

UNDERSTANDING THE JUDGEMENTS OF GOD



INTRODUCTION

God is in control! The question many people have is, “If God is in control, why do disasters happen?” The purpose of this book is to help answer that question.

PREFACE

By

Brian Harrison

[NOTE FROM Henry Pulsifer: Brian Harrison has faithfully walked in the midst of the prophetic movement for many years. A few years ago, he was sent forth from the church in Blackfoot, Idaho, and is now based in the Boise area. Brian, who co-authored “Discerning the Lord’s Body” with Don Atkin, added a vital perspective by providing the following insights to the topic “Understanding The Judgments Of God.” This statement was written in 2015 just before the “Shemitah” occurred. He has graciously allowed me to use it as a Preface to this book.]

In recent weeks, as the dreaded or anticipated “Shemitah” has drawn near, we have witnessed the increasing polarization of the prophetic movement. We have listened to grave warnings and astonishing promises and have been asked to choose between the two options.

In the midst of all this debate, I find myself wondering where God is. Where does the living God position Himself? This is the critical question to answer because our opinions mean nothing. How God is postured toward the world, towards America and towards the church is essential to understanding the times we live in and our place in it.

Isaiah quoted God as saying, “Your ways are not My ways and your thoughts are not My thoughts.” Obviously, God’s nature is far more patient than ours. He is far more longsuffering. The ways of God can blow a person’s mind. The day before 9/11 a rainbow appeared over the skyline of New York City. That set more than a few judgment prognosticators back on their heels.

Nevertheless, Jesus instructed His followers to pray that His kingdom would come and His will would be done. That implies that there are changes that are needed. Can a person believe in the mercy of God and His judgment at the same time? I would like to offer some good news and a few observations about God’s judgment. These are just some initial thoughts about the ways of God in the world and His government over it.

God’s judgments are always in operation. They are laced into the very fabric of our created world. “The wages of sin is death.” That is a divine law as sure as gravity is a law. One is a moral law and one is a natural law. One has an immediate result

and the other a delayed result. But both laws serve a governmental purpose in this physical world.

There is a difference between God's wrath and His judgment. Divine judgments are remedial. They are designed to be redemptive. Wrath on the other hand is the progressive cutting off of someone and setting him adrift to fend for himself. Judgments are meant to draw people closer to the Lord. Wrath is a separation from the Lord. Judgment is protective. When God judges someone or a group of people He is claiming ownership of them and seeking through discipline to bring them closer to Himself, while wrath is a removal of association and therefore the removal of protection.

The judgments of God are good and they are the greatest hope for our nation. Psalm 19:9, 10 reads, "The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, much fine gold; sweeter are they than honey and the honeycomb."

Judgment is a teacher. Isaiah 26:9b reads, "For when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness."

Judgment protects love. The fact that the judgments of God are in the earth means that it's safe to walk in righteousness and that it is safe to love people. If there were no judgment then the "dog-eat-dog" philosophy of life would have the final say.

Judgment validates God. "He who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." – Hebrews 11:6. Do you believe that verse? Is God a rewarder of those who seek Him? Or are His rewards given regardless of whether one seeks Him or not? In the book of Malachi God complained about His people speaking against Him. They protested, "How have we spoken against you?" He answered, "You say, 'It is useless to serve God.'" In other words, there is no reward or benefit for seeking God. If God is righteous and He is judge then He must set things right.

"Mercy triumphs over judgment." This simply means that mercy is the end result of judgment and that God defaults to mercy if He has a choice. It does not mean that judgment is our enemy and mercy is our friend, however. Judgment and mercy are not in contradiction even though they are contrasted. It means that God's actions are unto reconciliation and not alienation. God wants

relationship. God has always wanted relationship. The God of the Old Testament wanted relationship as well as the God of the New. His lovingkindness is everlasting is an often repeated sentence in the Old Testament.

Judgment, as I am suggesting it should be understood, is put on display in one of the most moving and compassionate parables of the Bible, the parable of the prodigal son. After the younger son had sown his wild oats, a famine hit the land and the boy came to his senses and returned home. That famine was a kindness in the larger scheme of things. The worst thing that could have happened to the boy was to remain in his alienated state from his father.

Believers in Jesus can be part of the active process of divine judgment. When a person prays the Lord's Prayer, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done," he or she is agreeing to the judgments of God. Judgments are decisions based in the truth as it is in heaven. The will of God being done means that everything that is not His will must change. The Lord's prayer is a cry for divine intervention to change things. The engagement of heaven against sin is a judgment against sin. Jesus did not come to "condemn the world but to save it." Nevertheless, His coming released a judgment, "because men loved darkness rather than light." Any time sin comes into its true light, judgment is in operation. When abortion is exposed for what it truly is, that is a judgment from heaven. When a wife of an abusive husband wakes up and sees it for what it is, this is a judgment coming to light. Is this the "judgment happy God" in operation? No. It is just God being who He is. "In Him is light and in Him there is no darkness at all." He cannot deny Himself. When God reveals things for what they truly are and for what result they ultimately bring, this is God setting things right. This is how He puts things in order. This is His judgment and it is always good.

When God's people position themselves by faith to bring an alternative to evil, God's judgment makes room for them to take their place and change the culture. The world would be a far more evil and dangerous place without the judgments of God operating.

So the big question on the table is this: "Will God judge America?" My answer is this: the principle of judgment is already in place. And it's a good thing, too, because if they were not then America might continue her present course into destruction. The judgments of God are not idle. They resist darkness and expose lies. They are operating in the church and outside the church. They are operating in the nations. They are operating in Islam and in ISIS. They are operating in the Democratic Party as well as the Republican. God sees it all. God can stop His

judgments at any time when they have fulfilled their purpose which is to bring people back into proper relationship with Himself and with the truth. He may intervene through His mercy, but He is not going to change who He is.

Indeed, judgment is actually an expression of God's mercy. Jesus declared, "What you do in secret will be shouted from the housetops." This is not a threat, it's just the way things have to be, because God is a good judge and He does not sweep things under the rug. He deals with them. I have hope today because God is a God who judges.

"As I live, says the Lord, the earth shall be filled with My glory." – Numbers 14:21. God has sworn on His own life that He will fill the earth with His glory. That means there are some things that have to change. I call this good news.

**"THE TIME IS FULFILLED. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT
HAND. REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS."**

Chapter 1

WILL ANYONE SURVIVE?

As He was preparing for His coronation, The Eternal King (Jesus Christ) turned to His disciples and said, “*The Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.....For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God’s chosen ones*” *Matthew 24:14,21-22 NLT*. We are about to enter a time when men will experience the judgments of God in a way they have never seen before. Most of the people in the world don’t understand what that means. This includes many believers.

In the beginning of time, when satan rebelled against God, he entered into the darkness outside the eternal life of God. In that darkness everything bad exists; destruction, confusion, and eternal death. God immediately touched the darkness and began the process of redemption through His righteous judgments according to His eternal laws.

When God created man, man was a living soul. The eternal life of God’s Spirit controlled his heart and mind. Man was God’s answer to satan’s rebellion. As long as man lived in obedient fellowship with God he had the power to defeat satan and restore life to that which had been lost when satan fell. Satan knew this and deceived man into joining his rebellion. Instead of fellowship with God, man found himself under the judgments of God’s eternal, unchanging laws.

Separated from fellowship with God, man began to experience the darkness of death. Mankind was headed for eternal destruction along with satan. Yet God in His infinite knowledge and wisdom already had a plan to restore man to obedient fellowship with Him. What was God’s plan? God himself would become a man, die an agonizing death on a cruel cross, and defeat satan. Every person who believed this would be restored to fellowship with God. They would be able to grow to know God and overcome satan’s deceptions. God’s Spirit speaks to the heart of every person telling them about this plan. All through history the people who have sought fellowship with God have trusted in this plan, even those who lived before Jesus Christ came. They will survive God’s judgments. This plan defeated satan. It is redeeming from creation all that is part of God’s Eternal Kingdom which satan stole when he rebelled against God.

The purpose of God’s judgments is to destroy satan and satan’s works. God’s judgments cleanse the deceptions of satan from the hearts and minds of people who walk in fellowship with Him. Those who know and love God grow to know Him more through the tough times. The more they know Him, the more they become like Him. They understand that God’s judgments are part of His redemptive process. They live to fulfill God’s purpose and rejoice in what God is doing to redeem creation.

QUESTION: Do you understand that God’s judgments are part of His redemptive process?

Scriptures: Matthew 24, Genesis 1, 1 John 3:8, 2 Thessalonians 1:9, 1Corinthians 14:33, Psalms 6:5, 2 Samuel 22:8-16, Psalms 19, John 17:3, Genesis 3, John 1:9 & 16:7-11, Psalms 49:15 & 62:1, Revelation 20 & 21, Hebrews 12:6-11, and 1 Peter 1:6-9

Chapter 2 WHO’S IN CHARGE ANYWAY?

He was standing before Pilate, the man who had the political power to condemn Him to death. *“Why don’t you talk to me?” Pilate demanded. “Don’t you realize that I have the power to release you or crucify you? Then Jesus said, “You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above.” John 19:10-11*
NLT

One of the biggest deceptions satan has placed in the hearts of people is that God is not in control of what’s happening in the world. Today most people believe that the things that happen are a result of nature. They believe if science can figure out nature, then we can control what’s happening. Science at its best will never scratch the surface of what an all knowing God understands. It will never gain control of what’s happening on earth.

Make no mistake. God is in control of everything. He is not asleep. His Eternal Kingdom, which He set up according to His unchanging eternal laws, rules over everything in time and eternity.

God controls what happens to people. *“We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.” Proverbs 16:9 NLT*

God’s in charge of political decisions. *“The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the LORD; he guides it wherever he pleases.” Proverbs 21:1 NLT*

God determines what happens with the economy. *“He did all this so you would never say to yourself, ‘I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.’ Remember the LORD your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful,” Deuteronomy 8:17-18 NLT*

What happens in a nation is determined by God. *“If I announce that a certain nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed, but then that nation renounces its evil ways, I will not destroy it as I had planned. And if I announce that I will plant and build up a certain nation or kingdom, but then that nation turns to evil and refuses to obey me, I will not bless it as I said I would.” Jeremiah 18:7-10 NLT*

God determines who wins wars. *“The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD.” Proverbs 21:31 NLT*

What happens in nature is spoken into being by God. *“The voice of the LORD is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters. The voice of The Lord is powerful; The voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars, Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon. He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare;” Psalm 29: 3-9 NKJV*

God controls the weather. *“He covers the heavens with clouds, provides rain for the earth, and makes the grass grow in mountain pastures.....He sends the snow like white wool; He scatters frost upon the ground like ashes. He hurls the hail like stones. Who can stand against His freezing cold? Then, at His command, it all melts. He sends His winds, and the ice thaws.” Psalm 147:8 &16-18 NLT*

God is in charge of the food supply. *“You (God) cause grass to grow for the livestock and plants for people to use. You allow them to produce food from the earth-” Psalm 104:14 NLT*

Animals do God’s bidding. *“I (God) will send wild animals that will rob you of your children and destroy your livestock.” Leviticus 26:22 NLT*

Everything that happens is under God’s control. *“Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like Me. Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.” Isaiah 46:9-10 NLT*

So if God is in charge why does evil exist? Evil exists because satan rebelled against God. Those who join satan in his rebellion continue to promote its existence through their disobedience.

God is like a master chess player. His eternal unchanging laws were set up so that His Eternal Kingdom would always be victorious. In His infinite wisdom God made The Eternal Kingdom a place of light, life, love, blessing and goodness. His laws will not allow anything that would take away from that to remain in His Kingdom. God's judgments are His response to the things that would pollute His Kingdom. Through His judgments evil will be completely removed from creation. Because God is in control His Eternal Kingdom will always be a place of light, life, love, blessing and goodness. His desire is for every person to be delivered from evil and become part of His Kingdom. Everything He is doing is so people will escape eternal judgment and live in fellowship with Him.

QUESTION: Do you believe that God is in control of everything?

Scriptures: John 19:10-11, Psalm 121 & 103:19, Malachi 3:6, Numbers 23:19, Psalm 31:15, Proverbs 16:9, Deuteronomy 8:17-18, Jeremiah 18:7-10, Proverbs 21:31, Psalm 29: 3-9, Psalm 147:8 &16-18, Psalm 104:14, Leviticus 26:22 , Isaiah 46:9-10, John 8:44, Deuteronomy 33:26-39, Psalm 119:160, John 3:16, 1 John 1:5 & 4:8, 1 Peter 3:8-9, James 1:17, and 2 Peter 3:9

Chapter 3

HOW BAD WILL IT GET?

He was sending out His followers to spread the good news of God's Kingdom. As He was giving them instructions Jesus Christ said, *"Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell."* *Matthew 10:28 NLT* God's Word makes it clear. In the end, all of this universe that is part of time, will cease to exist.

This will happen when the process of removing evil from creation is complete. Those who have been in fellowship with God will live forever with Him. Those who have chosen to reject God's love and sacrifice will be eternally separated from Him.

So how will this all happen? How bad will it get before time will be no more? We need to understand that God is merciful and gracious in everything He does. His desire is not to destroy, but to redeem. Because of this, His judgments are progressive. They get worse the further we move away from Him through our disobedience.

So what are God's judgments? If you read the Bible from cover to cover, you'll find that the scriptures indicate there are seven types of judgments:

Pestilence refers to plagues and/or diseases that affect living things.

Famine is mentioned several times and can refer to lack in any area. This includes spiritual lack.

The Sword or War refers to people fighting each other. This could be on a personal level, or between groups or nations.

Wild Beasts are Animals that God sends to devour those who fail to repent of their rebellion against Him. They may also devour their livestock and children.

Natural Disasters are spoken of a number of times. Things like drought, hail, floods, fire and earthquakes are part of His judgements.

Physical Death of the body comes to all except a few who walk in close fellowship with God.

Eternal Death and Destruction (The Second Death) are God's final judgments, His wrath, upon those who have hardened their hearts to His voice and are beyond redemption. They will be eternally separated from God, and exist forever in the darkness of Hell.

Because we live in a creation that has been polluted by evil we all experience the affects of God's judgments. How much we experience God's judgments depends on our relationship with God. Those who walk in fellowship with God may suffer the affects of the evil world around them, but will ultimately be delivered from all the judgments of God into the eternal blessings of His Kingdom. Those who reject God's gracious redemption will experience God's wrath, the utter destruction of their soul and body in Hell forever.

How bad will it get? That depends on whether you seek to walk in fellowship with God or reject His love for you.

QUESTION: How bad would it be for you if you died right now?

Scriptures: Matthew 10:28, Luke 12:4-5, 2 Peter 3:2-13, Hebrews 1:8-12, 1 Thessalonians 4:11-15, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10, Psalm 103, Exodus chapters 5-14, Leviticus 26, 2 Chronicles 6:28, Psalm 91, Psalm 105:16, Amos 8:11, Ezekiel 23:22-26, Matthew 10:34-36, Ezekiel 14:21, Haggai 1:9-11, Isaiah 28:1-2 & 29:6, Proverbs 6:12-15 & 29:1, Proverbs 10:29, Revelation 20:14 & 21:8, Romans 5:12-14, and Psalm 34:19

Chapter 4

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

He had just defeated the most powerful enemy He would ever meet. He wanted others to have the same victory. *From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” Matthew 4:17 NLT*

God did not want man to continue being deceived by the devil and suffering the affects of His judgments. God knew all of us are born with a wicked, sinful heart. He understood we must have a spiritual birth in order to be set free from sin (*disobedience to God*) and become part of The Eternal Kingdom. That is why He came to earth as Jesus; died on The Cross; went to hell; destroyed satan’s power over the souls of men; and came back to life in an eternal, transformed body.

Because He loves us, God’s Holy Spirit calls every person to repent of their sins and trust in His redemption with all their heart. This is spiritual birth or being “born again.”

When Jesus died on The Cross and rose from the grave, He provided everything people need to set their souls free from satan’s deceptions and receive eternal life. His redemption was total. He paid the price so people’s spirits, souls and eventually their bodies would be set free from the affects of God’s judgments.

How can a person be “born again?”:

Admit to yourself that you are a sinner. Every person is born with a wicked heart. Things contrary to God’s eternal truth have become part of who we are. There are traditions of men contrary to God’s laws we have believed. Lies that we think are truth have been placed into our hearts and mind. Some of these lies come from deceptive thoughts satan puts in our minds. Some of these are words people have spoken to us that we have received as truth when they are not. We all have fleshly lust which we have yielded to because of satan’s temptations. In order to have these cleansed from our body, soul, and spirit we must get honest with ourselves and God. Admitting we are a sinner, and judging ourselves honestly, enables God to cleanse us and deliver us from His judgments.

Repent of your sins! With all your heart, seek to turn away from all that the Bible calls sin.

Believe with all your heart that Jesus' death and resurrection is the only way you can have a relationship with God.

Pray to God in Jesus name telling Him that you know you are a sinner, and that you repent of your sins. Thank Him for providing redemption through Jesus. Yield control of everything in your life to God. Ask Jesus to become Lord of your life, and to give you a new heart and mind. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with God's power so you can live to please Jesus instead of living to please yourself.

If you do this with all your heart, not just your mind, you will receive eternal life and become part of God's Kingdom. Eternal life is a relationship with God through Jesus.

Like any relationship, your relationship with God will grow as you spend time with Him each day. Because you still live in a physical body with sinful desires you must keep your heart surrendered to God daily in order to walk in fellowship with Him. Remember, if we judge ourselves we will escape God's judgments. This means every area of your life must stay yielded to Him. God must be the most important person in your life. Every goal, ambition, hope and dream you have must come from your times with Him. You must see everything you possess as a gift from God, and seek to please Him in how you use it. His Word, The Bible, must become your daily spiritual bread. You must seek to continually walk in obedience to God through the power of the Holy Spirit. This will help you stay free of the devil's deception. If you do these things you will be set free from the power of sin, grow to know God, and live to fulfill His purpose for your life.

Everyone needs to understand being "born again" is a work of The Holy Spirit in the hearts of people. One of the greatest deceptions satan tries to promote is that you can be "saved" simply by saying a prayer. Prayer only works when there is heart repentance. If there is no desire to please God, then there has probably not been heart repentance. Every person who is living a sinful life style needs to exam their heart to see if they have truly yielded it to Jesus. If God's eternal life is in us we will want to please Him in all we do. Jesus said, "*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*" *Matthew 7:21 NKJV* If a person thinks that they can be part of The Eternal Kingdom and live to please themselves, they are deceived. If you are living to please yourself, you probably didn't believe in Jesus with your heart, or you may be saved as by fire with no eternal reward.

You see, God doesn't just want to save you from Hell; He wants to bless you with everything His Kingdom has to offer. This can only happen if your heart is totally yielded to Him, you grow to know Him, and live to do His will.

God doesn't want anyone to suffer His judgments eternally in Hell. He has provided a way out through The Cross of Jesus Christ. God doesn't send anyone to Hell. People choose to go to Hell by resisting The Holy Spirit, and continuing to live in the wickedness they were born in. What about you? Have you received God's salvation, or are you headed for eternal destruction?

QUESTION: What is your choice Hell or God's Kingdom?

Scriptures: Matthew 4:17; Psalms 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; John 3:3,16 & 16:7-11; 1 John 3:8; Matthew 15:9; John 8:44; Romans 6:12 & 13:13-14; 1 Corinthians 11:31; 1 John 1:9; Romans 2:4&10:9-10; Psalm 51:1-12; John 17:3; Luke 9:23; Luke 14:26,27&33; Matthew 4:4; Galatians 5:13-25; Ephesians 4:17-20 & 5:3-7; Matthew 7:21; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; Revelation 21:7 & 22:12; and Hebrews 2:3

Chapter 5 ARE YOU READY?

As He walked among the multitudes He talked about what it meant to follow Him and escape the judgements of this world. While Jesus was sharing He spoke these words, *"You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected."* Luke 12:40 NLT As He was preparing for His crucifixion He told His followers, *"now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one."* Luke 22:36 NLT The Message translates it this way, *"This is different. Get ready for trouble. Look to what you'll need; there are difficult times ahead. Pawn your coat and get a sword."* Luke 22:36 The Message

In our previous messages we talked about what it meant to be spiritually ready to survive God's judgements. An ongoing relationship with God The Father through Jesus The Son is the key to surviving any catastrophe that comes our way. If everything we have is truly surrendered to Him, we will be prepared to leave it all on a moment's notice, and go where Jesus tells us to go. The early church in Acts 8 had to do that. The apostle Paul also had to do it numerous times. God does not want us to be unprepared to leave on a moment's notice at the leading of His Spirit. His instructions to His disciples in Luke 22:36 make that clear. Being ready to survive disasters requires not only spiritual, but physical and material preparation.

Each person must seek God's wisdom on how to prepare. His instructions to us may vary depending on our circumstances and calling in The Lord.

Here are some of the things we have learned about physical and material preparation from the difficult times we have faced throughout our lives. From our experience **PRAYERFULLY PREPARING FOR DISASTER INVOLVES:**

1. **GROWING TO KNOW GOD.** Learn to hear His voice. Only He can tell you what you should do. He will tell you whether to leave or stay. If He tells you to leave, He'll also tell you where to go.

2. **BEING READY FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF LEAVING IN 5 MINUTES OR LESS.**
Here are some things to consider.

A. **HAVING AN EMERGENCY PACK** that you carry with you all the time. This pack is designed to help you survive an emergency for 3 days until help arrives. It should contain the following:

Should weigh 10lbs./4.5kg or less

Bible (Small)

Blanket (Emergency Survival)

Documents (Include Family contact list with names, addresses, phone numbers, and Email addresses. You also need copies of important personal documents such as; passport, driver's license, medical coverage, etc.)

Emergency Poncho

Flashlight

First Aid kit (Small)

Food (Protein and Energy bars for 3 days)

HAM Handi Talkie or hand held CB radio

Knife (Swiss Army Type)

Medicines & Vitamins

Money

Tissue & Handi wipes

Toiletries

Underwear (1 set)

Water Bottles (1 Liter Plus Filter Straw)

Whistle (Emergency type with matches and survival supplies inside)

B. **HAVING A SURVIVAL PACK ALSO KNOWN AS A GO PACK OR BUG OUT BAG.** This pack is designed to help you get through the first 3 days after an

emergency and survive indefinitely if the system totally breaks down. Placed where you can get to it quickly if needed.

Should weigh 50lbs./22.5kg or less

Bible (Small)

Binoculars (Small)

Clothes (2 complete changes) plus Emergency Rain Gear

Documents (Including Family contact list with names, addresses, phone numbers, and Email addresses. You also need copies of important personal documents such as; passport, driver's license, medical coverage, etc.)

Flashlight and Head Lamp

First Aid kit (Small)

Food (Protein and Energy bars, and ready to eat food for 3 days)

Gloves (Preferably Leather)

HAM Handi Talkie or hand held CB radio

Knife (Swiss Army Type)

Lighter (Propane)

Medicines and Vitamins

Mess Kit

Money (Minted silver coins are a good alternative to paper money)

Multi Tool (Hatchet, shovel, hammer, saw combo)

Radio (Battery, Hand Cranked, and/or Solar Powered)

Sleeping Bag (Emergency Survival) and air mattress (small, insulated)

Tent (Small 5lbs. or less)

Tissue & Handi wipes

Toiletries

Water Bottles (1 Liter Plus Filter)

Weapons (Pistol, Survival Rifle, and/or Sword or Machete)

Whistle (Emergency type with matches and survival supplies inside)

Wood Stove (Small, Hand Held, & Portable)

YOU MAY NEED TO ADJUST THE LISTS TO MEET YOUR PERSONAL OR CULTURAL NEEDS.

3. THINKING ABOUT TRANSPORTATION. If you have a vehicle DO NOT let the gas tank get below 1/2. Try to always back into the place where you park your car. This will allow you to leave quicker if there is an emergency. BICYCLES are usually a good alternative means of transportation.

4. **HAVING A PREDETERMINED PLACE** where you feel God wants you to go in case of disaster. Make sure all family members know how to get there. Family members should carry a piece of paper with the name, a map, and address of the place they are to go. Also contact information, phone numbers, email addresses, etc. of other family members. **PLAN YOUR ESCAPE ROUTE SO YOU WILL AVOID MAIN ROADS.** They will probably be too congested in an emergency.

5. **MAINTAINING AT LEAST A THIRTY DAY SUPPLY OF NON PERISHABLE FOOD AND GOODS.** Keep it in a container or trunk you can grab on a moment's notice and place in your vehicle. Rotate the contents every 3 months.

6. **MAINTAINING A CONTAINER OF CAMPING EQUIPMENT** that you can grab and place in your vehicle on a moment's notice. This container should include tents, air mattresses, air pump, sleeping bags, cooking utensils, etc.

7. **KEEPING YOUR IMPORTANT FAMILY DOCUMENTS IN A SMALL WATERPROOF CONTAINER** that you can grab on a moment's notice. This container should include deeds, birth certificates, passports, insurance papers, Wills, Powers of Attorney, bank documents, etc.

8. **HAVING SOLAR POWER FOR CELL PHONES, LIGHTS AND OTHER THINGS AVAILABLE.** You may want to include this in the things you pack.

9. **KEEPING ANY MEDICATIONS YOU TAKE IN A SMALL WATERPROOF CONTAINER** that you can grab on a moment's notice.

10. **PREPARING A PLACE TO FLEE TO AHEAD OF TIME** if God blesses and you're able to do it. You will want to keep at least a 6 months' supply of non-perishable items there. Be sure to rotate these supplies as much as you can.

11. **PRACTICING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS** twice a year if possible.

REMEMBER OUR HOPE IS IN GOD! He is the one we are to look to when disaster comes. Be as ready as you can and then approach each situation with prayer. *A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.* Proverbs 22:3 & 27:12 NKJV

QUESTION: Are you ready for the end of all things as we know it?
It could come any day!

Scriptures: Luke 12:40 & 22:36, The book of Acts, and Proverbs 22:3 & 27:12

APPENDIX VIOLENCE AND THE KINGDOM

Seek peace and pursue it; but understand that The Kingdom of God is forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it. For this reason you need to be prepared with funds, a “Go” bag and a weapon.

Do not concern yourself with worldly needs, but seek to help people become part of The Eternal Kingdom. As you go about your daily life help people see The Kingdom by what you say and do. Work for justice. “Help the down-and-out. Stand up for the homeless. Fight for the defenseless. You’re here to defend the defenseless, to make sure that underdogs get a fair break.” “Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people. Your job is to stand up for the powerless, and act against all those who exploit them.” If you see a person being attacked by evil people and do nothing to help them, does God’s love dwell in you?

Remember whatever you do in word and deed must not be done for selfish reasons, but to bring glory to God. “Do your best, prepare for the worst—then trust GOD to bring victory.” “The world is unprincipled. It’s dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn’t fight fair.” God teaches us how to fight the battles we face in life. As followers of Jesus “we don’t live or fight our battles the world’s way—never have and never will. The tools of our trade aren’t for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture. We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ.”

“Our tools are ready at hand for clearing the ground of every obstruction and building lives of obedience into maturity. That about wraps it up. God is strong, and He wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we’ll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the devil and all his angels. Be prepared. You’re up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it’s all over but the shouting you’ll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You’ll need them throughout your life. God’s Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your

brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out."

Question: Are you doing your best and prepared for the worst as you seek to be used of God to establish His Kingdom on earth?

Scriptures: The message above is a personal paraphrase and quotes from Psalms 34:14; Matthew 11:12; Luke 22:36; Matthew 6:25-34, 10:7-8; Isaiah 1:17; Psalms 82:3-4; 1 John 3:17; Colossians 3:17; Psalms 144:1; Proverbs 21:31; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6; and Ephesians 6:10-18

The quotes are from the NKJV, The Message, and the NLT.

NOTE: Some reading this message may be concerned about Luke 22:36. It seems to stand in direct contradiction to Matthew 26:52. From experience we should know when two scriptures seem to contradict each other that there is a deeper truth somewhere. It can only be found by searching out other scriptures. If Jesus literally meant that everyone who used earthly weapons to fight would die by those weapons many good men would die violent deaths. David, a man of war, died peacefully in His bed. The traditional understanding of Matthew is better stated "Those who live by the sword shall die by the sword." A deeper study of the words used there allow for this interpretation. As we understand it Jesus was rebuking Peter for depending on the arm of flesh rather than allowing himself to be guided by The Spirit. Being led of The Spirit does not mean we can't use things of this world when fighting our battles. It does mean we must seek God in every earthly battle we fight. From scripture we see that King David did this in his earthly battles with the Philistines.

We have tried to make it clear in "Violence and The Kingdom;" that all we do must be done for God's Glory and His Kingdom. There can be no fear or self-motive in the way we react in the battles we fight on earth. That being said, it is clear from scripture that we have a God given responsibility to protect and fight for our families and those God places in our sphere of influence, from the attacks of the enemy of men's souls. Not fighting in the flesh doesn't mean we passively sit there and do nothing expecting God to send a lightning bolt from heaven. We must seek God's wisdom, and do what we can do, trusting God to do the rest.

Having a weapon or not having a weapon won't keep us from reacting carnally when we're attacked. Only learning to walk in The Spirit instead of the flesh will do that. Peter seems to have learned this lesson when he spoke death over Ananias and Sapphira; something much more severe than cutting off an ear, but okay because it was done in The Spirit. Walking across India carrying a large cross, we were confronted on more than one occasion by the radical Hindus. On every occasion God gave us victory. One time a large group rode up on motorcycles and scooters. I could hear them coming up behind me and one of our coworkers whispered, "the radical Hindus are here". I prayed and God led me to wait until they were almost upon me. When they were within a few feet I stopped, and without thinking lifted the cross off the ground and into the air. Then I stood it up in front of me. The crowd instantly stopped in their tracks. I looked at the person who The Spirit told me was the leader, and asked, "Sir what is your question?" He stood silent for a few seconds and then said to me, "I just want to tell you how happy we are to have you here in India." The crowd turned around, got on their cycles and scooters and left. God had delivered us one more time.

Jesus told us we need to have a weapon for a reason. It doesn't mean we must use it to harm people, although we cannot say ahead of time what God's Spirit might prompt us to do. Part of God's judgments is the release of wild beasts on the earth. In 2013 there were 50,000 abandoned dogs roaming the streets of Detroit in packs of 20. The Post Office could not even deliver the mail in some places because of the danger. Only an assault weapon, which many want banned, can handle that kind of danger. As we see it, if Jesus said we need a weapon then it was for a reason. All we can do is obey and trust God to give us the understanding of how to use it.

We hope this message helps you understand about violence and The Kingdom. God is loving, merciful and gracious in all His ways, but He is not a pacifist. Psalms 24:8 tells us He is mighty in battle against all that resist His Kingdom. Even Jesus became violent when He saw His Father's house being desecrated. Let us join Him in the battle to bring His Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven.

Proverbs 24:11 Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to die;
save them as they stagger to their death.

¹²Don't excuse yourself by saying, "Look, we didn't know."

For God understands all hearts, and he sees you.

He who guards your soul knows you knew.

He will repay all people as their actions deserve.

Henry & Rita Pulsifer

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