

Preparedness - a Biblical Concept

How can we be prepared for the end-times?

I. Storing for times of scarcity is taught in wisdom passages.

Proverbs 6:6–8 — ⁶ *Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise,* ⁷ *Which, having no chief, Officer or ruler,* ⁸ *Prepares her food in the summer And gathers her provision in the harvest.*”

Proverbs 6:9–11 — ⁹ *How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep?* ¹⁰ *“A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest”*— ¹¹ *Your poverty will come in like a vagabond And your need like an armed man.*”

A. The ant gives us the lesson of putting away today what you are going to need tomorrow.

1. Start building a robust pantry.
2. Put away extra food that is none perishable.
3. Be ready to receive extra family members.

B. The sluggard instructs us on the calamity of idleness.

II. Preparedness was a central theme in Noah’s flood.

Genesis 6:13 — ¹³ *Then God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.”*

- A. God gave the warning of what was coming -
- B. God made Noah responsible to build the ark.
- C. Noah can be called the world’s first Super Prepper!
- D. How did Noah prepare for something like a worldwide Flood?
 1. First, he believed what God said.
 2. He began to build the ark and collect supplies.
 3. He began to preach the need for righteousness -2 **Peter 2:5**.

E. Application: Noah took care of His own family

1. We are called to protect and provide for those in our house.
 - a. To provide - **1 Timothy 5:8** —
 - b. To protect - **Proverbs 22:3** -

III. Preparedness was at the center of Joseph’s story.

- A. At the instruction of Joseph, Egypt start storing up grain to survive the coming famine.
- B. Lesson: Store up in the fat times, so that you are ready in the lean times.

IV. Preparedness is in the teachings of Jesus.

A. Gather the resources we will need to be effective for Christ.

Luke 22:36–38— ³⁶ *And He said to them, “But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one...”* ³⁸ *They said, “Lord, look, here are two swords.” And He said to them, “It is enough.””*

1. **Money belt** – means carry extra money
 2. **Bag** – means carry extra survival items
 3. **Sword** – carry a means of protection
- B. We are given clear signs for us to look for before He comes.
Luke 21:10–11
 - C. We are to be preparing as we see the signs unfold.
Luke 21:31–32
 - D. Christ taught on the dangers of not preparing –
Matthew 25:1–13 - Parable of the 10 virgins

THINK, PRAY and OBEY:

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A. **The ant gives us the lesson of putting away _____ what you are going to need _____.**

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Matthew 25:1–13 - Parable of the 10 virgins

1. Those that failed to carry extra oil for their lamps were left behind.

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