Y2K PREPARATION : ARE YOU A PROCRASTINATOR? : PART 1

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Y2K Hype And Love Of Money, Bad News Sells, False Prophets of Peace Plenty And Safety, Wise Man Prepares, Test Of Faith In Egypt, Food And Basic Needs Preparation Tips, Prepare Now Noah's Obedient Example, Price Of Unbelief, Parable Of The Ten Virgins, Responsible To Our Families, Christians Helping Christians, Y2K - God's Judgment?, The Beginning Of Sorrows

As I have mentioned on a number of occasions, due to the untruthful nature of the world's governments, plus the highly sensationalistic nature of the mass media, none of us honestly know how adverse the effects of the Y2K glitch will actually be, until the day that it happens. At this current time, it is possible that it is being over-exaggerated, so that some money-minded people can profit from panic-buying by concerned citizens. Millions of dollars have already been spent on dehydrated and freeze-dried food stuffs, and other necessary items, by many survival-oriented people; and sales will surely continue to rise as the fateful day insidiously approaches. A lot of income has also been generated by the publishers of books, magazines, newspapers, survival videos, survival seminars, etc., who see Y2K as their 'cash cow'. Sadly, in our current sinful world, disasters, bad news and gossip seem to be what sells the most, and there are many unscrupulous people who are more than willing to take full advantage of this fact. As the Apostle Paul wrote to his son in the faith, Timothy:

"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while ome coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and ierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1 Timothy 6:10, KJV

At the same time, it is also possible that the severity of Y2K is purposely being played down and de-emphasized, in order to avoid widespread panic; or in order to better and more effectively accomplish the predetermined objectives of the behind-the-scenes Controllers, who control the world's financial systems, and thus the world itself. By keeping the world lulled to sleep with their lies of peace and safety, and their 'all-is-well; we are Y2K compliant' attitude, these evil schemers are in effect giving people as little time as possible to prepare for what may begin to happen before, and what will continue to happen on and after the clock strikes 1/1/00 several months from now.

I am reminded of the following verses of Scripture which fully expose this false spirit of complacency, and those who promote it. The first verse is repeated twice in the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, and describes the deceptive mentality of the Jewish political and spiritual leadership, just prior to the Babylonian invasion of approximately 587 B.C., which resulted in the complete destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple built by Solomon, the death of thousands of Jews, and the enslavement of thousands more in Babylonia for a period of seventy years. The final verse describes the attitude of the wicked in the Last Days, just prior to Christ's Return:

"They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people lightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace." eremiah 6:14, KJV

"For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people lightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace." eremiah 8:11, KJV

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." 1 Thessalonians 5:3, KJV

Being as at this current time none of us can precisely determine the full impact that the Y2K glitch may have on our lives, and also due to the fact that we simply cannot depend upon, or trust in, the words or the wisdom of worldly men, as Christians, we should do what we have always done; and that is to look to God and His Word for our answers. Upon doing so, we find the following wise counsel written two times in the Book of Proverbs:

"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but he simple pass on, and are punished." Proverbs 22:3, KJV

"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but he simple pass on, and are punished." Proverbs 27:12, KJV

Clearly, the writer is saying that if a person has knowledge of an approaching danger, then if he is a wise, prudent man, he will do everything within his power in order to prepare for the same. If he does not do this, then it will be his own foolish fault if he is washed away by the flood of God's chastisemnts. A prime example of this is found in the story concerning the final plague upon Egypt, just prior to the liberation of the children of Israel from the same. As the following verses reveal, the Israelites had to put feet to their faith; they had to show their utmost trust in Moses and the Lord; by placing lamb's blood upon their houses; and then remaining inside; so that the Angel of Death would pass them by:

"Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover. And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you." Exodus 12:21-23, KJV If you study the previous verses in this chapter, you will see that the whole reason why the Lord told His people that He was going to do this, was so that they would take the time to properly prepare themselves for the coming plague, and not be caught off guard and destroyed, as were the ungodly Egyptians. As we are told by the Prophet Amos:

"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." Amos 3:7, KJV

While it is not physically possible at this current time for most people to just run off and hide in a wilderness retreat until the danger passes, due to their commitments to their jobs and their families, or due to financial limitations or health restrictions, such as old age, we can all at least make some minimal preparations for the Y2K rollover. With that in mind, allow me to suggest the following steps which I encourage you to take, in order to be both physically and spiritually prepared for the possible effects of the Y2K glitch. If you are trapped within a large city, then it is imperative that you make these preparations as soon as you can, as it will be more difficult to do so weeks or months from now, if and when the Y2K chaos strikes your city or town:

Physical Food And Basic Needs Preparation :

Due to the uncertainty factor surrounding the Y2K glitch, it is wise to prepare to survive for a minimum of three months without electricity, possibly without running water, and if the situation really deteriorates, perhaps with very little, if any, food and other daily necessities found on your local supermarket shelves. If transportation becomes limited, due to the failure of computer chips in vehicles, or because of government rationing of gasoline and diesel fuel, this will definitely have a direct impact on the supply lines for most businesses which cater to our basic needs. If refrigeration is limited, this will also affect what, and how much food supermarket chains will be able to make available to their customers; that is, assuming that they are even still open for businesses.

Not only that, but if the effects of the Y2K glitch are very severe, it may become outright dangerous for one to even go out food shopping during the first several weeks or months following January 1, 2000! Desperate, armed, and dangerous people just might be waiting around the corner, ready to harm or kill you, in order to steal your precious food and drink. In fact, they may have even taken over the store! Some survivalists are anticipating a state of total chaos and anarchy due to events which may possibly result from, or purposely be put into motion, because of the Y2K computer glitch. I discuss this topic in more detail in the companion article 'Y2K: How Bad Will It Get?'. Depending upon the severity of the situation, your local government, military and police force may not be able to effectively deal with the unrest, particularly if your whole country suddenly goes berserk! There simply aren't enough of them to meet every need!

While I personally do not intend to spend thousands of

dollars on freeze-dried foods like many other people are currently doing, I am making certain preparations within my means, by stocking up on canned foods such as corn, green beans, salmon, tuna, chili with beans, ravioli, and other non-perishable canned food stuffs. Assorted nuts, rice, peanut butter, salt, spices, honey, and dried fruits such as raisins, figs and apricots are other good options you ought to seriously consider.

Unless you have a large family, please keep in mind that, even though it may be more expensive this way, it is better to purchase small canned items, which only offer one or two servings; as you may not have the electricity to refrigerate it after opening it. In other words, you will have to eat all of it in a relatively short period of time. Of course, being as Y2K is going to strike in the middle of winter for those of you who live in the northern hemisphere, while you may have serious problems heating your homes, your food will last longer without refrigeration, simply by using some ice or snow.

If you happen to have a large aquarium in your home, you may wish to consider emptying it out, cleaning it thoroughly, and then filling it up with tap water and covering it well with dark plastic bags, or with a blanket, in order to keep out the sunlight. You can keep the water pure, without slime or algae, by adding the necessary amount of bleach as often as needed. Of course, you will still want to boil it on your little butane burner, or whatever type of cooking stove you happen to have. In recent days, it has also occurred to me that it would be wise to have a backup stove on hand in case the first one malfunctions for some reason. Naturally, make sure that you stock up on enough cans of butane to last you for at least a few months. You will probably be eating a lot less cooked food, but you will need the butane stove to warm up canned foods, to cook your rice, to sterilize water, etc.

It is also a wise idea to obtain as many five gallon water jugs as you possibly can. If this size is too difficult for you to handle, you can also purchase the one gallon jugs by the case. This is precisely what we have chosen to do in our home. As of this writing, we have a full seven months supply of drinking water in one gallon jugs. Believe me, if both the power and the water fail, you will wish that you had stored up as much water as you possibly could; not just for drinking, cooking and bathing purposes, but think also of how many times you will need water to flush the toilet; unless you live out in the country and have an outhouse of course. City dwellers will not be able to avail themselves of such a luxury; and under such conditions, an outhouse would indeed seem like a luxury for those who are trapped in their home or apartment in the city without running water.

A large supply of bleach will also become a necessity. It will serve many purposes; such as for treating water; if you should still have any that is. While it isn't good to use in the toilet, because of the dangerous gas which is produced when bleach and urine are mixed, that is what we use; so if you do choose this route instead of some other liquid, please be extremely careful with the fumes! You will also want to stock up on plenty of candles and stick matches. Calculate two or three candles per room per night for at least a three-month period, and use them as sparingly as possible. You will also want to make sure that you keep the matches in plastic bags, so that the match heads aren't ruined by moisture before it actually comes time to use them; and of course, as with all dangerous items, keep them out of the reach of young children!

Toilet paper, handsoap, bathsoap, shampoo, mouthwash and toothpaste are also important necessities, along with any other personal toiletries that you feel you may need. One very useful item which a dear friend of mine suggested, are what are known in the United States as 'Wet Ones' or 'baby wipes'. These are small, pre-folded, damp cloths which are usually scented, and treated mildly with some antiseptic agent, such as alcohol, and packaged in either plastic tubs, or foiled packages. In the event that your city's water system fails, having this item on hand will be very useful for refreshing your hands and face, for cleaning up after meals, and for other purposes as well.

It would also be wise to stock up on large plastic garbage bags as well, as it will be much better to dispose of toilet paper in this manner, rather than to fill up the toilet with it; which will only require more water for flushing. Just remember to keep that plastic bag tied up so that the smell doesn't overwhelm you. If you have one or more women in your family, you will also need to stock up on plenty of sanitary napkins as well; and I suggest that you dispose of those in a separate tied double plastic bag after usage.

You will also want to have plenty of batteries on hand for your am/fm/short wave radio, and for your flashlights. A battery-operated radio may be your only communication with the outside world until the situation normalizes to some degree. In our case, we also have a small battery-operated tape recorder in order to listen to our KJV Bible tapes. Keep in mind though that if you use your batteries in any devices which have moving parts, they will not last nearly as long as they would in a radio.

If you are in an area where you are permitted to burn your garbage outside, you may even want to consider keeping your trash items separated between burnables and non-burnables. In fact, this system is already a common practice in some ecologically-minded countries, such as Japan. If the entire system fails as some people are predicting it will, you will quickly learn to appreciate your garbage men, who may no longer be able to pick up your weekly trash.

The above list of food and survival items is by no means complete. It is my intention to simply offer some basic ideas to get you started on your preparation plans, if you haven't already done so. This article was written on the spur of the moment, and contains what I consider practical, common sense plans. I did not refer to any type of survival manuals or similar books before writing it. I am sure that you will think of other things which you will need in order to survive the initial chaotic period which may follow the night of January 1, 2000. This may include such items as gas generators, medical supplies, heavy duty extension cords, etc. Of course, as I mentioned earlier, if the effects of the Y2K glitch are severe, gasoline may become rationed, or totally impossible to obtain; so your generator may become useless after a few weeks at best, when your initial supply of fuel runs out.

Prepare Now! :

The last thing you want to do is to procrastinate and wait until the last minute. You need to remember that the closer we get to January 1, 2000, the more some people are going to begin to wake up to the threat. Some people may even become frantic; and some will desperately try to prepare during the last several weeks and days before the fateful day arrives. Supplies will disappear off of the store shelves quickly, and you will be hard-pressed to find them; and it may become dangerous to even shop during those last few weeks and days, as I mentioned a moment ago.

That being the case, you should start now! So as not to draw too much attention to what you are doing, especially if you live in a big city which may become extremely dangerous when the power and the water fail, and food and other items of necessity start to disappear, you may want to do a little extra shopping everyday, or even go to different stores that carry the same products that you need, so that it doesn't become obvious that you are buying in bulk and storing up for Y2K. You may even want to consider doing your shopping after dark so as to draw even less attention to yourself. Don't be a fool! Even the nicest people can turn on you when they are hungry and thirsty.

Since I first wrote this article several month ago, a few of my Christians friends have written to me expressing alarm over the fact that I would make such comments in the last paragraph. Indirectly, they appear to be saying that there is some degree of selfishness in my recommendation to use secrecy while stockpiling your survival goods. One dear friend went so far as to share the following verses with me:

"But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smitch thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again." Luke 6:27-30, KJV

"But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful." Luke 6:35,36, KJV

This person then stated 'I say who cares if someone steals my laid up stores of food. I trust that the Lord will supply my needs! Also, if there is a food crisis, I plan on sharing all that I have with believers and non believers, so that I can further the work of the Lord in my community.' Obviously, I cannot argue against the Lord's words which this person shared with me, for they are indeed true; yet, at the same time, we must also remember that when trying to understand the Bible, we must make certain that we balance Scripture with Scripture in order to gain the full, proper perspective. I discuss this same topic in a number of other articles, such as in 'Rightly Dividing The Word Of Truth'. While Jesus did indeed instruct us to behave in this manner when it comes to the treatment of our enemies, and their desire to do us harm in some way, when the Lord sent out His Disciples to preach the Gospel, He also said to them:

"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." Matthew 10:16, KJV

The Lord expects us to exercise a certain degree of wisdom and common sense in whatever we do for Him; and this thought is precisely the main theme of the verse I shared with you earlier from the Book of Proverbs. Allow me to share it with you once again:

"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished." Proverbs 22:3, KJV

As I have already explained, the Lord, through Solomon, is clearly telling us that if people don't hide themselves, or prepare, when they have foreknowledge of a certain calamity approaching, then it is their own fault if they suffer, due to their own negligence and slothfulness. They could have prepared, but they chose not to. The Y2K problem has been publicized in the mass media for quite some time now in many parts of the world. Many people realize the serious dangers they may face if they don't properly prepare for it. God has apparently issued His warning to the world, but He will not force anyone to take heed to it if they don't want to. This is where personal choice and faith enter the picture. I am reminded of the Lord's words which He spoke concerning the Flood which occurred in Noah's day. His comments are found in the Endtime chapter of Matthew twenty-four:

"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:37-39, KJV

Those wicked people knew what was coming. Noah and his family were a constant, faithful witness to them for one hundred to one hundred and twenty years; yet those fools just laughed and scoffed at the crazy boat builders, and continued living their merry lives until they were all washed away by the Flood of God's judgments. One would think that of those millions of people who probably lived on the Earth during Noah's time, at least some of them must have approached the Ark, and begged Noah to let them in once the flood waters began to rise; but you see, as Peter and Paul both tell us, only Noah's household, only eight persons, were saved:

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Hebrews 11:7, KJV

"Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." 1 Peter 3:20, KJV

As you can see, God patiently waited while Noah obeyed His Voice and prepared the Ark. He waited while Noah did what he knew he could do, and had to do, in order to save himself and his family from the flood waters. As to the rest of the people, they were so wicked, that God apparently did not want any of them to be saved. It may be for this reason that we are told that the Lord Himself is the One who sealed the door of the Ark. Perhaps He did it in some supernatural way, so that it was totally impossible for those outside to break into the Ark. I really don't know. It is also interesting to note that the rains did not begin until a full week after Noah and his family had entered the boat. While I cannot prove this, I do wonder if this might not have been to allow time for the pitch which sealed the door to dry. This is only speculation on my part, but the main point is that God didn't want anyone else saved, so He personally sealed the door:

"For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth...And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth...And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in." Genesis 7:4, 10, 16, KJV

Obviously, to accuse God of acting selfishly, because He wouldn't allow Noah to let more people into the Ark would be rather ridiculous, wouldn't it? You will also notice that when Jesus shares the story, He in no way condemns Noah for not taking on more passengers in order to save their lives. In fact, Jesus is plainly saying that those people condemned themselves. They paid the price for their foolish unbelief. They laughed; they scoffed; they refused to believe and prepare; so they lost their wicked lives. Sadly, by using this example, the Lord is telling us that the people of the Endtime will, and in fact are, of the very same foolish mentality; and it is for this very same reason that many of them will soon face the very same fate. As Peter and Paul oth tell us:

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." 2 Peter 3:3-4, KJV

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden

destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." 1 Thessalonians 5:3, KJV

I am reminded of yet another Parable Jesus shared which also demonstrates these very same principles of obedience and preparation, and the fate of those who fail to do so. Many of you are familiar with the Parable of the Ten Virins. Please consider the following verses in particular:

"And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut." Matthew 25:6-10, KJV

Notice, that in this example, we are very specifically told that the foolish virgins, those who did not properly prepare to meet the Bridegroom, ask help of the five wise virgins. Does Jesus tell us that the five wise virgins helped the five foolish virgins? No He does not. In fact, they tell the others 'Sorry, but we don't have enough for you and us. You will have to go and buy your own oil'; and I might add, 'as you should have done in the first place!'. Does Jesus at any time accuse the five wise virgins of being selfish because they refused to share their oil with the foolish five? No He does not. In fact, just like in the story of Noah's Ark, the five wise virgins are rewarded for their obedience and wisdom by being admitted into the Marriage Feast, while the five foolish virgins are shut out. The door was closed in their face. So again, we see yet another clear New Testament example of the very same wisdom found in Solomon's verse:

"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished." Proverbs 22:3, KJV

You see, as far as the Y2K glitch is concerned, I believe that the Lord holds the head of each household responsible for preparing for their own family. While a few people seem to think that there is a bit of selfishness reflected in my earlier recommendation, the truth of the matter is that the real selfish people are those who will be so slothful, so doubtful, and such procrastinators, that while they refuse to prepare for themselves, they will expect those of us who have wisely chosen to obey God's warning by stocking up on survival goods, to share our provisions with them in their time of need. Even the Apostle Paul is highly critical of those who do not provide for their own household when he writes:

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." 1 Timothy 5:8, KJV

I want you to please carefully note that Paul is writing to Christians, about Christians. He is plainly stating that as

Christians, our primary responsibility is to provide for our own Christian families first. In the case of Y2K, I do not believe that the Lord expects us to give away all of our survival provisions to the ungodly people of the world who refused to prepare for whatever their reasons, to the hurt of our own Christian families. None of the previous examples I have shared with you seem to indicate this in any way. All of them convey the very same message; and that is, that if someone chooses not to prepare, then it is their own fault; and they will just have to suffer the consequences of their own foolishness and unbelief. Our duty as Christians is to God's spiritual family first. The Apostle James seems to indicate the very same thing in the following verses. You will notice that he is addressing the Christian brethren; and by using the words 'brother' and 'sister', it seems apparent that he is referring to Christian brethren helping other Christian brethren in their time of need:

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." James 2:14-17, KJV

What some of you need to remember, and recognize, is that if the effects of the Y2K glitch are truly as severe as some people claim they will be, so that thousands, millions, or perhaps even billions of people are suffering and dying of hunger all over the world, then this is clearly a harsh judgment coming directly from the Hand of God; just like the Flood in Noah's day, and we must accept it as such. It is a part of the Beginning of Sorrows which Jesus also mentioned in Matthew chapter twenty-four:

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against ingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and arthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning f sorrows." Matthew 24:7,8, KJV

If you are interested in an in-depth factual look at how Jesus' prophecy has been fulfilled in our modern day, allow me to refer you to the series 'Fulfilled Prophecy: The Beginning Of Sorrows'. Let me also remind you that in His Word, the Lord clearly tells us, I kill, and I make alive':

"See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand." Deuteronomy 32:39, KJV

In light of all of these Scriptural examples, perhaps you are wondering how I connect all of these verses with those which my friend shared with me earlier. Perhaps you are also questioning whether or not this means that I would refuse to share my provisions with the needy if and when they were to come to my door begging for food. These are questions which I will fully address in the second half of this article. In addition, we will also be examining such topics as placing spiritual needs before physical needs, reaching the heart through the stomach, God's fruitful Word, witnessing with wisdom, God needs us alive, martyred for His glory, touch not His anointed, stocking up with wisdom, our personal progress and witness, operating according to your faith, communications preparations, a worldwide overnight junkyard, broken spirits and a ripe time for witnessing, the silenced idiot box, don't fear or worry but prepare, true faith or spiritual pride, God's promises of care and protection, and printing our materials for future reference. I trust that you will join me.

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Place Spiritual Needs Before Physical Needs, To The Heart Through The Stomach, Street Missions, God's Fruitful Word, Witness With Wisdom, God Needs You Alive, Martyred For His Glory, Touch Not Mine Anointed, Stock Up With Wisdom, Our Personal Progress And Witness, Operate According To Your Faith, Communications Preparations, A Worldwide Overnight Junkyard? Broken Spirits And A Ripe Time For Witnessing, Silenced Idiot Box, Don't Fear Or Worry But Prepare, True Faith Or Spiritual Pride?, God's Promises Of Care And Protection, Squirrels Store Up My Articles, Conclusions

As I concluded in part one, at this point, some of you are probably really wondering what my reaction would be if some needy soul were to come to my door begging for food at the height of the Y2K crisis. As I explain in other articles, such as in the series 'The Born-Again Experience: Now Or Later?', it is my personal belief that at this current time, the Lord is primarily concerned with the Salvation of our souls, and not with the Redemption of our physical bodies; although healing is indeed one of the benefits which we have gained through the Lord's sufferings, provided that we have the faith for it. As the Prophet Isaiah wrote:

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:5, KJV

But in the overall scheme of God's Salvation Plan, the weak state of our current bodies of flesh will be fully resolved at the Lord's Second Coming, and the Resurrection of the Dead, when we will in fact be given new supernatural bodies. For more information on this topic, allow me to refer you to such articles as the three-part series 'Death: Final Battle, Final Victory!'. The point is, our spiritual needs must take priority over our physical needs; for as both Jesus and Job said:

"Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:12, KJV

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4, KJV

Of course, at the same time, I am wise enough to know that the way to a person's heart, is often through their stomach. In other words, if we demonstrate unselfish Christian love by meeting a person's physical needs first, then there is a better chance that they will be more receptive to hearing the Gospel Message; however, this is not always the case. Some street people are very savvy when it comes to getting free meals from street missions, while feigning an interest in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They can quote the Word as good as any southern preacher, but they don't believe a word of it. The Lord will deal with such deceivers in His own time. While they may get a free meal ticket now through kind-hearted Christians, unless they accept the Real Ticket, that is, Jesus Christ, they will not have a place at the greatest feast of all; that is, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Having said that, if such a needy person were to come to my door requesting food in a humble manner, I can't see myself refusing to feed them. I just don't think that I have it in me to be so cruel. Of course, my primary interest wouldn't be in the welfare of their body, but rather in the Salvation of their soul. Even if I feed their body, if they have no interest in hearing about or accepting Jesus Christ, then the truth of the matter is that they may walk away feeling satisfied with a full stomach, but they will still be empty and lost spiritually. As Jesus Himself said:

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36, KJV

The best we could probably hope for in such a case, is that with time, our demonstration of unselfish Christian love, along with the seed of the Word which we planted in their heart, might convict them to such a degree, that they will eventually repent and accept Jesus Christ. As the Prophet Isaiah was also inspired to write:

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isaiah 55:10-11, KJV

If the time truly comes when some of us will be tested with situations such as these, I believe that we will simply have to ask the Lord for a lot of Spiritual Discernment. While we should all desire to be a witness of God's love in whatever way we can, according to our personal abilities, we should also strive to avoid placing ourselves and our families in danger un necessarily, by inviting someone into our home who may in reality only mean to harm us. Thus, as Jesus said, we must be as wise as serpents, yet as harmless as doves. In other words, He was telling His followers to witness with wisdom as they travelled the dusty roads of Israel.

With the Y2K crisis only two and a half months away, we may be headed for very uncertain times; and it is possible that there are going to be a lot of dangerous, street-smart, and hungry people out there who will be looking for those people whom they can easily deceive and abuse. For people such as these, Christians are a likely target; particularly those of you, like myself, who practice non-violence.

As some of my readers already know from reading some of my politically-oriented articles, I have never owned a gun of

any kind. Neither have I fought in any of my country's wars. I absolutely detest violence. If someone were to force their way into our home, and demand part, or all, of our food at the threat of violence or death, obviously, I would have to follow the Lord's advice, be harmless as a dove, and give them our survival provisions. Remember; the Lord said, 'him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also'. As I conclude in the companion article, 'Y2K: How Bad Will It Get?', we are more valuable to the Lord by wisely keeping ourselves alive, than by foolishly getting ourselves killed. The Lord wants all of us to survive for as long as possible, so that we can continue to be a witness of His Love and Salvation to the lost. If the time does come when we are committed into the enemy's hands, let us all hope that we will be martyred in a manner which will glorify the Lord. As God's Word also tells us:

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Timothy 3:12, KJV

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." Psalms 116:15, KJV

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31, KJV

While Jesus does tell us to forgive those people who wrong us in any way, I am not so certain that He will be so quick to forgive them; particularly if their violence against us results in our premature death before He is finished using us. Eventually, He will judge them for committing such a violent, selfish act. As we are told in the Scriptures:

"...Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm." Psalms 105:15, KJV

"...for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye." Zechariah 2:8b, KJV

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God...For our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 10:31, 12:29, KJV

Now, if we do find ourselves in a situation where all of our survival provisions have been violently stolen from us by ungodly people of the world, then there really isn't much that we can do about it except get very desperate with the Lord. If He multiplied the oil and the meal for the widow of Zarephath because she hosted the Prophet Elijah during those three and a half years of famine and drought, then we will just have to trust that if He really wants to keep us alive in order that we might continue to be a witness to others, He will also provide a way for us to do so. If not, then as the Apostle Paul wrote:

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Philippians 1:21, KJV

Before moving on to our next section, allow me to make a few additional comments. First of all, if you carefully re-read the paragraph in which I suggest using a certain degree of secrecy while stocking up on survival provisions, you will notice that I was offering this recommendation primarily to those people who live in large urban centers, as these places will undoubtedly be the most dangerous if and when the trouble starts. Even if you are of a noble heart, and want to manifest your Christian love to others by sharing your provisions with them, the only way that you are going to be able to do this, is by first safely transporting your provisions to your home. If you live in a dangerous city environment, broadcasting your activities, by performing them in broad daylight, or by transporting large quantities of goods at one time, is certainly not going to help your cause. You may be defeating yourself, even before you get started. Not only will you have nothing for yourself, but you won't have anything to share with others either.

As an example, over sixteen years ago, I passed through Los Angeles, California on my way to another destination. I must tell you that the spiritual darkness, and the spirit of fear and mistrust that I felt in that city as I walked through a supermarket was absolutely amazing. I would never live there; and if I had to stock up on survival supplies there, I would most certainly use a lot of wisdom and caution in how I chose to do it. I would be wise as a serpent, and harmless as a dove.

While I have made this recommendation of secrecy to you city dwellers, as you will discover when you read the companion article, 'Y2K: How Bad Will It Get?', our situation here is a little different. While I at first attempted to stock up a little at a time, the truth of the matter is that even that was too much of a physical burden for me, as I am not very strong in the flesh. In fact, I am rather weak and fragile, as some of you already know, even though you have never met me. To my great relief, I just discovered that the warehouse personnel at the supermarket where I have been shopping for the past ten years, are more than willing to transport our supplies to our home for us. In fact, just yesterday they brought over a van full of cases of water and assorted cans goods; and they will be delivering more as soon as I go over and place my order.

Not only that, but our endeavors to prepare for Y2K are now well known to many of the store's employees, beginning with the general manager, to the stockboys and cashiers as well. Quite a few of them have also received our witness and our tracts, so the Lord's Name is truly being glorified in all of this. If that weren't enough, they are all receiving not just a warning to prepare for Y2K, but also a clear example from us of exactly how to go about doing it. Before the two warehouse personnel left our home yesterday, i was able to spend a few moments explaining the Y2K threat to them, and ended by telling them that all preparation is to no avail if they are not trusting in Jesus.

As a final point, let me clarify that the purpose of this article is not to tell you what to do with your survival supplies once you have obtained them, but rather it is to motivate you to start getting them if you haven't already begun to do so. What you do with your provisions if and when the trouble hits is entirely up to you. If you wish to share them with your apartment building, or with your neighborhood block, or with hungry strangers who come knocking at your door, that is entirely up to you. You must operate according to your faith, and do what you personally believe that the Lord wants you to do with it. As the Apostle Paul wrote:

"...Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." Romans 14:5b, KJV

Communication Preparation :

Because of the uncertainty surrounding the Y2K glitch, I honestly do not know to what degree it will affect our online communications with you. There exists the strong possibility that we may be temporarily out of touch with our readers, or possibly even permanently. In other words, not only is it possible that you may no longer be able to access our web site, but our mailing list could also be brought to a sudden and complete halt. While I am hoping that our web site will still be operational, at least locally, this will be of no help to most of you; because you don't live in our locale. Not only that, but in the event of a national, or an international emergency due to widespread Y2K failures, the Internet may be completely taken over by different agencies of the world's governments, and the military, for their private communications; that is, if the Internet is still even in operation.

Because of this possibility, you may wish to consider emailing us a valid street address, or post office box, in case we have to resort to regular snail mail communication; that is, assuming that this kind of service will still be available after January 1, 2000. We shall see. If we are reduced to snail mail communication, and it is still in operation after the first day of the double zeroes, it may be very slow and irregular. This will be compounded by the fact that, even now, we only check our post office box once, or at the most, twice a month; and that is while there is still motorized transportation available.

As I briefly mentioned before, modern transportation is highly dependent upon electronic components; including some computer chips which contain the Y2K glitch. It is possible that our planet may become an overnight junkyard after the Y2K rollover. The highways and cities of the world may be filled with stalled vehicles; and many people may be forced to resort to walking, or perhaps to riding a bicycle, in order to get to a certain destination. Perhaps many people will finally get the exercise they need, and thus shed off those pounds that affluent living has placed upon their frames.

If motorized transporation is diminished, or even totally eliminated, perhaps some of us will once again hit the road on foot like the Disciples of old; preaching the Gospel to those we meet along the way. It is quite possible that some people will become more receptive to the Gospel after the Lord has had time to break their pride and hard spirits a bit through the suffering and discomfort they may be forced to endure as a result of Y2K. So, even though you may be experiencing your own share of physical discomfort for a while, please keep your eyes open for those who may be ripe for Salvation because of their suffering. As the Apostle Paul wrote:

"Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." 2 Corinthians 1:4, KJV

On the positive side, perhaps the absence of electricity in our homes for a while, and thus the silence of that black idiot box, that is, the television set, which many Americans have in at least one or more rooms of their house, will also result in some families improving communication with their various members. I thank the Lord that in our home, we did away with the 'boob tube' some time ago, and it has been a tremendous blessing in our lives. We now spend our time much more wisely studying and teaching the Word of the Lord to others. We find watching the television set much more boring that spending time with the Master and His wonderful Word! If we do want to relax and have a little entertainment, we simply watch a Bible video through our computer system; and it is totally commercial and propaganda free! It is a clean, controlled environment, unlike regular television viewing.

Spiritual Preparation :

While in the previous paragraphs I have painted a very dark and dismal picture of what may possibly lie ahead in the near future, please understand that it is not my intention to scare anyone, or to cause anyone to worry about the future. Consider the following verses of Scripture:

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Matthew 6:34, KJV

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7, KJV

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." (Isaiah 26:3)

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

However, at the same time, we simply need to follow Jesus' advice and be as wise as serpents, and as harmless as doves. God loves us; and He will indeed take care of us; if we are pleasing Him by obeying Him, and being faithful to His Word. Just as the children of Israel were required to obey the Lord by preparing themselves in Egypt, and just as Joshua and his companions had to obey the Lord by faith and go in and literally conquer the Promised Land, so too, as wise servants of the Lord, we must also obey by being properly prepared for this possible international calamity. While we are not to worry about the future, this does not mean that we are not to prepare for it. To hold to this erroneous mentality is to be in total contradiction to the verse I shared earlier from the Book of Proverbs. To reiterate the main point I am trying to get across to you here, unless you are absolutely certain that you have the faith for God to do for you, as He did for the children of Israel when He brought forth water from a rock, and manna and quail from the sky, then this attitude of 'I'll just trust God to provide my needs' is extremely dangerous, and you may live to regret it. You need to make sure that you are not guilty of the sin of false spiritual pride, which has deceived you into thinking that you have faith for something for which you really don't. Personally, I prefer to be humble about it, admit that my faith isn't quite that strong, and follow the advice of the Scriptures and prepare as I know I should. What about you?

Allow me to share some additional Precious Promises with you which speak of God's care, protection and provision for His children:

"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." Psalms 34:7, KJV

"Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." (Psalms 55:22)

"A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee." (Psalms 91:7)

"Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows." (Luke 12:6-7)

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28, KJV

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19, KJV

Spiritual Food Preparation :

While I have spoken of the need to prepare physical food and other items for your survival in the coming days of possible chaos, we must also speak of your spiritual diet as well. While each of you have your Bibles, if you haven't already done so, you may also want to consider printing out all of the articles and verse groups from our web site, for future reference when you may no longer have access to it. Not only that, but the power may fail in your local area so that you won't even be able to access the articles which you have stored on your hard drive. Who knows; sometime in the near future, you may suddenly find yourself in a situation where you have a lot of time on your hands to study the Bible and my writings; because you may be out of a job for a while; maybe for a very long while. Between now and the end of the year, I will continue to update and/or expand as many articles as I can. It is a very big job which reqires a lot of time and energy; so please pray that the Lord helps me to accomplish this task, as my health is rather fragile, and I often push too hard and end up getting a little sick for a while. I do not seem to have quite as much energy as I did last year when you saw a flood of new articles; but I have written a fair number of new ones this year as well, besides older ones which have been updated.

If you do plan to print everything currently available at our web site, allow me to advise you that you will need at least several toner cartridges, or whatever kind of ink cartridges you use with your particular printer, and a lot of paper as well. Don't ask me how much, because I really don't know. I would venture to say that a few thousand sheets will be necessary; and it will probably take you at least a few days to print out all of the articles so that you don't burn out your printer!

Concluding Remarks :

In conclusion, let us all hope for the best concerning Y2K, but let us also be prepared for the worst; trusting the Lord every step of the way. He will not fail us if we are totally dependent upon the leading of His Spirit and obedient to His Will. As the Lord said to Zerubbabel before he began building the Second Temple:

"...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." Zechariah 4:6b, KJV

It is my hope that I have stirred up those of you who are still dragging your feet in regards to preparing for the possible effects of the Y2K glitch. Allow me to share this final verse with you before closing this article:

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Hebrews 11:7, KJV

So please; be wise; and prepare your ark for the saving of your house as well. For my latest views on the Y2K glitch, please refer to 'Y2K: How Bad Will It Get?'. I pray that this current article has been a blessing, and instructive in your life.

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