

# Prophecy Today

## March 2009 Newsletter

*(Examining Current Events in the Light of Bible Prophecy)*

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## How to Live in These Last Days

(Part two: Preparations for the Sudden Collapse of this Present World System)

By Mike Wingfield

This is part two of a two-part series. Part one focused upon the possibility of the sudden collapse of the present world system before the Rapture. It is highly recommended that you read part one before you consider this newsletter.

In my travels and contacts with thousands of Christians in the last decade, I have come to realize that probably 99 percent of believers have not taken the time to connect the prophetic dots of Scripture to accept the warnings and admonitions that should grow out of what they say they really believe. Let me share with you some reasons why I think this has happened. Some believers simply believe that Jesus will come before things get “too bad.” While we have been exhorted to look for Jesus today, we must also realize that according to the Scriptures, pre-Tribulation developments indicate that we can expect some very difficult days ahead should Jesus not come soon. While the church will not experience the full brunt of the wrath of God during the Tribulation, we have been warned by our Lord that we should expect to experience troubling times in this world. (John 16:33)

Some Christians believe that they don’t need to prepare for the possibility that the church may go through some very difficult days before the Rapture. They believe that they can simply trust the Lord to provide for their needs, when and if that time should come. While there is some element of truth in this, it does not cancel out the reality

that there is a human responsibility that accompanies the Lord’s promises to care for our needs. The Lord expects us to provide for our own needs by having wisdom and working diligently in light of the circumstances that we face in our lives. Wisdom comes from the Lord to know what to do when we really apply what we say we believe about living in these perilous times. (Read Proverbs 1:20-33; James 1:2-7; 4:13-17) If a person believes that a storm is coming, wisdom will guide him to make appropriate preparations to weather that storm to the best of his ability. Many believers practice self-deception when they say they believe that the Rapture could take place today, or in the next few weeks, months, or years. If they really believe that, do they not also understand that this means that they are experiencing the collapse of the present world system leading up to the Tribulation?

According to the Bible, there are two practical applications to focus upon while preparing for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. First, we should be spiritually prepared to stand in His holy presence at any moment! As a born-again believer in Jesus Christ, this means that you have repented of your sins and have called upon the Lord to save you by grace, through faith. (Ephesians 2:8-9) All Christians should also confess their sins daily, and desire to faithfully serve the Lord, while living a godly life. This will assure them that when they come face to face with Jesus, they can “*have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*” (1 John 2:28) Secondly, we must “*occupy*” until He comes. (Luke 19:13) Occupying until

He comes means that we are living here with the main focus and goal of being a light to the world (Matthew 5:14), and an ambassador for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). This does not leave out our emphasis upon sustaining life so we can live for Christ! Please remember that the Bible warns, *"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) In this passage, Paul instructed the church concerning the children's responsibility to care for the needs of their elderly widowed mother. If a man does not care for the physical and financial needs of his own family, it is as if he has denied the basic doctrines of the apostles and is living like a sinner. This text clearly reveals how important our human responsibilities are when it comes to providing the basic needs to sustain the lives of our loved ones. Really think about that!

There are a few believers who are beginning to grasp the reality of what is about to take place in our world. However, as some of them look at the tsunami of problems that are crashing in upon our world at this time, they are filled with despair and are overwhelmed by the prospect of making any effective preparations to weather what is ahead of us. Therefore, while being filled with this despair, they throw up their hands and say it is hopeless to prepare for the perilous days ahead. This kind of thinking flies in the face of Almighty God and ignores His sovereign power to provide for and protect His people. Listen to Psalm 46:1-3, *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof."* Notice that in these verses, the man of God trusts the Lord even if a massive earthquake causes mountains to fall into the ocean, creating a massive tsunami. Nothing could be more threatening to mankind than this. So, in a practical manner, the Psalmist is saying that no matter how bad it gets, we must not lose sight of our refuge in God! As these things develop during the Tribulation, the Lord will protect some of His people (Isaiah 26:20-21), while others will suffer persecution, starvation, and martyrdom. (Revelation 6:11; 7:9-17) The bottom line is, we must do all we can to sustain life. But, in reality, as at all times and every day, our lives are in His hands!

For the last 15 years of my life, I have been crying out to the Lord on a daily basis, asking Him to give me and my family wisdom for living in these last days. I have been attempting to practically apply what I believe the Scriptures say about living in these last of the last days. While doing this, I have attempted to keep in balance an honest, real, daily expectation of the blessed hope as I also prepare to live in this world until He comes. I want to be spiritually ready when He comes. However, I also do not want to lose sight of the reality that Jesus might not come for a few more days, weeks, months, or years. For example, I be-

lieve that while I must be spiritually ready to die or be raptured today, I am exhorted to occupy until He comes. This includes providing for my family's future by carefully thinking about the possibility of becoming physically too weak or mentally unable to work for the Lord in my senior years, or suddenly finding myself in a world that has drastically changed, making life difficult for my family. According to the Bible I am to plan for the inheritance of my grandchildren. (Proverbs 13:22)

Joseph was called and prepared by God to be in the right place at the right time to interpret the dreams of Pharaoh so that he could direct Egypt to stock pile food during seven years of plenty that would be followed by seven years of famine. (Genesis 41) Today, if we look at the prophetic Scriptures and the prophetic context of our world, it should be abundantly clear that developments in the Middle East and certain unique global spiritual, political, economical, moral, geological, and climatic developments are preparing our world for the opening day of the Tribulation Period. In light of all of this, I believe that we should develop a Joseph mentality. We need to act now during a time of prosperity to help our families and friends, by God's grace, to sustain life until the Rapture takes place.

As a person begins to contemplate the assignment of preparing for what could happen before Jesus comes, there is a sense of inadequacy that overcomes him. This is good. It will drive him to his knees to cry out to his Lord for wisdom for the Lord's help to know what to do. (Proverbs 3:5-10) I have found that it is important to ask all of the questions before you can consider the solutions. Therefore, one of my goals is to help you ask yourself the right questions. Such as: What should we do? Where do we begin? What do we prepare for? How do we prepare? Why should we prepare?

These are not easy questions to answer for everyone. Every person or family is in a different situation. What a person should do, or when, or how to begin, depends upon their spiritual maturity and strength, physical health, mental sharpness, age, family responsibilities, dedication to their local church, financial and material resources, and where they live. Therefore, as you read these practical suggestions on how a person might prepare to live in the difficult days that are ahead, you must realize that some suggestions might not fit your circumstance, or might need to be altered to fit your particular situation and surroundings. I would highly recommend that you join me in daily crying out to the Lord to give you wisdom for knowing what to do in these days! *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."* (James 1:5)

As you think about preparing for the difficult days that are ahead, you must decide what type of crisis or crises you are preparing for. As I have prayed and thought about all of this, I have realized that we might need to prepare for several different possible scenarios that may develop be-

fore the Rapture takes place. Here are just a few of the possible developments that I have thought about.

First, the longer we are here, the greater the likelihood that we will face a gradual deterioration of our current way of life. Current global developments in light of the prophetic context of this hour indicate that global warming (as a result of volcanic eruptions and increased solar radiation), famine conditions, economic hardships, diseases, wars, violence and social unrest, immorality, political instability, the collapse of the home, and corruption at all levels of society will continue to increase, climaxing during the Tribulation, only after the true church has been raptured. When the Tribulation begins, as presented in Revelation 6, the world will be suffering from the global efforts of the Antichrist to conquer the world (verses 1-2), the global jihad of the Antichrist's agents (verses 3-4), a global economic collapse accompanied by global famine (verses 5-6), a staggering death toll due to the perilous times (verses 7-8), an aggressive and militant global persecution and martyrdom of believers in Jesus Christ (verses 9-11), and massive geological upheaval as global earthquakes trigger global volcanic eruptions that destroy structures, transportation and communication systems, and utilities; thus, drastically altering man's way of life in a matter of a few days. (verses 12-17)

Secondly, our world could suddenly change as a result of the eruption of a major war in the Middle East, some unexpected military power move by Russia or China, or major terrorist attack. Experts tell us that another major terrorist attack upon the U.S., using weapons of mass destruction, is inevitable! Many reliable sources report that Iran may attempt to use an EMP (Electronic Magnetic Pulse) missile against the U.S. or Israel, which in effect destroys all electrical components, destroying the electrical grid for many months. This would wipe out the transportation, communication, defense, and manufacturing systems in the area affected. We can expect "*wars and rumors of wars.*" (Matthew 24:6)

Thirdly, our world could suddenly change as a result of the global pandemic of a deadly disease. (Matthew 24:7) Medical experts, that know nothing about the prophetic Word of God, continue to warn the world that the abuse of antibiotics, escalating immoral trends, international travel, poor eating habits that lower our immune system, the constant threat of a new disease, pollution, the growing scarcity of healthy fresh water, and the possibility that some terrorist group could implode a biological weapon laden with diseases for which we have no cure in a major metropolitan area, could unleash a pandemic of diseases within a matter of a few weeks or months, threatening the entire international community.

Fourth, our world could suddenly change as a result of a major natural disaster, or series of natural disasters. (Matthew 24:7) According to the Biblical predictions, the end-times will see a dramatic increase in earthquakes, volcanic

eruptions, tsunamis, wind-driven disasters, global warming trends producing global drought, and the threat of an asteroid collision with earth.

The consideration of these possibilities certainly helps us to better grasp the reality of the perilous times in which we live! How does one begin to think and pray about a sensible and practical approach to preparing for one or several of these changes in our world? We must begin by reminding ourselves that it is a sin to be paralyzed with fear when we think about these things. "*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) The entire Christian life must be viewed as a walk by faith. Jesus taught His disciples that they should not worry over what might take place tomorrow. (Read Mathew 6:25-34) However, this does not mean that the godly child of God should not make preparations for the future. In Proverbs 6:6-11 we are exhorted to be like the ant who stores up food for its future needs. Proverbs 21:20 says, "*There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spends it up.*" To think or suggest that our Lord would not expect His people to prepare for the difficult days that are ahead is a distorted response that finds no support in the Word of God.

As the child of God prayerfully considers what to do in preparation for the perilous days that are ahead, there are five major areas of practical consideration and preparation. **WARNING! THERE IS A REAL TEMPTATION ON THE PART OF MOST PEOPLE TO SKIP OVER THE FIRST TWO AREAS OF CONSIDERATION AND PREPARATION. CONTRARY TO WHAT OUR DEPRAVED MINDS WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE, THESE TWO AREAS MUST BE THE FIRST MATTERS TO CONSIDER WHEN FACING THE PRETRIBULATION HARDSHIPS THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING. DON'T SKIP AHEAD TO AREA THREE. IF YOU DO, YOU ARE WASTING YOUR TIME FOLLOWING BIBLICAL COUNSEL!**

## 1. Spiritual Preparations

When people get in trouble, they usually lose perspective of the real situation and make rash, foolish decisions that make their situation worse, rather than better. The child of God, walking in the power of the Holy Spirit, examining life in light of the prophetic Word of God and ultimate eternal perspective, is the only one who can make a wise assessment of his given situation and seek a God-given solution to his crisis. Living in awe of the God of the Bible helps us to see our situation as it really is. The crisis is real, but it is viewed as being directed and controlled by the Lord Jesus. He is in control of all things. (Ephesians 1:9-12; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:3) He is the only One who can really enable us to get through the storm, or give us the grace to be filled with joy and strength to face the storm, knowing that it could be our divine appointment to

enter into His presence. (Hebrews 9:27) He is the only One who can give us wisdom to know what to do or can directly and supernaturally provide for our needs when we are faced with life's greatest crises.

Where are you spiritually at this hour? Are you saved? How do you know you are saved? Do you see God at work in your life on a daily basis? Has there been real change in your life since you prayed to receive Christ? Does sin really bother you? Is Jesus Christ real to you? Do you talk with Him often, and have you seen answers to your prayers? Do you have a real hunger for the Bible? Do you worship (give thanks and praise) the Lord Jesus? When you worship the Lord, both privately and publicly in church, does your heart overflow with a sense of joy and gratitude that motivates you to want to love and serve Him more? Does the idea of worship and Bible study seem boring and meaningless to you? Are you current with the confession of your sin? Are there feelings of hate or resentment toward other people in your life that you refuse to deal with?

How you answer these questions will help you to know where you stand with the Lord. We live at a very dangerous hour of spiritual deception that has permeated most of the professing church. Most people who think they are saved are not! Most believers who think they are spiritually mature and strong are not! Please make these preparations before proceeding with the next area of preparation.

## 2. Emotional Preparations

When life's troubles come our way, it is our natural and sinful tendency to worry and become depressed. Worry and depression can lead us to selfish isolation, drowning our conscience with over-indulgence in food, sleep, alcohol, drugs, or rebellious sins rooted in anger against God and the people we should love the most. Worry and depression, and their sinful tendencies, always make our situation worse. It never helps us to overcome our personal tragedy. Worry and depression come when we focus on our problems in a selfish way. Our sinful response does not focus on the grace and power of God that has allowed this test to come into our lives, but on our selfish desires and lack of control over the situation. The result is a pity party that limits our vision and entraps us in the coffin of unconfessed sin and rebellion against God!

When the potential anxieties of life come crashing in on us, what should we do? We must control what we think about, or mentally dwell upon! The Bible teaches that a man is the product of what he thinks. "*For as he thinketh in his heart [mind] so is he.*" (Proverbs 23:7) If we dwell upon negative, threatening things we will always be distressed. Don't focus upon the problem! Focus upon the God who is greater than all of our problems. Our mind should always be focused upon our great God! Isaiah 26:3 declares, "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*"

After almost 37 years of ministry within the context of the local church, I have discovered that this is the real problem behind all of our struggles. Christians do not know the God of the Bible. Most Christians study the Bible for self-centered reasons. They have some problem to solve, some need to be acquired, some disappointment to escape, some question to answer, or they just mindlessly approach the Bible out of traditional guilt or habit. However, at the very foundation of all truth is the God of truth! The real secret to wisdom is discovering the greatness, majesty, and glory of God. "*The fear [being in awe] of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.*" (Proverbs 9:10) I strongly suggest that you get in the habit of reading and studying the Bible with the chief goal of discovering the attributes of God. All you need to do is ask yourself as you read each verse in the Bible, "What does this verse teach me about God?"

After focusing on the greatness of God in Isaiah 40:12-27, Isaiah then concludes, "*Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*" (Isaiah 40:28-31) As you face the great trials of the future in these last days, remember that the inner strength you need to face each challenge is found in resting in the strength that only comes from the God of all power, might, and strength. Without Him you will faint and be weary.

Philippians 4:6-7 gives the follow command and promise: "*Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*" Add to this, 1 Timothy 6:6-8: "*But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*" In these verses we are reminded of the importance of having a spirit of thanksgiving and contentment. Most of us have been spoiled. We have more than we need! God has been good. We need to keep things in perspective and realize that we can be content with far less, if we stay focused upon the fact that we are "*strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*" (Hebrews 11:13) Real godly joy is not dependent upon our health, wealth, or the size of our house or food pantry. Real joy comes from the Lord! "*The joy of the LORD is your strength.*" (Nehemiah 8:10) Do you really believe that?

### 3. Physical Preparations

As a person thinks about the gradual or sudden collapse of this present world system, it is wise for him to act upon his faith and make some preparations to sustain life until the Rapture takes place. As mentioned before, previous generations for thousands of years realized that it was their personal responsibility to care of their daily necessities. Because most of them lived in rural areas that were sparsely populated, they could not rely upon community, government, or retail stores for the basic necessities of life. Water, food, shelter, clothing, fuel for heating and cooking, homemade medical remedies, transportation, and provisions for security were their personal responsibilities. In sharp contrast to this, the overwhelming majority of people living in the advanced countries of the world live in or near cities and are completely dependent upon the world system for everything to sustain life. They have never raised their own food, or made their clothes. Most people only have enough water and food for a few days, are not prepared to live without electricity for an extended period of time, are living in a shelter that does not completely belong to them, and are not prepared to deal with an immediate emergency or threat to their safety. In other words, if the present world system were to suddenly collapse, they could only survive, at most, a few days or weeks! Please note that Revelation 6:8 indicates that near the beginning of the Tribulation one-fourth of the world's population will die! Many of these who will die are those who have failed to prepare for the life-threatening conditions that will be prevalent even before the Tribulation begins. What if the Rapture does not happen for a few more years? Are you prepared for what could take place?

Excellent resources to consider in these areas are:

Making the Best of Basics (Family Preparedness Handbook) by James T. Stevens, 240 pages

The Encyclopedia of Country Living by Carla Emery, 885 pages  
How to Live Without Electricity and Like It, by Anita Evangelista, 158 pages

Be Ready, (Published by FEMA), 203 pages, [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

Recommended Web-site: [www.beprepared.com](http://www.beprepared.com)

Recommended Web-site: [www.Lehmans.com](http://www.Lehmans.com)

Let us look at the basic areas of physical preparation:

#### Water

When it comes to preparing for short- or long-term preparations for life-threatening situations, water is the number one issue. A person can live for several days without food, but not water. If water is contaminated, it could cause you to become seriously ill, or die in a very short period of time. Therefore, when it comes to preparing for future emergencies, water must be the utmost consideration. Ask yourself: How will I obtain water during an emergency? How can I be sure it is safe to drink? How much water is needed per day for each person in your

household? How will you store water? Have you thought of all your water needs – like cooking, bathing, washing clothes, flushing the toilet, etc.? Will you need to properly filter or treat water, and if so, how will you do it? What is the maximum amount of time for which you wish to make preparations- one month, three months, six months, one year, etc.?

As you consider these questions and arrive at conclusions, seek the face of God about starting preparations immediately.

#### Food

Most people are living from day to day, or week to week, and have very little food at home. I would like to remind us that our forefathers of 125 years ago were self-reliant when it came to the basic necessities of life. When winter came, they took seriously their personal responsibility to have enough food stored until the next harvest near the end of the next growing season. For thousands of years, this was the normal way of life. However, in the last century mankind has gradually created a way of life that has forced most people to be totally dependent upon the commercial farmers and suppliers for the availability of their food. If a major disruption of the food chain in our society were to develop, billions would be trapped in a desperate situation. An examination of the current global developments indicates that the potential for this crisis is about to materialize.

The system that we have enjoyed is about to break down. The rapidly growing world population (1.5 million/week), drastic climate changes, inflationary costs for commercial farming, depleted soil conditions, increases in crop-destructive pests, the sudden disappearance of honey bees that pollinate many crops, and the inability of commercial farmers to obtain loans to plant crops due to the global loan crisis have all contributed to the potential for a serious food shortage in the very near future.

What should we do? In light of the prophetic Word and these current event trends, it seems it would be wise to begin to ask ourselves some questions. What will you do if a serious food shortage begins to develop? Should you begin now to stock the food that you usually eat? How much should you store? Where will you store it? How will you store it?

As you answer these questions, please do not forget to think about storing other items, such as items to cook with, soaps, and detergents. Make a list of everything you have in your house that is necessary to sustaining life. Don't forget about your pets. Determine how much of each item you would need to store for the determined goal you have established. It would seem wise to not rely too heavily upon frozen foods. Should you lose electricity for an extended period of time, your food supply would be suddenly depleted. Think about storing canned, freeze-dried, or dehydrated foods. (For an excellent source, check out [www.beprepared.com](http://www.beprepared.com).) Perhaps you might want to think about purchasing a dehydrator to dehydrate your own food.

It would be much cheaper, last longer, and take up less space. Dehydrated food is also healthier than canned or frozen food. For an excellent source for dehydrators, check out [www.drying123.com](http://www.drying123.com). Whatever you decide to do, you need to get busy, as your funds will allow you, and take action to reach your personal goal. In light of the fact that food has inflated about 83 percent in the three last years, it will also be a great way to save money. If you need to have it, buy it now. Food is not going to get cheaper.

Most people usually do not think they have enough storage space to store six or more months of food in their home. However, you have more storage space than you may realize. Get rid of unnecessary clutter and junk. Become creative and resourceful in finding storage places where your food will be kept cool and dark to keep it as fresh as possible for a longer period of time. Remember, we are talking about sustaining life!

#### Living without electricity

Most of us have had the unfortunate experience of losing our electricity for a few hours or days. With these experiences in mind, you need to think about how you can prepare for the possible eventuality that you might be without electricity for weeks, months, or longer. Here is a list of questions you need to ask: How will you heat or cool your home? Is it possible to only heat part of your home? How long will your heat source last? How will you provide light at night in your home? How will you cook your food? How will you bathe? How will you wash and dry your clothes? How will you maintain communication with the outside world? Should you purchase a battery/solar/hand-crank powered radio? How many batteries should you store? Do you have a list of the items that need batteries and what size batteries they need? Are you prepared to live without refrigeration? Would it be wise to store some paper products, disposable cups, and eating utensils for short-term emergencies?

#### Shelter

Proper shelter is a critical and basic necessity. Many do not own their own home and could be evicted if they fail to keep the mortgage or rent current. If you are forced out of your shelter, where will you go? Would a family member, friend, or church family help to provide shelter? Have you considered the possibility that someone may request to move into your home with you? If you think that someone may want to request that you share your shelter with them, should you begin to make preparations for that now, or wait until the situation materializes? What advantages are there to preparing now? What problems might arise if you wait until the emergency situation develops? If someone does move in with you, what rules or stipulations will you require of them?

#### Medical and Hygiene Concerns

It is very important to not leave out hygiene and medical preparations. Make a list of all the hygiene products you use and decide how many of each item you want to store. Since these items have a long shelf life, you can easily store more of each item for a long-term crisis. It is important to think about health issues. Do you take prescription drugs? What will happen if there is a long-term crisis and you do not have access to your prescription medications? Can you alter your diet or substitute other remedies? Do you have adequate first-aid supplies? Do you have first-aid manuals and other health related handbooks to help you deal with common illnesses? Does a nurse or medical associate person live near you that might be of assistance in case of a more critical emergency? Have you spoke with them about the possibility that you may want to call upon them if they were needed?

Another very critical issue in an emergency will be sanitation conditions and the proper disposal of body wastes. Have a detailed plan, supplies, and materials ready before the crisis develops.

### **4. Financial Preparations**

If the crisis that we face is the result of a gradual economic deterioration, then it will be most important to make the correct financial preparations. In order to put yourself in the best position to weather an economic crisis, you need to have the proper balance of the following:

Decrease or eliminate all debt: (Proverbs 22:7) Have a family meeting and communicate the new financial changes, making sure everyone understands and is on board. Begin now to make great financial sacrifices to pay off your debts. Do not make any more debt. Create annual and monthly budget. Using these budgets, create a daily or weekly budget. Using cash will help to spend less. This eliminates the mindless use of a credit or debit card. When the cash is gone, refuse to spend any more, unless it is a vital need, or emergency. Don't buy anything you do not need. Eat out less. Start with the lowest debt balance and pay them off one by one.

Increase savings: (Proverbs 21:20) Economists recommend that if you and your spouse are under 55 that you should strive to have a three-month emergency fund to give you a financial cushion should your income be suddenly interrupted. If you are older than 55, then it is recommended that you have at least six months to fall back on. This emergency fund should only be used in case of an emergency. If you have debt, you should pray about how to create a balance between paying off debt and building an emergency fund. It would probably be wise to have some protected funds that are set aside for emergencies, while you work on lowering your debt. All of this should be in addition to long-term savings and investment toward retirement.

Dealing with a monetary collapse: According to Revelation 6:5-6, the Tribulation will begin with global famine and hyperinflation conditions. It is amazing that many secular analysts are predicting that these same conditions will materialize in the immediate future. Hyperinflation destroys the value of currency in a very short period of time. Remember that the believer's goal is to provide for his family until the time of the Rapture. So, while we do not know how long it may take for the world to reach the situation mentioned in Revelation 6:5-6, it would seem wise to make some preparation to preserve your buying power. Basically, there are only a few things a person can do to protect against hyperinflation. First, buy and store the necessities to sustain life. Second, many economic advisors are recommending that a person consider putting 5-10 percent of their savings in precious metals (silver, gold, platinum). If you consider this option, you must ask yourself: How do I educate myself concerning precious metals? Where would I purchase them? Where would I store them? Am I willing to take the security risks that come with buying, storing, and selling precious metals? Where would I sell them when I need the cash to pay a bill or make a purchase? If you decide to explore this area you could visit a local coin dealer and ask some questions, or visit one of the many precious metals Web sites. A third option is to put 5-10 percent of your money in some foreign currency. This option will only be valid if you have reason to believe that some foreign currencies will survive the approaching crash of the U.S. dollar.

### 5. Security Preparations

The prophetic Scriptures indicate that the last days will be very dangerous. (2 Timothy 3:1-5) Statistical history demonstrates that as the global economic situation deteriorates, it will be accompanied by an increase in violence. While our ultimate dependence is upon the Lord, the Scrip-

tures do indicate that we do have a human responsibility when it comes to our security. (Proverbs 1:33; Psalm 127:1) Just like the provision of food and health care, we must do our part, and leave the rest in the Lord's hands. Therefore, it would seem wise for the believer, based upon his Biblical convictions, to make serious preparations for defensive security measures before the violence escalates out of control. You may want to consider some of the following security measures: Installation of deadbolt locks, window shades for concealment, security systems, and motion-sensitive lights at your doors. The cheapest security is a little barking dog that is sensitive to noises.

As you consider all of this, remember there is great wisdom in working with others, as you brainstorm and share ideas with other family members, neighbors, and friends. *"Where no counsel is, the people fail: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety."* (Proverbs 11:14) It would be wise for churches to begin to develop a plan to help their members and others in their community to prepare for the days that are ahead.

The difficult days that are ahead will produce many opportunities for the church to minister to the needs of others and to share the gospel with the lost. Above everything, remember that the Lord Jesus is in control. (Colossians 1:16-17) He is the One who is working *"all things after the counsel of his own will."* (Ephesians 1:11) Remember Romans 8:28: *"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."* Spiritually, Jesus is your salvation! Emotionally, He is your peace! Physically, He is your life! Economically, He is your provider! For security, He is your refuge! Make sure that you are abiding in Jesus and that He is abiding in you, as we get ready to face the storm or to be ushered into His presence. As a believer in Jesus Christ, either way, you win!

### **Mike's Upcoming Schedule**

Please use this schedule to pray for Mike's speaking engagements. Pray for the salvation of the lost and the revival of God's people. If there is a conference near you, plan to attend. If you know someone near one of these meetings, why not call and encourage them to attend?

March 15-18	Salem, VA	Glenvar Baptist Church	Myron Powell, 540-380-2167
March 19	<u>Roanoke, VA, Monthly Bible Study at Grace Baptist Church, for more info call 1-540-798-5110</u>		
March 22-24	Kittanning, PA	GBC of West Kittanning	Mark Cornwell, 724-543-4019
March 26-29	Kittanning, PA	North Buffalo GBC	Dave Blevins, 724-763-7871
April 5-8	Christiansburg, VA	Bible Baptist Church	Dusty Etter, 1-540-268-2951
April 16	<u>Roanoke, VA, Monthly Bible Study at Grace Baptist Church, for more info call 1-540-798-5110</u>		
April 19-22	Smith Center, KS	Grace Baptist Church	Jay Hall, 1-785-215-3183
April 23-26	Portis, KS	Grace Brethren Church of Portis	Dave Sarver, 1-785-346-2085
May 3-6	Radford, VA	Fairlawn GBC	Lester Kennedy, 1-540-639-6885
May 21	<u>Roanoke, VA, Monthly Bible Study at Grace Baptist Church, for more info call 1-540-798-5110</u>		
May 31- June 2	Middlebranch, OH	Grace Brethren Church	Jeff Brown, 1- 330-499-6691
June 7-9	Cumberland, MD	Grace Brethren Church	Ray McCoy, 1-301-876-8128
June 18	<u>Roanoke, VA, Monthly Bible Study at Grace Baptist Church, for more info call 1-540-798-5110</u>		

