time with them. You can spend time with God in prayer or in his word...I recommend both.

Scripture says for a man to come into the presence of God he must believe that he is. I have spent many wonderful hours in God's presence. I have seen the throne room and had many conversations with God. I am not special. God is available to anyone who will take the time to desire his presence, but it does require time. I encourage everyone to take time for God everyday, you will never be sorry. He will lift you up and encourage you. He will wipe away your tears. There is truly nothing like him, nor ever will be.

Preparing to survive is only part of the equation. Those who remain will have the task of rebuilding the earth. Scripture says it will take months to bury the dead; and the blood will be so deep it will come up to the horse's bridles. This is not a pretty picture, but then it won't be pretty. Cleaning up the carnage might make one wonder if survival is really the best choice.

I can only speak for myself, but God says the world will be returned to its former glory...I would sure like to be a witness to the glory of Gods creation. You can go to heaven anytime, but not very many people will get the opportunity to witness the world as God intended it to be.

He said many have desired it, but never got to see it. How fortunate we are to have the opportunity to see what so many have desired to see, but couldn't.

A thousand years of peace. Think about that for a while. No evil. No sickness. No disease. Can you even imagine a world such as this? Where everyone is God-fearing and like-minded. Where there is only one God, and Father, who is above all and through all and in you all?

How glorious. If you want to be on the first bus out of here I will be more than happy to stand at the station and hand you a ticket.

If you choose to wait before you start preparing you will probably forget or get sidetracked by some other project and never get around to it. I hope you don't put it off, but the decision is yours.

Make a commitment, develop a plan and start today on the road to life. It's not too late. If there are things in your past you think will keep you from God, God is bigger than your past. Repent. Turn around and start walking in the opposite direction. Learn his ways and walk in them. Hear his voice and obey...and you will have life like you have never known before.

God said, no eye has ever seen nor any ear heard what he has prepared for those who love him. If what I have seen and heard is only a small part of what he has planned, I can hardly wait to see the final results.

Preparing is not paranoia...it's wisdom. Walking in his ways and obeying his voice is not stupid or silly, it's wisdom.

Life and blessing are the result of obedience not belief. It's not your choice to believe, you are either a child of God or you're not. No one comes to the knowledge unless the Spirit draws him. Your freewill is the choice to obey or disobey...not that you will always walk in obedience or that the road will always be smooth and without problems. God will test your heart to see what "manner of man" you really are, whether you will obey or not. He never promised you it would be easy, only that it would be worth it. And it is worth it.

In the parable of the sower, only a small percentage of the seeds planted produce fruit. Jesus said if you do not understand this parable you will not understand any of the parables.

Sowing and reaping is the basic principle from which all other principles are derived. If you want to reap love, you must sow love. Sow

kindness to reap kindness. Sow peace to reap peace. Sow anger and you will reap anger. Whatever you choose to sow you will also reap. This is the first and most important lesson anyone can learn.

There are many principles available in scripture for those who seek to live life the way God intended. You must only search for them and then apply them to your daily life.

Remember, you can't change the world but you can change your world. All it takes is commitment, together with a willing heart and mind. Nothing is impossible with God and nothing is too hard for him to accomplish.

However, we don't always know what's best for us so there will be times when you won't get what you ask for because it's not in Gods will, for whatever reason, to give it to you. So when you pray, pray after the manner of Christ who said, "thy will be done"...and then rest, knowing whatever happens, whatever the outcome, good or bad, is Gods will for you. And lean not to your own understanding, but trust God is working everything for your good. And when you pray, pray from your heart with sincerity and not with selfish desires...because selfishness is an abomination to God...who gave his only son that we might have life, and have it more abundantly.

Abundant life is not a myth or fantasy. All it requires is applying the principles contained in scripture.

To get you started, here are twelve precepts that helped me change my life. I hope you find them helpful.

These are not scriptures, but they are scriptural. I think you'll find them self-explanatory. You don't you need to do everything on the list, or follow them in any particular order to effect changes in your life. However,

the more you apply, the more your life will change.

Don't go into debt

Enjoy the work of your hands

Save ten percent of your income

Exercise your faith

Rest one day a week

Treat others better than yourself

Spend time with God everyday

Take life one day at a time

Remember the Commandments

Eat healthier food

Attend to your family

Mind your own business

Every child of God has a ministry. My ministry began with a vision of a barren tree, and the Lord speaking to me: *"Son of man, what do you see?"* A tree in the desert, said I. *"So are my people like trees in the desert, whose fruit withers for lack of water. Behold I have made you a stream in the desert that the desert may be filled with my glory. And they who drink of the water that I send them shall grow; and they that grow shall bloom and blossom. And they shall be called a fruitful garden and trees of righteousness. And all the world will know that I have done this, saith the*

Lord."

It will probably come as no surprise that our ministry, the writing and publishing of books, is called DesertStream Publications. You might be surprised that the precepts listed above are an acrostic for DesertStream.

These precepts won't eliminate all your problems, but they will get you going in the right direction. I know it's difficult in today's world to live life according to Gods word. The temptation is great, perhaps greater than it has ever been. There doesn't seem to be anything wrong with man's way, aside from a few "rotten apples."

Unfortunately the whole basket is spoiled. The love of money has so thoroughly permeated our world that it's difficult for even the most righteous to see clearly. But you don't need to be a Prophet or have a degree in Theology to see the result of living man's way...crime and violence, death and destruction.

The world is out of control...try as we might to stop it, it will only get worse. It's like a giant snowball rolling downhill, picking up speed and getting larger and larger as it rolls. It can't be stopped...it can only be destroyed.

I realize most people will not heed the warning. But then how else could it be if the majority of the world's population is going to perish.

I would like to reiterate: It's not the end of the world...just the end of the world as we know it.

Scripture tells us because judgment is not swift people continue in sin. It's unfortunate...not because they will perish, but because they are missing life the way God intended it to be, and will be again.

This book is not a prophecy of doom and gloom...it's a message of hope. It's not time to run for the mountains. Neither do I want you to misconstrue this message that changing your life means giving up the enjoyment of life.

Life is a balance. Too physical and you miss the meaning of life, too spiritual and you miss the pleasure of life. God never intended for his people to be celibate somber individuals.

Life is for living and enjoying, but there is a right way and a wrong way to live. The right way leads to life. The wrong way leads to death.

Part of our problem is that we take life too seriously. The other part is that we don't take God seriously enough.

God says what he means and means what he says. And when he says the earth will burn with fire, the earth will burn with fire. When he says you will look for the wicked but shall not find them, you don't need to look for them, because they won't be there.

While all this may seem years in the future, time has a way of passing by quickly. It's hard for me to imagine almost eleven years have passed since I committed my life to serving the Lord. Where has the time gone? Looking to the future it's hard to imagine in ten years the world will be a completely different place, not just ten years older.

Jesus said take my yoke upon you for my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Of everything I have ever done in my life, nothing has been more satisfying than the study of Gods word.

Whether the dark days ahead will be as bad as I have seen or whether they will affect you and your family, only God knows for sure.

It has never been my intention to deceive, mislead, or convince anyone to believe as I believe. I felt from the beginning God wanted me to write this book as a warning. And so I have done with all my heart, mind, soul, and strength what I believe God wanted me to do.

Throughout the writing I prayed his thoughts would be my thoughts and his words would be my words...and I have tried to say what I believed God wanted me to say.

I hope God is pleased with the result.

The Last Word

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

Malachi 4:5-6 (KJV)

I am adding this last chapter after the events of September 11, 2001 for some final thoughts and observations before we go to publication.

Everyday I read in the paper or hear on the radio and television tidbits of information that convinces me even more that it's time to start preparing for the worst. By the time you read this, who knows how much farther along the prophecy will be?

At present, the economy, already shaken, is spiraling downward. Hundreds of thousands of people have already lost their jobs and the first-time applicant rate for unemployment is the highest in nine years.

Broadway shows are closing. Conventions and other trade and tourist activities are being cancelled. These are just the first reports...expect to see many more.

The government is bailing out the airlines to the tune of fifteen billion dollars and A.M. Best is projecting a loss for the insurance industry that is approaching thirty billion dollars. We are just beginning to see the financial effects caused by just one act of terrorism. It's not difficult to imagine what will happen when the second shoe drops.

President Bush in his eloquent address to the nation drew a line in the sand with his "for or against" speech. He has successfully divided the world into two parts. Real or imagined the perception of the world is now one of good versus evil.

Osama bin Laden has appeared on "Islamic" television calling for a "Holy War" against the "Crusaders" (he means Christians, folks). While the United States goes to great lengths to avoid the religious connotation...make no mistake about it, this will be a war against Christianity and Judaism.

The coalition of nations to fight terrorism is being formed as I write...America, Great Britain, Europe and Russia, form the nucleus of the coalition...with America leading the way. The "beast" is rising from the sea and the "whore" is mounting it.

There are now calls for an International I.D. card. The concept is rapidly gaining momentum and support. I assume only the "good guys" will have them. It makes perfect sense if your goal is to shut down the "bad guys" ability to function in the world marketplace. The ID card, along with the President's "first-strike" of seizing bank accounts, would have a dramatic effect on the terrorist's financial network. On the other hand, could this be the "mark" of the beast, without which no one could "buy or sell?" I

wouldn't worry if the ID is only used for flying...but if the ID is required for "buying," be very careful about "taking it."

Our borders are receiving lots of attention...and the vulnerability of the United States to terrorist attack is now becoming well documented. We cannot stop the terrorists from entering our country without "profiling" and we all know that "profiling" is now illegal in the United States. Our laws have not made us stronger...they have made us weaker. The terrorists are well aware of our weaknesses, including our weak stomach for war.

Americans, as well as the rest of the world, have no concept of what this war really means. Although some countries live with it daily, Americans cannot conceive of bombs exploding in their shopping malls, movie theaters and restaurants. They think this will be a nice clean orderly war, fought in Afghanistan or some other foreign country, where no American gets hurt.

Be well advised, terrorists don't play by the rules...because to them, there are no rules. Unlike our "humanitarian" Western thinking, terrorists don't care if innocent people get hurt. They are not going to take their case before an International Tribunal or ask a lawyer for advice...they are going to kill, period. And they will kill as many as they can...as often as they can. They have no regard for life or the sanctity of life...theirs or yours.

To them, this is a Holy War...it cannot and will not be stopped by chest-thumping citizens waving flags or the rhetoric of politicians. They are probably laughing at Americans right now...knowing that most of the "patriotic" citizens we see on television will run and hide when bombs start exploding on U.S. soil.

One of Osama bin Laden's people told Sixty-Minutes a few months ago that America was vulnerable because Americans are afraid to die. He said the Islamic Jihad (Holy War) would be victorious because they have

thousands of people who are ready to sacrifice their lives in suicidal missions. How many of those "thousands" are already in the United States?

This war was not conceived yesterday in a cave in Afghanistan. They have been preparing for this for a long time. They know America, as well as the rest of the world, is ill prepared to fight this kind of war. Oh, we will fight...as will the rest of the world...but we will not win.

Terrorism will hit America hard...and when the bombs start exploding in our shopping malls, movie theaters, schools, and restaurants, commerce will come to a halt and America will slowly, or quickly, become paralyzed.

Fear of flying is nothing compared to the fear people will experience when terrorism hits their neighborhood. Most will be so afraid they won't even leave the house. And when the chemical and biological weapons begin contaminating our food and water supplies...you will see panic at it's worst.

At least ten countries have nuclear capabilities...not all of them friendly to the United States. When the nukes start falling...well you know what the nukes can do.

You're probably saying, "Stop, you're scaring me!"

It's not my intention to scare you...simply wake you to the reality of the situation that exists in the world today. I hope and pray that you will start preparing for the worst...because it's going to get worse, a whole lot worse, before it gets better.

You might also be thinking, "America is the most powerful nation on earth and the government says we will win the war against terrorism."

What do you expect them to say? "This is the war that will end all wars and you're all going to die?"

Political rhetoric aside, most experts agree that America is extremely vulnerable and unprepared. Right or wrong, win or lose, given the current situation there is little doubt that America, as well as the rest of the world, is in for troublous times.

I hope I'm wrong. I hope the events described in this book don't happen. I hope my friends and family, my wife, children and grandchildren, will never have to see or experience the horror of a nuclear, chemical, or biological war. But wisdom dictates ***"It's better to be prepared for that which does not come, then unprepared for that which does."*** So I'm preparing for the worst.

You see, for me the question is not "What if it doesn't happen?" The question is, "What if it does?"

About the Author

Ray Evans is not a Pastor, Priest, or Biblical Scholar. Illuminated on Christmas Day 1986, Mr. Evans committed his life to serving God after a "Damascus Road" experience in 1987.

After hearing Gods voice, he spent nine months in prayer and meditation...what was revealed to him was this simple truth, "Christianity is not a religion...it's a way of life." He has spent the last fourteen years walking and talking with God...waiting for his ministry to begin. His testimonies of the power of God are awe-inspiring.

In 1997, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he wrote "Just Call Me Noah"; which has been re-titled "Preparing for the Worst." While he makes no claim to the gift of prophecy, his books have turned out to be very prophetic. Written in 1999 Mr. Evans' first book, "The S.I.M.P.L.E. Way to Wealth, A Biblical Approach to Financial Freedom," also inspired by God, urged people to get out of debt and take a cautious approach to investing. His latest book, "Preparing for the Worst," in light of recent events, is proving to be one of the most prophetic works of the twenty-first century.

Mr. Evans started DesertStream Publications in 1992 as a part-time publishing ministry. In conjunction with his new book, "Preparing For The Worst," he is developing a website as an online community for those who take God and his word seriously; to help them stay informed, prepare for the worst, and communicate with one another.

Although still working full-time, Mr. Evans has several books and other projects in various stages of completion; all designed to help people grow in wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of God and his ways. In his spare time, he's building an "ark."

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