

CHUCK HOLTON



Building Brotherhood, Preparing
Communities, and Building the Church
America Desperately Needs



FIDELIS PUBLISHING °

ISBN: 9798999024671

ISBN (eBook): 9798999024688

RED Teams

Building Brotherhood, Preparing Communities, and Becoming the
Church America Desperately Needs

© 2026 Chuck Holton

Cover Design by Diana Lawrence

Edited by Amanda Varian

Interior Layout Design by Lisa Parnell

All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce this book or portions thereof in any form whatsoever. For information, address info@fidelispublishing.com.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system now known or to be invented, without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer who wishes to quote brief passages in connection with a review written for inclusion in a magazine, newspaper, website, or broadcast. The web addresses referenced in this book were live and correct at the time of the book's publication but may be subject to change.

Unless otherwise noted Scripture quotations are from (ESV) English Standard Version – The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

(NIV) New International Version®, NIV® Scripture comes from Holy Bible, Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Order at www.faithfultext.com for a significant discount. Email info@fidelispublishing.com to inquire about bulk purchase discounts.

Fidelis Publishing, LLC • Winchester, VA / Nashville, TN
fidelispublishing.com

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1





Foreword

As a former U.S. Marine, Secret Service agent, and professional law enforcement trainer, I've seen firsthand the importance of preparation and training during crises. For the past twenty-five years, Chuck has been a trusted friend and fellow warrior. I learned early that surrounding yourself with real friends who will stand strong with you is critical amid crisis—Chuck is one of my men. His book is not only timely but absolutely essential for anyone who understands the stakes of a post-election America. With the unique perspective of a war correspondent, Chuck cuts through the noise to provide clear, actionable insights on how to be ready for whatever may come. I believe very hard times are ahead for the U.S. This is a must-read for anyone serious about taking men's ministry to the next level, protecting our families and communities as our nation faces challenges unlike any in our history. Kudos to Chuck for recognizing the need for this timely guidance and then utilizing his wealth of personal experience to provide a step-by-step guide to others in this dangerous season. EVERYONE must read this book—our way of life depends on it!

— *Tim Miller*, retired Marine Reserve LtCol,
and former Secret Service agent



PREFACE

This Is the Apocalypse

Welcome to the end times—already in progress.

Look around. The world is unraveling.

Violence rising. Families breaking. People addicted. Lost. Hopeless. Our elders are too often dying alone. Nobody checks. Nobody cares.

Meanwhile, the average guy—a good guy, a hardworking guy—wakes up, he fights traffic, pays the bills, collapses on the couch after work, and calls it a day. He tells himself he'll work out tomorrow, he'll get his life together soon, he'll be more intentional—eventually.

But time keeps slipping away.

Men have been lulled into passivity. We've been told if we just work hard, play nice, and keep our heads down, we'll be safe. But here's the reality:

The single mother down the street who has no one to call when her car breaks down? That's the war. It's happening right now with or without you.

The elderly man who hasn't had a visitor in a year? That's where the real battle is being fought—in driveways and living rooms.

The teenager getting lured into fentanyl or OnlyFans? That's the war.

The church full of men who gather weekly to “share their feelings” while the scenarios above play out all around them? That’s LOSING the war.

This is what the apocalypse looks like—not zombies, not mushroom clouds, just ordinary decay in plain sight.

This. Right now.

The world isn’t safe anymore, and deep down, you knew that already.

The Illusion of Preparedness

Most men don’t sit around doing nothing because they’re lazy. It’s because they don’t know where to start.

So they cope in quiet ways.

Some work out, take jiu-jitsu, buy a gun, or stockpile freeze-dried food—because they have a nagging feeling things are going to get worse. Others numb the tension with Netflix, beer, porn, and video games. But there’s a word for people who make excuses when there’s a life-or-death crisis: cowards.

Here’s the truth:

The apocalypse is already happening—it just looks different than you expected.

And the question isn’t, “Are you prepared for it?”

The question is, “What can you do to make a difference? Right. Now.”

*“The society that separates its scholars
from its warriors will have its thinking done
by cowards and its fighting done by fools.”*

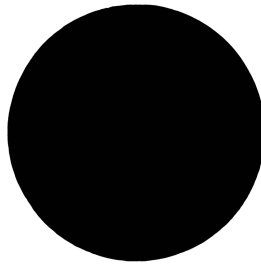
— **Thucydides**, *History of the Peloponnesian War*



“Endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

— **2 Timothy 2:3**

PART ONE:
Foundations





CHAPTER 1

RED Teams—Christians, Get Ready

The Bible as a Survival Manual

So you think your basement full of freeze-dried lasagna makes you ready for the apocalypse? Cute.

My study looks like the clearance aisle at a survivalist book fair—shelves groaning under doomsday paperbacks. My wife calls it research; I call it insurance.

This peculiar hobby traces back to my formative years as a new private in the 75th Ranger Regiment, where the Army graciously taught me (via numerous humbling experiences) that winging it is a terrible life strategy, especially when people are shooting at you. I've dabbled in various literary adventures over the years but my last book, *Death of Civilization*, was my maiden voyage into what some might call "prepper literature." Spoiler alert: It was less "101 uses for duct tape" and more "why humans are terrible at apocalypses because we can't stop fighting each other."

Think of this book as a further development of the theme—but told through the lens of men's ministry.

Here's the plot twist: The Bible is actually the ultimate survival manual, except—and this is the kicker—you can't bootstrap your

way through the apocalypse without divine assistance. Turns out self-reliance is just narcissism with extra steps. The Bible doesn't just dispense timeless wisdom for suburban living; it explicitly warns us everything's going to hell (literally), and we should probably prepare accordingly. Scripture doesn't sugarcoat reality: The world is actively hostile, led by forces making your average Bond villain look like a community organizer, and yes, they're coming for your family.

Fun stuff.

But there's also hope—radical, world-shaking hope. We're reminded that earth is basically a layover, not the destination, but while we're stuck here, we're supposed to actually do things: love people, defend truth, rescue the desperate, and try not to murder our neighbors. As biblical prophecy plays out in real-time like the world's worst streaming series and civilization circles the drain, perhaps it's worth cracking open Scripture as the survival guide it was always meant to be.

The assassination of Charlie Kirk on live television shook the body of Christ to its core. Many believe a Rubicon has been crossed. We've always known the world hated what we stand for—love, peace, grace, mercy, salvation, redemption, and forgiveness. But in a depraved culture denying God, these gifts are treated as threats, not blessings. To watch a father and husband martyred for simply defending biblical truth was shocking enough. To then discover his killer was not a foreign terrorist, but an ordinary American kid raised in a conservative home—radicalized into a homosexual psychopath in just seventeen months at a public university—was perhaps even more chilling. It was a wake-up call.

Satan is stealing our children. And he's often doing it through nothing more than a glowing screen in their bedrooms or a few years in a godless educational system. We have entertained our kids to death. We've pampered them like pets instead of training them as contributing members of a family on mission. And now we are reaping the whirlwind.

This book is many things. It is a challenge to rethink what men's ministry ought to be. It is a warning about the coming chaos. It is a call to fathers, mothers, churches, and communities to arise and fight for the next generation. But it is not just another "the sky is falling" screed. It offers practical, concrete steps you and your church can take right now to stand firm, to prepare, and to push back.

We are living in urgent days. The devil prowls around looking for someone to devour—your children, your marriage, your faith. But God has not left us defenseless. He has given us His Word, His Spirit, and each other. My prayer is this book will help you put all these gifts to effective use.

Because the time to prepare is not tomorrow. It's now.

When people think of "prepping," they often picture bug-out bags packed with tactical gear, or survivalists building off-grid shelters in the wilderness. Please don't let the fact I mention it here give you the impression this book belongs in the tinfoil hat section at Barnes and Noble. Preparation for crisis has become a cultural movement—sometimes mocked, often misunderstood, but always rooted in one undeniable truth: Murphy's Law has a 100 percent success rate.

There are thousands of books, movies, and YouTube channels dedicated to the genre of "Prepping." You can learn anything on the internet. But what if the book that outlasted empires, predicted calamities, and sustained believers through centuries of war, famine, persecution, and collapse is the resource most preppers overlook?

The Bible does more than tell us to trust God. It paints a sober picture of the world: one marred by sin, punctuated by crises, and destined for judgment. It also offers both warnings and blueprints for how God's people should respond—spiritually, physically, and communally. Scripture shows us men like Noah, Joseph, and Nehemiah, who prepared for disaster not out of paranoia but out of obedience. And it gives clear commands to be

ready “in season and out of season” (2 Timothy 4:2)—not just with sermons but with lives anchored in truth and provision.

In short, the Bible is the only book that prepares us not just for disasters or the collapse of the world around us but for eternity itself.

The Bible Foretells Hard Times

Consider the Bible’s relentless honesty about the future. Self-help books promise progress. Politicians promise prosperity. The Bible? Hard times. Tribulations. Jesus didn’t sugarcoat it: “In this world you will have trouble” (John 16:33 NIV).

From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture warns us of cycles of famine, war, oppression, and natural disasters. It is filled with prophecies foreshadowing global upheavals:

- **The Days of Noah:** Humanity’s corruption led to a worldwide flood. Noah was told to prepare an ark—not the most convenient project but obedience saved his household (Genesis 6–7).
- **Egypt’s Famine:** God gave Pharaoh a dream of seven fat years and seven lean years. Joseph, by interpreting the dream and preparing grain stores—not only saving Egypt but preserving the covenant family of Israel (Genesis 41).
- **Jesus’s Prophecies:** Christ warned of wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes, pestilences, and persecution before His return (Matthew 24; Luke 21). His point? Don’t be caught off guard.
- **Revelation’s Vision:** The final book of the Bible describes catastrophic judgments—economic collapse, ecological disaster, rampant violence. For the unprepared, these are terrifying. For the prepared in Christ, they are a call to endure.

The Bible does not sugarcoat history or the future. Hard times are not a possibility; they are a certainty. Being ready is not paranoia; it is biblical realism.

In every case, God's people combined faith with foresight. They didn't say, "God will provide, so I don't need to act." They acted because they believed God would provide through their obedience.

Preparedness Beyond the Spiritual

Modern Christians sometimes reduce "being ready" to purely spiritual categories—praying, reading the Bible, evangelizing. These are essential. But biblical preparedness extends further.

1. Physical Preparedness

Scripture ties faithfulness to practical provision. Proverbs 6 praises the ant for storing food in summer. Paul says bluntly, "If anyone does not provide for his relatives . . . he has denied the faith" (1 Timothy 5:8). To ignore physical needs of those in your care while claiming spiritual devotion is hypocrisy.

2. Relational Preparedness

The Bible also emphasizes community resilience. Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV) says, "A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Israel survived not because individuals hoarded supplies but because tribes rallied together. The church is called a body—interdependent, not isolated. In crises, networks matter.

3. Mental Preparedness

The prophets and apostles all spoke of sober mindedness. Panic destroys. Training in wisdom acts as a buffer to panic. Isaiah told God's people to "prepare the way" (Isaiah 40:3). Peter said, "Prepare your minds for action" (1 Peter 1:13). Prepping is as much mental discipline as it is material.

4. Spiritual Preparedness

Above all, Scripture demands readiness of the heart, manifested through holiness. Stockpiles won't save us from sin, but repentance will. Guns and gardens cannot shield

us from death, but Christ can. Physical prepping without spiritual grounding is bunker mentality survivalism at best and apocalyptic cosplay at worst; with Christ, it becomes stewardship.

Ready in Season and Out of Season

Paul's command to Timothy—"preach the word; be ready in season and out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2)—is about more than sermons. It is a principle for life. Be ready when it's convenient and when it's not. Be ready when culture applauds and when it persecutes. Be ready when shelves are full and when they're empty.

This kind of readiness has multiple layers:

- **Financial readiness:** Avoiding crippling debt, practicing generosity, and holding resources loosely yet wisely
- **Moral readiness:** Standing firm in truth even as society collapses into confusion
- **Practical readiness:** Knowing how to grow food, fix tools, defend a household
- **Missional readiness:** Using crises as opportunities to serve, to witness, and to show Christ's love

The early church embodied this. When plagues swept through Rome, many pagans fled. Christians stayed, cared for the sick, buried the dead, and in so doing, won a hearing for the gospel. Their preparedness wasn't just for survival—it was for service.

Warnings Against False Prepping

Of course, the Bible also warns us against counterfeit versions of preparedness.

1. **Hoarding Without Hope**

Jesus condemned the rich fool who built bigger barns but lost his soul that very night (Luke 12:16–21). Prepping becomes idolatry when trust shifts from God to stockpiles.

2. Trusting in Weapons Alone

Psalm 20:7 reminds us, “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.” Defensive tools may be wise, but they are not ultimate.

3. Fear-Driven Isolation

Scripture calls us to community, not withdrawal. The lone wolf may have fewer responsibilities, but the sheepfold is safer under the Shepherd.

Taken from a preparedness standpoint, the Bible balances realism with reliance, strategy with surrender.

Practical Applications for Today

How can Christians apply the Bible’s prepper principles now?

- **Store Wisely:** Just as Joseph stored grain, believers today can store food, water, and essentials—not as hoarders, but as stewards.
- **Skill Up:** Learn trades, gardening, first aid, and crisis management. Proverbs 22:29 praises skillful workers:
Do you see a man skillful in his work?
He will stand before kings;
he will not stand before obscure men.
- **Strengthen Community:** Build relationships in church and neighborhood. In crisis, isolation is a liability.
- **Stay Spiritually Fit:** Daily prayer, Scripture study, and holiness are the foundation of true preparedness.
- **Serve in Crisis:** View preparation not as a way to survive while others suffer but as a way to serve others when disaster strikes.

When hurricanes, wars, or economic collapses come, Christians should be the most calm, the most capable, and the most compassionate. Where that is the case, people will want what you have—something we’ve learned to call “the peace that passes all understanding.”

Less “The Sky Is Falling” and more “The King Is Coming”

The Bible is not a call to panic. It is a call to preparedness rooted in faith. Noah built an ark. Joseph stocked grain. Nehemiah fortified walls. The wise virgins trimmed their lamps. And Christ commands us to watch, to work, and to be ready.

What does all this have to do with men’s ministry? I’m glad you asked. Prepping means more than having beans, bullets, and bandages. It means having faith, foresight, and fellowship. It means being a source of light in the darkest hours. It means being ready—not just for the next power outage or the next food shortage—but for the return of the King.

Why RED Teams?

Why did I choose the title *RED Teams* for a book about biblical preparation, men’s ministry, and the future of the church? The answer begins with a simple observation: Most churches—and most men—are unprepared. They are unprepared for crisis, unprepared for cultural hostility, unprepared for disaster, and often unprepared for even the everyday needs of their own families and neighbors.

When a society is rocked by hurricanes, wars, pandemics, economic collapse, or persecution, it is often the men who must arise, shoulder the burden, and lead. Yet in my experience, what passes for “men’s ministry” in many churches today looks, well, shallow.

That is why I like the concept of RED Teams. In the military and intelligence world, a “RED Team” is a group of professionals tasked with testing defenses. They probe for weaknesses, simulate attacks, and expose vulnerabilities so the organization can train its members and strengthen itself before a real adversary strikes. If corporations and government agencies know the value of constant stress-testing, how much more should the people of God?

What Is a RED Team?

In cybersecurity, a RED Team doesn't just review policies on paper—they try to break into the system. In the military, a RED Team doesn't just theorize about threats—they simulate enemy incursions and see what happens. The entire purpose is to get an honest assessment: Where are we strong, where are we weak, and how can we fix it?

What if we, as Christian men, applied the same questions to our lives?

The Bible has long taught this principle. Paul commanded the Corinthians, “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves” (2 Corinthians 13:5). Jesus told the church in Sardis, “Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die” (Revelation 3:2). This is red teaming; confronting hard truths about our weaknesses so we can grow into strength.

It Starts with the Guy You Shave

First, we need to RED Team our lives. Too many of us coast spiritually, morally, and practically until a crisis exposes our fragility. When temptation comes, when financial hardship hits, when illness strikes, or when persecution intensifies, we discover the “defenses” of our lives are flimsy at best.

- **Spiritual weak spots** might include a prayer life that only exists on Sunday morning, a shallow knowledge of Scripture, or secret sins left unconfessed.
- **Practical weak spots** might be living paycheck to paycheck with no savings, never learning basic skills like first aid or home repair, or assuming the government will always be there in an emergency.
- **Relational weak spots** might be neglected marriages, distant children, or friendships never moving past small talk. How many churches did I just describe?

To RED Team our lives mean asking: If crisis came tonight, would I be ready? If temptation knocked tomorrow, could I

stand? If my church called on me next week, would I be useful? Where the answers are “no,” strengthening must begin.

RED Teaming Our Churches

Churches, too, need to be stress-tested. Imagine if, instead of assuming the lights will always come on, the sound system will always work, and the food pantry will always be stocked, churches asked: What if?

- What if the power grid fails during a Sunday service?
- What if a hurricane strikes our town and half the congregation is homeless?
- What if ten families in the congregation lost their jobs at the same time?

What if persecution increases and the church can no longer meet openly? (Before the pandemic I never would have imagined this possible in America. But now . . .)

Far too often, churches are caught flat-footed, scrambling to react after disaster strikes. But Scripture calls leaders to shepherd wisely, like the sons of Issachar who “understood the times and knew what Israel should do” (1 Chronicles 12:32 NIV). A church that has RED Teamed itself is not paralyzed by crisis—it is prepared to serve.

RED Teaming Our Men’s Ministries

This is where men’s ministries must transform. Right now, in many churches, men gather for occasional breakfasts or casual studies. Those things have their place, but they are not enough. Men’s ministries should look more like a first-response units than tea circles—a ministry *through* men rather than *just to* men.

Picture a men’s group trained in CPR and first aid, equipped with generators, ready to cook meals for hundreds, or organized to clear debris after a storm. Imagine them holding each other accountable for physical fitness, financial stability, and spiritual integrity. That is a RED Teamed men’s ministry—one

strengthening men to stand firm in every area of life and then mobilizing them to serve others.

This is not a novelty—it is deeply biblical. Nehemiah had men building with one hand while holding a sword in the other (Nehemiah 4:17). David’s mighty men were not only warriors but protectors of the weak. Early church deacons were chosen for practical service—feeding widows, organizing aid—while also being men “full of the Spirit and of wisdom” (Acts 6:3). That is what a biblical men’s ministry should resemble.

RED Teaming Our Communities

The final step is to extend this mindset outward into our communities. Crisis is coming—not just personal crises like illness or job loss but societal crises like economic collapse, natural disasters, and persecution. The church should be the first place the community turns to for help.

Let me say that again. *The church should be the first place the community turns to for help.* Not the government.

But that will only happen if we RED Team our communities now. Where are the needs? Which families are vulnerable? What would happen if the supply chain broke down for a month? How could we protect the elderly, the children, the disabled? How could we communicate and coordinate if modern systems went offline?

RED Teaming forces us to ask the uncomfortable questions before reality asks them for us. It is not fearmongering; it is biblical foresight.

So why call this book *RED Teams*? Not because the church needs another inspirational slogan—what it needs is a battle plan.

The term communicates urgency, realism, and accountability. It reminds us Christianity is not a spectator sport but a call to arms. It pushes men to see themselves not as passive church consumers but as guardians, defenders, and servants. It redefines men’s ministry from social hour to strategic unit.

Most importantly, it echoes the biblical mandate: test yourselves, strengthen what remains, prepare the way of the Lord. Just as military and corporate RED Teams save lives by exposing weaknesses, so too can God's RED Teams—men who are willing to examine their lives, churches, and communities—help safeguard the faith, protect the vulnerable, and prepare for crisis and Christ's return.

Building Biblical Resilience

The future will not be easy. Scripture promises persecution, hardship, and tribulation. But it also promises the church will prevail, Christ will return, and faithful men and women can stand firm until the end.

RED Teams is not just a catchy metaphor. It is a framework for a movement. If men begin to RED Team their own lives, if churches RED Team their ministries, and if communities benefit from those preparations, then when the storms come—whether literal or spiritual—the church will not be swept away.

Instead, the church will shine as a city on a hill, resilient, compassionate, and ready.

RED Teams don't have to be started by or connected to a church, but in my opinion, the church is the best place to start.