



# PREPARING TO STAND

Number 1, December 2007

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“In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord.” SW 3-21-05

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## **All Who Begin the Christian Journey Don't Necessarily Make it to the End**

by Jim Buller

In the middle of that great end-time prophecy in Matthew chapter 24, Jesus makes an interesting comment which is very important for us living in the end-times. Verses 12-13 say: "Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved." (NIV) To help us understand the significance of these verses we need to compare them with 1 John 4:7-8 which says, "Love is from God; and every one who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love." So, the "love" spoken of in Matthew 24 must refer to a relationship with God. These verses then, are talking specifically about Christians. They are not just saying that the people of the world will become less kind due to all the bad things happening in the end-times.

We need to note also, that for someone's love to "grow cold," it must first have been warmer. So then, what these verses are telling us is that because of the evils of the end-times, many, if not "most," of those who once had a "warm" relationship with God are going to lose their connection with Him. And, since "growth" is a gradual process, losing our connection with God *can* happen so slowly that we almost don't even recognize what's going on.

With all this in mind, let's ask a question: Who will be the most miserable people at the second coming? The wicked, who will call for the rocks and mountains to fall on them and hide them will truly be miserable (see Rev 6:16). But at least they will recognize that instead of choosing Jesus, they had chosen to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, (see Heb 11:25). Their own choice is the reason they are wanting to hide from Jesus. Those who will be even more miserable though, will be the ones who once *had* a relationship with Jesus but let their love for Him grow cold. If only they had continued to hold on to Him, they could be going home with Him now. Not only had they denied themselves the pleasures of sin during their life, but now they will miss out on the heavenly reward too. However, the most miserable of all will be those who, held on almost to the end, but because of the intensity of everything happening, they let go of Jesus shortly before the second coming —if only they had held on just a little longer.

Jesus says that we shouldn't spend our time and energy for things that perish, instead, we should work for things which last —things which endure eternally, (see John 6:27). So as end-time Christians, what are we preparing for? —what are we working for? As important as it is, can we be satisfied to just begin the Christian journey, or to help other people make this start? Can we even be satisfied to simply help others along the way? Please don't misunderstand, we very much *do* need to help people start out on their Christian walk and to help them along the way, but knowing that the "love of most will grow cold," how can we be *content* with *just* doing that? Jesus has appointed us to bear fruit that *remains*, (see John 15:16.) As end-time Christians we *must* therefore also help people endure *all the way* to the end and *finish* the journey, so they will be saved and get to go home with Jesus. This is why, especially at this point in earth's history, that "God calls for men [and women] who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord." (SW 3-21-05).

When I was young, I remember having the idea that things would continue much as they are now, with a few more disasters than normal maybe, until the national Sunday law was passed. Then we would all go backpacking for a couple weeks, and then Jesus would come. (I suppose this idea was based on my own interpretation of what I had heard about the end-times.) However now, after having done more extensive study in the end-time prophecies, I realize that it's just not that simple. There is a lot more that we need to prepare for than just a couple weeks backpacking trip. The unfortunate thing is, as I have talked with people about the end-times over the last several years, I have found that there are many of us who have this same simplistic view of the end-times. You see, there definitely *is* a need for those "who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord."

Proverbs 22:3 says that, "Sensible people will see trouble coming and avoid it, but an unthinking person will walk right into it and regret it later." So let's recognize the trouble that is coming, and make preparation to endure all the way to the end, and not be one of those who will regret later that we hadn't prepared.

At the most basic level, we need two things to endure all the way. First, it will take our own determination. Determination that *we* will be one of those who will be standing firm at the end. Secondly, it will take Christ's power. Jesus says, "Without me, you can do nothing." (John 15:5.) Our determination alone isn't enough, we need Christ's power to make it happen. Remember also the promise in Philippians 1:6, that "He who has begun a good work in us will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." Our determination, therefore, is actually a determination to simply hold onto Jesus and *allow* Him to continue to work in us. As we "stay" in Him, (John 15:4,) *He* will change us, train us, and prepare us, to endure to the end and be ready for His coming.

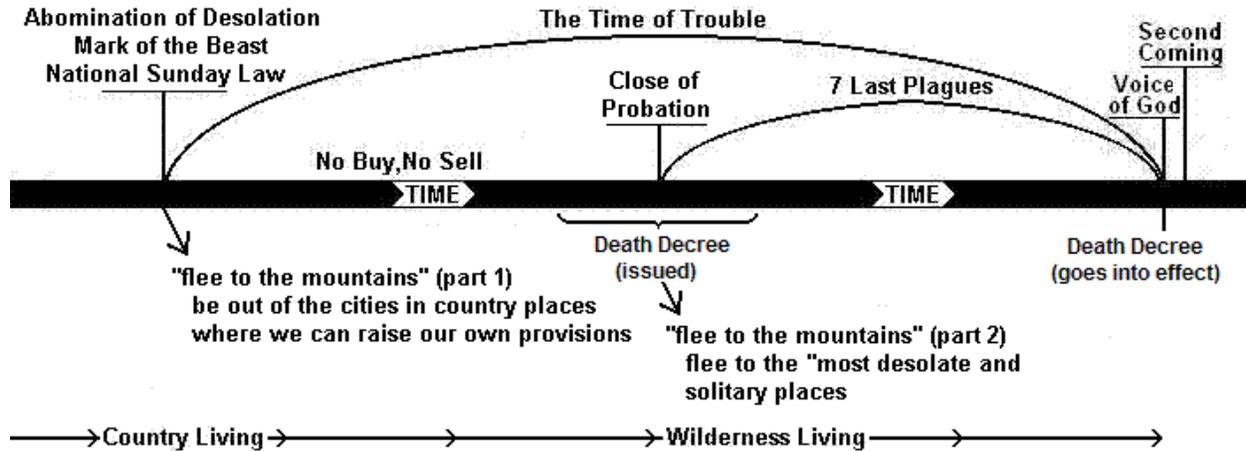
Dear reader, let the Holy Spirit develop the habit in you of determinedly hanging on to Jesus. Let Him continue to finish the work He has begun in you, so that you *will* endure to the end, and still be standing firm on the day Jesus comes. I also pray that you will answer God's call, and be one of those He can use to help "prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord."

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See also the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13, and "An Impressive Dream" in Testimonies for the Church Vol 2, page 594-597 —notice particularly the 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph

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### Time Line of End-Time Events



The Abomination of Desolation / Mark of the Beast / National Sunday Law (in the U.S.A.) marks the beginning of the Tribulation or Time of Trouble. (See Matt 24:15-16, 21 / Rev 13:16, 14:9-10 / Rev 13:14-15, Rev 13:1-8 ⇔ Dan 7:24-25, Ex 13:8-9, Rev 14:6-7 ⇔ Ex 20:8-11, and also 5T 464-5.) In the prophecies, the Abomination of Desolation and the Mark of the Beast are both closely connected with the close of probation, or the close of the time of grace. (See Rev 22:11.) They mark the *beginning* of the close of probation. (See Ps 119:126 and also EW 85-86 and the parable of the ten virgins in Matt 25:1-13.)

Country Living —To avoid the increasing crime and evil influences in the cities, (note Rev 18:4,) and because God’s people will not be able to buy or sell, (see Rev 13:16-17,) they will need to live out in the country where they can raise their own provisions during this first part of the Time of Trouble. Note that a National Sunday Law, (in the U.S.A. see Rev 13:11-17 and 5T 464-5,) is the sign to *be* out of the cities, *not* just the time to *start* leaving them —don’t make the same mistake that Lot and the foolish virgins made. (See Gen 19 and Matt 25:1-13.) It *does* take a certain amount of time (months to years) to get set up to be able to “raise your own provisions,” so don’t wait until the National Sunday Law to start getting ready.

Close of Probation —Due to the intensity of the issues during the beginning of the Time of Trouble, every one will choose either to be loyal to their Creator or to yield to human governments and receive the Mark of the Beast. (See Rev 14:6-7, Ex 20:8-11, and Rev 13:8 & 16-17.) When everyone has made their final choice, probation, or the time of grace closes. (See Rev 22:11.) After this, the seven last plagues are poured out. (See Rev 15:8.) There is no signal event connected with the final Close of Probation. (See GC 618.)

Death Decree (issued) —A decree similar to what happened in the time of Queen Esther will be made, (see Esther 3:7-15, and also Mar 269). After a certain date, those who continue to refuse to receive the Mark of the Beast can legally be killed,

(see Rev 13:15). For refuge, God's people will flee to remote areas out in nature. (See GC 626.)

Voice of God / Midnight Deliverance / Death Decree (effective) —At midnight on the date that the Death Decree goes into effect, God delivers His people. (See GC 635-636.) During a tremendous earthquake, hail, and what is apparently a cosmic event, God voice is heard saying, "It is done." (See Rev 16:17-21.) This event is the seventh of the Seven Last Plagues, and marks the end of the Time of Trouble. (See Matt 24:29 and Isa 13:13)

Second Coming of Jesus —Soon after the Voice of God event, Jesus comes to take His faithful people to heaven with Him. (See Matthew 24:29-31, and also GC 640.)

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### About this Publication

Publications have been a part of the Advent movement since its very beginning. Historically they have served not only to help send out the message, but also to unite the scattered believers, and spread announcements. Due largely to a class I took last summer on Adventist heritage, our recent move to Colorado, and correspondence with Christopher Fischer, I have felt impressed to put this together, and send it out. Presently, I don't know of any other publication that specifically addresses the need for practical spiritual *and* physical end-time preparation. (If you *do*, please let me know, as there is no point in "reinventing the wheel.")

As far as future issues are concerned, I honestly don't know where things will go from here. Although I already have ideas for several more issues, this may end up being the only one. We'll just have to see how the Spirit leads. Email me if you are interested in future issues.

If you have information that you would like to share on the topics of end-time Bible studies, country living, or wilderness living, that could fit into this format please send it or email to me. I can't promise it will get included, but if more issues do come out I would appreciate the additional material.

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### It Is up to *You* to Help Get this out !!!

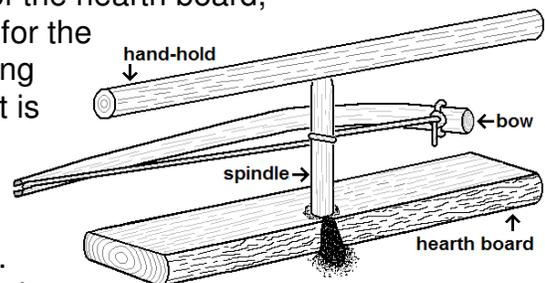
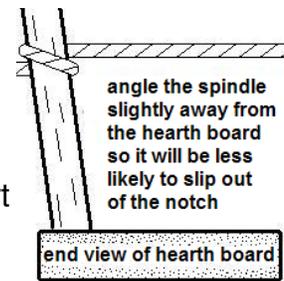
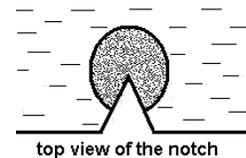
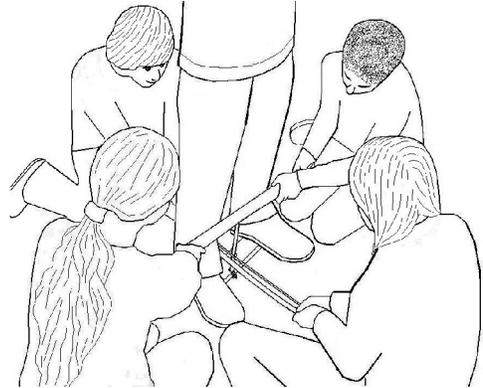
God has blessed me with the ability to put studies together, and write them out. (To see more extensive studies, I would invite you to visit the Advent Wilderness Ministry website at [www.adventwildernessministry.org](http://www.adventwildernessministry.org)) However, to be realistic, I am *not* good at getting the material out. Therefore, I have put this together in such a way that it will hopefully endure several generations of copying. It can also be folded in half and mailed. It is also available in .pdf format so it can be easily emailed, read, and/or printed out by most computers —if you have received a hard copy, and would like to email it to your contacts just email me and ask for it. So, if you feel this is worth sharing, it should be easy for *you* to pass it on. Thanks for your help.

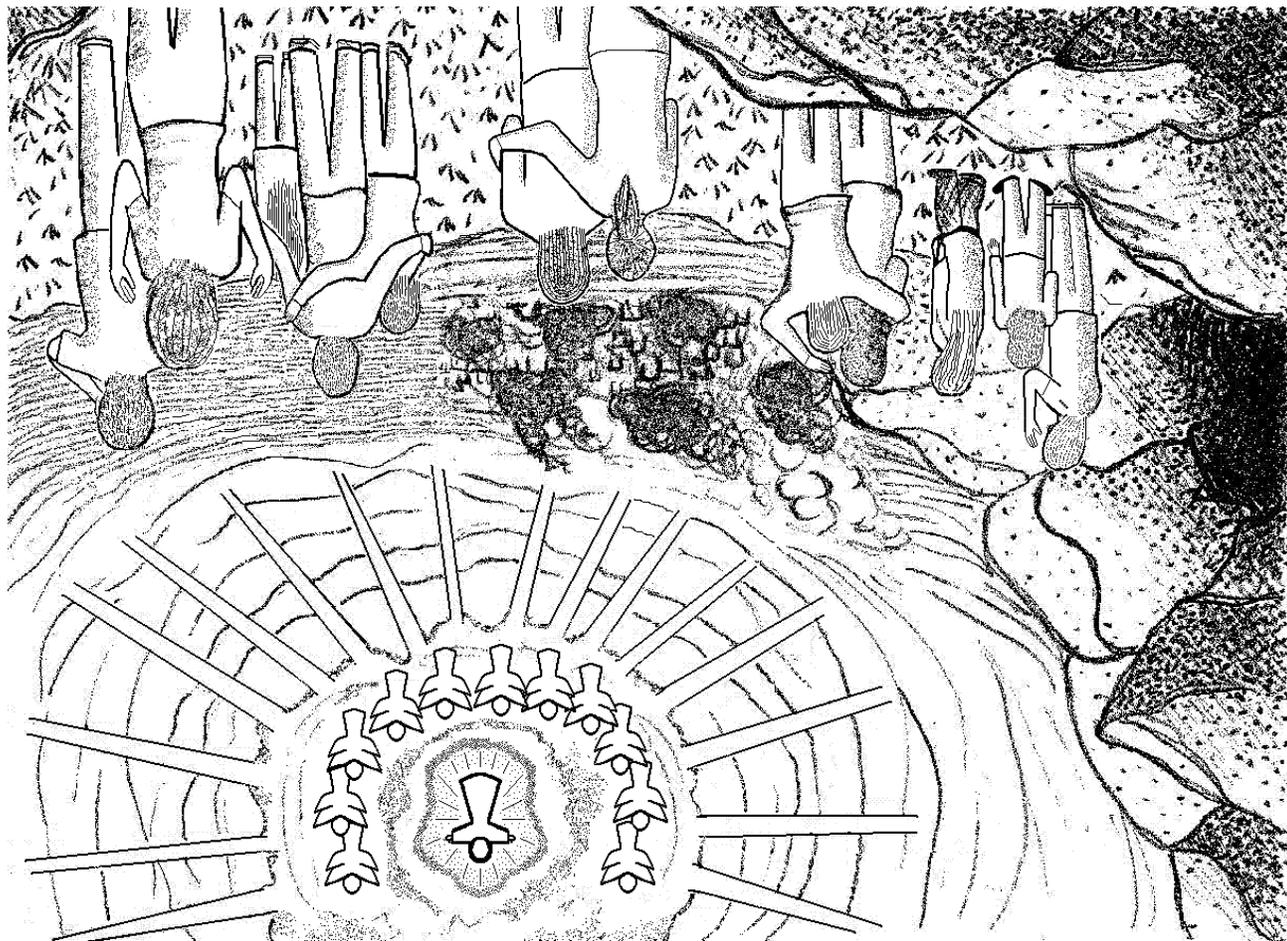
## The Five Person Bow-Drill

Group applications of survival techniques have always interested me. Recently, I saw a picture of a group of people using a bow-drill with a stick about two feet long for the hand hold. Since a couple of my students had tried, unsuccessfully, to make a bow-drill fire, I turned them loose on the idea. As a group, they got a coal on their second try!

In a group, each individual can focus on their part of the technique rather than one person having to “get it all right.” To keep the spindle steady and “aimed” right, while applying the right amount of downward pressure, while spinning it at a sufficient speed, has typically been a challenge for those learning the bow-drill. Thus, especially for beginners, a group’s chances of getting a fire are greater than a single person’s. This method also makes fire possible for those who are simply not strong enough to get a coal on their own —such as might be the case with children. Two, three, and four person bow-drills can also be done using the long hand-hold. Of course the other aspects of good bow-drill technique must be followed, such as:

- Use soft non-resinous wood for both the spindle and the hearth board. Your thumbnail should be able to make a dent in the wood.
- Find, or carve, a spindle that is about 6 to 10 inches long and *straight*. Make a point on both ends of the spindle to start with.
- Make the bow from a springy stick. Tie strong cordage on each end of the bow, but don’t stretch it tight —it will tighten once you wrap it around the spindle.
- Flatten a section on the underside of the hand-hold stick, and start a shallow hole for the upper end of the spindle to go in.
- Be sure the bottom of the hearth board is flat —so it will stay still. Make a shallow hole near the edge of the top of the hearth board, similar to the one made in the hand-hold stick, for the bottom end of the spindle to go in. Put everything together, and spin the spindle in the hole until it is “seated” before cutting the notch. You should get good smoke while seating the spindle.
- Once the spindle is seated, cut the notch. It should go to just short of the center of the hole.
- Have a good tinder bundle ready before you begin.
- Put everything together and begin spinning the spindle with the bow. Use long even strokes. Smoke should be coming from between the spindle and the hearth board. Watch the notch. It should be filling up with charred “saw-dust” —the darker the better. Once the notch is full, spin faster, and pray for fire. When you see smoke coming from the pile of charred dust, you probably have a coal. Relax. Carefully remove the hearth board, and place the coal in your tinder bundle. Fold the tinder bundle around the coal, and blow it to flame.





SW 3-21-05  
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