

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S RETURN

- I. **Life – the Most Important Factor in the Holy Scriptures**
(John 10:10; Rom. 5:10, 17; Eph. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18)
 - A. God is a God of life – the “living God” (Gen. Ch.1; Jer.10:10a; 1 Thess. 1:9b; John 1:1-4)
 - B. Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25; 14:6; 5:26; Col. 3:4; Rev. 1:18)
 - C. The Holy Spirit is the “Spirit of life” – the “life-giving Spirit” (Rom. 8:2; John 6:63a; 1 Cor. 15:45)
 - D. The word of God is life (John 6:63; 1 John 1:1; 2 Tim. 3:16a; Phil. 2:16)
 - E. Choose life (Gen. 2:8-9, 15-17; Deut. 30:11-19; Rom. 10:5-13; John 6:66-68)

- II. **The Fundamental Need to Sustain Life – Light, Air, Water, and Food**
 - A. *The light of life* (1 John 1:5-6; John 8:12; 1:1-4; Gen. 1:3-5; 1 Thess. 5:5-8)
 1. God is light, in Him is no darkness at all
 2. Jesus Christ is the light of the world
 3. The word of God is lamp to my feet, and a light to my path (Ps. 119:105)
 4. The believers are the light of the world, sons of light and of the day (Matt. 5:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:5; Dan. 12:3; Rev. 1:16a, 20)
 5. The churches (Zion, City of the living God and the heavenly Jerusalem) are the golden lampstand (Rev. 1:11-13, 20b; 21:22-25; 22:5)

6. 3 kinds of lights revealed in the tabernacle (Rev. 21:23-2; 22:5)
 - a. The natural light in the outer court
 - b. The light of the lampstand in the holy place
 - c. God Himself is the light in the most holy place
- B. *The breath of life – Air* (Gen. 2:7; Job 32:8; 33:4; Ezek. 37:1-14; John 3:6-8; 20:22; 2 Tim. 3:16a; Ps. 33:6)
 1. Both in Hebrew and Greek, the word “spirit” also means “wind, air, or breath”
 2. God *breathed* into Adam’s nostril the “breath of life”
 - a. The “breath of life” became the “*spirit of man*” (Job. 32:8; 33:4; Num. 26:22; 27:16; Zech. 12:1)
 - b. The almighty God is the Father of our spirits (Is. 42:5; Heb. 12:9)
 3. The Lord Jesus (in resurrection) *breathed the Holy Spirit* into His disciples (1 Cor. 15:45; John 20:22; 3:6; 1 Cor. 6:17; Ezek. 37)
 - a. The Lord Jesus is the Spirit (Rev. 3:1; 5:5-6; Zech. 3:8-9)
 - b. Breath is for life in our spirit
 - c. The rushing mighty wind is to clothe His disciples with power and authority (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:2-4) to carry out God’s work and the ministry
- C. *The Water of life* (Gen. 2:10-12; Exod. 17:1-6; Is. 48:21; 43:19-20; 1 Cor. 10:4; Rev. 22:1-2, 17)
 1. A river in the garden of Eden with the gold, pearls and precious stones
 2. Water flowing out of the rock
 3. A river in Zion (Ps. 46:4; 36:8-9; Zech. 14:8)
 4. The water of life flowing out of the temple <holy of holies> (Ezek. 47:1-12)
 5. The river of water of life flowing out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the holy city, the New Jerusalem, in eternity (Rev. 22:1-2, 17)

- D. *The Bread of Life* Healthy and Untainted Food and Nourishment
1. Jesus Christ, the embodiment of the word of God – the reality and substance of all the spiritual food (John 1:1-4, 14, 16-18; Rev. 19:13; John 5:39-40)
 - a. The tree of life (Gen. 2:9; Rev. 2:7; 22:2, 14)
 - b. The manna in the wilderness (Exod. 16:1-35; Deut. 8:3; John 6:32-35, 48, 56-58, 63, 68; 1 John 1:1-2; Rev. 2:17)
 - c. The riches of the good land (Deut. 8:7-10, Eph. 3:8; Col. 1:12; 2:6, 9-10, 16-17)
 - d. The offerings in Jerusalem at the appointed feasts (Is. 33:20; Heb. 10:1, 5-10)
 - e. The special food for the priests (showbread and hidden manna)
 2. Examples of the apostles and the prophets
 - a. Paul in 1 Cor. 3:2; Heb. 5:12-13
 - b. Peter in 1 Pet. 2:2
 - c. John in Rev. 10:8-11
 - d. Job 23:12
 - e. Jer. 15:16
 - f. Ezek. 2:8-10; 3:1-3
- E. Spiritual “*metabolism*” – a healthy digestive process necessary for the maintenance of life, resulting in growth, production of energy, and the elimination of waste material
1. Having a healthy appetite (Matt. 5:6; Ps. 42:1; 63:1; 143:6; Rev. 7:16 <Is. 49:9-10>; Rev. 22:14, 17)
 2. Pursuing and perfecting holiness in the fear of God (Heb. 12:14, <9-10>; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 7:1)
 3. Keeping the “Feast of the Passover” and the “Feast of the Unleavened Bread” (1 Cor. 5:6-8)
 4. Putting off the old man and putting on the new man (Eph. 4:20-25; Col. 3:4-17)

5. Exercising (training) vigorously unto godliness (1 Tim. 4:7-8)
6. Our spirit, soul, and body be sanctified completely and preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 5:23; 3:13; 1 Cor. 1:8; Phil. 1:10; 2 Pet. 3:10-14; Eph. 1:4)

III. Practicing the Holy and Royal Priesthood

- A. God's original and unchanging purpose for His people (Exod. 19:5-6; Matt. 16:18-19; 18:17-18; 1 Pet. 2:5-9; Heb. 12:22-29; 1 Thess. 2:12; 2 Thess. 1:5; 2 Tim. 2:11-12a; 4:18; Luke 22:29-30; James 2:5; Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9-10; 2:26; 3:21; 12:5; 20:4, 6; 22:5b; Dan. 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27, Ps. 149:5-9)
- B. The church built by Christ is His heavenly kingdom on earth
 1. Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem and God's unshakeable kingdom (Ps. 48:1-2)
 2. Christ as the Head over all things to the church which is His body and the Ruler over the kings of the earth (Matt. 16:18-19; Rev. 1:5; Eph. 1:20-23)
 3. A spiritual house (not a physical earthly building) built with living stones with Christ Himself as the chief cornerstone, elect and chosen by God (see also Eph. 2:20-22)
 4. A holy and royal priesthood
 - a. Offering Jesus Christ as the spiritual reality and substance of all the offerings as commanded by God in Leviticus chapters 1 to 7
 - b. Keeping all the 7 appointed feasts ordered by God in Leviticus Chapter 23
 - c. Keeping the oneness of the Spirit – oneness with the living and glorious triune God (Eph. 4:1-6; John 17:15-26)

IV. Serving as Priests in the Holy Place and in the Holy of Holies

- A. Keeping the feast of the “Day of Atonement”
(Lev. 23:26-32; Chapter 16; Num. 29:7-11)
- B. The way to enter in (Heb. 10:19-22; 4:14-16)
- C. In the holy place: eating of the “showbread”, filling the golden lampstand with fresh oil, trimming the lamps, and offering incense at the golden incense altar
- D. In the most holy place: appearing before God’s presence (the Ark of the Testimony)
 - 1. To hear God’s speaking
 - 2. To receive mercy and grace for help in times of need
 - 3. To experience the three hidden items within the Ark

V. To Mature in Time to Be the First Fruits (Rev. 14:1-5)

- A. To be in Zion today
- B. To have the Father’s name written on their foreheads (see. Rev. 3:12)
- C. To be able to learn the new song
- D. To be virgins – pure and undefiled
- E. To follow the Lamb wherever He goes
- F. To mature early in spiritual life
- G. To be found with no deceit in their mouths – without fault before the throne of God