



PREPARING TO STAND

Number 52 — October, 2011

“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 3-21-1905

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “BE READY?” —It’s Not Just Having a Kit in The Closet by Jim Buller

Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Matthew 24:42-44

Because we don’t know what hour Jesus will come, what two things have we been told to do? —“Watch,” and “Be Ready.” And to let us know *why* we need to “watch” and “be ready,” the verses with these two ideas frame the verse where Jesus uses the imagery of a thief, whose coming would be sudden and unexpected. Since there are only four other places in the New Testament where this same imagery is used, let’s take a look at them to fill out our understanding.

2 Peter 3:10 assures us, “the day of the Lord *will* come as a thief in the night,” (emphasis supplied), and 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 says,

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober.

If we are awake and watching, Jesus’ coming should *not* be a surprise to us. The next reference, Revelation 3:3, states, “Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.” So, although Jesus’ coming *will* happen suddenly, like a thief, it will only be unexpected by those who are *not* “watching” or “ready.”

The last reference, found in Revelation 16:15, says, “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed *is* he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.” Here, readiness is equated with “keeping” our “garments.” So, in order not to be “naked,” how do we “keep” our “garments?” Do we only wear clothing *occasionally*? —no, we “keep” them *on*! In this context, it is also worth noting that both

“watching,” and “being ready,” describe a *state of being*. Our watchful readiness, therefore, is to be *a part of who we are*, not just something we do once in a while.

The Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30, contains a similar idea. It was those workers who *used* their talents that were rewarded. The servant who buried his talent was cast out because he was *useless*, and unprofitable. Our readiness, therefore, needs to be something that we *make use of* in our day to day lives. In other words, simply having a Bible gathering dust on the shelf, or a survival kit tucked away in a closet would be essentially the same thing as burying our talent. Our watchful readiness should be evident, both to ourselves and others, by the way we live, and by what we are doing with our lives.

There is an interesting quotation on *Maranatha*, page 181, that also goes along with this idea. It says,

The Lord has shown me that some of His children would fear when they see the price of food rising, and they would buy food and lay it by for the time of trouble. Then in a time of need, I saw them go to their food and look at it, and it had bred worms, and was full of living creatures, and not fit for use.

Brothers and sisters, let's not deceive ourselves into thinking we are “ready” simply because we have a survival kit in our closet, (or in the trunk of the car); or because we have some books and videos on country living sitting, and some heirloom seeds tucked away; or because we have collected some studies on the end-time prophecies and practical Christianity. If our preparations, either spiritual or physical, are just stored away somewhere like the buried talent, we may find that in our “time of need” they have “bred worms” and are “not fit for use.”

Instead, let's make use of the opportunities God gives us to prepare. Let's be actively pursuing both spiritual and physical preparations, and use of the things we learn in our daily lives. Like faithful Noah, whose “every blow struck upon the ark was a witness to the people,” may our watchful readiness be a witness to those around us. (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 95.)

Plant a garden, even if it is just in a planter box in your window. Learn to cook basic food stuff “from scratch.” Practice different food storage methods for basic foods. Then, eat the foods you have raised, cooked and stored, and learn to be content with these simple foods. Develop some basic off-the-grid self-sufficiency skills such as: sewing, shoe making, hand-tool wood-working, black smithing, and equipment repair. Make useful items, and then use of the items you craft. Get out into nature regularly. Take your survival kit with you, and practice using the equipment in it. Let the goal of your outing be to interact with nature and develop your skills, rather than just to get to some destination and back. Figure out how to carry as many survival kit items as possible with you every day, using these items in your day to day life —you'll be surprised how useful they really are! Study your Bible, particularly the parts about abiding in Christ, the indwelling Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts, faith, the end-time prophecies, and being a “loving and lovable Christian.” (*The Ministry of Healing*, page 470.) Then, put what you learn into practice. Let every hammer blow of your life be a witness that *you* believe “the end of all things is at hand.” (*Testimonies to the Church, Vol 9*, page 38.

RESOURCES

Every once in a while someone will say something to me like, “ We need you to come out to, (our location) , and teach us what we can eat in nature.” Well, if their location *happens* to be within my “home range,” I could probably do alright—but that has rarely been the case. Although there *are* usually a few wide-spread plants that I might already know, before I would be able to make a worthy presentation I would first have to find a book on wild edible plants for that particular area, and then spend some time looking for these plants in the field. But what is interesting, is that anyone else could do exactly the same thing! What’s more, those who are living in an area can probably do a *better* job than I could. The plants that may not be in season when I happened to pass through, they would be able to study at other times of the year.

So, to encourage *you* to not only begin studying the plants in your area, but to also learn other valuable skills, I have updated my list of “Resources.” Please, don’t wait for me to come and hold a program near you. Invest in some of these books and videos. Spend time in the field identifying and getting to know the plants in your area—just be sure you don’t eat anything that you don’t know for sure is edible! Learn which plants and animals to avoid. Put together a survival kit, and learn how to use the equipment in it—if you can’t get it to work in your backyard on a sunny afternoon, you won’t be able to get it to work up on the mountainside in the dark when it is raining! Spend some time developing other necessary wilderness skills, such as: shelter building, fire building, primitive campfire cooking, wood carving, knife sharpening, knot tying, and direction finding. Enjoy yourself! Preparing can be a lot of fun.

Books on Wilderness Survival and Primitive Skills:

- *Outdoor Survival Skills*, by Larry Dean Olsen, ISBN 1556523238. An excellent book on wilderness skills. Geared somewhat toward the arid Western part of North America. Many photos and line drawing illustrations, with color plates of wild edible and useful plants for that area.
- “*Naked into the Wilderness*” *Primitive Wilderness Living and Survival Skills*, by John & Geri McPherson, ISBN 0-89745-997-0, and, “*Naked into the Wilderness —2*” *Primitive Wilderness Skills, Applied & Advanced*, by John & Geri McPherson, ISBN 0-89745-984-9. Good in-depth information on many wilderness skills and topics. Many photo illustrations. See also the video by these same authors below.
- *Tom Brown’s Field Guide to Wilderness Survival*, by Tom Brown Jr., ISBN 0-425-05876. Excellent information on wilderness skills and topics. Geared somewhat toward Eastern North America. Line drawing illustrations.
- *Participating in Nature*, by Thomas J. Elpel, ISBN 1-892784-12-2. Many good ideas on a variety of wilderness skills and topics. Photo illustrations.
- *Earth Knack — Stone Age Skills for the 21st Century*, by Bart & Robin Blankenship, ISBN 0-87905-733-5. A good book on primitive skills primarily with line drawing illustrations.

- *Survival Skills of Native California*, by Paul D. Campbell, ISBN: 0879059214. A large volume of the authors exhaustive research. Photos and black & white print illustrations.
- *Primitive Technology —a Book of Earth Skills*, edited by David Wescott, ISBN 0-87905-911-7, and *Primitive Technology II —Ancestral Skills*, edited by David Wescott, ISBN1-58685-098-9. Taken from articles of the *Bulletin of Primitive Technology*,(these books contain are an excellent source of information on of a varieties of primitive skills by various writers. Photos and line drawing illustrations.
- *Survival Arts of the Primitive Paiutes*, by Margaret M. Wheat, ISBN: 0874170486. In-depth information on various primitive skills of the Piutes of the Great Basin area in the interior of Western North America. Photo illustrations.
- *Made in Hawai'i*, by Jane Fulton Abernethy and Suelyn Ching Tune, ISBN: 0824808703. Native crafts and plant uses.
- *How to Make Primitive Pottery*, by Evard H. Gibby, ISBN: 9780943604381. A good book on making and firing pottery in a primitive setting.
- *Baskets from Nature's Bounty*, by Elizabeth Jensen, ISBN: 9780934026697 (out of print). An excellent book on a variety of basket making techniques.
- *Woodsmoke, The Best of*, edited by Richard & Linda Jamison ISBN: 0882902032, *Woodsmoke: Primitive Outdoor Skills*, edited by Richard & Linda Jamison ISBN: 0882902636, and *Woodsmoke, Collected Writings*, edited by Richard & Linda Jamison ISBN: 0897321510. Compilations of various articles on primitive skills and wilderness travel from Woodsmoke Magazine.

Books on Wild Edible & Useful Plants:

- *Peterson Field Guides —Venomous Animals & Poisonous Plants*, by Steven Foster & Roger Caras, ISBN 0-395-93608. Know which plants and animals to avoid so you don't have to worry about the rest.
- *Peterson Field Guides —Edible Wild Plants*, by Lee Allen Peterson, ISBN 0-395-31870-X. Excellent information on wild edible plants in North America, although primarily of Eastern species. Line drawings and color plates.
- *Tom Brown's Guide to Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants*, Tom Brown Jr. ISBN 0425100634. A good book on edible and medicinal plants primarily in Eastern North America. Line drawings and interesting stories about each plant.
- *Wild Edible Plants of Western North America*, by Donald Kirk, ISBN 0-87961-036-0. An excellent source of information on the edible plants of Western North America. Line drawing illustrations.

- *Guide to Wild Foods and Useful Plants*, by Christopher Nyerges, ISBN 9781556523441-X. Useful information on wild edible and useful plants.
- *Plants of Southern Interior British Columbia and the Inland Northwest*, edited by Parish, Coupe and Lloyd, ISBN-10: 1551052199. Excellent book for the area. Includes information on the native uses of the plants. Color photo illustrations.
- *Edible and Medicinal Plants of the Rockies*, edited by Linda Kershaw, ISBN-10: 1551052296. A helpful identification guide with line drawings and color plates. The write-up on each plant also includes uses of the plants, both ancient and modern.
- *Edible Native Plants of the Rocky Mountains*, by H. D. Harrington, ISBN 978-0-8263-0343-1. Fairly extensive coverage, with line drawings.
- *Shrubs and Trees of the Southwest Uplands*, by Francis H. Elmore, ISBN 1877856-41-X. A helpful identification guide with line drawings and color plates. The write-up on each plant also includes uses of the plants, both ancient and modern.
- *Mother Earth's Mercantile —Plants of the Four Corners Area and Their Uses Through Time*, by Elizabeth M. Wheeler, ISBN 0-9624640-4-X. A simple straight forward treatment of the main edible and useful plants in the Four Corners area, with color pictures. Put out by the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, 23390 County Road K, Cortez, CO 81321, (303) 565-8975.
- *How Indians Used Desert Plants*, by James W. Cornett, ISBN: 0937794325. Good book on plant uses for the Southwestern desert areas of North America. Color photos.
- *Medicinal Plants of the Mountain West*, by Michael Moore, ISBN: 0-89013-104-X, and *Medicinal Plants of the Desert and Canyon West*, by Michael Moore, ISBN 0-89013-182-1. Good information on medicinal plants in Western North America.
- *Early Uses of California Plants*, by Edward K. Balls, ISBN 0520000722. A fairly good book on the way natives and pioneers used California plants. Color Plates.
- *Botany in a Day —The Pattern Method of Plant Identification*, by Tomas J. Elpel, ISBN 1-892784-15-7. A general book on plant identification methods, with general information on the different families/groups of plants. Black and white illustrations.

Books on Country Living Topics:

- *The Good Life*, by Helen & Scott Nearing. ISBN-10: 0805209700. This book was the classic on self-sufficient country living a couple decades ago. Fortunately it is still available. Although the authors, (now deceased) were not Adventists, much of what they present is according to Scriptural principles.
- *Back to Basics*, edited by Abigail Gehring. ISBN-10: 1602392331. A good all-around book on many different country living skills and techniques.

- *How to Grow More Vegetables*, by John Jeavons. ISBN-10: 1580087965. An excellent book on gardening in the most efficient and space effective manner possible, using only hand tools.
- *Country Woodcraft*, by Drew Langsner. ISBN-10: 0878572007. How to make many useful household items and farm equipment, using only hand woodworking tools.
- *Blacksmithing Basics for the Homestead*, by Joe DeLaRonde. ISBN-10: 1586857061. How to set up a simple blacksmith shop and make many useful items.
- *The New Organic Grower*, Eliot Coleman. ISBN-10: 093003175X. A good book on setting up and running a small farm.

Instructional Videos on Wilderness and Primitive Skills:

- “Woodsmaster #4, Navigation and Travel,” by Ron Hood. A good video on direction finding. It also covers stone working, and more.
- “Primitive Wilderness Skills, Applied,” by John & Geri McPherson. This video gives an excellent overview of survival living. 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,” “Mountain Meadows,” and “Mountain Lakes,” (3 videos) by Tom Elpel. 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.

r All the above videos are available from: www.GrannysStore.com
(www.hollowtop.com)

- “Backwoods Survival Skills,” by Bill Gringas. This video has an excellent section 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. An excellent video on tanning hides. Available from: www.braintan.com
- “Longhunter” Series, (4 videos) by Mark Baker. Mark Baker is a historian who has done excellent research, both academically and by participated extensively in historical re-enactments of the early American frontiersman. Although these videos are not about “survival” as such, they contain excellent information, 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, www.americanpioneervideo.com

Websites:

- Primitive Ways, www.primitiveways.com. Many good articles on a variety of topics.
- Of the Field / Linda Runyon, ofthefield.com. Books and videos on wild edible plants.
- Society of Primitive Technology, www.primitive.org,

Knot Tying:

- www.folsoms.net/knots
- www.2020site.org/knots
- Animated Knots by Grog, www.animatedknots.com/indexscouting.php?
- I Will Knot! www.iwillknot.com
- www.tollesburysc.co.uk/Knots/Knots_gallery.htm

Online Equipment Sources:

- Sportsman Survival. Survival kit equipment. www.sportsmansurvival.com
- C. T. Fischer Knives. Quality handmade knives. www.ctfischerknives.com
- Knives Plus. www.knivesplus.com
- Smoky Mountain Knife Works. www.smkw.com

Other Resources:

- *Seeing Through Native Eyes*, by Jon Young, (audio CD).
store.wildernessawareness.org/Our-Original-Books-CDs/Seeing-Through-Native-Eyes-Understanding-Language-Of-Nature-8-CD-Jon-Young.html An excellent resource which will help one to “look at nature” as a home with the necessary resources for survival, rather than as a hostile foreign environment.