

WE'RE LEAVING SOON...ARE YOU READY?

Isaiah 52.1-12

Isaiah prophesies that the Babylonian captivity will soon end. As such, God wants his people to be ready to leave Babylon behind and to leave behind the worldliness and estrangement from God that it represents. How should they prepare for such an event? As followers of Jesus, how should we prepare for significant spiritual events that we will encounter in our lives?

Jesus' multiple parables regarding being ready and prepared: Mark 13.33-37; Matthew 24.43-51; Matthew 25.1-13; Matthew 24.14-30.

A call to live differently:

Paul's use of Isaiah 52 in 2 Corinthians 6.14-18

HOW TO BE PREPARED FOR THE NEXT BIG SPIRITUAL EVENT

1. Review your invitation: See yourself as **GOD SEES YOU.**

God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.
Ephesians 1.4-5 NLT

2. Pack your bags: **DRESS APPROPRIATELY**

Touch no unclean thing! Come out from it and be pure, you who carry the articles of the Lord's house. v.11

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
Colossians 3.12-14

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another... 1 Peter 5.5

3. Stay alert! Your ride is on its way. Make following Jesus **A PRIORITY.**

Awake, awake, Zion... Depart, depart, go out from there! v.1, 11

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16.24

4. While you're waiting carry on with **DIGNITY** and **DECORUM.** Act like Jesus.

But you will not leave in haste or go in flight... V12

5. God is driving: He's **IN CONTROL.**

...for the Lord will go before you, the God of Israel will be your rear guard. v12



What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?