

Time To Prepare III

Preparation depends on proximity.

“Above all, you must understand that in the last days mockers will multiply, chasing after their evil desires. They will say, “So what about this promise of his coming? Our ancestors are dead and buried, yet everything is still the same as it was since from the beginning of time until now.”

“So, dear friends, don’t let this one thing escape your notice: a single day counts like a thousand years to the Lord Yahweh, and a thousand years counts as one day. This means that, contrary to man’s perspective, the Lord is not late with His promise to return, as some measure lateness. But rather, His “delay” simply reveals His loving patience toward you, because He does not want any to perish but all to come to repentance.”

“The day of the Lord will come and take everyone by surprise—as unexpected as a home invasion. The atmosphere will be set on fire and vanish with a horrific roar, and the heavenly bodies will melt away as in a tremendous blaze. The earth and every activity of man will be laid bare. Since all these things are on the verge of being dismantled, don’t you see how vital it is to live a holy life? We must be consumed with godliness while we anticipate and help to speed up the coming of the day of God, when the atmosphere will be set on fire and the heavenly bodies consumed in a blaze. But as we wait, we trust in God’s royal proclamation to be fulfilled. There are coming heavens new in quality, and an earth new in quality, where righteousness will be fully at home.”

“So, my beloved friends, with all that you have to look forward to, may you be eager to be found living pure lives when you come into His presence,

without blemish and filled with peace. And keep in mind that our Lord's extraordinary patience simply means more opportunity for salvation, just as our dear brother Paul wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him."

"As for you, divinely loved ones, since you are forewarned of these things, be careful that you are not led astray by the error of the lawless and lose your firm grip on the truth. But continue to grow and increase in God's grace and intimacy with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May He receive all the glory both now and until the day eternity begins. Amen!"

2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-15, 17-18 TPT

1. The use of mockery as a powerful weapon against believers.

**"Fools mock sin [but sin mocks the fools]...
Proverbs 14:9 AMP**

“But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

Jude 1:17-21 NKJV

More than an action, a demonically inspired attitude.

The goal is to shake your confidence, make you feel foolish for believing and trusting in God and His word, shame you into doing whatever it takes to stop people from making fun of you.

**If it was just anger, you could handle it.
If it was just arguing, you could defend
your position.**

But who can endure being made fun of?

2. God has deliberately chosen not to respond to mockery. His goal is not to silence mockers, or prove Himself. His goal is to wait patiently for everyone, including the worst mocker, to repent. The Lord Jesus suffered at the hands of mockers, so He knows what it feels like and He helps us to be strong and endure it.

3. Everyone will be surprised when the end comes. There will be a big difference between those that are surprised and unprepared and those that are surprised and prepared. Whether Jesus returns sooner than we thought, or later than we thought, we're ready.

I may be surprised that it was sooner, but I'm ok, because I was ready. I may be thinking that it's getting kind of late and I calculated that He should've been here long before now, but I'm ready, so I guess it doesn't ready matter. He'll come when He comes, and it will be so awesome to see Him!

- 4. It's clear that preparation depends on proximity. Preparing to endure the pressures of these increasingly evil days isn't like getting ready for a hurricane. It can't be a list like, go to church, read your Bible, pray, serve on a ministry team, pay tithes and offerings, be good, and you'll be ready. Preparation isn't a program. Preparation is a Person. Preparation is proximity to that Person. Get close, then keep getting closer. Here's the fruit of getting closer to Jesus:**

- a holy life consumed with godliness**
- an unblemished life filled with peace**

- careful not be led astray by the lawless**
- keeping a firm grip on the truth**
- growing in God's grace**
- increasing in intimacy with Jesus**

**Dad and Mom moved closer to God and
Sunday's were spent in church instead of at
horse shows**