



# PREPARING TO STAND

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## Is It Going to Happen Again?

by Jim Buller

Several years ago, I started reading chapter 19 of *The Great Controversy*, entitled “Light Through Darkness.” This chapter is about the great disappointment of 1844. The first paragraph caught my attention, for it states God is behind the idea of history repeating itself and there are “lessons of great value” in what has happened in the past.

“The work of God in the earth presents, from age to age, a striking similarity in every great reformation or religious movement. The principles of God's dealing with men are ever the same. The important movements of the present have their parallel in those of the past, and the experience of the church in former ages has lessons of great value for our own time.” (page 343.)

Later in the chapter, the experience of the Millerites is equated with the experience of Jesus’ disciples who were disappointed and confused when Jesus died.

“The experience of the disciples who preached the “gospel of the kingdom” at the first advent of Christ, had its counterpart in the experience of those who proclaimed the message of His second advent. As the disciples went out preaching, “The time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God is at hand,” so Miller and his associates proclaimed that the longest and last prophetic period brought to view in the Bible was about to expire, that the judgment was at hand, and the everlasting kingdom was to be ushered in. ...

“Like the first disciples, William Miller and his associates did not, themselves, fully comprehend the import of the message which they bore. Errors that had been long established in the church prevented them from arriving at a correct interpretation of an important point in the prophecy. Therefore, though they proclaimed the message which God had committed to them to be given to the world, yet through a misapprehension of its meaning they suffered disappointment.” (pages 351-352.)

The preconceived ideas that the disciples had about the mission of the Messiah caused them gut-wrenching disappointment and confusion when Jesus was arrested

and crucified. In the same way, the Millerite's preconceived ideas about what the sanctuary actually was, caused their great disappointment. In both cases, when things didn't turn out according to their understanding of the prophecies, many "believers" left the faith. The only ones who remained were those who reasoned that since God does not make mistakes, the mistake must be in *their interpretation* of what God had said.

As I read, I couldn't help but think, since "the principles of God's dealing with men are ever the same," this is probably going to happen again! Isn't it quite likely that there is something *we* have preconceived ideas about? And since our trend has been to use our Bibles less and less, the chances of this happening has greatly increased. What has happened to serious Bible study, and "preaching the Word?" Most of the sermons I've heard the last few years haven't even encouraged me to open my Bible.

So, I started wondering, what is the preconceived idea that we have that could cause this type of severe trial of our faith? Wouldn't it be nice to know what it is, so *we* wouldn't have to go through such an awful experience? —although if we knew what it was, then it probably wouldn't be the test that God may have planned. The important thing, I concluded, is to have more faith in God Himself than in our interpretation of the prophecies. But I was still curious, and for several years I kept wondering about it.

Then, one Sabbath morning, I happened to go to a study group that was going through chapter 37 of *The Great Controversy*, entitled "The Scriptures a Safeguard." As we read the following paragraphs on pages 594 and 595 it all came together for me!

*"Before His crucifixion the Saviour explained to His disciples that He was to be put to death and to rise again from the tomb, and angels were present to impress His words on minds and hearts. But the disciples were looking for temporal deliverance from the Roman yoke, and they could not tolerate the thought that He in whom all their hopes centered should suffer an ignominious death. The words which they needed to remember were banished from their minds; and when the time of trial came, it found them unprepared. The death of Jesus as fully destroyed their hopes as if He had not forewarned them. So in the prophecies the future is opened before us as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ. The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready.*

*"When God sends to men warnings so important that they are represented as proclaimed by holy angels flying in the midst of heaven, He requires every person endowed with reasoning powers to heed the message. The fearful judgments denounced against the worship of the beast and his image (Revelation 14:9-11), should lead all to a diligent study of the prophecies to learn what the mark of the beast is, and how they are to avoid receiving it. But the masses of the people turn away their ears from hearing the truth and are turned unto fables. The apostle Paul declared, looking down to the last days: 'The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.' 2 Timothy 4:3. That time has fully come. The multitudes do not want Bible truth, because it interferes with the desires of the sinful, world-loving heart; and Satan supplies the deceptions which they love." (All emphasis supplied.)*

Going back to my Bible to check it out, I found that from early in His ministry Jesus had told His disciples that He had come to die. So, it *is* possible to know what we will be tested on! As the above quote says, “so in the prophecies the future is opened before *us* as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ.” But what is it that we need to plainly understand? Re-reading the above paragraphs I found four things specifically mentioned. (1) “The events connected with the close of probation,” (2) “the work of preparation for the time of trouble,” (3) “what the mark of the beast is,” and (4) how to “avoid receiving it.”

Since each one of these can be a major study in itself, and since we are running out of space, I will offer here just a couple thoughts in closing. First, remember the parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13? When did the girls make the decisions that determined whether they were inside, or left out, at the end of the story? It was way back before they even left their homes to go to the wedding! By the time the crisis came, their destiny was already decided, even before the “door” was finally “shut!” Therefore, the decisions we are making *now* are determining which side *we* will be on when probation closes! Secondly, I sense many people are planning to “avoid receiving” the mark of the beast by simply refusing to receive it. But, I’m afraid it won’t be that simple. Revelation 13 verse 8 says, “*all* who dwell on the earth *will* worship [the beast],” and in verse 16 it says, “he causes *all*, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the slaves, *to be given a mark* on their right hand, or on their forehead.” (All emphasis supplied.) On our own, we will not be able to keep *from* receiving the mark of the beast! *Only* God’s power, through His Holy Spirit in us, will be able to keep us from receiving it. So again *now*, before we are faced with the “big” unpardonable sin of the mark of the beast, (see Rev 14:9-10, 15:1, 8), we need to learn how God’s power can keep us from sinning with the “little” temptations we face day to day. Remember, “he who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.” Luke 16:10.

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### **Schools and Resources by Adventist for Wilderness Survival**

(Please let me know if you know of other Adventists teaching these or related subjects.)

#### **Back 2 Earth**

<http://www.back2earth.info/>

Our mission for our school is introducing a dynamic personal relationship with our Creator thru primitive wilderness living, earth skills and caretaking our earth.

#### **Wilderness Way Adventures - Outdoor Christian Ministry Survival School**

<http://www.wildernesswayadventures.com/>

Mission Motto: To seek and save the lost.

Mission Statement: To use search and rescue training and/or wilderness survival instruction to inspire men, women and children from all walks of life to live for Jesus with all their heart, mind, body and soul.

#### **Forage Ahead**

<http://www.edibleplants.com>

**Seminars:** Some have asked about the possibility of doing end-time prophecy and/or wilderness survival seminars. Although I have done these in the past, I have had to turn down recent requests due to my schedule as a full-time teacher. This summer though, could be an option. If you are interested in a seminar in your area, contact me — probably the best way would be by email.

*“Preparing to Stand”*  
contact information:

Jim Buller

[jabuller@juno.com](mailto:jabuller@juno.com)

**Mailing List:** Emailing also seems to be the most efficient way to send out “Preparing to Stand.” Please email me if you would like to be on the mailing list, (or be taken off).

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### Recommended Wilderness Survival Instructional Videos

“Woodsmaster #4, Navigation and Travel” —by Ron Hood (the best video I’ve seen on direction finding, it also covers stone working, and more)

“Primitive Wilderness Skills, Applied” —by John & Geri McPherson (this video is the best overview of survival living that I’ve seen, it touches on shelter building, fire starting, making cordage, stone working, wood working, food gathering and cooking, basket weaving and more —be sure to watch the introduction)

“Three Days at the River” —by Tom Elpel (Tom Elpel has two other similar videos, “Mountain Lakes” and “Mountain Meadows,” these videos are good overviews of survival living, covering shelter building, fire-starting, food gathering, cooking, stone working and more)

“Stone Age Living Skills” —by Jim Riggs and Robert Earthworm (the excellent sections by Jim Riggs cover fire-starting, and making cordage)

•All the above videos are available from: [www.GrannysStore.com](http://www.GrannysStore.com) ([www.hollowtop.com](http://www.hollowtop.com))

“Backwoods Survival Skills” —by Bill Gringas (this is the best video I’ve seen on survival shelters, it also covers fire building, food gathering, cooking and more). Available from: Bill and Susie Gringas, 47 Chatham Rd., Portsmouth, VA 23702 (804-487-1025)

“Deerskins into Buckskins” —by Matt Richards (a excellent video on tanning hides). Available from: [www.braintan.com](http://www.braintan.com)

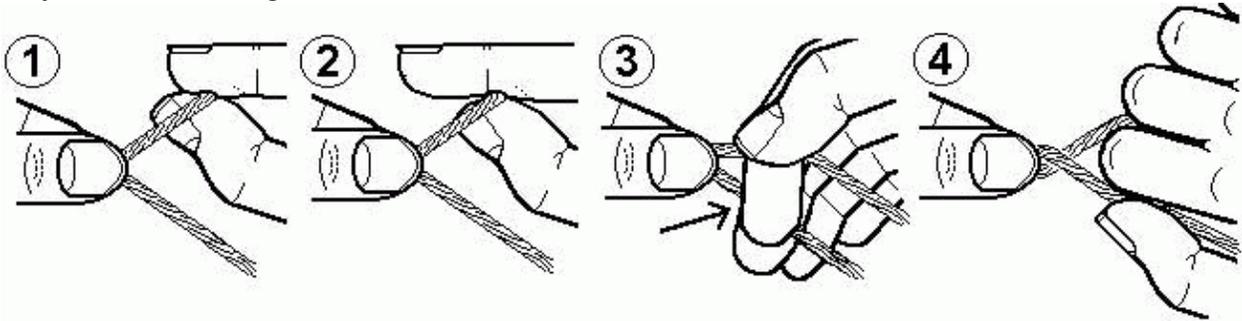
“Longhunter” Series —by Mark Baker (Mark Baker is into the historical re-enactment of the early American frontiersman, so although these videos are not about “survival” as such, I’ve learned a lot from them as the early American frontiersmen *were surviving* in the wilderness for months at a time with only what they could easily carry with them). Available from American Pioneering Videos, <http://www.americanpioneervideo.com/lhs.html>

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“Sensible people will see trouble coming and avoid it, but an unthinking person will walk right into it and regret it later.” Proverbs 22:3

## Cordage part 1, Twining

Cordage is useful for many things in primitive situations. It can be made from a variety of fibers. Some good sources are the stalks of Stinging Nettles, Milkweed and Dogbane, the leaves of yucca, and the inner bark of many trees such as Willow. Separate out the fibers, then "twine" it together to make cordage. By twisting strands of fiber one direction, and then wrapping two, (or more), strands together in the opposite direction, the fibers are "locked" together in a cord. The twining process also makes it possible to add fibers lengthwise, so the cord can be made as long as you wish. One way to twine cordage is shown below:



- (1) To begin, twist a strand of fibers (clockwise from the right) until it forms a "kink." Grasp this kink between the thumb and index finger of the left hand as shown. Hold the kink with the left hand in this position for steps (2) through (4). Grasp the upper strand with the thumb and index finger of the right hand as shown.
- (2) Twist the upper strand by twirling it between the thumb and index finger, so that the index finger ends up sticking out past the upper strand as shown. Don't use wrist action for this step. Keep holding on to the upper strand in this position for step (3).
- (3) Now, turn the wrist down so that the index finger can be placed between the upper and lower strands. Then, grasp the lower strand between the index and middle fingers. (See arrow.) Keep holding on to both strands this way for step (4).
- (4) Turn the wrist back, as shown, to wrap the two strands together counter-clockwise. Notice that the two strands have now changed places. What was the upper strand, is now the lower strand. Next, scoot the left thumb and index fingers up to grasp where the two strands have wrapped together, (not shown).

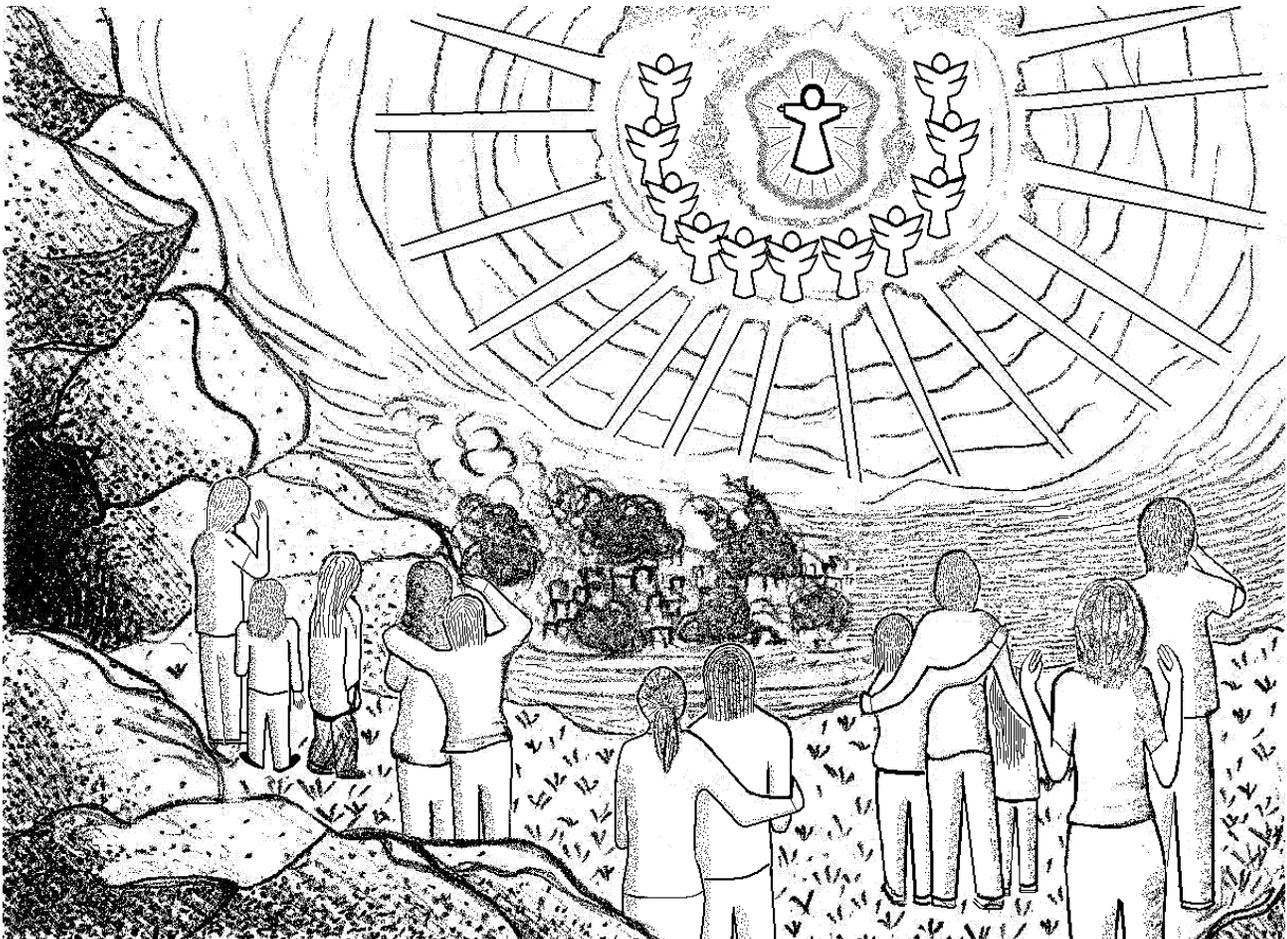
To "twine" the cordage, keep repeating the motions of steps (2) through (4), always working on which ever strand is in the upper position.

Add more fibers when there is still an inch or so left on the strand. Work this strand into the "top" position. Place one end of a new set of fibers in the "crotch" between the two strands. Then wrap this new set of fibers clock-wise, up and over the top strand, and twist it in with the upper strand's fibers. Then simply continue twining. By adding more fibers this way, you can make the cordage as long as you need to.

When you are finished, tie an overhand knot in your cordage to keep it from unraveling, and trim off the end. You can also run the cordage through a flame to singe off any extra fibers sticking out along its length.

To:

From:



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