

# Waiting For the Messiah

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As mentioned, here we are on the next to the last day of the Feast. Tomorrow the Feast ends, we still have the Last Great Day but tomorrow is number 7. Back in Hezekiah's day, at the spring Feast, they enjoyed it so much that they kept it for 7 more days. We can't do that right now unfortunately; we wish we could sometimes. I want to thank Chip for that analogy on Ham radio, I haven't heard that in a sermonette before. I do want to talk about some analogies today and that was an interesting analogy.

My title today is:

## Waiting For the Messiah

The Jews have been waiting for the Messiah for a very long time. In Fiddler On the Roof, the Broadway play, Motel asked the Rabbi,

"We've been waiting all our lives for the Messiah; wouldn't this be a good time for Him to come?"

The Rabbi answered, "We'll have to wait for Him someplace else."

The Jews didn't recognize Jesus Christ, the Messiah, when He came the first time. They are still waiting for Him. We are waiting I think rather impatiently for His second coming. When will it be? The apostles thought it would be very soon. I think a lot of us have been looking for it coming soon.

I would like to start by looking at Acts 1:6-7.

**Acts 1:6** *Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"*  
7) *And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. (NKJV)*

The "when" it's going to happen is completely in God's authority. So as Tevye has said, also in Fiddler on the Roof, we'll leave it in His hands. Many of us have speculated over the years and gotten it wrong. I think we have given up on that now.

My purpose today is,

*What are we looking for and what should we be doing in the mean time?*

Analogy is a very important teaching tool. God uses them in many places in the Bible. An analogy I think sparks our minds and helps us to understand something more deeply

than we might otherwise. It's something we remember. An analogy about something tends to stick in our minds and the lesson stays there. God shows us that Abraham and Isaac would be analogous to God the Father and Jesus Christ. God commanded Abraham to travel to Mount Mariah and sacrifice his only son. It was a three-day journey to Mount Mariah from where they were and during that time you could say that his son Isaac was as good as dead. He was under a command to take his life. As Abraham raised the knife to kill his son, the Angel of the Lord stopped him at that point and did away with the command and essentially restored the life of Isaac. There is the analogy of Jesus Christ being in the grave for three days and three nights. I was pretty new in the church when I heard that analogy and thought it was quite amazing. Since then, other analogies I have heard and realized God really is one who teaches in analogies.

I think another important analogy God gives us is the analogy between human conception and birth. The combining of the Holy Spirit with our human spirit at baptism leading to a spiritual birth as a spiritual being. I'd like to turn to Acts 2:38.

**Acts 2:38** *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (NKJV)*

Here He is giving that analogy of being baptized and then receiving God's Holy Spirit and eventually being born as a spirit being. At baptism, God really combines what we think of as a small portion of His Spirit with the spirit of man and calls that in 2 Corinthians 5:5, an "earnest".

**2 Corinthians 5:5** *Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. (NKJV)*

In my margin, for *guarantee* it says *earnest* or *down payment* so that's how we have understood that. At baptism we are given an earnest or a sort of down payment. Then we are to grow spiritually in a sheltered environment until we are resurrected as full spirit beings. So, the analogy is like being in a womb. We have likened that in the church and we have likened it to be sheltered in the church—in God's church—just as a human is sheltered in the womb during gestation. During that time there is a possibility of miscarriage or still birth and as Christ said, *many are called but few are chosen*. Even in this period of time, there is danger and we have to be very careful and wait for our birth as spirit beings. Some will be born as spirit beings and some will not. Notice John 16:21.

**John 16:21** *A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. (NKJV)*

Here is that analogy and I think another very important analogy is the analogy the coming of the millennium. I think that fits the analogy because we are going to see an awesome, beautiful change in the world. From a world of war and suffering to a world of

peace, beauty and all good things. But before that comes the suffering, just as with birth. I think that analogy fits. As we are going to experience birth as a spirit being? I think the whole world is going to experience the birth of the millennium when God brings that about when Jesus Christ returns. Perhaps a subtitle for my sermon today would be, Preparing for the Birth.

I'd like to turn to Isaiah 13:6.

**Isaiah 13:6** *Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.*

*7) therefore, all hands will be limp, Every man's heart will melt,*

*8) And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; They will be amazed at one another; (NKJV)*

Again, here is that analogy of childbirth during the terrible time before the millennium comes. This analogy of the birth of the beginning of the millennium is preceded by a time of terrible trouble. We've read that before in Matthew 24, and I would like to read some more of that. Christ was talking about what's coming before His return.

**Matthew 24:6** *And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*

*7) For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.*

*8) All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

*9) "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.*

*10) And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.*

*11) Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.*

*12) And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.*

*13) But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*

*14) And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

*15) "Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, 'spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),*

*16) "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

*17) Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.*

*18) And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.*

*19) But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!*

*20) And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.*

*21) For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

*22) And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. (NKJV)*

There's a picture that Christ gives us of the time before He comes. Before the millennium comes the pain. We must anticipate this preceding Christ's coming. I feel we are beginning to feel that in the world. There are such things going on now that we really didn't imagine would happen some years ago. I remember back when they thought Christ would come in 1975 and during that time and now, there is no comparison.

There's a book titled The Fourth Turning, written by Neal Howe and William Strauss, I gave a sermonette on it quite a few years ago. The authors looked at all the cycles civilizations have gone through, over a lot of man's history. They came up with what they call the four cycles:

*The High, The Awakening, The Unraveling, and The Crisis.*

So, if you're thinking of us going through a cycle right now, a good analogy would be a high after World War II when we were patriotic, we had morals, we looked to God for things even though our religion had been corrupted. The people looked to God even though they didn't really know how to do it right, but they tried. *The High* really was a time after World War II. *The Awakening* was a time when we started realizing that there were things wrong in society and different movements were started. We had the hippies who wanted to right a lot of wrongs. In *The Unraveling* it was clear we had major problems. We had problems with morals, with the economy, crime was increasing. After this comes *The Crisis*, breaking up of society followed by the collapse of society and the start of another cycle, if there is another cycle.

There's a new book that was written by Neil Howe, one of the authors of the original book and the title—this just came out—is The Fourth Turning Is Here. It's a very timely title; it certainly seems like it shows where we are right now in the world. There's another new book, The Changing World Order by Ray Dalio and he came up with a picture—I didn't have a large copy of it—but I think you can see a bell curve here. It shows this cycle that he feels our country is going through and a lot of points along the way. It starts off with orange, then turns to red for critical and then turns to blue on the way down. His points are:

1. Leadership. 2. Inventiveness. 3. Education. 4. Strong culture.
5. Good resource allocation. 6. Good competitiveness. 7. Strong income growth.
8. Strong markets and financial centers.

And now we're getting into the red.

9. Less competitiveness. 10. Overextended—*which is the peak of the curve*.
11. Losing competitiveness—now we're starting down the curve. 12. Wealth gap.
13. Large debts, *which starts the blue*. 14. Printing money. 15. Internal conflict.

It's here where he has a marker.

16. Loss of reserve currency 17. Weak leadership. 18. Civil war and 19. Revolution.

It's an interesting curve I found on the internet. If this happens—and at some point, it will happen—if the U.S. loses its reserved currency status in the world and the U.S. dollar is no longer the dollar currency for transactions—it's going to be a major step in our downfall as a country. I think a lot of you have heard of the BRICS countries. BRICS stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa and they have formed a group and are trying to establish a new reserve currency. That's bound to happen before too long; they want a reserve currency that is backed by gold or precious metal. More and more countries are seeing that the U.S. is unstable. They see our \$33 trillion debt that can never really be repaid and are losing confidence in the U.S. dollar. At some point I think we're going to see the U.S. dollar go under free fall and we will experience inflation that we've seen happening in other countries that have gone to printing money.

A lot of things have happened this year. We've had major floods that haven't happened in places before. We've had a lot of fires. We had a terrible fire near Spokane. It seemed like we were surrounded by fires where we were. It's kind of eerie when these things happen in parallel in your life. When you see things happening in your life parallel in your life to things going on in the world. That has essentially been our summer. We live on an old farm. We've been there a long time; we raised our children there. We had a dream when our children were young, we have a fair amount of land and we thought wouldn't it be nice if the children came back home at some point and built houses there and we could be together. Things like this were done in the older days. When I was around six years old, we lived on a farm in Nebraska and on that farm were my grandparents, my mom and dad and me, two uncles—one married and one wasn't—and that's how things were. We had other aunts and uncles that lived nearby. Between my parents, relatives—my mother's and father's—we could have a picnic and would fill a whole city park with just relatives. Those things don't happen anymore because the children go to college, they get jobs and move away. Our children got jobs and moved to the middle west and got established. So this thing became a pipe dream. All of a sudden, this summer it got turned upside down.

Our son has always been kind of homesick. He likes to come home in the summer for a couple of weeks and hike around the place, cut firewood for us, clean the rain gutters, fix fences, and do things. He has always had it in his mind to hopefully come back but he was quite settled in Illinois. This summer he was offered a very good job and took it and it's a job where he can work 100% from home on his computer. He married a gal from British Columbia which is just across the border from us and her parents are there and they said, "Let's go." So, two weeks ago they were out in the north end of the property picking out a place to build a house. They're busy now working on house plans. Simultaneously, our daughter and her family are in Missouri and they got word this summer that their property tax was going to go to \$10,000 per year. We've heard of that happening more and more these days. At the same time, where her husband works, the CEO had to leave suddenly and things started going to pot and people were

leaving and they told themselves they were going to have to move. They really couldn't afford to stay there. They were examining all the possibilities and the best one they could come up with was moving to the old farm and build a house. So next week they are coming with a truck and trailer and having a pod delivered with all their furniture and we've got to make room for it. We have a fairly large storage building but as I've said, we've been there a long time and are in our 80's so I think that gives you a picture. The last two weeks we've been hauling loads to the dump and to the Salvation Army and we're going to make room. My mind is, "What is happening?"

Also, I mentioned in a split sermon not too long ago, there was a book by Daniel Gordon where he coined a phrase, "God instances". Where a "God instance" is where God's hand is behind something. Either some action in human affairs or the analogy of Joseph going to Egypt and how he came back. What happened to us this summer, in my mind, was purely a "God instance". Is God bringing us together at the end time? We will just have to leave it in His hands and see what happens. I worry about our economy. Next year is a pivotal year with an election and I think it's going to be like none we've ever experienced. Is the economy going to hold up long enough for the children to build their houses or what's going to happen? In any case, they're going to be there and we'll be together one way or another.

Things are happening very rapidly in the world and I think in our lives and probably in a number of your lives as well. If it's happening in mine, it must be happening others' lives. I kind of wonder, is this the last fourth turning cycle—and I think it is—for our country and perhaps for the world. Are we getting ready for the return of Jesus Christ? I think the world is feeling the birth pains. Many have thought over the years that the end was near; we've thought it. I think a key is to live our lives as if it was. As if the end was very near. When the Master comes, will He find us prepared? We don't know when the end is coming. In my mind it's very close but we have to be doing what we should be doing and living our lives as if the end was very near. I think we need to be thinking more urgently than we ever have about what should be our response to the times we are in. I would like to read Psalm 91:1.

**Psalms 91:1** *He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*

*2) I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."*

*3) Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence.*

*4) He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.*

*5) You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day,*

*6) Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. (NKJV)*

We know that God can provide protection. I think that's a given. He also allows us to experience trials because trials are required for building character—a humble, Godly

character. God allowed Israel to experience the first four plagues that came upon Egypt. After that He shielded them and they didn't have to experience the rest. Again, He let them see part of what was happening in the world before He affected a shield or preservation for them. I would like to look at two verses from Revelation, starting in Revelation 3:7.

**Revelation 3:7** *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": (NKJV)*

*Continuing in verse 10)*

*10) Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. (NKJV)*

**Revelation 12:14** *But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. (NKJV)*

We've combined these in the past in Worldwide and in the splits that have come off Worldwide. We've combined these two verses and considered that if we are the Philadelphians, which we like to do and think, somewhat hypocritically, then God will take us to a place of safety for the last 3½ years and we won't have to experience what the world is going through—this final tribulation. In the Worldwide church we thought this place was Petra. My wife and I have been there and there is a limit to how many people you can fit into Petra and it seems like a pretty secure place—at least it used to be—but now with weapons you can destroy anything, anywhere. It's not as safe a place as it used to be. We thought we would be shielded there or some place for the last 3½ years. That depended upon a verse in Isaiah 16:4 that says, let my outcasts dwell with you Moab and be a shelter to them. So, we combine those three verses. To me now, I guess that seemed like an easy ride to the Kingdom, perhaps easier than God has planned for us. I'd like to turn to Revelation 7:9.

**Revelation 7:9** *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,*

*10) and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

*11) All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,*

*12) saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."*

*13) Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"*

14) *And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (NKJV)*

Here are people who God was obviously working with who were going to become spirit beings, but they went through the tribulation and weren't protected. Again, there's been a lot of speculation about the place of safety because I think that it's conferred with things in the Bible. During the catastrophic events that have happened this year, I've read the term used a few times, *shelter in place*. Are we going to *shelter in place* or are we going to be taken to some desolate place? As has been said, we'll leave it in God's hands. The bottom line is, we need to be counted worthy of God's protection whether how, or how not. he protects us. I read a part of Psalm 91 and I stopped in verse 6, but going on in verse 7.

**Psalm 91:7** *A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you.*

8) *Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked. (NKJV)*

It doesn't sound like we're going to be in a place where we can't see what's going on in the world. We're going to see these things that are happening. We are headed into a very dark and dangerous time, whether it's the last cycle or not, I think it's a dark and dangerous time. Ahead is the birth of the millennium, a glorious time to come. I think it's going to take all of the alertness and the mental effort that we can muster to bridge the gap until that time. If it happens in our lifetime, then we'll see it. If we die, then that's the cut off and that's our entry into God's millennium.

I have five points that I have listed that we really need to think about in staying close to God.

**1. We have a wonderful, loving, heavenly Father who only wants the best for us; He wants us to be His children.**

He trained us and He knows how to train us individually and as a group. He knows what trials we need to go through and what trials we've learned and don't need. We've been told that *the big three* are "Prayer", "Bible Study" and "Meditation". Prayer and Bible study are our means of communicating with God, our heavenly Father. There are many hints on Bible study that I've heard many sermons and sermonettes on, both prayer and Bible study. I've heard Bible studies on Bible study. I think the bottom line is to keep your head in the book. There are different ways to go about it. I like to periodically read through the whole Bible and at times take out certain things to study. It's an individual thing how you best study the book; we need to study the book. Prayer is an individual thing. There are many sermons and study papers on prayer but I would say the bottom line is to pray from your heart. God wants to hear what is in our hearts and be sincere when we pray and open up as if you were talking to a very loving father—which He is. The problem is, we can't see him physically but we do know He is there.



Meditation has been a little harder to get a handle on, so I have divided meditation into two things. I like to meditate on God's creation. The whole world is so blind to God's creation, we just take life and the creation around us for granted. Realizing that God is the Creator and He made all this, He's given us a body that is so complex that we can't even understand the complexity. Same thing with the world. He's given us this environment with food and all the resources to experience things, build things, be creative. I also like to meditate on things that God has done in my life, like these "God instances" like I mentioned about this summer. Looking back, I can tell many stories and I think most of you could, where you can see God's hand has been there. Or God has put something into my mind that shouldn't have been there perhaps. It really is astounding, as God says, He has blinded the most learned people. I was reading about a group of scientists who formed a group and they had a conference recently. He's a man who came to realize that evolution is not the answer to life. What do we do now? Michael Behe is one of them, he is a professor of biochemistry and has written a lot of books on evolution and design—intelligent design—and he was saying at the end of one of his books,

*Intelligent design is like the elephant in the room. You can't ignore it, but there is a sign on the elephant that says "God".*

Scientists don't know what to do with that. The only other option is to fall back on a failed hypothesis that don't work and I think more and more scientists are seeing that.

I was reading recently about this DNA that the body is made up of. There are almost innumerable number of proteins, proteins that form together to form all different cells that do different things in our body. We have mechanisms in the body that are constantly building proteins because they need to be replaced. In building a protein, all the instructions for the proteins are in the DNA. So, the first step is to find the section of DNA that gives the instructions for building that protein and those are copied into RNA and then that is used to put the molecules together and form a protein. A small part of the problem is then something has to bring all those parts together—a manufacturing process and there's a supply chain and it all has to come together. It's a miracle. How could this just come to be? Now we have taken RNA and used it to create artificial proteins in the body. I worry about that because we haven't really the depth of understanding to know what the outcome is.

As far as physical things, I could tell a lot of stories. We had a very bad windstorm that damaged our barn roof and I had to find someone to do it, but everyone was busy fixing roofs. We finally found a couple of Eastern Europeans looking for work and they did a wonderful job. We had our dishwasher go out and our cooktop in the center counter of our kitchen very recently and both had special problems because it's an old house and things were done in different ways. But things just worked out. I guess one that stands in my mind is, not too many years ago we went to Prince Edward Island for the Feast. My wife had always wanted to visit there. There isn't really a practical way to get there in one day from Spokane so we flew to Boston and then went by Air Canada through Toronto to Prince Edward Island and spent a night in Boston. Coming back there was a

very heavy thunderstorm in Toronto so we had to land temporarily in another place and wait for that to pass. We went on to Toronto and by then our flight to Boston had left. There was one more flight that night that was just about ready to board and we got into the airport and there was a long, long line at the counter because of the storm and I told her this isn't going to work. Behind the counter was a sign that said, foreign travel or international travel and I said let's go down that door and see what happens. We went down that aisle, it was a long hallway and we got stopped at a couple of check points and they let us by. We finally came to a small counter with a small waiting line and finally got some boarding passes for this last flight. By that time, it was boarding and we had to go through customs and security and were probably the last two people on board. We got to Boston at midnight and the place was like they drove up the sidewalks. My cellphone was dead, it ran out of power, but there was a phone there for help and nobody to answer it. Well, how are we going to get to the hotel. Walked out the door and here came the hotel shuttle so we made it. We had a short night sleep and made it home. Things just don't normally work out point by point like that. If we look back in our lives, I think we can see many things like that, that have gone that way. Isaiah 66:2.

**Isaiah 66:2** *For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist," Says the LORD. "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word. (NKJV)*

If you have that attitude, or started to have it, God just works things out. In 1 John 4:4, I won't turn there, but it says, *He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.* Matthew 28:20, Christ said *I will be with you even to the end of the world.*

## **2. We must maintain a vision of God's coming millennium.**

We have to keep that vision in our minds. There have been a number of scriptures that have been read during the Feast and I would like to read a few that I don't think have been covered. Revelation 20:1.

**Revelation 20:1** *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.  
2) He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;  
3) and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. (NKJV)*

Satan will be bound during the millennium. He won't be there to influence anything. Now a couple of things in Isaiah 35:1.

**Isaiah 35:1** *The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose;*

2) *It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, The excellency of our God.*

3) *Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees.*

4) *Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you."*

5) *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.*

6) *Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.*

7) *The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, There shall be grass with reeds and rushes. (NKJV)*

We were just talking this morning about this land around here which is desert. Not too long ago it was sage brush. Then the Grand Coulee was built and then irrigation and it turned out to be very fertile land once it had water. Water is poured on the land and then crops in this area are really quite fantastic. I think maybe that's a picture of the millennium when there is water on what was the barren ground and marvelous things will happen. Back up a little in Isaiah 2:2.

**Isaiah 2:2** *Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it.*

3) *Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

4) *He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. (NKJV)*

Right now, we have over 12,000 nuclear warheads in the world and enough weapons really to destroy the world and all mankind.

### **3. We must trust in God and not in physical things.**

**Proverbs 3:5** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;*

6) *In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. (NKJV)*

*Continuing in verse 23)*

23) *Then you will walk safely in your way, And your foot will not stumble.*

24) *When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet.*

25) *Do not be afraid of sudden terror, Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes;*

26) *For the LORD will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught. (NKJV)*

If I was in the world, I think I would be a “prepper”—one who prepares for the end. I would be building a bomb shelter and stocking that. I think I have that gene in me. I would be watching the stock market and waiting for a crash and then wanting to stash away everything that I could. I have a very good friend I had worked with for many years and we would talk about the end time. He ended up living back east but he has a large 5th wheel trailer and a pickup truck. He would like to come out for about a month to the Spokane area. He was a fisherman when he could still do it. I told him to just leave his 5th wheel here, we have plenty of room to park it and this could be your summer home. He did that for several years and he was a prepper. He would buy all this food from patriots, so the freeze-dried food and stocked it up. He gave me a couple packages and told me I needed to start buying it. I looked at the ingredients and didn't think I wanted to eat it. He was still stocking up on this and died about a year and a half ago so now what? It was all for nothing. Luke 12:16.

**Luke 12:16** *Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.*

17) *And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’*

18) *So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.*

19) *And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”*

20) *But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’*

21) *So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” (NKJV)*

This is a parallel to my friend at what happened. No matter what you store up physically, it could be robbed the next day and all be gone. There is a balance. 1 Timothy 5:8.

**1 Timothy 5:8** *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (NKJV)*

So there is a balance. We need to provide for our families and to be wise, to have enough things for emergencies. Some years ago, in Spokane we had a major ice storm. Our power was out for two weeks and it was hard. It was winter time. We had some livestock at that time and I was carrying 5-gallon buckets of water from a spring that was down at the bottom of our place. It was a very hard time. We had a fireplace which was

pretty much for show. To light a fire, all the heat went up the chimney and it wouldn't heat the living room. So, after that I bought a wood burning fireplace insert and that worked. It would make the living room nice and cozy warm and we had plenty of wood. Our bedroom was off the living room so it was comfortable. The only problem it had an electric blower which it really needed to operate. I got to thinking, what could I do? How about a solar panel, they're becoming cheap. I tried to look where I could put a solar panel that would be open to the south and I found the perfect place. It was open to the field to the south was behind our pump house. At that point the project grew to how many solar panels to run our pump. How about the freezer and refrigerator and a couple LED lights? We ended up with 5 panels but they have really served us well. We've had a lot of power outages since then and life has gone on. There are things, I would say, that you can do that are prudent. Prudent to help in emergencies. I think God guided me through that project with all the parts sort of coming together. I had the right number of 2x4's from stuff I had torn apart to make a frame for the panels and other lumber. It just went together. So there are things we can do. The bottom line though is to ultimately trust in God because He can take care of everything. If we have a small store of food. We had a bumper crop of apples this year and a lot of jam and juice—we just didn't want to waste it. But someone could come in and take all of that and it would be gone. We can always go and dig roots like the Indians did. God will always help us to get by.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (NKJV)*

There can be trials and we can lose things but God can see us through.

#### **4. We need to avoid false teachings.**

I would like to go back to Matthew 24:11.

**Matthew 24:11** *Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. (NKJV)*

Then over in verse 23.

*23) Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it.*

*24) For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*

*25) See, I have told you beforehand.*

*26) Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it.*

*27) For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (NKJV)*

**2 Thessalonians 2:9** *The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders ... (NKJV)*

There will be lying wonders that look authentic like they are from God, but are really from Satan.

**Revelation 12:9** *So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (NKJV)*

Satan has deceived and blinded the whole world. Something we need to be tremendously careful of. He's even going to convince the world to fight against Jesus when He comes. One more scripture in that part is 2 Peter 3:15.

**2 Peter 3:15** *and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,  
16) as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. (NKJV)*

So there are people who are going to try and convince us that a scripture doesn't really say what it says and we could be led astray from that.

## **5. We need to help and encourage one another.**

I think of winter coming. We need to be ready with warm coats and coats of togetherness and caring. Serving one another and loving one another.

**Hebrews 10:23** *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.  
24) And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,  
25) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (NKJV)*

We need to be together as much as we possibly can. I know a lot of us are scattered all over. We do have communication today that we haven't had in the past so we can be together that way at least.

**Philippians 2:1** *Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,  
2) fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.  
3) Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*

*4) Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (NKJV)*

One last scripture, 1 Thessalonians 4:15.

**1 Thessalonians 4:15** *For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.*

*16) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*

*17) Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

*18) Therefore comfort one another with these words. (NKJV)*

We need to be comforted and comfort one another with that vision. As we wait for the Messiah, I think we need to concentrate on these things no matter if we are in the end time or not. We have to have that mindset and do what we can to prepare ourselves for the millennium and the coming of Jesus Christ.