

Part 1, What Does it Mean to 'Be Ready?'

1. Jn 14:26, RH 3/22/1887 –Is the way _____ so we can be taught by the Holy Spirit?
2. Matt 24:44 –One theme of Olivet Discourse is to “Be _____” –Matt 25:10, 24:17-18
3. Mar 9:8 –If we are ‘_____ with God’ today, we are ‘_____’ if Jesus should come today
 - a. But, examples of Lucifer and Adam & Eve: it’s possible to _____ our rightness with God
 - b. May lose and regain it many times as we switch to _____ that’s in harmony w/ God
4. How do we get ‘Right with God?’
 - a. 1 Jn 1:9 –be _____ and _____ our sins
 - b. Jn 15:3-5 –‘Cleansed,’ now ‘_____’ connected (Mk 14:50)
5. 1T 186-187 –God is _____ His people
 - a. 1 Cor 15:58 –Become _____, develop Character –habitually stay connected (COL 356)
 - Na 1:9 –We need to be _____ for the rest of eternity -vs- double-minded –Ja 1:6-8
 - b. God gives time for the _____ to wear off (-vs- ‘crisis motivation’)
 - c. What’s in our hearts _____ out Jesus? –cause us to lose our connection/readiness
6. Matt 12:37, Rev 20:12-13 –What we say/do –seen = _____ of what’s in heart –unseen
 - a. Ja 2:18-26 Spiritual & _____ ‘Readiness’ go together –can’t have one w/o other
7. Heb 11:7, PP 95 –Noah’s Physical Readiness = _____ his Spiritual Readiness
8. Rev 3:17 –‘Laodicea’ and ‘cheap grace’ causes us to not recognize/ignore our _____
 - a. Cultural problem: e.g. Joseph & Mary, donkey –What’s wrong with this picture? _____
 - b. Ja 2:17 –By ignoring physical needs we also ignore _____ needs
9. 1 century example: Matt 24:17-18, Lk 21:20-21 –See the ‘sign’ — _____! –4SP 26-27
 - a. Typical view: happened suddenly and _____ –so nothing to prepare physically
 - b. But: Matt 24:42-44 –‘_____’ and ‘_____’
 - 1 Thess 5:2-6, Rev 3:3 –It should _____ happen unexpectedly to _____
 - c. Was the person who left his cloak behind ‘Watching’ and ‘Ready?’ _____ (unexpected?)
10. Matt 24:17-18 –Did Jesus say, “don’t take anything,” or, “don’t go back?”
 - a. If we already had something with us would it be OK to take it? _____ –Lk 22:35-36
 - b. Is it necessary to leave everything behind when we flee in order for us to obey? _____
11. GC 30-31 –What does them fleeing to Pella show? (= a physical demonstration of)
 - (1) They _____ it would happen as Jesus said it would (Acted on their Faith)
 - (2) They were _____ it –So they were _____ when it happened
 - (3) They had a _____ (‘evidence’ of 1): _____, _____, _____, _____
 - a. Is this level of Readiness possible? _____
 - b. Is this level of Readiness consistent with Faith? _____ (Ja 2:18-26)
12. So how will we Act if we Believe, and are Watching / Expecting / Ready for this to happen?

1. *Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887

There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out his Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. ... When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come.

2. *Maranatha*, page 98

If you are right with God today, you are ready if Christ should come today.

3. *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, page 186-187

God will prove His people. Jesus bears patiently with them, and does not spew them out of His mouth in a moment. Said the angel: "God is weighing His people." If the message had been of as short duration as many of us supposed, there would have been no time for them to develop character. Many moved from feeling, not from principle and faith, and this solemn, fearful message stirred them. It wrought upon their feelings, and excited their fears, but did not accomplish the work which God designed that it should. God reads the heart. Lest His people should be deceived in regard to themselves, He gives them time for the excitement to wear off, and then proves them to see if they will obey the counsel of the True Witness.

God leads His people on, step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next. At every advanced point the heart is tested and tried a little closer. If the professed people of God find their hearts opposed to this straight work, it should convince them that they have a work to do to overcome, if they would not be spewed out of the mouth of the Lord. Said the angel: "God will bring His work closer and closer to test and prove every one of His people." Some are willing to receive one point; but when God brings them to another testing point, they shrink from it and stand back, because they find that it strikes directly at some cherished idol. Here they have opportunity to see what is in their hearts that shuts out Jesus. They prize something higher than the truth, and their hearts are not prepared to receive Jesus. Individuals are tested and proved a length of time to see if they will sacrifice their idols and heed the counsel of the True Witness. If any will not be purified through obeying the truth, and overcome their selfishness, their pride, and evil passions, the angels of God have the charge: "They are joined to their idols, let them alone," and they pass on to their work, leaving these with their sinful traits unsubdued, to the control of evil angels. Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation.

4. *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 356

Thus actions repeated form habits, habits form character, and by the character our destiny for time and for eternity is decided.

5. *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 95

All that man could do was done to render the work perfect, yet the ark could not of itself have withstood the storm which was to come upon the earth. God alone could preserve His servants upon the tempestuous waters.

While Noah was giving his warning message to the world, his works testified of his sincerity. It was thus that his faith was perfected and made evident. He gave the world an example of believing just what God says. All that he possessed, he invested in the ark. ... Every blow struck upon the ark was a witness to the people.

5. *The Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 4*, pages 26-27 (see also GC 25-26)

When the warning sign should be seen, judgment was to follow so quickly that those who would escape must make no delay. He who chanced to be upon the housetop must not go down through his house into the street; but he must speed his way from roof to roof until he reach the city wall, and be saved "so as by fire." Those who were working in the fields or vineyards must not take time to return for the outer garment laid aside while they should be toiling in the heat of the day. They must not hesitate a moment, lest they be involved in the general destruction.

6. *Great Controversy*, pages 30-31

Not one Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem. Christ had given His disciples warning, and all who believed His words watched for the promised sign. "When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies," said Jesus, "then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out." Luke 21:20, 21. After the Romans under Cestius had surrounded the city, they unexpectedly abandoned the siege when everything seemed favorable for an immediate attack. The besieged, despairing of successful resistance, were on the point of surrender, when the Roman general withdrew his forces without the least apparent reason. But God's merciful providence was directing events for the good of His own people. The promised sign had been given to the waiting Christians, and now an opportunity was offered for all who would, to obey the Saviour's warning. Events were so overruled that neither Jews nor Romans should hinder the flight of the Christians. Upon the retreat of Cestius, the Jews, sallying from Jerusalem, pursued after his retiring army; and while both forces were thus fully engaged, the Christians had an opportunity to leave the city. At this time the country also had been cleared of enemies who might have endeavored to intercept them. At the time of the siege, the Jews were assembled at Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, and thus the Christians throughout the land were able to make their escape unmolested. Without delay they fled to a place of safety—the city of Pella, in the land of Perea, beyond Jordan.

Part 1, What Does it Mean to 'Be Ready?'

1. Jn 14:26, RH 3/22/1887 –Is the way clear so we can be taught by the Holy Spirit?
2. Matt 24:44 –One theme of Olivet Discourse is to “ Be Ready ” –Matt 25:10, 24:17-18
3. Mar 98 –If we are ‘ Right with God’ today, we are ‘ Ready ’ if Jesus should come today
 - a. But, examples of Lucifer and Adam & Eve: it’s possible to lose our rightness with God
 - b. May lose and regain it many times as we switch to character that’s in harmony w/ God
4. How do we get ‘Right with God?’
 - a. 1 Jn 1:9 –Be forgiven and cleansed our sins
 - b. Jn 15:3-5 –‘Cleansed’ –now ‘ Stay ’ connected (Mk 14:50)
5. 1T 186-187 –God is testing His people
 - a. 1 Cor 15:58 –Become steadfast, develop Character –habitually stay connected (COL 356)
 - Na 1:9 –We need to be safe for the rest of eternity -vs- double-minded –Ja 1:6-8
 - b. He gives time for the excitement to wear off (-vs- ‘crisis motivation’)
 - c. What’s in our hearts shuts out Jesus? –cause us to lose our connection/readiness
6. Matt 12:37, Rom 2:6 –What we say/do –seen = evidence of what’s in heart –unseen
 - a. Ja 2:18-26 –Spiritual & Physical ‘Readiness’ go together –can’t have one w/o other
7. Heb 11:7, PP 95 –Noah’s Physical Readiness = demonstrated his Spiritual Readiness
8. Rev 3:17 –‘Laodicea’ and ‘cheap grace’ causes us to not recognize/ignore our needs
 - a. Cultural problem: e.g. Joseph & Mary, donkey –What’s wrong with this picture? _____
 - b. Ja 2:17 –By ignoring physical needs we also ignore spiritual needs
9. 1 century example: Matt 24:17-18, Lk 21:20-21 –See the ‘sign’ — Flee ! –4SP 26-27
 - a. Typical view: happened suddenly and unexpectedly –so nothing to prepare physically
 - b. But: Matt 24:42-44 –‘ Watch ’ and ‘ Be Ready ’
 - 1 Thess 5:2-6, Rev 3:3 –It should NOT happen unexpectedly to US
 - c. Was the person who left his cloak behind ‘Watching’ and ‘Ready?’ No (unexpected?)
10. Matt 24:17-18 –Did Jesus say, “don’t take anything,” or, “don’t go back?”
 - a. If we already had something with us would it be OK to take it? Yes –Lk 22:35-36
 - b. Is it necessary to leave everything behind when we flee in order for us to obey? No
11. GC 30-31 –What does them fleeing to Pella show? (= a physical demonstration of)
 - (1) They Believed it would happen as Jesus said it would (Acted on their Faith)
 - (2) They were Expecting it! –So they were Ready when it happened
 - (3) They had a Plan (‘evidence’ of 1): Where, Route, Rendezvous, What to Take
 - a. Is this level of Readiness possible? Yes
 - b. Is this level of Readiness consistent with Faith? _____ (Ja 2:18-26)
12. So how will we Act if we Believe, and are Watching / Expecting / Ready for it to happen?