

Prepared? Beware!

If you are not ready to meet your Maker, then read the Bible, obey God's plan of salvation, and stay faithful to Him. To become a Christian, you need to learn of Jesus Christ (John 6:44), so read the gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Doing so should lead to your belief in Jesus as God's Son (John 8:24; 20:30-31).



What did the Israelites use in place of swords and spears to fight the Philistines?

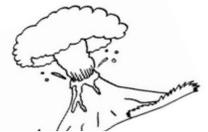
BONUS: Who is mentioned as leaders in the battle?

You must repent of your sins, which means to turn away from the practice of sin (see 2 Corinthians 7:10, repentance is a change in thought that leads to a change in actions). Then, you need to be baptized (a brief immersion under water) for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-11). Be prepared at that time to make a confession of Jesus Christ as the Son of God (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:9-10). When we give attention to this day, we are doing a most significant thing in being prepared for the "last day." Each day we are to be looking for "hastening the coming of the day of God" (2 Peter 3:12). Right?

What does 2 Peter 3 declare the children of God ought to be doing as they watch, wait, and work? From 2 Peter 3 we read that every member of the Lord's church needs to be holy (3:11), godly (3:11), diligent (3:14), found in peace (3:14), without "spot" (3:14), and blameless (3:14). "Blameless" is found over a dozen times in the New Testament. We should seek to improve in our spiritual life by being "transformed" every day (2 Corinthians 3:18). Be prepared for His return!

In 2 Peter 3:17-18 we are told to "beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Beware of false prophets (Matthew 7:15). Beware of men (Matthew 10:17). Beware of the leaven (Matthew 16:6). Beware of covetousness (Luke 12:15). Beware of evil workers (Philippians 3:2). Beware of philosophy and vain deceit (Colossians 2:8).

Consider this example of misplaced confidence and neglecting to "beware." On May 18, 1980, the side of Mount St Helens in Washington (a supposedly dormant volcano), began to bulge. What? A "bulging" mountainside? The scientists were not alarmed because past research indicated that volcanoes *never* blew sideways. Ka-boom! The power equivalent to 500 atomic bombs exploded, and 230 square miles of forest were decimated. Fifty-seven people lost their lives in an instant. Their assumption concerning the natural events of volcanoes in the past was wrong!



The Bible tells us of the past and of a future. Will there be misplaced confidence concerning the return of Christ? Our world is designated for a fiery end—"the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10). Can there be "good news" surrounding this event? Yes! "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). Have we been warned? Yes!

Every day that God allows the earth to spin around—that day is yet another opportunity for lost people to turn to the Lord in order to receive salvation. Are we prepared? Are you and I preparing others for the "last day?"

To all our visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few "family" announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord's Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

We are glad you decided to worship God with us on this first day of the week!

Bday/Anniv Lunch: 2nd Sunday...

NMCCH: Spray & Wash and Bar Bath Soap (pick up **April 6, 2019**)

Friday Bible Study: from 7 to 8 PM.

Gospel Meeting: at Shannon Oaks (3/31) at 7:30 PM, Gregg Knight: "Saving Property of Water." Sounds refreshing!

Gospel Meeting: at Ivanhoe (4/7-10) Jess Whitlock preaching (see flyer for times and topics). Always worth the time to listen!

Ladies Day: in Durant, Saturday (4/13) from 9AM-2PM, Charissa Miller "Faith Lift"