

WHY AN END-TIME CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE?

Actually, we should approach everything from an end-time Christian perspective, as on page 58 of Early Writings, we are told, “Live and act wholly in reference to the coming of the Son of man.” So it only follows that we should approach the subjects of country living and wilderness survival from that perspective too. But there is more to it.

Let’s suppose before the flood, there was a rather eccentric fellow who heard Noah’s message, and thought, “You know, building a boat isn’t such a bad idea. If there is a flood, I’ll have a boat! And if there isn’t, I can make lots of money doing commerce on the high seas.” So he also starts building a boat.

Just taking a quick glance at them, it looks like two crazies, out building their boats. Yet one is building “by faith,” the other isn’t. How can we tell the difference?

Hebrews 11:7 says, “By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things to come, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household.” And Romans 10:17 tells us, “Faith comes by hearing ... the word of God.” Noah was building the ark “by faith” because ① it was God who had told him, “Make yourself an ark,” and ② because he was following the instructions God had given him regarding how it was to be built. (See Genesis 6:14-16.) The difference between the two was that Noah was acting according to the Word of God, whereas the other boat-builder wasn’t.

Nowadays, there are many different approaches to preparing for “The-End-Of-Life-As-We-Know-It,” and various angles on the subjects of country living and wilderness survival. But it is not enough just to be learning about these things and making preparations. To be acting “by faith,” like Noah, we too must be acting according to God’s Word. Thus, we need to examine the prophecies to find what we have been “divinely warned” about, and study the instructions God has given us regarding these things, then make our preparations accordingly.

In Noah’s day, only those who were in the ark made it through the flood. In the same way, only those who are by faith preparing according to God’s Word today, will “endure to the end” and “be saved.” (Matthew 24:13.)

