

PREPARING TO STAND

Number 69 — April, 2013

“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

THE DECEPTION OF THE ANTEDILUVIANS

by Jim Buller

Jesus' first statement at the beginning of the end-time prophecy known as the 'Olivet Discourse,' recorded in chapters 24 and 25 of Matthew is, "Take heed that no one deceives you." And, it has been observed that His warnings about the deceptions that will be common in the end-times continue to be a theme throughout this entire discourse.

A good example of this theme is found in verse 37, where Jesus says, "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." Now, we may not typically think of the antediluvians as being deceived. However, it is easy to recognize that in fact they were —especially when we consider that although there may have been many different possible ways they were deceived, the one thing these various deceptions had in common was that all of them caused the people to think it wasn't important to get on the ark.

But in reality, getting on the ark was the most important thing for the people back then to do. For by not getting on the ark, they not only died in the flood, they also sealed their eternal destiny. From this, we also find that a physical action, or in this case a lack of physical action, can have some serious spiritual and eternal consequences.

Let's carry this a step further. Hebrews 11:7 says, "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith." Evidently, the antediluvians did not have faith in the divine warning. And as a result they didn't think it was important to help prepare the ark either. By their disbelief and their lack of preparation, they set themselves up to make the wrong decision at the decisive moment and not get in the ark.

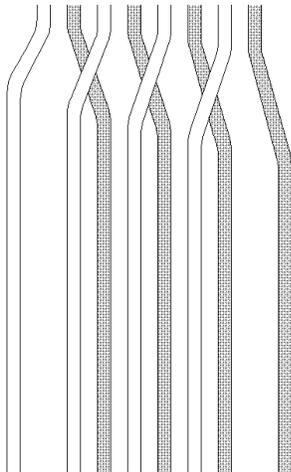
As Jesus stated, the end-times would be like Noah's time. Therefore we should not be surprised to find these same attitudes nowadays. It should be no wonder that, even among those of us who claim to believe in Jesus' soon return, there are many who don't think it is important to prepare for the events that in His love, God has warned us will take place before He comes. Let's not be deceived like the antediluvians into thinking it is not important to prepare for these events. Let's not set ourselves up like they did to make wrong decisions at decisive moments and therefore neglect to take the important appropriate actions in response to these events.

STRAP WEAVING

Knowing how to weave a strap from some cordage is a valuable skill. It is much more comfortable to carry things with a straps than with round cordage. Although strap weaving is not a difficult skill to learn, it will require some practice. Probably the easiest way to begin strap weaving is by using two different colors of cord, but this is not essential. However, it can be easily and inexpensively done by using natural brown jute twine and green 'garden twine' that can be purchased at many hardware stores, or in the hardware section of many department stores. Usually it is available from the same manufacturer, and in the same diameter. Another option would be to buy two different colors of cotton yarn which are available in some craft stores. It is also possible to easily dye some twine or string to produce a second color. Learning to weave straps with two different colors helps to visualize the over-under-over-under pattern of the weave, and will thus help to avoid mistakes—or at least minimize them. Weaving with different color cords also produces some interesting and beautiful patterns.

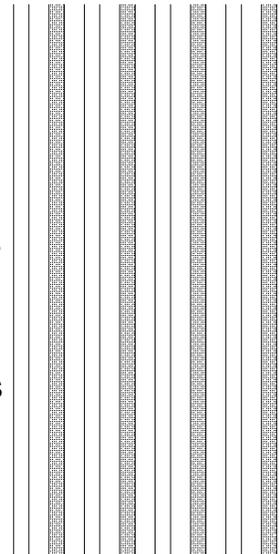
Begin with an even number of cords the same length, half of the cords in one color, and half in another color. For a practice strap, maybe make each cord 2 ft / 60 cm long. For simplicity, the illustrations below show the strap weaving process for a strap made of eight cords—four light colored cords, and four dark colored cords. This will make a relatively narrow strap for practice. More serviceable straps would need to be woven using three times that many cords, or possibly even more, depending on the diameter of the cordage being used, and the intended use of the strap. With more cords, the weaving process is essentially the same, there are just more cords to deal with.

There are several ways to start the weaving process. It is possible to begin the strap with a flat end, or with a loop one-half the width of the finished strap. But for simplicity, and especially when learning to weave, simply lay all the cords together and tie them in one big overhand knot. The illustrations here are given for right-handed people. It is quite possible, and just as easy to weave left-handed—in which case these directions would just be reversed.



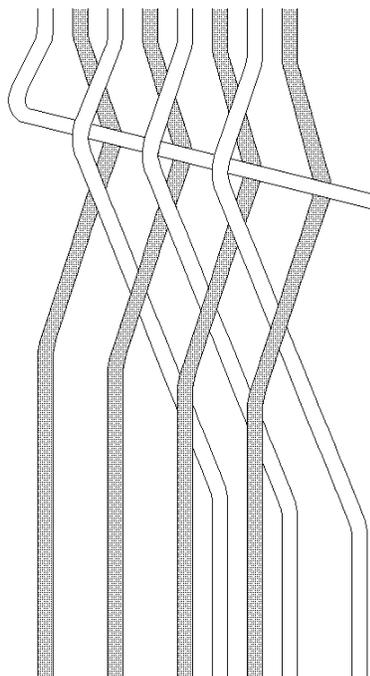
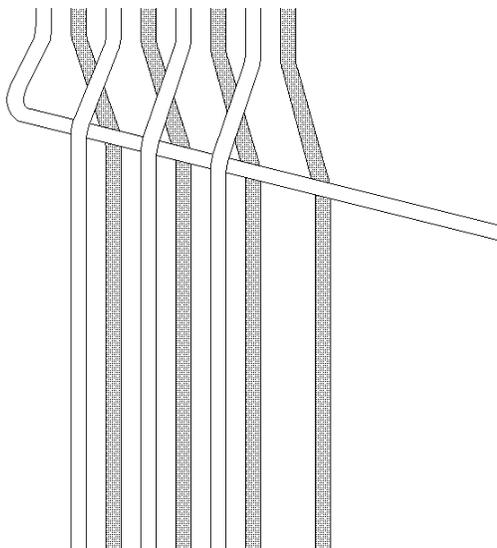
Tension: It is easiest to weave with the end of the strap being tied to a solid object. This enables you to slightly pull on the strap as you weave, and this tension really helps to keep things in place. Tie another length of cordage to the end of the strap and tie it to a tree, the back of a chair, or some other solid object.

Step 1: Sort through the cords, bringing half of them 'up' and the other half 'down.' In weaving terms, this forms a 'shed.' In the illustration here, the light colored cords are brought 'up,' while the dark colored cords are 'down.' Use an index finger to separate



the 'up' cords from the 'down' cords of the shed. In this way the cords of the upper color can be held between the thumb and index finger, and the cords of the lower color can be held between the index finger and the middle finger.

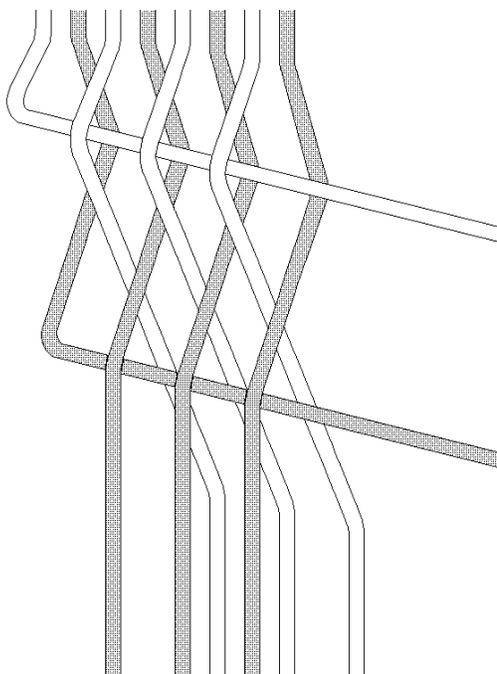
Step 2: Flatten the two groups of cord anticipating the flat strap that is about to be woven. Then bring the upper cord that is the farthest to the left, (in this case a light colored cord), through the shed. Hold this cord off to the side by grasping it with the ring and little fingers of the right hand, leaving the thumb, index, and middle fingers free.



Step 3:
Form a new shed by bringing the dark colored cords alternately up

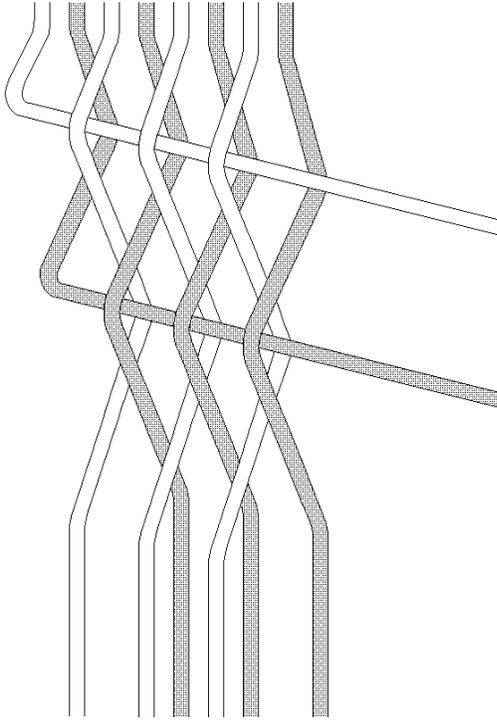
through the light colored cords. Work from left to right by alternately bringing 'up' a dark colored cord, then sending 'down' a light colored cord, then bring 'up' the next dark cord, and send 'down' the next light cord, etc. until the new shed is completed. Be sure you start by first bringing up a dark colored cord. Do this step by using the left index finger to separate the new shed, while the thumb, index, and middle fingers of the right hand either bring a

cord 'up' onto the left index finger or send it 'down' behind the left index finger. The left thumb and middle fingers hold the cords of the new shed in place as you progress. If you started this step by bringing up a dark colored cord, there should be a dark colored cord on the far left of the shed, and that the cords alternate dark-up, light-down, dark-up, light-down, etc. all across the shed. The light colored cord that was brought through the previous shed in Step 2 continues to be held off to the side throughout this process, and does not become a part of the new shed at this time.



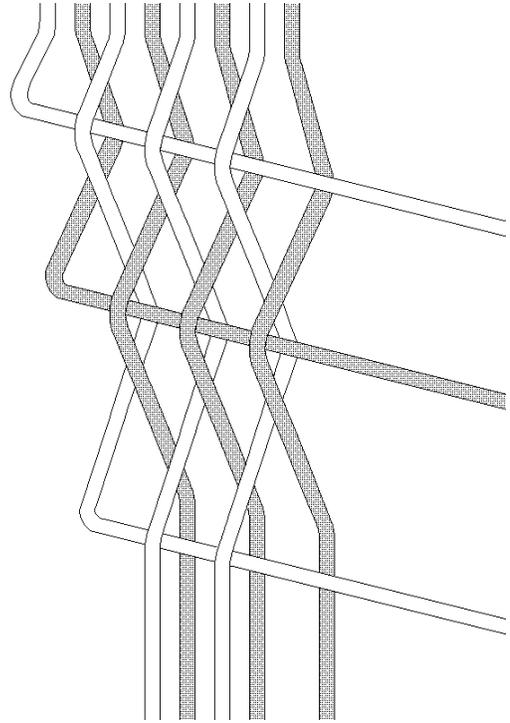
Step 4: In the same way as you did for Step 2, bring the upper right cord, (in this case a dark

colored cord), through the shed. Grasp it together with the light colored cord from Step 2 by the ring and little fingers of the right hand.



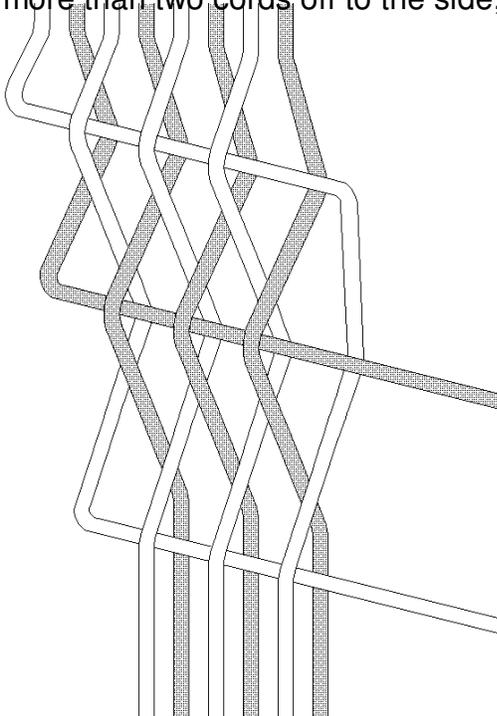
Step 5: In the same way as you did for Step 3, form a new shed again by bring the light colored cords 'up,' and sending the dark colored cords 'down.' Notice that there is an over-under-over-under pattern in every direction along every cord.

Step 6: In the same way as was done in Steps 2 and 4, bring the upper right cord, (in this case a light colored cord), through the shed. Hold this cord off to the side with the ring and little



fingers of the right hand. It is advantageous to have these cords off to the side as they help keep things lined up and make it easier to visualize the over-under-over-under pattern. However, you don't need more than two cords off to the side, (and some

strap weavers only keep one of these cords off to the side). So, now that there are three cords being held off to the side, we need to add another step to be able to work this cord back into the shed.



Step 7: Pass the upper cord that is off to the side, (in this case the first light colored cord that came through the first shed), 'down' and under the cord below it, (in this case the dark colored cord that came through the second shed that was formed), and then 'up' to re-join the other cords of its color in the shed. This cord will end up on the far right side of the strap. Think: 'down and under, and back into the shed.'

Continue weaving by doing Steps 5 through 7 in sequence. First forming a new shed (Step 5), then bringing the upper right cord through the shed,

(Step 6), and then bringing the upper cord that has been held off to the side ‘down and under and back into the shed’ (Step 7). Remember, there should be an over-under-over-under pattern with *all* cords in *all* directions.

Tightening: From time to time it is a good idea to tighten the cords as you weave. How often you need to do this will depend on the type of cordage you are using and how tightly you weave. Tightening can be done anytime, but it is probably most easily done right at the end of a Step 5, 6, 7 sequence. Hold the strap with the thumb, index and middle fingers of your right hand, with the cords that are off to the side being grasped by the right ring and little fingers. Then, with the left hand, gently to moderately pull each cord in sequence, working your way either from right to left or left to right so you don’t miss any cords. After tightening, continue weaving.

Finishing: Again, there are several ways to finish off the strap such as braiding sets of four cords with a four-strand round-braid for a short length before tying-off. But again, the easiest is probably just to lay all the cords together and simply tie one big overhand knot with all of them —which will suffice for your first practice strap.