

PREPARING TO STAND

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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 3-21-1905

WHY WILDERNESS SURVIVAL?

by Jim Buller

Where did the Creator put Adam & Eve? —In the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 2:8). And what was *outside* of the garden? There weren't any shopping malls, factories, or office buildings. There was only a vast world, filled with more nature. So, Adam and Eve were essentially placed *in the wilderness!*

What did they do in the garden? Did they *just* wander around and look at all the beauty? This question reminds me of a conversation I had with a ranger at Smoky Mountain National Park a couple years ago —which by the way, is the most visited park in the nation. He commented that they had real issues with traffic control, because by far the majority of the people who visit the park never get out of their cars. They just drive around and look at it! If this was all that Adam and Eve did, how long would it have been until they would have been completely bored? —especially if they had not sinned, and that was all they were going to do for eternity! No, God gave them something to do! They were given the job of taking care of the plants and animals. And, like the animals and many native peoples, they also daily interacted with nature to get the things they needed. When they were hungry they picked some fruit, and grains, or nuts to eat. When they were thirsty they drank from the streams. When they needed something else, they crafted it from what they could get from nature. So, what can we learn from this? That humans were created to be in nature, as a part of it, and to daily interact with it.

Coming down through history a bit, after the flood, where did God put people again? —Back in the wilderness! And what did He tell them to do? —“Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.” (Genesis 9:1). But, after a couple generations what did the people say? —No, “let us build ourselves a city, and a tower ... let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the earth.” (Genesis 11:4.) They didn't want to go out into the wilderness. So they built themselves a city.

Skipping ahead now to after “the restoration of all things.” (Acts 3:21.) Where will we be again? —Back in the garden. Obviously, the Creator intended for us to live closely connected with nature. So the question begs to be asked, How can we truly appreciate Jesus dying so that we can live, if we don't appreciate the life the Creator intended for us *to* live? In other words, Jesus didn't die so we could just keep on living the same disconnected life that we always have —that's *why* He had to die in the first

place. No wonder then we have been told, “Those who sacrifice simplicity to fashion, and shut themselves away from the beauties of nature, *cannot be spiritually minded.*” (*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2*, page 584, emphasis supplied.) Notice that it didn’t say that those who shut themselves away from nature would have a hard time being spiritual, it said that they *cannot* be spiritually minded!

The first of the Three Angels Messages in Revelation 14:6-12 contains a call to worship the Creator. But think about it, how can we truly worship the Creator, and celebrate His Sabbath, the memorial to creation, if we don’t appreciate or ignore the natural world/universe that He created? —the world/universe that those who are saved will be living in for the rest of eternity. So it should not be surprising then, that as a part of our “final training” for heaven we will be out in the wilderness, surrounded by things that God has created.

Now, if we believe Jesus is coming *soon*, then we must also conclude that the final end-time events will happen *sooner!* And therefore *we*, will soon be the ones who will “flee to the mountains,” “dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places.” (Matthew 24:16, *The Great Controversy* page 626.) So we would be wise to prepare ourselves for living in the wilderness.

What’s more, according to the prophecies, soon it will no longer be safe to be in the cities. And as we look around at what is happening in the world, we can definitely see things heading that way! Notice the following quotations.

The ungodly cities of our world are to be swept away by the besom of destruction. In the calamities that are now befalling immense buildings and large portions of cities, God is showing us what will come upon the whole earth. (*Country Living*, page 7.)

When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent. God's long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law. The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation; the Spirit of God, persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn. Unsheltered by divine grace, they have no protection from the wicked one. Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old. (*The Great Controversy*, page 614-615.)

There will be such strife and confusion in the cities, that those who wish to leave them will not be able. We must be preparing for these issues. (*Country Living*, page 11.)

As the Holy Spirit is withdrawn, and the angels stop holding things back, “all the elements of strife will be let loose.” Wars and unrest will be everywhere, and the crime

rate will literally go through the roof! Civilization will cease to be civil! And although people will want to escape from the cities they will not be able to. No wonder we have been told.

Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one. We should now begin to heed the instruction given us over and over again: Get out of the cities into rural districts, where the houses are not crowded closely together, and where you will be free from the interference of enemies. (*Country Living*, pages 9-10 [*Letter 5*, 1904.]

The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains. (*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, pages 464-465.)

As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment keepers shall withdraw the protection of government and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places. Many will find refuge in the strongholds of the mountains. (*The Great Controversy*, page 626.)

Is it any wonder then, that Satan has so arranged things in modern society that nature isn't a part of most peoples reality anymore? Nature is viewed as a scary place, and we get the things we need from the store. Our culture has set us up to receive the Mark of the Beast! Thank God He has warned us of what is to come and given us time to prepare!

ARE YOU PREPARING, "JUST IN CASE?"

Every once in a while, someone will say, "It's good that you are teaching wilderness survival, so we'll know what to do in case we ever need it." Or, as a person commented after thanking me for demonstrating a primitive skill, "Hopefully we'll never have to actually do this." This idea is subconsciously reinforced by many of the "survival" shows in the media. Although from time to time they may demonstrate a good skill, their underlying premise is: here's what you can do while you tough it out until you are rescued, (which statistically happens within three to four days). Thus, primitive wilderness skills are viewed as really just a novelty.

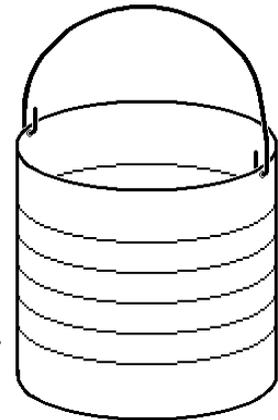
But is it safe, or even wise, for an end-time Christian to look at it this way? For example, learning how to count to ten in Swahili would indeed be just a novelty if you

live on a distant continent, and have no plans of ever visiting a place where they speak it. However, if you *know* you are going to be spending some time in a country where Swahili is spoken, it would only be wise to learn as much of the language as you could!

So the question begs to be asked, Do you believe the prophecies? Do you believe *you* will “flee to the mountains,” and be “dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places.” (Matthew 24:16, *The Great Controversy* page 626.) If so, learning about wilderness survival is not just a novelty. “A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.” (Proverbs 22:3.) It would only be wise for us to learn as much as we can about living in the wilderness.

HOW TO MAKE A COOK POT FROM A CAN

Simple inexpensive cook pots can easily be made from empty tinned cans, and putting a little extra care into their construction can make them even more effective. For an adequate sized personal cook pot, use a 28-29 oz. can. These cans are about 4 in. across by 4½ in. tall, and they typically come with fruit, applesauce, tomatoes, or pumpkin in them. Don't use the cans that beans come in, as they usually will have a white coating inside which may put unwanted chemicals into your food if you were to cook with them. Although this size holds a little less than a quart, or liter, which makes it somewhat inefficient when boiling and purify water, larger cans are either too deep, and therefore awkward to cook with or eat out of, or too large for personal use.



- (1) Empty and clean the can. Be sure any sharp edges left over from opening it are bent smooth or smashed down.
- (2) With an awl, ice pick, or large nail, make a hole in the upper rim of the can. For maximum capacity make the hole as close to the top of the rim as possible. Punch the hole from the inside to the outside of the can. Notice the jagged edges around the hole. These are very sharp, so be careful not to cut yourself. With a hammer or rounded stone smash these jagged edges down flat. Holding another stone or piece of iron tightly against inside of the can will help. By punching the hole from the inside of the can to the outside, you minimize the risk of cutting yourself on these sharp edges while cooking, eating, or cleaning the cook pot.
- (3) Measure, or sight across the top of the can to determine the spot on the rim exactly opposite the first hole, and make another hole on the opposite side of the can the same way.
- (4) Cut a piece of the heavy wire, (12 or 14 gauge), about 10 in. / 25 cm. long for a “bail” or handle. File or grind any sharpness off the ends of the wire. If necessary, bend the wire around the bottom of the can so that it has a curvature about the same as that of the can.
- (5) Grab one end of the wire with a pair of pliers. Press your thumb against the wire right next to the pliers, and bend the end of the wire 180 degrees into a sharp “U” shape. This “U” should be on the inside of, and in line with the curvature of the wire. Grab the other end of the wire in the same way but only bend it about 100 degrees

into a tight “L” shape. The “L” should also be bent toward the inside of the curvature, and in line with it. Twist the wire to adjust things as necessary.

- (6) Insert the “U” end of the wire into one of the holes on the can from outside to inside, then insert the “L” into the hole on the other side of the can, also from outside to inside. Close the “L” into a “U” with the pliers. Leave the “U’s” open so the bail will fold down against the side of the pot. If the “U’s” are closed, the bail will stay upright and risk getting bent out of shape, and it will also take up extra room in your pack.
- (7) If at all possible, place the cook pot over a fire to burn off any coating inside the can. Do this outdoors. Then thoroughly scrub the pot and dry it.
- (8) Give the cook pot a light coat of vegetable oil. Heat the oiled pot again to “bake” the oil on the can to “season” it, much as you would season cast iron cookware. This will help to keep your cook pot from rusting.
- (9) Cooking on an open fire will make the pot black on the outside. This black will come off on pretty much anything it touches, which can make a real mess in your pack. If you sew, make a bag to keep your cook pot in from some light weight material. If you don’t sew, use a piece of cloth to wrap the pot in. When cooking, fold this bag or cloth to make a handy hot pad.

MAKING A STONE KNIFE

Breaking a sharp flake off of a rock to make a stone knife is really a fairly simple process. Look for rocks that are fine grained, or “glassy.” These glassy rocks break with a “conchoidal fracture,” which can give a sharp edge where the break leaves the rock. Smooth stones from a creek bed work well, but are not absolutely necessary. Select a rock that is at least 2½ in. by 3-4 in. / 6 cm. by 8-10 cm. or larger, so you can get a good grip on it. Although you may not have much of a choice, the harder the rock, the more durable the knife will be —and the harder you will have to strike it to break off a flake!

There are basically two ways to break the rock: (1) by hitting it with a “hammer stone,” or (2) by striking a larger “anvil stone” with the rock you are wanting to break. With either method, it is important to firmly hold the rock to be broken —but you must also do so in such a way that you are not cut by the flake as it breaks off. Grip the rock on the area beyond, or to the sides of the potential break. Or, when using a hammer stone, support the rock on your leg, with something, such as a thick piece of leather, protecting your leg . Practice and experiment!

