

# Preparation

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When a nation or people become incorrigible and there is no hope of repentance or reform, judgment may fall suddenly. Where there is any prospect of their being restored, opportunity for warning, witness, escape and preparation is given, as may be seen in history.

For example, the Lord prophesied the flood more than a hundred years before it came. He made Noah, the ark builder, "a preacher of righteousness," and he warned the race of their doom.

There were many witnesses from God to the Gentile nations at various times, such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Melchizedek in Canaan; Moses, Joseph and Jacob in Egypt; Nehemiah, Daniel and Ezekiel in palaces of the heathen; Lot in Sodom.

Though the Lord, "In times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways, nevertheless He left not Himself without witness, in that He did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." Acts 14:17.

On those occasions when Jehovah sent special visitations to mankind, we might well expect, as there were, both elaborate and extensive preparations and announcements: as at the call of Moses, Joseph, David, and on many other calls and occasions.

One of these great, important, special visitations of Jehovah was the giving of the law to Moses at Sinai. First, Israel, a nation of slaves, saw themselves freed through the dreadful judgments of Jehovah upon the Egyptians, ending in the drowning of Pharaoh and his army, while they, Israel, passed safely through the Red Sea on dry land. "And the people feared Jehovah, and believed Jehovah, and His servant Moses."

Exodus 19 describes the preparation of the people, "to meet with God" at Sinai. "There were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount," and "the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder."... "And the Lord came down upon Mt. Sinai." "And the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly." (Chapter 20) "And when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die." The chapter extensively describes preparation for Israel to meet God.

Preparations for the coming of Jesus, though different, were elaborate and complete and really began centuries before He came. In fact God has always taken much care and great pains to inform mankind of His benevolent plan for their welfare. Bible history abounds with descriptions and foretellings of His coming. Many miraculous occurrences announced His arrival. An angel visited Mary and Zechariah, and dreams came to Joseph. The Prophetic Spirit burst forth. At the birth of Jesus, angel hosts appeared to shepherds, sending them to the babe, and filled the air with heavenly anthem. Wise men from the east were guided by His star to the babe in the manger.

In the beginning of the ministry of Jesus, it was announced by John the Baptist, His herald. And when John saw Jesus he said, "Behold the Lamb of God." "And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God."

At His baptism, Jesus received divine witness by "a voice...from Heaven which said, Thou art my beloved Son; In thee

am well pleased." "And the Holy Ghost descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him." Also it is said of Him: "Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him."

At the arrest of Jesus, when He answered, "I am He, they went backward and fell to the ground." At the death of Jesus, "there was a darkness over all the earth," three hours. "The veil of the temple was rent;...the earth did quake and the rocks rent." At His resurrection, "There was a great earthquake for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven... And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became dead men." What extensive and miraculous preparations!

The Lord baptized about 120 in the Holy Spirit, they having been prepared through His ministry. And we see there was a most continuous and careful series of preparations and visitations to the divinity of Jesus Christ and of His being in authority and God's foreordained plan. "Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world." And all His works are done according to "the determination and foreknowledge of God." Acts 15:18; 2:23.

Since we see that Jehovah has been so careful to keep the race informed that they would only listen and believe His words and miracles, of which we have but touched the margin, and especially since there is such a wealth of preparation and testimony connected with His appearance as the Man of Galilee, to surely His great coming as KING and Sovereign Possessor of the entire world would be heralded with the most elaborate and extensive preparations, testimony and working that could be imagined.

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The Lord baptized about 120 in the Holy Spirit, they having been properly prepared through His ministry. And so we see there was a most continuous careful series of preparations and witnesses to the divinity of Jesus Christ, and of His being in authority and in God's foreordained plan. "Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world." And all His works are done according to "the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God." Acts 15:18; 2:23.

Since we see that Jehovah has been so careful to keep the race informed, if they would only listen and believe His words and miracles, of which we have but touched the margin, and especially since there is such a wealth of preparation and testimony connected with His appearance as the Man of Galilee, then surely His great coming as KING and Sovereign Possessor of the entire world, would be heralded with the most elaborate and extensive preparations, testimony and working that could be imagined.

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Holy Spirit as originally given, and consequent pulling down of so-called Bible teachers and their teachings to the natural plane, instead of being led and taught by the Holy Spirit in gifts of prophecy, wisdom, knowledge and revelation as they should be.

As a result, though there are many books treating on prophecy and the second coming of Christ, most of them are written almost entirely on the natural plane. Some of the very most essential and valuable knowledge is almost unknown today, when it is so needful. They neglect and leave out teachings on **PREPARATION**, although knowing how and what preparations are most necessary and of highest importance. This leaves the people of God ignorant and unprepared for the terrific occasions just ahead. As it was in Noah's time, so now, the great mass of believers know not the storm which is soon coming upon an unprepared world.

Because of these natural teachers, however little if any Spirit revelation or divine illumination, the Lord's people are in the dark. They do not know of an essential preparation for the coming of the Lord. They do not understand how searching, thorough and exacting that preparation is. It is wrought by the Lord Jesus through the inward working power of the Holy Spirit. Though taught in many scriptures, it requires divine revelation of the Spirit to understand and see it, for "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God." Unless these teachings by the Holy Spirit are known and entered into, you cannot hope to meet the issue nor be prepared to meet the Lord at His coming.

Jesus was emphatic: He said, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." Again we read, "Be ye therefore **READY** also:

for the Son of Man cometh at an hour when ye think not."

These warnings to get READY are addressed to His disciples and do not agree with the teachings that all who have been born again are in the Bride, but point to an essential preparation. Millions of believers are without this pre-

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paration, and are thus led into a false security, and their unprepared state will compel them to face the antichrist, and go through the storm of judgment now beginning and coming on the world. This crime of missing the truth is leading multitudes to fall into a snare. It is unthinkable in its consequences.

## The Need for Revival

An Editorial condensed from "The Alliance Weekly"

To many earnest pastors today the realization of the imperative need for widespread spiritual revival has become so keen that it rests on their hearts as a constant and almost unbearable burden. They see the world facing tremendous problems as the war draws to its end, and the Church unable to present a truly effective witness because of an inner life that is slowly declining in spite of the activity displayed in various ways. We are moving into a cloudy future, and no ecclesiastical statesmanship can foresee or provide for the eventualities that will be encountered. To say that God will be with us as He has been in the past is not true unless our people are with God as they have been in the past, for divine grace and guidance are largely contingent on obedience and faith.

One of the dangers that the Word of truth indicates for the Church is the unconscious waning of love. It is this that causes concern in many watchful minds. The people of the Lord are abounding in works and overflowing in liberality; they are zealous for orthodoxy and for fundamental theology; they are quick to detect and condemn heresy, whether in

the tiny sect or the great denomination. But the passion for God is lacking, and the effect is manifest in a failure of separation and a gradual obliterating of the boundaries between the people of God and the world around about them. As a natural sequence individual witnessing and tract distribution are slowing down and the winning of souls is lessening.

We must feel the burden before we will strive for its removal. It is the responsibility of every child of the Lord who knows the need to cry earnestly to God for the Spirit of grace and of supplication upon himself and his fellow Christians. As the Holy One brings conviction to the heart, the compulsion to pray is overpowering. And it is only when a chain of convicted hearts throughout our widely flung ranks unite with one great purpose to obtain blessing that the revival from on high will come. "I will pour water on him that is thirsty," God says—on the longing soul; "and flood on the dry ground"—on the carnal Christians round about. Thus the whole field will receive the showers of grace and the love of God will again burn among us. —The Christian Digest

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## - ONE That Ignora

[This is the first of a series of articles by the author about the Tribal People of Western China.]

She was ignorant, below the average Chinese country woman in intelligence and mental vigor. But she had admirable qualities: humility and unworldliness.

Although the Ka Do tribal church was only four miles away and all the people in that section had become nominal Christians in a mass-movement, no one had ever talked to the Chinese Shi about becoming a Christian. The Chinese in the village as a whole were scattered throughout the country. She had for years refused to accept the Gospel when it had been presented to them, the Ka Dos had been led to believe that none of the Chinese could be converted. Mrs. Shi had been no exception, although she lived in our own community.

For several years the Lord had been blessing the work. We had held annual conventions with attendance of five hundred. The gatherings of the young people for periods of Bible study were well known, and their impressions were favorable. However the Chinese in the village still despised this "foreign religion," which, they supposed, was good only for the inferior "barbarians." But no Chinese would consider being mixed up in this for a barbarian Jesus-religion. Even those who did see some of the truth would dare openly acknowledge it, for they were reproached it would bring from their friends.

Mrs. Shi was aware of all this, and also of the fact that this could not be a very bad thing.