

The God of Salvation

“Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me....Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.” (Micah 7.7, 18)

The entire prophecy of Micah addresses the need for people to be ready when they meet their God. Present day happenings, troublous or joyous, teach us great lessons that mature us and ready us for future catastrophic events - or, at least they should make us ready. Our world is changing - drastically changing heading toward the future coming of the king of Kings - the Lord Jesus Christ and Armageddon.

People prepare themselves in various ways.

There are the naysayers, deniers, who join their voices with the skeptics of whom Peter wrote. **“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.” (II Peter 3.4)** While we, as believers, should not become overly anxious, we should not take the “Que Sera, Sera” (Whatever will be, will be) attitude either. Denial has never been an effective way to prepare for the future.

There are those who seek to surround themselves with friends and family. While that is comforting in the present (and highly recommended), it will do nothing to help when our organized world begins to crumble. During the Tribulation of the last days, love will be replaced with fear - concern for others will be replaced with instincts for survival. Suzanne Collins, in her book, “The Hunger Games,” graphically illustrates this as “tributes” from various districts are placed in an arena where they fight to the death. At first, some unite in order to help their odds of survival. In the end, it is everyone for himself. **“For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house.” (Micah 7.6)** In the end, friends and family will not be the answer.

Some will resort to personal defenses - armaments and bunkers. Conducting a web search for “preparedness” results in a plethora of sites offering lists of items necessary for survival in the coming Apocalypse. In order to be properly prepared, one must have a sufficient cache of weapons, clothing, food, and various other supplies. Preparation includes instructions for protecting your stash from friends and neighbors who have not properly prepared for their own survival. **“Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide:**

keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.” (Micah 7.5) As a result, personal preparation avails little - there will always be someone with a bigger and more powerful weapon.

Jesus tells the story of two men - one wise and the other foolish. (Matthew 7.24-27) While the wise man built his house upon the firm foundation of God's Word (the Rock), the foolish man build his house upon human philosophies and reasonings. When the end came, the foolish man's house fell flat; however, the wise man's house stood firm. It was not enough to have ornate decorations, luxurious landscaping or the latest in electronic gadgetry. It was not enough to have home security systems or a great education. When the storms of life encroached, the structure fell flat because it was not built upon a solid foundation.

In the final summary of life, our ability to stand is directly related to the Foundation upon which we build our lives - that foundation is Christ alone. In introducing His parable, Jesus said, **“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (Matthew 7.21-23)**

During any stage of our lives, we must not forget to build upon the proper Foundation. **“Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.” (Micah 7.7)**

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