

# 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

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## AS WE COME INTO ‘THE SHAKING’

by Jim Buller

Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. (Hebrews 12:27.)

We are in the shaking time, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. (Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, page 332.)

Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads—it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved—just as soon as God’s people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land, to give us warning, that we may know what is coming. (*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, page 1161, [MS 173, 1902].)

The ‘sealing’ —“a settling into the truth ... so they cannot be moved”— prepares us for the ‘shaking’ —“that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.” So, the question begs to be asked, Are we becoming “settled” so that we “cannot be moved,” or are setting ourselves up to be “shaken” out? Note the following description of the shaking process from *Early Writings*, pages 269-270.

I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God’s approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them.

Evil angels crowded around, pressing darkness upon them to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and thus they be led to distrust God and murmur

against Him. Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward. Angels of God had charge over His people, and as the poisonous atmosphere of evil angels was pressed around these anxious ones, the heavenly angels were continually wafting their wings over them to scatter the thick darkness.

As the praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them, to encourage their hearts and light up their countenances. Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them.

Brothers and sisters, this shaking is just before of us —some feel that for them, it has already started! As never before we need to be very deliberate and intentional about our connection with Jesus. In the parable, *half* of the girls were ‘foolish,’ (see Matthew 25:1-13), therefore they must represent a substantial number of those who are *in the church*. Their true condition is revealed by who they turn to at the crisis in the story—they turn to their ‘sisters.’ Apparently, all along their relationship had only been with the church, for they had not developed the habit of turning to Jesus. So it should be no surprise that they are shut out, and told “I do not know you.” (Matthew 25:12.) This parable should be a major warning for us not to make the same mistake!

Please study the whole chapter of John 10. There is more to it, but in verses 26-28 Jesus partially sums up what He has been saying here. He is talking with the Jews—the church of His day—and tells them:

But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

Let’s be sure *we* “know *His voice*,” and that we are following *Him*, (see verse 4). He is the only one who can keep us secure. Remember Jesus also said, “without Me you can do nothing.” (See John 15:4-5.) In this same context, He said, “abide,” “stay,” or “remain in Me.” Thus, it is only as we choose to “remain” in Him that He can keep us from being “shaken,” or “moved,” or snatched out of His hand. As the evil angels press the darkness in around us, let’s keep looking to up to Jesus! Our only safety is to keep our focus on Him, and to stay in His hand.

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,  
And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,  
To God our Savior, who alone is wise,  
Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.  
(Jude 24-25)

## NETTING, Part 2 Making a Net Bag

In the last issue, instructions were given about how to make the netting knot, and how to start a double-chain 'foundation' for a net. Here, instructions will be given for a simple netting project—a net bag about the size of a small shopping bag.

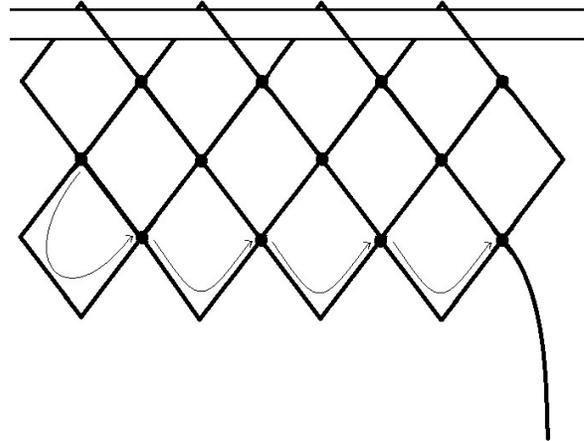
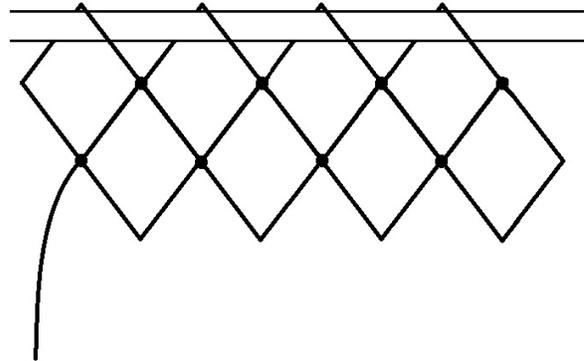
Begin by making a foundation chain with 16 mesh loops. (For the sake of simplicity, the illustrations here will only show a foundation chain having 4 'sets,' or a total of 8 mesh loops.) When your foundation chain has a total of 16 mesh loops—be sure to count carefully—take the chain off of the anchor point. Lay it so the cord coming from the shuttle is on the left, and so that it is aligned top-to-bottom as in the drawing. Notice that the foundation chain already gives you two rows of mesh loops on your net, and that the first loop you tied to begin the chain ends up on the second row.

Insert a smooth stick through each of the upper loops. This stick will provide the 'anchor point,' so attach both ends to something solid. It is OK if the loops bunch up a little along the stick, so it does not necessarily need to be long enough to spread the net out evenly along it. (It is also possible to simply insert a piece of cordage through each of the upper loops, and attach it to a single anchor point. But then everything will be bunched together, and you may find that confusing at first. So while you are learning, it will probably be easier to use a stick which will let you spread things out a bit.)

Using the same process you used to net the foundation chain loops, net a row of mesh loops all across the bottom of the foundation chain. Then, flip the net over and net another row of mesh loops. For the bag in these instructions, continue to net a total of 24 rows this same way.

### Splicing On More Cord

As the cord coming from the shuttle gets shorter, unwind a little more. When the shuttle is empty, keep netting with the end of the cord, until there is only a couple inches / a few centimeters of cord left. Then, stop and rewind the shuttle with more cord, leaving about a 2 ft / 60 cm tail of cord unwound on the shuttle, (the same as you did when you first began making the foundation chain. As close to the last knot on the net as possible, tie the end of the cord to the shuttle cord. Use a 'sheet bend'—which is the same knot as the 'netting knot.' Trim off both ends of the cord coming out of the knot and continue netting with the shuttle.



## Finishing the Net Bag

When you have finished the last row of mesh loops, you should have a roughly rectangular net that is 8 loops across the narrow edges, and 24 loops along the long edges. Cut the shuttle cord off just past the last knot. For the 'handles of the bag, twine or braid two heavier cords about 20 in / 50 cm long. Run one of these cords through each of the mesh loops along one of the narrower edges of the net, and tie the ends of this cord together. Run the other cord through the mesh loops of other narrow edge, and tie its ends together in the same way.

At this point you essentially have a small hammock. You can make a full sized hammock the same way —just make the net wider and longer. It is also worth noting here that some native groups made 'carrying nets' which were essentially small hammocks about 4 ft / 120 cm long and 2½ ft / 70 cm wide). They would put their gear in the net, sling it across their back, and hook the 'handle loops' together in front of their body to carry their gear —like a primitive backpack.

To finish your net bag, you will need two more short lengths of cord about 5-6 in / 10-15 cm long. Beginning with the third loop from the end on one of the long edges, run one of these cord through each loop along that edge until you get to the third from the last loop. Tie the ends of this cord together to gather the loops along the long edge of the net sort of like a drawstring. With the other short cord, do the same thing on the other long edge of the net. This should give you a net bag roughly about the size of a small shopping bag. However, depending on the particular size of your mesh loops, as you look at your bag, you may want to begin and end this last step with a different loop along the long edges than the third loop from the end —feel free to undo or add a loop or too on each end as needed. When you are satisfied with where it should be, trim off the ends of these short cords.

This net bag has been designed as a simple project to introduce you to the possibilities of netting. It is worth keeping in mind that netting is very forgiving. In other works, it will be difficult to make a mistake that would 'ruin' the whole project. So don't worry about any imperfections as you are working on this project, as you should still end up with a useable bag.

## Calculating the Size of Future Netting Project

There is almost no limit to the possibilities once you have learned to net. For future netting projects, keep in mind the '7 to 10 ration' pictured in the accompanying diagram as you figure out how many mesh loops to make. When you are making a net, the loops will all be 'stretched out' in the direction you are netting. But when the net is 'expanded,' this length will 'shrink' proportionately to the '7 to 10 ratio.'

