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How to Prepare for the Future

by Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., March 2000

Reformatted and edited by David Sielaff, August 2013

Read the accompanying [Newsletter for March 2000](#)



We are all familiar with the biblical principle in Proverbs 6:6–11, which states:

“Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provides meat [food] in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you sleep, O sluggard? Yet a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep? So shall your poverty come as one that travels [who travels away from his farm and does not farm the land to produce his food], and the want as an armed man [in the military and does not farm the land to produce his food].”

The moral of the account is the admonition to be wise and to provide for someone else to farm the land *for you* when you have to travel or if you are called on by your brotherly ruler to perform military duty for the safety of the nation. You make sure the government takes care of your land in a proper condition while you serve your country in war.

Moreover, there is a further warning. When you are resident on your own land, make sure you gather in the food prudently and in a timely fashion and do not lie down on the job by staying in bed and snuggling up to the pillow when you ought to be out working in the field. The ant does all of these things because it is programmed by God to lay up the necessary foodstuffs (and other assets) to keep that single ant and also that community of ants well stocked with material needs to carry them to the next harvest season.

This illustration is given to help God’s people know how to bear up to the responsibility of providing for oneself and for others in the community in ordinary seasons of the year when God gives normal food supplies. Yet, there is not one word about “hoarding” in this parable. Ants do NOT hoard foodstuffs and other material things because they are NOT programmed to hoard beyond yearly necessities. God has given the ants the involuntary attributes (programmed within their tiny brains) to simply stock up from one summer to the next in a normal and timely manner every year. And so should you and I.

Notice, however, what is NOT found in the above illustration. There is nothing in Proverbs 6:6–11 (or anywhere else in the Holy Scriptures) that says when we see the End Time coming upon us, which Christ Jesus and the Prophets prophesied will occur, that we should diligently hoard food and supplies for our own particular welfare, get shotguns, and other artillery to protect that hoard from starving masses who would

steal it from you. Nor are you to isolate yourself from the community around you and selfishly keep your entire hoard to yourself and your own loved ones at the expense of everyone else on earth.

If you were checking the news in the six months preceding the Y2K scare in the last months of 1999, you would have found prominent preachers and teachers of the Gospel telling people to do that very thing. Of course, in my own report to all of you who read ASK material, I told you plainly and with conviction that nothing of the sort that the “prophetic hucksters” were scaring you into believing would occur. In fact, I stated (truthfully) that the Y2K affair would be one of the greatest opportunities for community participation and that good would come from it. Certainly, I was right, wasn’t I? There are still some people out there “in radioland” who think I was just lucky in my predictions on that particular occasion. However, we still have a few months of 2000 left and all of 2001 and there are still some that think that doom is right around the corner.

I am not a prophet. People can go ahead and believe the nonsense if they want (and hoard up all they can for their own protection during the “great trial” that is supposed to be on our doorsteps). True enough, we all know that the stock market cannot keep up its giddy pace of balloon economics forever. There will be a correction — a major adjustment that will bring the economy down to a reasonable level of prosperity and opportunity. We are presently on an upscale economy based primarily on advances in technical and electronic inventions that are essential for the teaching of the Gospel to the world (and we should continue having “good times” as long as these “new inventions” are consistently being developed).

Indeed, computers and Internet matters are presently (as we advance in prosperity) costing the consumer less and less each month or quarter. Let me give you a hint (as I see it) about the time when there will be a leveling out of the United States and other western economies from the “bubble” we are now in. That is when computers and computer accessories cease getting cheaper each month or quarter and when they start costing ten or twenty percent more. When that phase begins to happen, then this time of unheard-of prosperity will end (temporarily) and the prosperity (though it will not end for those in the western world) will be more evenly tempered. That is my opinion and I present it to you for what it is worth. Yet for us, relative prosperity will continue.

As for hoarding food and other supplies for the impending doom of the Judgment that God prophesies in the Book of Revelation, I personally see no reason for the slightest concern for the next fifteen to twenty years. True, if you live in an earthquake zone or in areas where you may be snowbound for a month or so, it would be good to have a month’s supply of foodstuffs and especially water in the home for such an emergency. Remember, as I heard in a food checkout line of a grocery store, one man told another that most homes have water heaters that can contain 50 gallons or more of fresh water that usually can be tapped if you know where to look. It would be good to have some canned goods available and grains, etc., for such emergencies. But a month’s supply of emergency foodstuffs, water, and small comforts (like toilet paper) would be all that is needed.

We have all heard how the early Mormons were told to have at least a year’s provisions stashed aside in each household for emergency use. That was good advice a hundred years ago when most Mormons lived in a desert economy which was susceptible to drought and the loss of crops, but even the Mormon elders today know that their requirement is antiquated and there is really no need for such “hoarding.” I totally agree.

The fact is, I have tried to inform all of you that in the next few years the trend in our western societies will be toward “helping our neighbors” and those in our communities, rather than isolationism from the mainstream of society. This is the very thing prophesied by God the Father and vouched for by the teachings of Christ Jesus and His prophetic authorities. Let me say it again, there is simply **NO NEED WHATEVER** for anyone to hoard food and water in one’s home beyond the period of a month (unless you live in some extreme geographical regions of the earth that might demand it).

It is time to get on the bandwagon of teaching the Gospel to the world, and putting your extra assets into getting out the Gospel rather than “fleeing to the mountains” for your own selfish protection at the expense of all others in the community. We are at least 15 to 20 years away from any prophetic scenario involving

the Great Tribulation. Even then, I do not personally feel that “fleeing to the mountains” is at all necessary in any area other than Palestine in the years in advance of us — even in the period of the Antichrist.

EDITOR’S NOTE:

Further research by Dr. Martin caused him to change his understanding of the chronology of the End Time. At the time of his death in January 2002, Dr. Martin was working on an article demonstrating that Christ’s coming might be as long as 72 years in the future from 1998. This would take us to around 2070.

God’s ways are not our ways, His thoughts are not our thoughts. Nor do any of us know the time when Christ will return. However, we are to watch and understand the times and the seasons as events unfold.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says YHWH. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

• *Isaiah 55:8–9*

“But of that day and that hour knows no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take you heed, watch and pray: for you know not when the time is.

• *Mark 13:32–33 (see also Matthew 24:36, 42)*

“And he [Jesus, after His resurrection] said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has put in his own power.”

• *Acts 1:7*

We still do not know what we desire to know. Yet we are told to watch the signs of the times. So be comforted with the words of the apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:1–12.

“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ...

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. You are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. ...

For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also you do.”

• *1 Thessalonians 5:1–12*

There was sufficient material in Dr. Martin’s prospective article, and it was well enough developed for me to work through and publish it. Read this fine research article by Dr. Martin, [“The ‘Great Generation’ and Modern Prophecy.”](#) DWS

Dr. Martin’s Conclusion

So, protect yourself, yes, but you also need to protect yourself from the “prophetic hucksters” who are out there en masse to deceive you into doing things that are in no way necessary. What you should do is to put your money into the work of God. God will take you through the Tribulation period with a triumph that He can and will provide.

Ernest L. Martin, 2000
David Sielaff, July 2013