

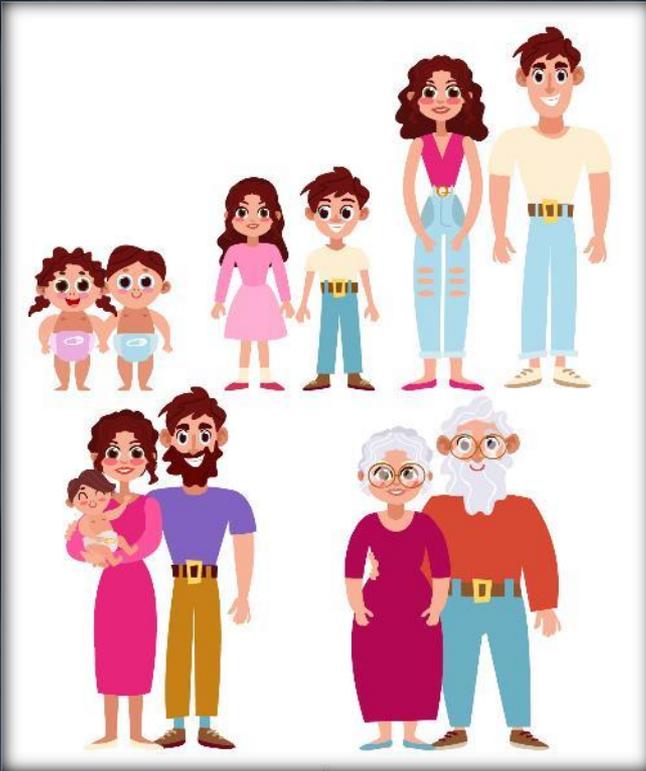


# PREPARING

# FOR

# CHANGE





Our lives are usually driven by routine cycles. However, sometimes changes modify those routines. Those changes can be either unexpected or foreseeable.

Let's study how the Bible can help us to prepare for those changes, especially the foreseeable ones.

- ➡ Preparing for change
- ➡ Preparing for marriage
- ➡ Preparing for parenting
- ➡ Preparing for old age
- ➡ Preparing for death



# PREPARING FOR CHANGE

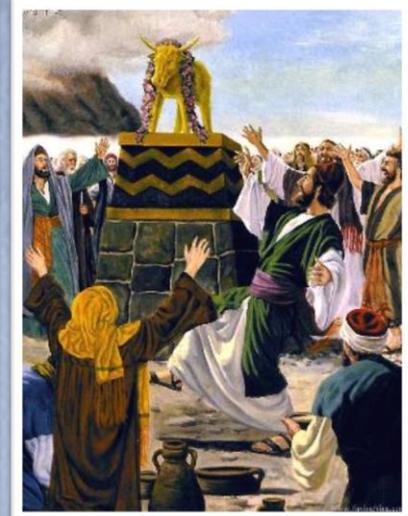
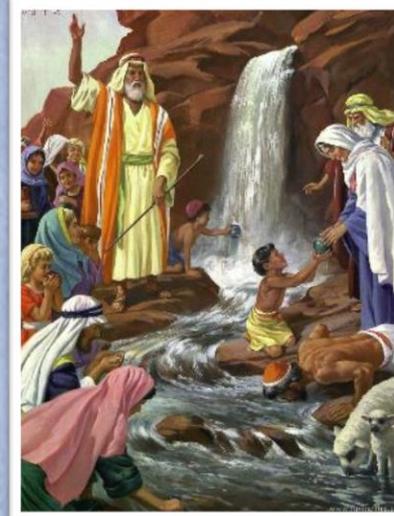
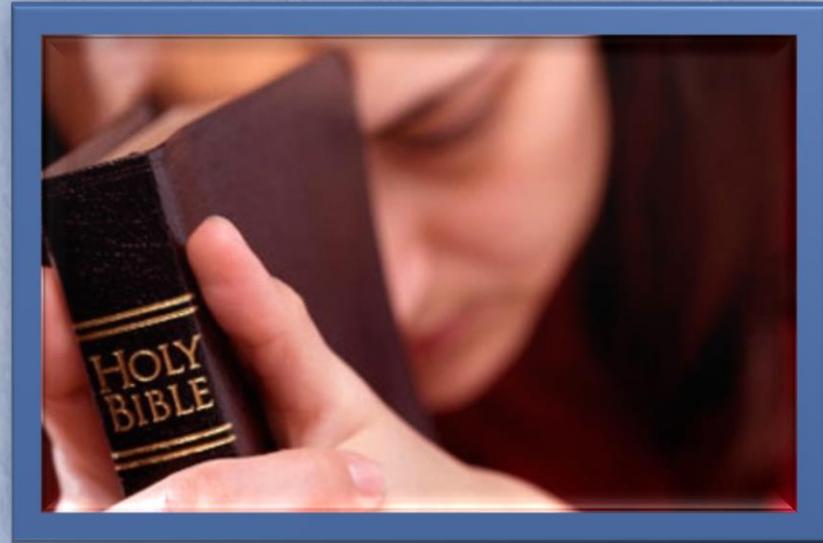
*"Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." (1 Corinthians 10:11)*

Can we prepare to properly face any change?

Yes, we can prepare—although we may fail when facing specific changes, because we're not perfect.

The key is cultivating a daily relationship with God. That way, we'll face changes with faith and confidence. We'll be willing to obey God no matter the circumstances or the temptations that come.

Paul recalled the story of Israel in the desert. How did they face the lack of potable water, the absence of Moses, or the invitation of the Moabite women? (1 Corinthians 10:1-13).



# PREPARING FOR CHANGE

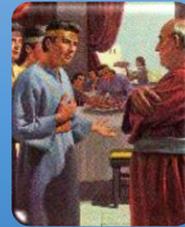
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There are examples in the Bible of people who reacted positively and negatively to unexpected changes:



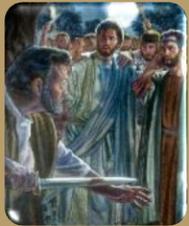
## JONAH

- He showed cowardice when he was asked to preach in Nineveh.



## DANIEL

- He resolved to remain pure when he was taken captive to another country.



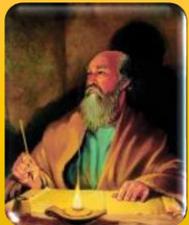
## PETER

- He reacted violently when the crowd came to capture Jesus.



## ESTHER

- She risked her own life to defend her people.



## DEMAS

- He left Paul when they were persecuted.



## NEHEMIAH

- He made plans to rebuild Jerusalem after finding out that it was in ruins.

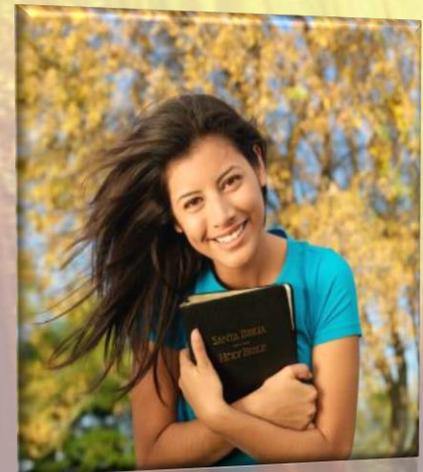
# PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE

**"He who finds a wife finds what is good  
and receives favor from the Lord."  
(Proverbs 18:22 NIV)**

**Most people get married—although not everyone does. The Bible covers this topic in its very first pages (Genesis 2:24).**

**Marriage brings a man and a woman together in a single entity. That relationship is stronger than the one with our parents or anyone else, but does not annul them.**

**The first step in the preparation for marriage is to become the ideal person. The second step is to look for our ideal partner.**



# PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE

"He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord." (Proverbs 18:22 NIV)

Study the next passages and ask yourself the next questions about your future partner. Would you also pass this test as a future partner?

**Proverbs 24:30-34**

Is he/she hard-working?

**Proverbs 22:24-25**

Is he/she irritable?

**2 Corinthians 6:14-15**

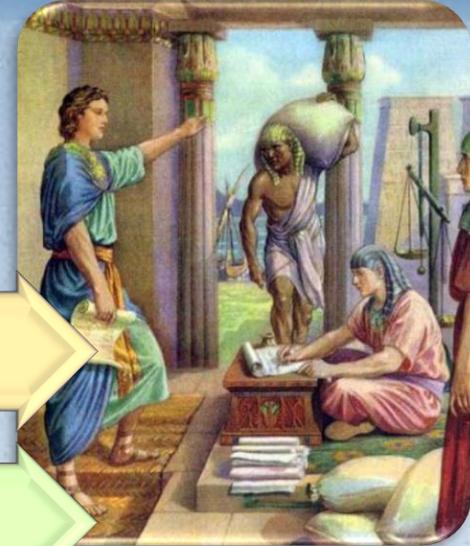
Do you have common beliefs?

**Proverbs 11:14**

What do my family and friends think?

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

Am I being carried away by my emotions?



**“Let a young woman accept as a life companion only one who possesses pure, manly traits of character, one who is diligent, aspiring, and honest, one who loves and fears God. Let a young man seek one to stand by his side who is fitted to bear her share of life’s burdens, one whose influence will ennoble and refine him, and who will make him happy in her love.”**

# PREPARING FOR PARENTING

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)



The birth of a child is a radical change for the parents. Happiness, responsibility, perplexity...

No matter how many children, each one is special and unique, a gift from God, whether you believe it or not (Psalm 127:4).

According to the Bible, how can we prepare for parenting?

 **1 Samuel 1:27.** Always pray for him/her, even before conceiving him/her

 **Judges 13:7.** Take care of diet and health during pregnancy, and don't stop it after labor

 **Luke 1:6.** Keep away from sin

 **Luke 1:41.** Ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit

 **Luke 1:46-47.** Thank God for the gift of this new life

 **Luke 1:76.** Your main goal should be to rear your child in a way that he/she becomes a true son or daughter of God

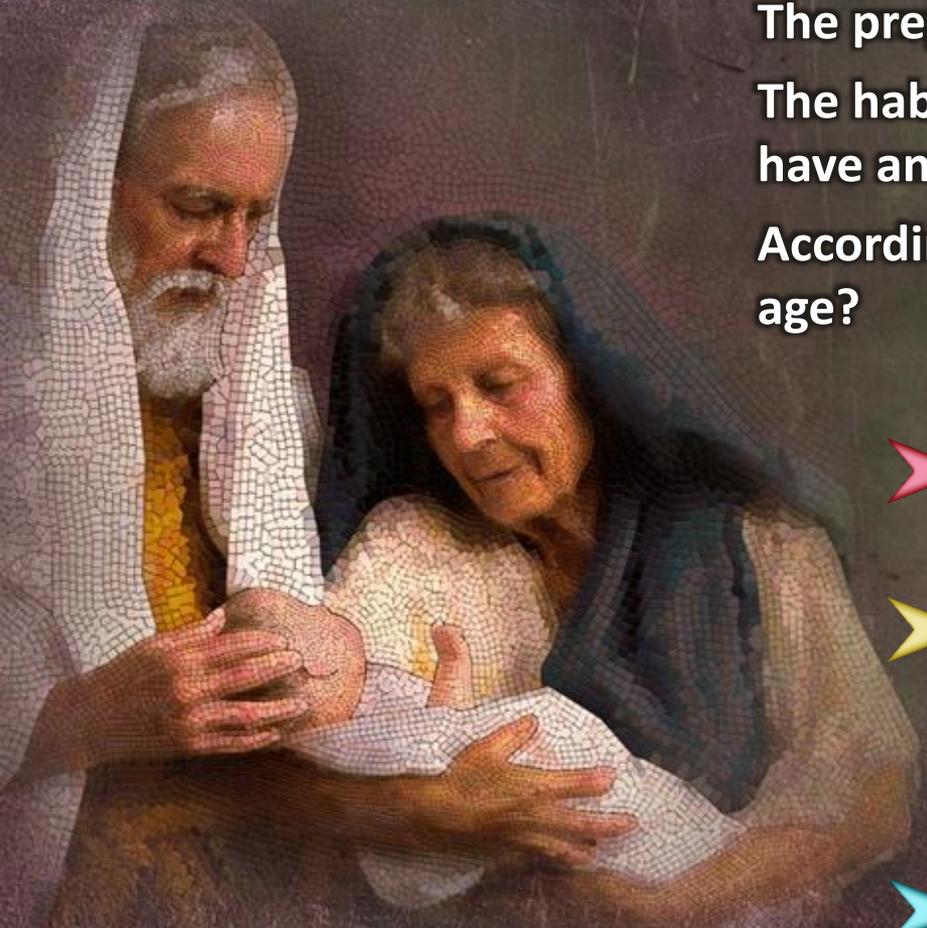


**“Upon fathers as well as mothers rests a responsibility for the child’s earlier as well as its later training, and for both parents the demand for careful and thorough preparation is most urgent. Before taking upon themselves the possibilities of fatherhood and motherhood, men and women should become acquainted with the laws of physical development—with physiology and hygiene, with the bearing of prenatal influences, with the laws of heredity, sanitation, dress, exercise, and the treatment of disease; they should also understand the laws of mental development and moral training.”**

# PREPARING FOR OLD AGE

*"Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them.'" (Ecclesiastes 12:1)*

The preparation for old age begins during youth. The habits acquired during youth and adulthood have an impact in the way we'll live our old age. According to Psalm 71, how can we prepare for old age?

- 
- Knowing God in a personal and deep way (v. 1-7)
  - Acquiring good habits:
    - Trust in God (v. 3)
    - Praise (v. 6)
    - Hope (v. 14)
  - Passion for the mission (v. 15-18)

**“David marked that although the lives of some while in the strength of manhood had been righteous, as old age came upon them they seemed to lose their self-control. Satan stepped in and guided their minds, making them restless and dissatisfied. He saw that many of the aged seemed forsaken of God and exposed themselves to the ridicule and reproaches of his enemies. David was deeply moved; he was distressed as he looked forward to the time when he should be aged. He feared that God would leave him and that he would be as unhappy as other aged persons whose course he had noticed, and would be left to the reproach of the enemies of the Lord. With this burden upon him he earnestly prays: ‘Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth.’ ‘O God, Thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared Thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, forsake me not; until I have showed Thy strength unto this generation, and Thy power to everyone that is to come.’ Psalm 71:9, 17, 18. David felt the necessity of guarding against the evils which attend old age.”**

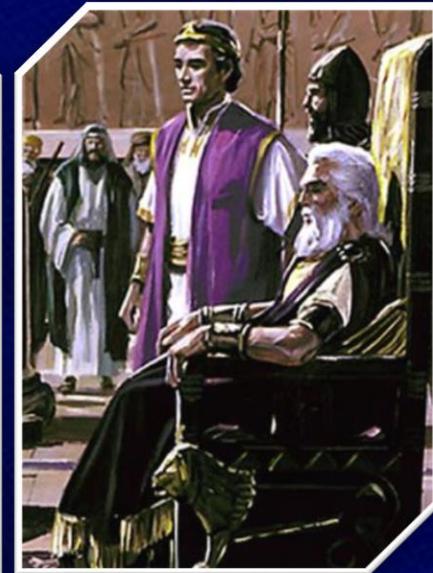
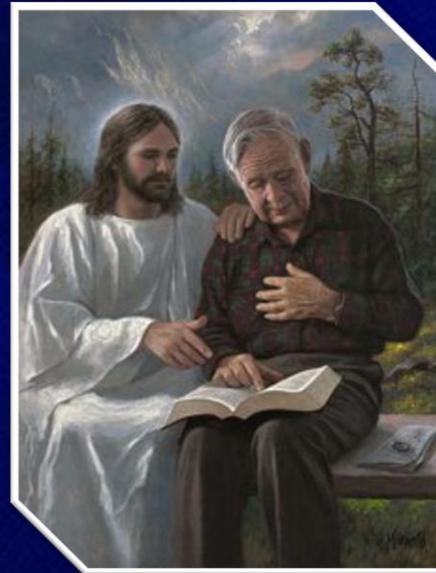
# PREPARING FOR DEATH

**"For the living know that they will die." (Ecclesiastes 9:5)**

**Death is inevitable for every human being, until the Second Coming (Genesis 3:19).**

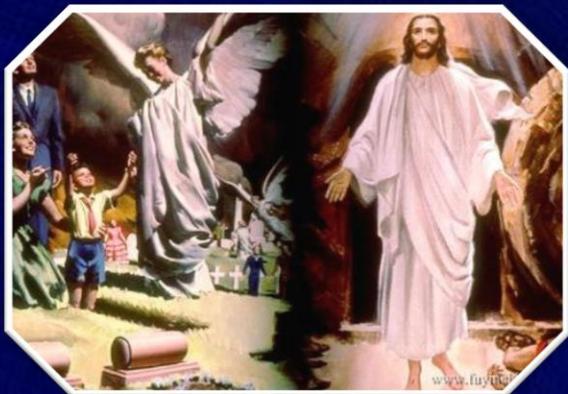


**No one can be prepared for sudden death (either own's or dear one's). It's hard to accept death, even if we're expecting it. Nevertheless, we can wait for it without fear if we're constantly covered by the righteousness of Christ (Romans 4:7).**



**When David was close to death, he made sure he was leaving the best legacy: advising his son to follow God's way (1 Kings 2:1-3).**

**Remember that Jesus has already overcome death (1 Corinthians 15:54-55).**



**“You have not a moment to lose in neglect of the great salvation that has been provided for you. The time of the probation of souls is coming to an end. From day to day the destiny of men is being sealed, and even from this congregation we know not how soon many shall close their eyes in death and be habited for the tomb. We should now consider that our life is swiftly passing away, that we are not safe one moment unless our life is hid with Christ in God.”**

E.G.W. (Selected Messages, vol. 1, cp. 23, p. 189)