



April 2009

“Difficult Times to Come”

1st Month 6009

We are all quite aware that the prophetic clock is continually ticking. With economic challenges and threats of global disaster daily assaulting our senses, it is not surprising that there is a great deal of talk about the “end times”. There has been an increase in the number of e-mails asking our thoughts on how to prepare for the last days; should we start stockpiling food and supplies, should we move away from the cities, should we be getting our tickets to Israel, should we begin setting up safe-houses, or making plans to meet with other believers at a designated location? All of these questions are valid concerns and questions. I regularly ponder how best to prepare my family for what is certain to come upon us. I have been praying ardently for wisdom on this matter. Through study and prayer I have come to the conclusion that the first thing we need to do to be prepared is to prepare our hearts.

After the fall of man, the Torah declares a profound judgment upon the heart of man. *And YHWH saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5 KJV)* This declaration is confirmed by the second witness of the prophet Jeremiah. *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9 KJV).* Yeshua likewise confirmed that the source of evil in the world is the fallen and corrupted heart of mankind. *But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.¹⁹ For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: (Matthew 15:18-19 KJV)* Here we note that evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, and blasphemies are symptoms of a greater crisis, a crisis of the heart. It is clearly the (fallen) nature of the human heart that is the root and source of all this wickedness. It is this fallen heart of man that will be behind most of the suffering of the great tribulation.

We may have all the food, survival skills, equipment, escape plans and weapons we need to protect and provide for ourselves and our families in the time of the tribulation, but if our heart is not right we will use all that YHWH has entrusted us to serve only our selves. Surely such selfishness and hoarding will only provoke jealousy and violence. In the end, we may yet be alive, but we will still have to face judgment. *And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?⁴ Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?⁵ But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;⁶ Who will render to every man **according to his deeds:** (Romans 2:3-6 KJV)* If we act like the world so shall we be judged with the world. What good will our survival skills be to us before the throne of Messiah? Maybe this is what the Apostle Shaul meant when he wrote, *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.² And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3 KJV)*

We may note here, that contrary to what the Church has taught for years, we are not judged based upon what we believe in our hearts but what we do with our lives. **According to their deeds,** accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompense. (Isaiah 59:18 KJV)

*For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them **according to their deeds,** and according to the works of their own hands. (Jeremiah 25:14 KJV)*

*For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man **according to his works.** (Matthew 16:27 KJV)*

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, **according to their works.** (Revelation 20:12 KJV)

Let me emphasize that these works which are judged originate in the heart of man. YHWH **searches the heart** but he **judges the works** that emanate from it. **I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.** (Jeremiah 17:10 KJV)

And I will kill her children with death; and all the assemblies shall know that I am he which **searcheth the reins and hearts:** and I will give unto every one of you **according to your works.** (Revelation 2:23 KJV)

If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not **he that pondereth the heart** consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man **according to his works?** (Proverbs 24:12 KJV)

Clearly, if we are to be prepared for the “Day of YHWH” we must begin now to pray with the psalmist, *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.* (Psalm 51:10 KJV) If the dross is removed from our hearts then the words and works which emanate from them shall be a delight to the One who judges righteously. It is not our worldly provision that will see us through the terrible days to come, but the Spirit of the Holy One abiding in our lives. We should, therefore cling to the promise of YHWH, *Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.*²⁶ **A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.²⁷ *And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.* (Ezekiel 36:25-27 KJV) When the Spirit of the Holy One grants us a heart to do the Torah we shall find that the Torah itself shall become for us a hedge of protection.**

Yes, it is important for us to make provision for ourselves and our families for the difficult times to come, but we should not forget the words of Yeshua, *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?* (Mark 8:36 KJV) Let us remember to keep first things first and ask that YHWH would grant us the grace to prepare our hearts for the great and terrible day of his coming.

Shalom

Glenn McWilliams

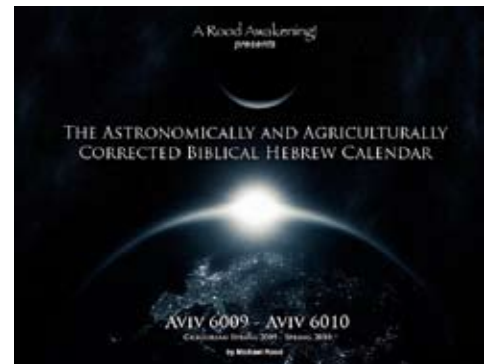
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