

PREPERATIONS FOR THE COMING STORM

MATT 7: 13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?

17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit.

19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

21 “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.

22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’

23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

26 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

JAMES 1:22 But be you doers of the Word and not hears only

MATT. 16: 2 He answered and said to them, “When it is evening you say, ‘*It will be fair weather, for the sky is red*’;

3 and in the morning, *'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.'* Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but **you cannot discern the signs of the times.**

4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed.

INTRO: All of us who live along the Coast of the Gulf of Mexico are very familiar with **storm warnings** and **hurricane preparations**. Unfortunately many of us are also personally familiar with **the destruction** that a hurricane brings having suffered loss ourselves or have friends and family members who have. Even those who are not so familiar with the personal destruction of storms and hurricanes have seen what they can do because they have seen via TV the complete destruction of homes, businesses, and personal property as well as the loss of many lives. We have all witnessed the tragedy, the terror, the sorrow, the heartbreak and the shock of those who have been hit and have suffered tremendous loss.

In the past couple of years we have witnessed the ravages of unusual earthly events as tsunamis, hurricanes, typhoon's, earth quakes, volcanoes, mud slides, fires and tornadoes which have destroyed homes and the lives of hundreds of thousands of people around the world.

The Word of God, the Bible speaks of a soon coming storm that will wipe out just about all the world's economy and destroy over two-thirds of the world's population, a judgment of this world and its people that will be absolutely devastating and final. The words of Jesus in the passages we just read were given as a warning for us all to be prepared, to get ready and stay ready as we see the coming storm approaching.

Most anyone with common sense can see for themselves that strange, very strange and unusual things are going on NOW right before our very eyes. There are very graphic and dynamic warnings in our society, our economy, our world and circumstances in life that something is about to happen in this country and to our world. Even many of those who are not so spiritual can sense in their very being that something is very wrong. Something is going on. This in itself is a warning from God.

Now I realize that as Christians we are not to be fearful, (2 TIM. 1:7) we're not to worry about anything and to cast all our cares upon Him for He cares for us and we are not saying that you should be fearful. But we are saying that as Christians we should be very concerned for our safety and the safety of our loved ones. We are saying just as Jesus did and His Word does that we are to warn people to be prepared, to make ready for what is about to come. The Word of God is filled with warnings to both the saved and the unsaved to get their house, their souls in order and to be prepared for the end. **Jesus even gave us many personal signs and parables of His coming with instructions to HIS DISCIPLES AND FOLLOWERS to WATCH OUT.**

(The parable of the **10 virgins (Matt.25)** and the story of **the thief breaking into a man's home (Matt.24:43)** are examples of this.

Only a fool would set comfortably by and make no preparations in the direct path of the soon land fall of a category 5 or larger super hurricane, how much more the coming judgment of God upon this world.

Under **normal hurricane preparations** there are things which **WE ARE TO DO**. Radio and TV are constantly updating us on the approximate time of arrival of the storm, where it is expected to make land fall and giving us instructions as to what to do in order to be prepared. **SO DOES THE BIBLE (GOD'S WORD) ALL OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS WITH REGARD TO PREPARATIONS INVOLVE GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE.**

THERE ARE MANY TRANSLATIONS OF THE BIBLE AND MOST OF THEM ARE OK OR GOOD, SOME ARE NOT GOOD. OTHERS ARE JUST COMPLETELY BAD AND ARE LITERALLY FILLED WITH LIES AND DECEITFUL ERRORS. **I RECOMMEND FOR OUR CHURCH THE NEW KING JAMES VERSION** SO THAT WE WILL ALL BE ON THE SAME PAGE. **IN MY OPINION IT IS ONE OF THE BETTER ONE'S AND GENERALLY FOLLOWS THE ORIGINAL KING JAMES VERSION.**

STORM PREPARATIONS:

(A) Early preparations include:

Making sure **your house is structurally sound** and **on a solid FOUNDATION**. Use **Hurricane straps and tie downs** on unsecured buildings and trailer houses. (**Secure things of value; Your eternal soul** and **the lives of loved ones**) (**MATT. 7:24-25; 1COR.3:10-11; MATT. 16:18**)

Final or last minute preparations Include: **Flee from the wrath to come, Get out, Run, : NOAH'S DAY'S (MATT. 24:37-39) & MODERN TIMES.** (History is filled with stories of those who did not leave and they stayed for various reasons and lost their lives. **They failed to heed the warnings; Paid no attention to the warnings, just ignored them** or **they just did not hear the warnings** and of **those who were just casual with the warnings** and **decided to have hurricane and surf parties and stayed and lost their lives.** Or **they just could not leave their stuff behind**) There are also those who for various reasons have to stay through the storm.

(A) Early preparations (Continued)

1. Clean your yard; **of all items which could be used by the storm to be destructive items;** We don't need things in our lives that can be used by the storm to destroy us.

We need to lay aside the things that clutter up our lives and load us down. (LUKE 21:34-36; 2 COR. 6:17 - 7:1; 1PET.1:13-17)

The weights and the sins that so easily beset us. (HEB 12:1-2)

2. Store up water; Keep being filled with the Holy Spirit the water of Life. (ST JOHN 7:37-38; EPH 5:15-19)

3. Store up food; The Bread of Life, the Living Word of God. Know it, study it, use it in all the affairs of your life. (MATT.4:4; 1 PET.2:1-2; PSA. 119: 9, 11, 105, 130)

4. Have plenty of batteries on hand; We need God's Power in our lives and stored up within us to know where to find it and how to use it in bad times. (EPH 6:10; EPH 3:16-20)

5. Have a radio and know where to tune in; Learn how to hear from God and know how to find His frequency. You will not want to be fumbling around in the dark trying to find HIM and HIS instructions. "BE STILL, and know that I am God;" (PSA 46:10; ST JOHN 10:3, 16, 27; PSA 119:130)

6. Have flash lights and extra power available; We need to be able to SEE in the darkness, when the lights go out and we need to move about. "The entrance of God's Word brings light" and the more of it we store up in our minds and our hearts the longer the power will last. (PSA 119: 105, 130; MATT.5:14-16; PHI. 2:12-15)

7. Keep your car filled with gas and ready to go; We do not want to be so tangled up in the affairs of life that it will take us too long to get ready, never be so earthly minded that you forget Heaven. THE 10 VIRGINS and the SEED SOWN AMONG THE THORNS. (MATT.25:1-13; LUKE 21:34-36; MATT.13:22)

8. Board up windows and doors; Protect your body (God's House) "put on the whole armor of GOD". (EPH 6:10-18; ROM.12:1-2; JAMES 4:7-8)

9. Have an emergency first aid kit on hand, (THE WORD OF GOD) Be prepared to help the weak and infirm, Have it on hand and know how to pour on the oil and the wine. "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves." (ROM.15:1; GAL.6:1-2)

10. Have a map: with the evacuation routes marked, Have planned meeting place. "For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come". (PSA. 119:105; COL. 3:1-4; HEB.12:1-2; HEB.13:14; MATT. 6:33-34)

11. Know where to go (Nearest shelter, **JESUS**), if you have to leave your home be aware of downed power lines, snakes, flying debris, etc., “**Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; In YOU I take shelter.**” Over and over in the Psalms we Read; **The Lord is My Rock, My fortress, My shield, My High Tower, My Shelter.** In the New Testament many times repeated, The Lord Jesus says, **FEAR NOT,** and **MY PEACE I GIVE UNTO YOU LET NOT YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED.** (**PSA.60:11; PSA.61:3-4; PSA. 143:9**)

12. Have some cash on hand; Have some **spiritual wealth stored up, don't depend on artificial sources of help.** Learn **NOW** how to depend on the Lord Jesus for everything. **We depend upon HIM by FAITH. “FAITH COMES BY HEARING HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD”.**

Every hardship and difficulty NOW presents us with the opportunity to know Him and to experience HIS help now. **We must learn how to TRUST HIM in all things.** (**ROM 10:17; PSA.119:11; 2 TIM.2:15**)

13. Don't Panic(Peace); Know Your Heavenly Father so well that He Provides for you peace in the midst of the panic, stressful preparations of life and also during the actual storms of Life. “**Thou will keep him in perfect peace who's mind is stayed on thee, because he trust in thee**”. (**ISA. 26:3; JOHN 14:27; John 16:33**)

14. Get the handicapped and sick to safety first. How many close family members, friends and relatives do we have that or spiritually blind, lost and some babies in Christ, and those who are weak, malnourished and spiritually sick that we need to help. Love them, speak to them, warn them help them with the WORD OF GOD. Don't be a bore or pushy or argumentative. (**2 TIM. 2:24-26; JUDE 1:23**)

MATT.24: 21 For then **there will be great tribulation, such as has not been** since the beginning of the world until this time, no, **nor ever shall be.**

22 And **unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved;** but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

LUKE 21: 34 “But **take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.**

35 For **it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.**

36 **Watch therefore, and pray** always that **you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass,** and to stand before the Son of Man.”