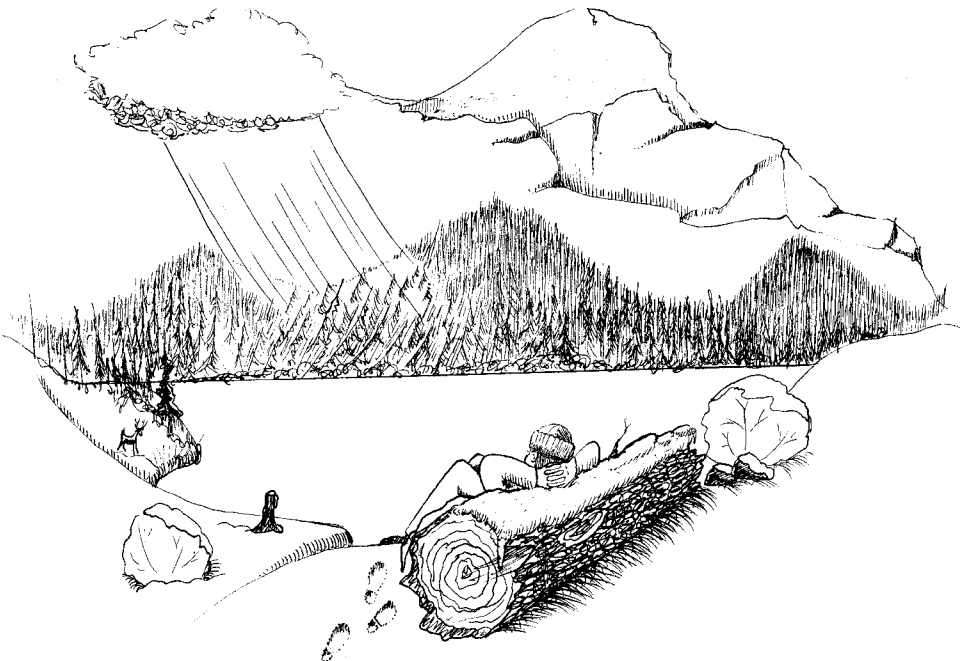


No matter what storms may come...

You Can Survive!

A book designed for people
preparing for the end times.

by
Jere Franklin



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Chetwynd, British Columbia, Canada

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Jere Franklin

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INTRODUCTION



*“A storm is coming, relentless in its fury.
Are we prepared to meet it?” (8T 315)*

Introduction

Storms Are Already Here

What storms? Why do people need a book on spiritual survival? While many people have expectations of cataclysmic events soon to come to this earth, what events could threaten human survival? Biblical prophecies draw back the dark curtain covering the future and reveal plans that could intimidate your school, church, and family. Is there something you can do to get ready for threatening events that will catch many by surprise?

The almighty God has a plan to counteract the evil one. This book gives spiritual and practical advice outlining God's intentions for your survival. If you want to respond to God's way and prepare your family for what is ahead, then you have many reasons to read this book. Here are some of the threats we need to survive:

- * According to the American Society of Suicidology, suicides in the US in the year 2003 totaled 31,484 (all races, both sexes).
- * Cancer cases in the US in the year 2002 totaled 557,271. A large portion of cancer cases can be prevented.
- * AIDS current cases, as of December 2002 worldwide 38 million. Many of these cases are avoidable.
- * Heart disease in the US in the year 2002 took 696,947 lives. While this is the world's biggest killer, a large portion of heart disease is preventable. (* Time Almanac 2006; pp. 137, 213)

Other societal threats include: drug addiction, alcohol and associated high-way slaughter, sexually transmitted disease, unwanted pregnancies, abortions, crime (robbery, rape, and murder), animal and human abuse, prostitution, terrorism, hunger, hurricanes, tornadoes, volcanoes, floods, conflagrations, earthquakes. All of these threaten our churches, schools, and families. But, no matter what storms may come, **YOU CAN SURVIVE!**

I Was Prepared

Not long ago, I was on the shores of Sanctuary Lake in the Northern Canadian Rockies. It was mid-March, and snow was everywhere. The ice on the lake was about two feet thick. A storm front was developing behind the mountain, and from the color of the clouds, it appeared to be a snowstorm. I watched as it moved over and down the mountain, across the lake toward the shore on which I sat. It was a windy ten degrees below zero Fahrenheit, but instead of feeling threatened, I felt the goodness of the wilderness pressing into my heart, energizing me to meet the challenge of the storm.

My son and I enjoyed camping for those few days at the log cabin we built on the shores of Sanctuary Lake. We had some good friends with us and a two-week supply of food. Wood was stacked on the porch, and with our warm

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sleeping bags we could weather any snowstorm. So I just sat there watching the storm approach. The snow came across the lake toward me. I lifted my face to meet the storm. I felt safe. Why was I not afraid? Because, in this case, I was prepared. One Naval Academy cadet recently expressed it this way, “If you are prepared, you will not fear the future.”

Several years ago, I taught a class to our Sanctuary Ranch seniors entitled “Preparation for Coming Events” as a part of their senior Bible sequence. The class of about 12 was divided into four groups: (1) Spiritual, (2) Food, (3) Shelter, and (4) Medical. Each group was instructed to submit a thesis on the topic assigned as if they were living a life-style without money (based on the warning in Revelation 13:17 which tells of a time when no man can buy or sell). The Bible and Spirit of Prophecy were the students’ main source books, although they did use a few medical, carpentry, and agricultural texts. As they prepared their papers, the students told me that they were inspired to make personal preparations for the future. I have used parts of their reports in preparing this book.

Although I have incorporated some aspects of every area of survival, this book is not all-inclusive. End-time survival will ultimately depend upon your degree of commitment, intervention by God, and your willingness to spend time preparing for the coming of Jesus. This book cannot cover all circumstances or all situations. If this book serves only to overcome the inertia that binds us to business-as-usual, it will have served its purpose. Every person will know a personalized journey. “Noticing small changes early helps you to adapt to the bigger ones that are coming” (*Who Moved My Cheese?* Spencer Johnson, MD [Penguin-Putnam Books], p. 68). The earlier we detect our need for change and adapt to small changes in life-style, the more readily will we be able to face the larger issues that will confront us in the time of trouble.

Promises for All

We will have to claim promises from the Bible and other inspired writings for that which we cannot provide. It took a considerable amount of faith for the slaves leaving Egypt to abandon even the little security they had. The Lord blessed what they could not replace; their clothes and shoes did not wear out. When they ran out of food, they were fed miraculously. Why did God work these miracles? Because they were doing what He wanted them to do: escape from bondage.

“And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot” (Deuteronomy 29:5).

“He humbled you by letting you get hungry, then He fed you with manna, which no one had ever heard of, to teach you that man is not sus-

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tained by bread alone but by feeding on the word that comes from God” (Deuteronomy 8:3, Clear Word).

The Elderly, Part of the Team

An older sister came to me after one of our seminars shaking her head, “I don’t want to think about these problems, Brother Jere. Elderly people can’t maintain a country home and do the hard work demanded. There was a time I lived out of the garden. Not any more.” By way of encouragement to her, I related this story.

“Several Waldensian families were fleeing from their homes under persecution. Among them was an aged barb (pastor). He made it just fine up the first climb to a level plateau and sat down on a rock making this declaration, “ ‘You young people go ahead. I have lived a full life. I am ready to close my ministry. I don’t want to hold you up from fleeing from these angry persecutors.’ The young people looked at each other and declared. “ ‘Not so Pastor! We need you. We need your faith, your courage, and your spiritual knowledge to help us during these times.’ ” Two men made a figure-4 chair, picked up their beloved minister, and continued their flight.

“In the last days we need each other. We need to make provision for those who cannot make provision for themselves. You who are elderly are part of the team!”

The history of John affords a striking illustration of the way in which God uses aged workers. “*And it was after John had grown old in the service of his Lord that he received more communications from heaven than he had received all the former years of his life* (Acts of the Apostles, p. 572-573).

Following the Blueprint

Noah followed God’s plan for building the ark in every particular, but God’s intervention was required to protect the ark through the catastrophic flood. The deluge of events soon to descend upon us will be much like the waters that descended upon the antediluvians. “*Angels that excel in strength guided the ark and preserved it from harm. Every moment during that frightful storm of forty days and forty nights the preservation of the ark was a miracle of almighty power*” (The Story of Redemption, p. 68). God will bless our ark of safety only if we follow His plan.

“In Noah’s day the inhabitants of the old world laughed to scorn what they termed the superstitious fears and forebodings of the preacher of righteousness. He was denounced as a visionary character, a fanatic, an alarmist. ‘As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man.’ Men will reject the solemn message of warning in our day, as they did in Noah’s

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time” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 308).

Noah’s call to build the ark was not a call to hoard supplies. He was more than willing to share with his friends and neighbors. Survival means sharing. Though we are called to be a peculiar people, God does not want us to be hermits. He does not call on us to isolate ourselves merely for isolation’s sake. The reason we need to study survival for these last days is to help each other survive. Much as Enoch shared his provisions with those who came out from the ancient cities, so we shall share God’s provisions with those who come to us.

There are some things we must do in order to prepare. There will be no preparation for the time of trouble after the close of probation. We understand this from Early Writings, page 56, *“The Lord has shown me repeatedly that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints had food laid up by them or in the field in the time of trouble, when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it would be taken from them by violent hands and strangers would reap their fields. Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God and He will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water will be sure at that time, and that we shall not lack or suffer hunger; for God is able to spread a table for us in the wilderness. If necessary He would send ravens to feed us, as He did to feed Elijah, or rain manna from heaven, as He did for the Israelites.”*

Noah did not forget evangelism while building the ark. It should be so with us. During the “no buy - no sell” mentioned in Revelation 13, mercy still exists for those who have not heard the good news of salvation. The loud cry will be at its peak. We are now commissioned to reach out to help others prepare for the second coming of Jesus, regardless of the hardships that we might be called upon to endure.

Simplify

Though we are counseled not to bring an early time of trouble upon ourselves, there are some things we can and should do to prepare for the future. A country life style encourages us to appreciate simple pleasures and helps us focus on preparations for end times. We are getting ready for the greatest event since the dawn of time, the return of Jesus and the beginning of eternity!

We recommend that each family practice a “nature day”—a day devoted to healthy activities and family interaction when the lights and the electronics go off for 24 hours. During your “nature day,” use a wood- stove for cooking and heating, no television, computer, or electric lights—nothing that would ordinarily in-

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volve the utility web. It is a “back to the land” day. Do it one day a week, or maybe one day a month.

You might want to consider altering your diet, for in the last days animal products will not be used. A simple vegetarian diet, with plenty of raw food, is a means of improving health. *“Among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet”* (Counsels on Diet and Foods, pp. 380-381).

For ten years we operated a small school where we cooked with wood, heated with wood, and had kerosene or gas lamps. We were off the utility web. We built log houses. We grew the much of our own food, canning some, and storing the root crops in cellars for the winter. Life was simple, but busy. The young people really appreciated that lifestyle! It is true that *“A return to simpler methods will be appreciated by children and youth”* (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 179). If we can do it for a whole school, you can do it, too!

“Let none sit in calm expectation of the evil, comforting themselves with the belief that this work must go on because prophecy has foretold it, and that the Lord will shelter His people. We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude, doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience. Fervent, effectual prayer should be ascending to heaven that this calamity may be deferred until we can accomplish the work which has so long been neglected. Let there be most earnest prayer, and then let us work in harmony with our prayers” (ibid. vol. 5, pp. 713-714).

Although there are some basic tools we should have before we cannot buy and sell, spiritual preparation is far more important. Spiritual submission to God will lead us into cheerful obedience where we can begin to enjoy what God has prepared for us in the country. With very little study, one will come to realize that we need to leave the cities as soon as possible. God knew Noah would follow the blueprint. Noah was a survivor because he trusted in God, not because he trusted in the ark.

Great Soul Capacity

The best compliment one could give another is, “You have a great soul.” A person with a great soul has a large capacity to love and care for other people as well as for their own family. In order to survive the end times, one needs to develop this “great soul” capacity. This requires special attention to growth in the whole person, both inside and out. This book is designed to help develop that capacity. You will find discussions about: practical skills for country living, how to build a log cabin with no money, how to grow a garden that will supply sufficient

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food for an entire year, wilderness survival skills, medical preparations for emergency response, and how to get your finances in order, and several chapters on spiritual preparation in these last days.

Our objective is not just to survive, but to help others survive, not because we trust in our own preparations, but because we have followed God's direction. This is the large capacity of a great soul, to share with others and help them get to heaven. Noah would not have survived without the ark, neither will we survive the end times without having followed the blueprint. We, too, have an ark to build. Our trust in God and following His plans are all-important. It means eternal survival. I like to think of survival as "making it to heaven to be with Jesus." We aren't preparing to live forever here on earth—heaven is our home. We can all be survivors. Some survivors may lose their life here, while others may never see death.

You may find this book a challenge to your present life-style. It is based on the writings of prophets. Truth must be applied one step at a time; God will help with the timing and providences where change is needed. Consider these references as you contemplate preparation:

"The time has come, when, as God opens the way, families should move out of the cities. The children should be taken into the country. The parents should get as suitable a place as their means will allow. Though the dwelling may be small, yet there should be land in connection with it, that may be cultivated" (Adventist Home, p. 139).

"Parents can secure small homes in the country, with land for cultivation where they can have orchards and where they can raise vegetables and small fruits to take the place of flesh-meat, which is so corrupting to the lifeblood coursing through the veins. On such places the children will not be surrounded with the corrupting influences of city life. God will help His people to find such homes outside of the cities" (Medical Ministry, p. 310; emphasis supplied).

"Those who have felt at last to make a move, let it not be in a rush, in an excitement, or in a rash manner, or in a way that hereafter they will deeply regret that they did move out..." (Country Living, p. 25).

Sharing What I Most Need

I have written this book as I would prepare a sermon—I study what I most need, hoping others will benefit. I am in need of these counsels as much as anyone. Together we may ask forgiveness, make restitution, resolve hurt feelings, and make a deeper commitment to God and move forward with His plans.

As I sat on the shores of Sanctuary Lake and watched the approaching storm I did not panic, because I was ready. My peace was a result of my preparation and trust in God. Over the years the Lord has brought to my attention things that we can do in order to be ready for the crisis ahead. I felt I should write about my experiences and how I have seen the hand of God leading in my life. I want the Lord to say of us what He said to Mary, “*She has done what she could,*” (Mark 14:8).

“A great crisis awaits the people of God. A crisis awaits the world. The most momentous struggle of all the ages is just before us.... Have we faithfully discharged the duty which God has committed to us of giving the people warning of the danger before them?” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 711).

“Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the word of God, and striving to conform their lives to its precepts... . God calls for a revival and a reformation” (Prophets and Kings, p. 626).

Please write and tell us of blessings you receive in reading this book. Also, please let us know of corrections or additions we might make or if you are interested in having a Survival Seminar in your church. You may contact Jere Franklin, Box 840, Chetwynd, B. C., V0C 1J0, Canada. Phone 1-250-788-2944. God bless you as you continue your preparations for the crisis ahead.

SECTION ONE: Spiritual Preparation

GOD IS LOVE
VITAL TRUTH
ACCUSATIONS
CRITICAL MINISTRY
BROKEN IN HEART
INTERCESSION
UNITY
RESTORATION

