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*"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)*

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### PREPARED TO DIE?

*"In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live." (2 Ki. 20:1)*

This scripture has two very important messages for everyone to take notice of today. The first point is obvious. There is no doubt that we will all die sometime. *"What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death?" (Psa. 89:48)* *"For the living know that they shall die:" (Eccl. 9:5)* Physical death to mankind is such a certainty that it is one appointment we will never miss. *"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" (Heb. 9:27)* The fact that the Great Day of Judgment will follow after death brings us to the second point in our text verse.

Isaiah was informed by God that Hezekiah was going to die. Therefore, the only logical course to follow was to *"set thine house in order."* In other words, the prophet was

telling the sick king to prepare for death. I am sure everybody wants to be properly prepared for "that time". We live in a society that usually rewards those who are best prepared. Consider the military forces of a nation at war. The army which has made the best preparations usually wins. The same goes for different teams in any sport.

The question we must ask ourselves today is, "Am I prepared for death? Is my house in order?" The time to prepare is before we actually die because we can do nothing once we are in the grave. *"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."*(Eccl. 9:10) *"For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten."*(Eccl. 9:5)

Whenever we do die, we will indeed rest with whatever lot we had at the time. *"But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days."* (Dan. 12:13) What is our "lot" right now? Is our "house" really in order? Remember, we cannot change a single item after death! That is why Jesus stressed the importance of working while there were still "daylight hours". *"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."*(John 9:4)

Too many people want to believe that when a man dies, he merely goes to sleep and nothing else happens. So it does not matter how he lives here on earth because after death, it is all over: NO HELL AND NO HEAVEN! But the Word of God denounces that theory. Again we read Heb. 9:27, *"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"*.

Further description of what happens after death is found in Rev. 20:12-13, "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. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works." These are the works which were performed while still living!! Now do we feel properly prepared for death and the hereafter?

At the Judgment we will either receive spiritual life or eternal damnation (the second death). But this is not a choice to be made after we are dead. We decide our own fate before we die! Please consider reading the entire 18th chapter of Ezekiel, in particular we notice verses 21 & 24. "But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die." Evidently, the state of condition in which we die determines our final destination: eternal life or second death. How do we stand right now?

In Genesis 27 we read how Isaac anticipated his imminent death and how he began making preparations to give his blessings to Esau. In effect, he was setting "his house in order". Most of us, however, do not have the

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foresight to see our end nearing. We will not have the luxury to make preparations at the last moment. So what better time is there than now? We could very well die tonight or tomorrow! *"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."*(Jas. 4:14) Sadly enough, many people (and church members, too!) take this thought very lightly. Most of us are willing to wager that we will live to see the next day and have another opportunity to repent of our sins. And most of us would probably win such a bet. But would you want to be one of those few who do lose and never get another chance? Why do we risk our salvation so? *"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"*(Matt. 16:26)

*"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."*(2 Cor. 6:2) If we knew we were dying today, would we be ready to go? Have we made the proper preparations so that we can enter into heaven? *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."*(Matt. 7:21)

The will of God is that we all repent of our sins. *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any*

should perish, but that all should come to repentance."(2 Pet. 3:9) Next, we must be baptized, if we have not already done so. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."(Acts 2:38) Then we must try to live a godly life and confess our faults. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."(1 John 1:9)

Today, why not "set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live." If we can always stay prepared, then we can be like the apostle Paul and say, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."(2 Tim. 4:6-8)

It would be wonderful if everyone died prepared to meet our Lord. As John wrote, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."(Rev. 14:13) What kind of works follow you?

RAY McMANUS

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became generally accepted in scientific circles as providing answer to all questions concerning origin of man and things, it has been customary for so-called "intellectuals" to heap ridicule on the Bible story of Creation. Anyone daring to maintain the Bible record is correct, has been laughed off as an ignorant, unscientific literalist.

Until recently the very suggestion that the world might have been created in six 24-hour days was enough to provoke the confident evolutionist to ribald mirth. Utterly preposterous! he would exclaim. Doesn't the poor fellow know every process of development described in Genesis as an act of creation must have occupied millions on millions of years?

There was nothing the creationist could say but, "I believe the Bible; I believe in the power of God." Perhaps, too, he would quote Heb. 11:3, *"It is faith that enables us to see that the universe was created at the command of God, so that the world we see did not simply arise out of matter"*--(Goodspeed).

But the reply of the evolutionist was: What is faith? Can faith be pitted against science?

Through the long controversy many Christians have steadfastly held to their faith in the Bible and the power of God. They have not been able to prove, scientifically, correctness of their belief; but they maintained the creation story in Genesis, being a Divine revelation, must be scientifically accurate and that, in God's good time, He would make this plain. They endured ridicule with patience, confident they could not be wrong, and hoping against hope that some day a scientist would find the truth and have courage to admit it.

Today the faith of the champions of Creation is vindicated. In a recent issue of the highly technical Physical Review, two John Hopkins physicists, as result of research into nuclear science, declare their conviction that

Creation, instead of occupying millions of years, or even six literal days, could have been accomplished in three hours!

Quoting from This World, Nov. 28, 1948, "Dr. R.A. Alpher and Dr. R. Herman, basing their figures on the life span of the neutron, the abundance of certain elements, concluded that at the moment of explosion (the Bible says: 'Let there be light') there were no elements, only separate particles. From that moment, they decided, it took from a thousand to ten thousand seconds for protons, neutrons and electrons to group themselves into the known natural elements. From those elements were formed earth, sun, stars and galaxies."

Whether God employed mysterious processes of nuclear fission when *"He spake and it was done"* (Psa. 33:6,9), we shall not know until He sees fit to reveal the secrets of the universe; but at least we can take comfort from the fact that scientists of repute have at last admitted a sudden creation was not only possible but probable and, by deduction, that the long eons of evolution were not only unnecessary but actually absurd.

As a result of this new discovery it would appear the evolutionists, not creationists, have been 'unscientific' all along!

And now, with renewed confidence, we may proclaim God's final message to the world: *"Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea and the fountains of waters"* (Rev. 14:7).

[Editor's Note: This article was published in the American Christian Review on May 1949 and as a matter of interest, is here reprinted as it appeared then.]