

ARE YOU PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE?

4/14/07

Luke 21:34 take heed -- not preoccupied with carousing,
drunkenness and cares of this life -- so
that the day comes upon you unawares
35 the day shall come as a snare upon all that dwell
upon the face of the whole earth

* How does the future come as a snare?

1. People do not read the prophecies.
2. People read the prophecies, but become
distracted by life.
3. People are sincere and zealous, but they
misinterpret the prophecies.

SOME FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES

Matt. 6:25,31 take no anxious thought
Job 1:10 hedge
Prov. 21:31 prepare -- trust in God

HOW CAN WE PREPARE PHYSICALLY?

Rev. 6:1-8 first 4 seals
1-2 1st seal -- white horse
3-4 2nd seal -- red horse
5-6 3rd seal -- black horse
7-8 4th seal -- pale horse

* Is it wise to stockpile food?

Gen. 41:1-24 Pharaoh's 2 dreams
25-32 Joseph interpreted the dreams
33-36 Joseph gave advice to Pharaoh
34 take up the 5th part of the land during the 7 years
of plenty
35 gather food during those good years -- lay up food -
- keep food in the cities
37-45 Pharaoh appointed Joseph
48-49 Joseph gathered food during the good years
53 the famine came
54 there was bread in the land of Egypt
57 countries came to Egypt to buy corn

- * Question -- Do I have to share my stockpiled food with everyone?

Matt. 25:35-40 giving to the least -- giving to Christ
 Matt. 25:8-9 the wise said -- go buy for yourselves

- * Question -- Doesn't stockpiling items create a possibility of violence against me?
 Answer -- Maybe.

Here is an interesting corollary question --
 What is your conscience and conviction about the subject of self-defense?

Whether you believe in self-defense or not, please consider the following 2 sections of scripture -- Psalm 91:1-16 and Isaiah 54:17

HOW CAN WE PREPARE SPIRITUALLY?

- * Draw close to God.

James 4:7 resist the devil and he will flee from you
 8 draw close to God and He will draw close to you
 Eph. 2:3 prince of the power of the air
 Eph. 6:12 spiritual warfare in the mind
 Rev. 12:10 accuser of the brethren

- * Be a living sacrifice.
 In history, the Savior and His early disciples were persecuted and martyred. He may require that of you. Either way, be a living sacrifice.

John 13:36 Jesus said -- you can not follow Me now -- but you shall follow Me later
 2 Tim. 2:11-12 if we be dead with Christ, we shall live with Christ -- if we suffer, we shall reign with Him
 Rev. 6:9-11 5th seal -- martyrdom
 Matt. 10:39 willing to lose our life for His sake -- (also, Matt. 16:25 and Luke 14:26-33)
 Rom. 12:1-2 be a living sacrifice
 Rom. 14:7-8 whether we live or die, we are the Lord's
 1 Pet. 2:19-25 Christ lived a perfect example of suffering wrongfully
 1 Pet. 4:10 minister to one another -- stewards of grace
 James 1:26 seems to be religious + does not bridle his tongue = his religion is vain
 27 serve the needs of people -- keep unspotted from the world