

BE READY

Introduction

- 1) **Matthew 24:44** – “Therefore you also be ready...”
 - a) Gk. *hétoimos* (from *heteos*, "fitting") – *ready* because *prepared*; "standing by," ready to meet the opportunity (challenge) at hand; *ready* because the necessary *preparations* are *done* (or are sure to happen as needed) (HELPS Word-studies)
- 2) Being “ready” to go, to start, etc. – takes planning and preparation
- 3) Let us take a look in the Bible at the need to be ready...

I) PEOPLE WHO WERE READY

- A) **Noah** (Gen. 6:14, 22; 7:1, 5)
 - 1) Moved with godly fear (Heb. 11:7)
 - 2) Believed God and obeyed His commandments (Eccl. 12:13-14)
- B) **Joshua** (Num. 27:12-23; Deut. 31:1-8; Josh. 1:1-9)
 - 1) Made himself ready for leadership and service
- C) **Isaiah** (Isa. 6:8)
 - 1) Willing to go when God needed a prophet
 - 2) Contrast to Jonah who was not ready (Jonah 1:1-3)
 - a) Not ready to go because he was unwilling to go
- D) **Paul**, who was ready to...
 - 1) Preach the gospel (Rom. 1:15)
 - a) This is because he was not ashamed, but bold for the truth (vv. 16-17)
 - 2) Suffer and die (Acts 21:10-14)
 - a) Contrast with Peter who thought he was ready but was not (Lk. 22:31-34)
 - b) True readiness takes sober understanding and adequate preparation
 - i) One is not “ready” to travel to cold weather packing only summer clothing!

II) WE ARE TO BE READY!

- A) Ready to **HEAR** (Jas. 1:17-21)
 - 1) Faith comes by hearing (Rom. 10:17); more hearing God’s word = stronger faith
 - 2) Ears that turn away from the truth will listen to fiction, error (2 Tim. 4:3-4)
- B) Ready to **OBEY** (Jas. 1:22, 25)
 - 1) Faith without works is dead (2:24, 26)
 - 2) Must be ready for every good work (Titus 3:1)
 - 3) Hearing the Scriptures will equip us for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- C) Ready to **GIVE AN ANSWER/DEFENSE** (1 Pet. 3:15)
 - 1) To everyone who asks a reason for our hope – do others see our hope?
 - 2) With meekness and fear – gentle with others and careful with truth
 - a) Not with arrogance or flippancy – serious business!
- D) Ready for **BATTLE** (1 Pet. 5:8-9)
 - 1) Must always be prepared for Satan’s attacks/temptations (1 Cor. 16:13)
- E) Ready for the **LORD’S RETURN** (Matt. 24:44)
 - 1) Those not prepared or ready will not to go to heaven (1 Thess. 5:6; Rom. 13:11)

Conclusion

Are you ready for what the Bible tells us to be ready for? It takes willingness and diligent preparation. No one can afford to *not* be ready (Matt. 25:10)!