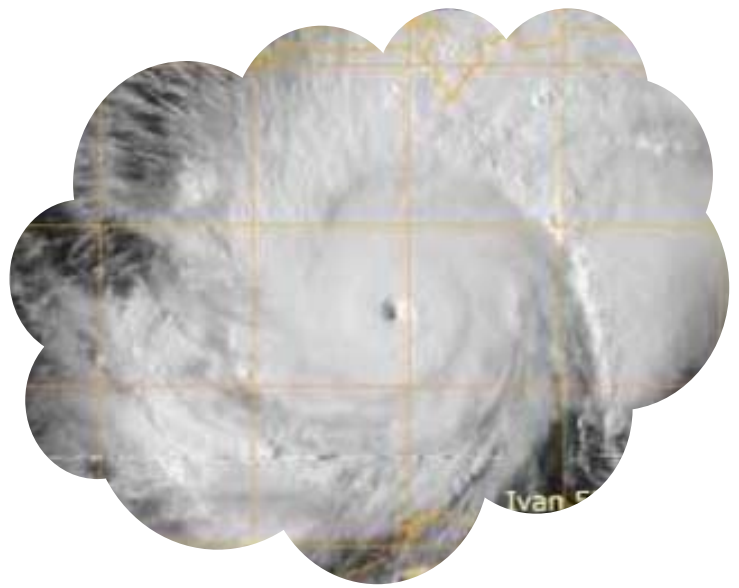


Hurricanes, OR Prophecies?



Today once more we have a lot to praise the Lord for. He has been merciful to us once again. We were told that the worst storm in the history of Florida, hurricane Francis, was heading for us. After long days of anticipation and preparation it finally came. There was a lot of wind and rain, and we did loose power for a few days, but our lives and our property were spared.

In the Bible Commentary (page 1067) we read that “**Nature Acts as a Silent Preacher**. The material world is under God's control. The laws that govern all nature are obeyed by nature. Everything speaks and acts the will of the Creator. The clouds, the rain, the dew, the sunshine, the showers, the wind, **the storm**, all are under the supervision of God, and yield implicit obedience to Him who employs them. ...These silent preachers will teach human beings their lessons, if they will only be attentive hearers.”

What lessons can a destroying, devastating hurricane teach us?

There is a lot we can learn. There are many hidden parallels between the events of these past few weeks and the end time events, but I would like to mention just a few.

As the weather man predicts hurricanes and tornadoes ahead of time, God, out of His infinite love and mercy, has given us prophecies of end-time events, so we can know what to expect, and when to expect it.

Some people took the warnings for the coming hurricane seriously and prepared for its coming, but some didn't and they were left ill-equipped. Are we taking the sign of the times seriously? Are we preparing for Jesus' soon return? He said: “**So likewise you, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.**” Matthew 24:33

There were people who have just winged their preparation, who watched and listened to what other people did and imitated them. Yet there were others who put more effort into it and researched all they could, and prepared based on the information they gathered for themselves. Are we winging our preparation for eternal life?

Most everyone put their usual activities aside and focused on preparation for the arrival of the hurricane. Banks, stores, offices, and schools were closed, so people could get ready in time. Windows and doors were boarded up. Potentially flying object were stored away, or tied down. Food, water and other supply was purchased.

How are we doing daily with our priorities? Is preparation for eternal life our highest concern?

There were people who ignored the warnings, evacuation orders, or curfew orders, because of this some had to pay for it with their lives. Ignoring the signs of the times will not make them go away, instead it insures eternally fatal results!

Did you sense the feeling of panic as you talked to people and observed their reaction to the upcoming storm? Did you notice fear? We do not need to panic or fear the end time events. As the Lord has helped us to prepare, and than protected us during the hurricane, He can do the same during the time of trouble.

As you know a third hurricane is heading for us as we speak. We have had no time to recuperate from the aftermath of Charley and Francis, and now Ivan is heading in our direction. The frequency of these hurricanes parallel the frequency of end-time events. This week again, besides these hurricanes, we heard of typhoons in Japan, a major hostage situation in Russia, and terrorist attacks in many places. I am only mentioning a few; however, the list of these events is much longer, and they are all screaming at us daily:

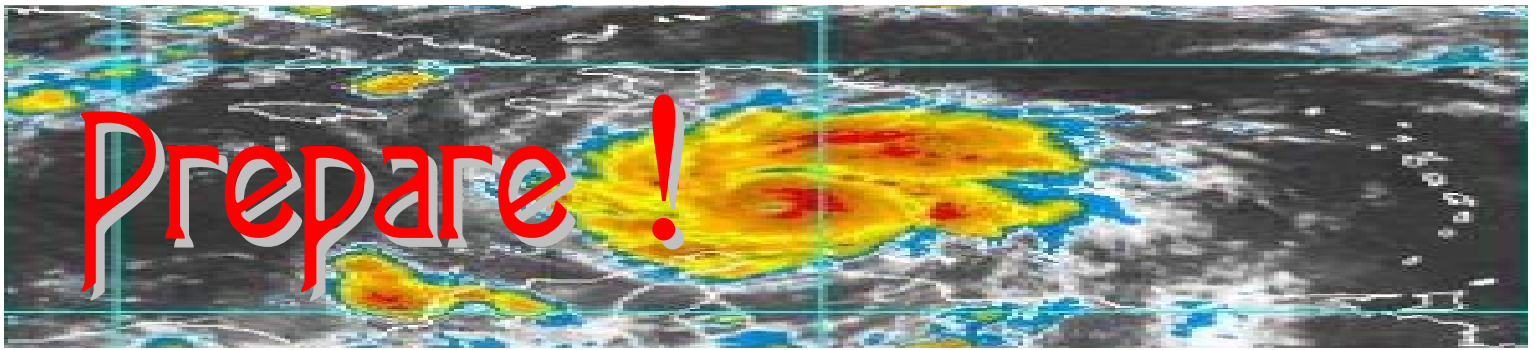
PREPARE!

Let us be wise and read the signs of the times! We must learn about end time prophecies as much as we can! Let us take the appropriate measures to prepare and protect ourselves, and our families!

Today as we mark the third anniversary of 911, we think back and remember how people turned to God after 911 for only a few short months. Church attendance rose significantly, people were buying and hopefully reading the Bible, but as time passed the shock wore off and everything went back to worldly interests.

Let us not have spiritual ADD! Let us be vigilant! Let us **watch, prepare and labor for souls!**

Please read: "Prepare" quotes!



“Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

Matthew 3:3

“In the last scenes of this earth's history, war will rage. There will be pestilence, plague, and famine. The waters of the deep will overflow their boundaries. Property and life will be destroyed by fire and flood. **This should show us that the souls for whom Christ has died should be fitting up for the mansions Christ has gone to prepare for them.** There is a rest from earth's conflict. Where is it? – ‘*That where I am, there ye may be also*’ Heaven is where Christ is. Heaven would not be heaven to those who love Christ if He were not there. Are we individually fitting up characters which will be meet for the society of Christ and the heavenly angels?”

Bible Echo and Signs of the Times -DT- 06-17-1901

“**Our work is to proclaim the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.** ‘*Prepare to meet thy God*’ (Amos 4:12), is the warning to be given to the world. It is a warning to us individually. We are called upon to lay aside every weight, and *the sin which doth so easily beset us*. There is a work for you, my brother, to do, to yoke up with Christ. Make sure that your building is on the rock. Do not risk eternity on a probability. You may not live to participate in the perilous scenes on which we are now entering. The life of no one of us is assured for any given time. Should you not watch every moment? Should you not closely examine your own self, and inquire, What will eternity be to me?”

Selected Messages Book 2 -PG- 116-117

“Individually and as a people we have a most solemn work before us. There is a daily preparation of heart and mind to be gained in order that we may be fitted to work out the purposes of God for us. The perils of the last days are upon us, and at this time we are each determining what our destiny for eternity shall be. Individually we are to form characters that will stand the test of the judgment. Individually we are to give, in the church where we are, an example of faithfulness and consecration. **The ministry of the Word is designed to prepare a people to stand in the times of temptation in which we live;** and church members are to cooperate with the work of ministry by revealing in the life the principles of the truth, that no word shall be spoken or act performed that will lead into false paths or create a condition of things that God cannot approve.”

Manuscript Releases Volume Ten -PG- 214-215

“Seventh-day Adventists are making progress, doubling their numbers, establishing missions, and unfurling the banner of truth in the dark places of the earth; and yet **the work moves far more slowly than God would have it.** [Why?] **The members of the church are not individually aroused to put forth the earnest effort they are capable of making, and every branch of the work is crippled by the lack of fervent piety, and devoted, humble, God-fearing laborers.** Where are the soldiers of the cross of Christ? Let the God-fearing, the honest, the single-hearted, who look steadfastly to the glory of God, prepare themselves for the battle against error. There

are too many faint, cowardly hearts in this hour of spiritual conflict. O that out of weakness they may be made strong, and wax valiant in fight, and put to flight the armies of the aliens!"

Christian Service -PG- 97

"We need increased faith, far less confidence and assurance in what we can do, and far greater confidence in what the Lord is longing to do for us individually, if we will prepare the way for Him. We need, O so much more than we now have, the longing of soul for communion with God. We need to plead most earnestly with Him. *If thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find Him, when thou shalt seek Him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. . . .*"

The Upward Look -PG- 333

"The great deceiver has prepared his wiles for every soul that is not braced for trial and guarded by constant prayer and living faith. As ministers, as Christians, we must work to take the stumbling-blocks out of the way. We must remove every obstacle. Let us confess and forsake every sin, that the way of the Lord may be prepared, that He may come into our assemblies and impart His rich grace. The world, the flesh, and the Devil must be overcome. We cannot prepare the way by gaining the friendship of the world, which is enmity with God; but by His help we can break its seductive influence upon ourselves and upon others. We cannot individually or as a body secure ourselves from the constant temptations of a relentless and determined foe; but in the strength of Jesus we can resist them. From every member of the church a steady light may shine forth before the world, so that they shall not be led to inquire, What do these people more than others? There can be and must be a withdrawal from conformity to the world, a shunning of all appearance of evil, so that no occasion shall be given for gainsayers. We cannot escape reproach; it will come; but we should be very careful that we are not reproached for our own sins or follies, but for Christ's sake."

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 03-22-1908

"Why do we not so prepare our hearts that we will take the promise, and, through the operation of the Holy Spirit receive Christ as an ever abiding power, to be our sufficiency, our acknowledged power for maintaining our strength, that we may reveal to friend and foe that we have an abiding Christ? It is the privilege of everyone to exert an influence, individually, as one who has received Christ and who believes in Him."

Sermons and Talks Volume Two -PG- 274

"Our people individually must understand Bible truth more thoroughly, for they certainly will be called before councils; they will be criticised by keen and critical minds. It is one thing to give assent to the truth, and another thing, through close examination as Bible students, to know what is truth. We have been apprised of our dangers, of the trials and temptations just before us; **and now is the time to take special pains to prepare ourselves to meet the temptations and emergencies which are just before us.**"

The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials -PG- 197

"Prepare for the Coming Conflict. Satan is marshaling his hosts; and are we individually prepared for the fearful conflict that is just before us? Are we preparing our children for the great crisis? Are we preparing ourselves and our households to understand the position of our adversaries and their modes of warfare? Are our children forming habits of decision, that they may be firm and unyielding in every matter of principle and duty? I pray that we all may understand the signs of the times, and that we may so prepare ourselves and our children that in the time of conflict God may be our refuge and defense."

The Adventist Home -PG- 186

“God wants us to bring our lives into closer relationship to Him, Who owns all we possess, and Who sustains us by His power. All we have is Christ's. By our reception of the truth we are linked to God in Jesus Christ -- linked up with God to meet our opportunities with the very life principles which make this union a possibility, the principles of self-denial and self-sacrifice. **Men and women who believe the truth are to awake and face their responsibilities, and show themselves willing and ready to co-operate with God.** The money and houses and lands which He has given them in trust, they can trade upon and bring into active service. There is a work to be done in the world in the blessing of humanity by giving them an opportunity to prepare for the future eternal life. **Each day bears with it responsibilities. Each day brings its opportunities, and these must be discerned by the workmen and made use of without delay.** Personal agencies are required to make men laborers together with God to exalt the power of truth in a world of darkness and ignorance and sin. Then let us put forth consecrated efforts, feeling that we are working under the influence of heavenly agencies.”

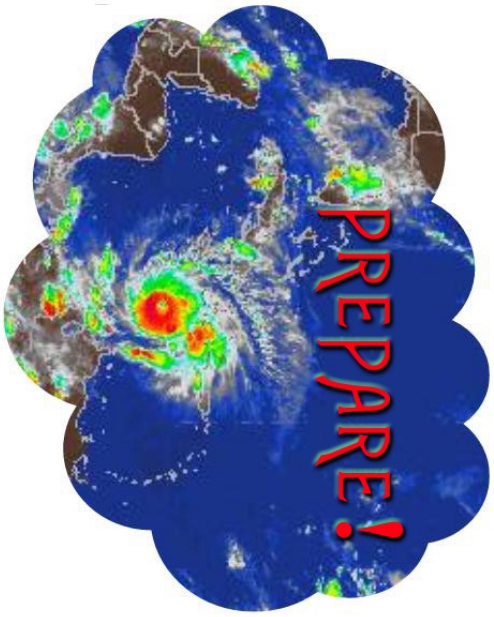
(Australasian) Union Conference Record -DT-12-01-1900

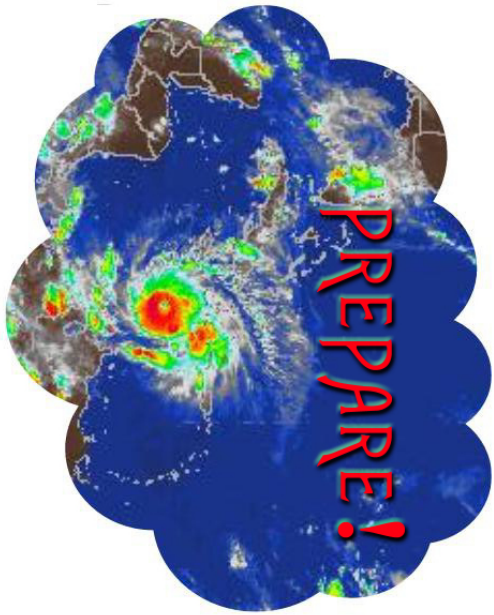
“... Those who are engrossed in the service of self and the world, feel a spirit of grudging when they are urged to devote their service to the God of love. They give to the world their best thought, their tact, their talents, their means, their influence. When self is served, they do not withhold anything, but give their lives for the passing pleasures of earth. But when it comes to the service of God, do men manifest the same zeal for His work as they formerly manifested in the service of the world? Do they put the tact and talent and aptness into the work of saving souls, that they displayed in the selfish work of the past, and yet does not reason tell us that the work for God is as far above the service of the world, as the heaven is higher than the earth? **God would have every one of us feel that now is the time of golden opportunity and privilege. Heaven's blessings are showered upon us. The precious hours of probation are still prolonged. The Lord has waited long for us to prepare for the eternal world.** We must seek the Spirit of Christ who gave Himself for us. **We must go out and seek to win others, as He has won us. Every word you speak, every action you perform, has an influence for good or evil upon those who associate with you; and, oh! how necessary it is that you have Christ dwelling in your heart by faith, that your words may be words of life, and your works, the works of love.** The words and deeds of the Christian are ordained to form a part of the great plan that God has devised for the salvation of lost man. The Lord has directed the world to His professed followers, and He has declared, ‘**By their fruits ye shall know them.**’ If we would work from the high standpoint of pleasing our Heavenly Father, we would be in harmony with the spirit of heaven; we would express to the world the love of Jesus in our lives and characters.”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 06-12-1888

“The law of God is made void in the world, and iniquity prevails; but light is shining from the open door of the temple of God. Open your heart, and let the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness shine into your soul, that you may be softened, subdued, and sanctified. The enemy of all righteousness is on our track. Satan is marshaling his host; and are we individually prepared for the fearful conflict that is just before us? Are we preparing our children for the great crisis? Are we preparing ourselves and our households to understand the position of our adversaries, and their modes of warfare? Are our children forming habits of decision, that they may be firm and unyielding in every matter of principle and duty? **I pray that we all may understand the signs of the times, and that we may so prepare ourselves and our children that in the time of conflict God may be our refuge and defense.**”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 04-23-1889





Directions:

- ❖ Print pages 1 & 2 on 24lb white paper.
- ❖ Print pages 3 - 5 back to back on yellow paper
- ❖ Print page 6 or 7 on a 4.25" x 9.5" envelope (depending on the type of printer you have, page 6 if envelope loads on the right side of the printer, or page 7 if printer loads envelope in the center)
- ❖ Fold appeal in 3 even sections (Z-fold -- artwork out on top section)
- ❖ Fold set of quotes in 3 even sections (Z-fold -- artwork out on top section)
- ❖ Place 1 appeal, 1 set of quotes in each envelope.