

GOD'S AMAZING ADVANCE PREPARATION

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I. Intriguing and sometimes confusing pieces of God's plan are infused into the Jewish culture.

Faith credited as righteousness

Gen 15:6, Gen 22:1-19, Heb 11.19

The Passover -

Ex 2-25, Ac 7:25, Num 12:3, Ex 12,

The tabernacle - Ex 25-31

The stories Jesus told - See the Gospels.

II - Putting together the puzzle pieces.

God uses the Apostles to draw it together and write it down.

Examples: Gal 3:6, Rom 4:23, 1Co 5:7, Heb 9-10

III - Back to the present - Possible applications

1. Read and study your Bible more than ever before and recommit yourself to letting God's Word mold your life in every area. (Heb 4:12)

2. Beware of the temptation to search for verses out of context to support your own ideas and theories.

3. Be always watchful for how biblical wisdom can help those around you. Keep a journal of what you find.

4. Study people around you. Try to understand what keeps them from being open to the Gospel.

5. Obey the command to love your neighbor as yourself whether or not you think this will result in the person coming to faith.

6. Build trust progressively:

a) Get them in contact with Christians to receive something they value and to observe Christians loving them and loving other Christians.

b) Find ways for them to benefit from the Bible even if they aren't yet ready to believe all that the Bible says.

c) Once they value Christians and value the Word, share the Gospel using the Word.

*State College Evangelical Free Church
Message Outline*

7. Share only what they can bear. (Jn 16:12)

For example, character qualities which also "pre-teach"--

- a) God's attributes
- b) Our response to God which He desires of us
- c) Appropriate attitudes for us to have toward the world

8. Don't just copy, find your applications for your own context.

9. Look for additional Scriptural examples of God doing advance preparation.

10. Take stock of how God prepared you to come to Him. Write it down.

11. Find out from your friends what steps God used in their lives.

12. Learn to tell very short, easily remembered stories. Learn from others who are good at telling stories.

13. Have the right motivation. (Jn 16:12, 1Co 3:2, Ps 139:23-24)

14. For those who have been hurt: Learn to really forgive and to be reconciled. Resources are available.

15. Work synergistically.

16. Do a theme reading of the Bible.

17. Get acquainted with the tools for understanding the Bible, including tools for the computer, like the free Online Bible.

18. Whenever possible, teach new Christians to use biblical tools to find their own answers to their own questions.

19. Persist - Often, the fruit comes only as we persist over a longer period of time.