



In a Flash Can We Ever Be Prepared?

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In a flash, a premiere football player is out of the NFL games with a knee injury. This creates trauma and losses for future games and can devastate the player's future.

In a flash, a Katrina or a Hurricane Ike can storm through the country and within hours' hundreds of people's lives are thrown upside down; homes are gone or under water, and family and friends are missing. In a flash, a tornado can touch down where you live and pull apart homes in a half-mile radius.

In a flash, the commuter train you ride collides with a freight train. This train catapults and bends in all directions. People are flung down against unbending steel; many lay dying, and hundreds are injured.

All these incidences have actually happened to real people. We hear about them every day in the news media.

Can we ever be *prepared* when extreme situations are propelled into our lives? No! There is no way that anyone can prepare for unforeseen circumstances. Suddenly, from out of nowhere, surprise events happen, and... boom, your life is forever changed.

In a flash, no, in less than a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, God's Word tells us that Christ will return and take up His own. He is going to "descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which...remain shall be caught up together...to meet the Lord in the air" (I Thessalonians 4:16-17). The Lord's return, for His own, will jolt and vibrate the whole world.

Unlike these sudden and unexpected ordeals people experience, you *can prepare* for this coming shake-up. You prepare by *forsaking your sinful life* and accepting the sacrifice that Christ's death on the cross offers you. It's the price He paid for you to get into heaven because He loves you. He offers you a way for *your sins to be forgiven*. Sin cannot get into heaven, so prepare your heart now to accept His plan.

Christ is soon coming for all those *who have determined to serve His purpose and plan*. God's principles from His Word must be modeled in our lives, and demonstrated to others. Believers can get excited as we look for His return. Are you prepared for this "in a flash" experience?