

WORD AT WORK

Kingly Character of Christ VIII

Dear Friend:

Acts 1:6-8 says, "Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' And He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'" After Jesus ascended and the Holy Spirit was given, we read in 1 Thessalonians 5:1, "But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you." The dramatic difference between these two statements makes it clear the Holy Spirit is the revealer of times and seasons.

On the second night of my trip to Australia, the Holy Spirit prompted me to discard my notes after He continuously said, "Shift, shift, shift, shift, shift, shift, shift." I found myself spontaneously teaching on the "rod of iron." I believe I can say with the utmost assurance that there has been a change in the times and seasons by the Father's own authority. The Throne-Room is accessible for biblical justice in new ways. God is relational and the depth of that relationship determines the degree to which we can access the sword of justice or strike with the "rod of iron!" That relationship dictates how far we can go in addressing the enemies of our harvest.

Knowing the Kingly Christ is crucial for victory in the last days. The magnitude of the harvest is determined by both the number and condition of the laborers we send into the harvest field. If the laborers are unaware of their chief weapon, "the rod of iron" and all they do is "turn-the-other-cheek" then we are sending lambs to the slaughter. We should be training lions that can be lambs when they need to be!

Jesus is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah but if we send laborers with no spiritual weapons and no spiritual claws then we offer lambs to the slaughter. The Father is ready to restore both the roar and the claws of the Lion to the church! For those who have developed a deep relationship with the Lord get ready to access the rod of iron! It will be needed for use against the enemies of the harvest! The season has changed. Train for it now!

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

WAR AT WAR

Kingly Character of Christ VIII

MONDAY, AUGUST 1

Scripture: Revelation 19:11

We are told, “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.” Jesus has not been portrayed as the God of the *whole* Bible but *only* as the merciful Savior from the gospels. We have pictured Jesus pastorally – healing the sick, feeding the five thousand, delivering from bondage, convicting tax collectors. He has been presented as primarily an evangelist and a pastor. He is hardly ever presented as a prophet, weaving cords into a whip and overturning the tables of the money-changers. The Kingly Christ *exists* in the gospels. The main times in the gospels that Jesus displayed indignation was when He went to the temple. He went to the temple both in the beginning of His ministry and the end, and each time, He cleaned house. The last temple cleansing preceded His crucifixion. Representing the Kingly Christ is a deficit in the church. If we are going to walk with Jesus in the days ahead we must get acquainted with both the Jesus of the gospels *and* the Jesus of Revelation. Otherwise we will never be able to fully represent Him. This is the Jesus we have to deal with today – this is the Jesus who is judging nations. This is the Jesus who is releasing judgments in the earth. Are we ready to represent this Jesus?

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

Scripture: Luke 16:11-13

Jesus is faithful to the Word. His standard of righteousness is the Word. However, the righteous standard of the Word has been discarded by sections of the church. Jesus is faithful and true to His Word. His Word presents a God who is willing to judge impurity at the altar. When He finds righteousness and purity lacking in the leadership of the church, He will judge it. Ananias and Sapphira events are coming to the pulpit. Jesus is faithful and true and when He goes to war, it will be over biblical principles of truth. If we do not pass the money test, we will meet Jesus the Judge. He is going to walk through the church and repossess pulpits like a finance company repossesses automobiles when the payments have not been made. Watch the Lord repossess pulpits! We may see modern-day Acts 5 events while men are preaching!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3

Scripture: Revelation 19:11

Jesus makes war but how does He do it? The Greek word for war is **pol-em-eh-o**. It means ‘to fight’ and comes from **pol-em-os** which is a word that covers the whole range of hostilities. The question then becomes, what makes God mad enough to go to war? What brings God to the point where He is ready to fight against people? We must represent the Jesus who is going to war. Is Jesus going to war against the United States of America? Will He go to war against Iran? Will He go to war against China? We know that nation will rise against nation, but how does it look when God goes to war? What about the God who goes to war against churches? Jesus went to war and cleaned house in the temple twice. Perhaps we should look first at war in the church and then against the nations. This may be the greatest deficit in ministry today. We can represent Jesus as pastor and evangelist, but can we represent Him as the God of War?

What will it cost to represent Jesus as the God of War? Paul did *not* have a problem. Peter did *not* have a problem. Why can we not represent Jesus as the God of War? If we are going to walk with Him in the last days, this is not optional if we are in ministry. The sole purpose of ministry is to equip the saints. So if I cannot equip you to walk with the God of War, I am *not* doing my job and I am *not* helping you at all. If I make you food for the enemy, then I have failed you as a minister of the Most High. But if I teach you how to represent the God of War, then I have not. God help the church! Visit the ministers so that we can teach people how to represent the God of War.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

Scripture: Malachi 3:1-5

If I am going to teach you how to represent the God of War, then we must go to the very foundation of the issue and pass the mammon test. There is a whole book on this issue called *Purifying the Altar*. Malachi 3 gives a quick glimpse of the qualification that is most important. It says in Malachi 3:1-3, “Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the LORD of hosts. ‘But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.” On the day that you can offer an offering in righteousness is the day that you can represent the God of War. And until you can do that, you might as well be whistling Dixie in the wind. Notice what verses 4 and 5 have to say about God in action. On the day that you can offer an offering in righteousness, God comes near for judgment. He says He will be a judge *against* sorcerers and all who are in idol worship. He will judge *against* adulterers, physical and spiritual – those who adulterate everything around them including our politicians. He will judge *against* perjurers, those who knowingly deceive and *against* those who exploit wage earners, guaranteeing justice in the marketplace. He will judge *against* those who take advantage of the widows and the fatherless. He will judge *against* those who turn away the alien. These are the issues over which God will go to war. In order to represent Him, we must offer an offering in righteousness. Can we?

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

Scripture: Malachi 3:1-5

Can we offer an offering in righteousness? If we can, the God of War is ready to manifest in any area of our lives! Every one of the areas of life is covered in verse 5. What does it mean to offer an offering in righteousness? First of all it means to offer obedience in covenant. God established the covenant of the tithe, and He will direct us as to where to put it. Offering an offering in righteousness means we are walking in covenant and we are obedient to His voice, to the voice of the Spirit. If we are obedient to the voice of the Spirit and we do not have sin in our life, we can offer an offering in righteousness. The Holy Spirit is faithful. If we ask Him to reveal sin in our life, He does. All we must do is ask. He is faithful. Every Christian can offer an offering in righteousness. Many do not. There is a whole section of teaching today trying to dissuade people that the tithe is not New Testament. The only problem with that is, God gave the tithe as a Covenant of Salt forever to the Levites. The Levites were gifts to the High Priest. In Ephesians 4, fivefold ministry is a gift to the New Testament Aarons of God. Every person, in Christ, stands in an Aaronic position. God has never broken a covenant! To try and teach people that the tithe is not New Testament is inaccurate and spiritually debilitating. If the tithe is not New Covenant, then God is a covenant-breaker. The Bible portrays God as a covenant-keeper, not a covenant-breaker. Even when Israel broke covenant, God initiated a new one, then promised to graft them in. You cannot find God as a covenant-breaker anywhere. If we are not offering an offering in righteousness, we should be. Become a tither and become obedient. Reign in your flesh. Possess your vessel in sanctification and honor. Yield to the Holy Spirit then every offering you give will be an offering in righteousness. This is not rocket-science. This is whether or not we want to embrace the cross. We cannot represent Jesus the Judge if we cannot offer an offering in righteousness. It is a choice. Make a choice to be a believer. Make a choice to possess your vessel. Make a choice to walk in the Spirit. Make a choice to obey. And the God of War may start laying people down at your side, in front of and behind. No one will be able to stand against you and survive. You will finish your race in the last days.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

Scripture: Matthew 24:3-6

Matthew 24:3-6 says, *“Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’ And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.’”* It is obvious that the end-times are going to have a significant number of wars. But the end is not yet. Verse 6 ends telling us we are going to have to walk through a significant amount of war. What does that mean for us? What does that mean for our kids? What does that mean for those who are in the military? We need to raise a generation who understand the fact that we are going to have war. But the liberal left has made war a bad word. We even find people in the church that think war is a bad word. Spiritual blindness is prevailing. There is a word in Greek that defines a growing number in the “emerging church” movement. That Greek word is **id-ee-o-tace**. The reason this word is so appropriate is because it describes people who are uniformed about life and oblivious to the Creator and how He ordains war. Again and again in Scripture, God is called a Man of War. The most honorable in the nation are often men of war. God commands war, He ordains war because He is permanently at war against evil. The modern church movement thinks you must lie down and let evil do whatever it wants to do. That is one reason that theology is so abominable. Much of the church today is in danger of self-destructing because of passive theology. The Jesus of Revelation must be looking at the church today and thinking, *“Depart from me you workers of iniquity, I never knew you.”*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

Scripture: Matthew 24:7-10

Matthew 24:7-10 says, *“For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. ‘Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.’”* War is going to dominate the end-times. Tribulation and persecution are going to rise. Betrayal will become commonplace. Offense will be everywhere. The idea that if you are a Christian you are nice to everybody, also qualifies in the **id-ee-o-tace** category. Jesus warned His followers that they were going to have to stand up for truth, and that standing up for truth would cause them to be hated by many. What we find in the church today is the abrogation of truth and the utter refusal to take a stand for truth. Major denominations of Christianity today have all turned apostate rather than hold up the standard of God's truth over the issue of homosexuality. In Romans 1, the New Testament says that those who participate in that lifestyle, and those who approve it are worthy of death. When God means death, He does not kill once, He kills twice. Jesus says do not fear those who can kill the body, but fear Him who after He has killed your body can kill you again in hell forever. The Jesus of Revelation kills twice. Is the church ready to represent the God who dispenses double death? We better be, because that time is approaching!

MONDAY, AUGUST 8

Scripture: Luke 4:13, 21-30

When is God ready to go to war? Malachi told us, but so did the New Testament. In Luke 4, we find Jesus in the place where He is given a very unpopular word to speak in His own hometown. In Luke 4:21-27 He spoke it. Once He did, the listeners were so mad, they took Him out to the cliff on the edge of the city in order to throw Him over and kill Him. Verses 29,30 state, *“...and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.”* Now how can it be firmly in the grasp of people one moment who take Him all the way out to the brow of the hill, intending to throw Him over, and suddenly every person there loses their grip? God the Father went to war over the Son, and every single person there lost their grip. The reason they lost their grip was because Jesus had not finished His race. The Father went to war so that the Son could finish His race. Maybe one of the very first manifestations of war in

our lives, is that we pray judicially for people to lose their grip so we can finish our race. What in our lives needs to lose its grip on us so that we can finish our race? Is it a person? Is it a circumstance? Is it a situation? Is it the issue of physical healing? Whatever needs to lose its grip on our life so we can finish our race can be won now! We can and must be victorious over those things that hold grip on us. Ask the God of War to intervene so that we can reach our destiny!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

Scripture: John 8:53-59

In John 8:53-59 we have another incident where the Father goes to war for the Son. Jesus, once again, had to speak some things that absolutely enraged people to the point they wanted to kill Him. In verse 59 we are told, *“Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.”* Now this may be the very first cloaking moment in Scripture, but essentially God is going to war for the Son to enable Him to complete His assignment. It required blinding the target of the enemies’ rage. It is nice to know there is an anointing that causes people to lose their grip and there is an anointing that specifically blinds them to their target. They can see everything else, but they cannot see their target. If I am going to war, I want to know the God that causes people to lose their grip and the God who blinds people specifically to their target. This is the God we serve. There are ways that He wars in our behalf and we need to believe for them when needed. If we are willing to boldly declare what we hear God say the way Jesus did, then we can expect the same protection.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

Scripture: Acts 10:30-38

In Acts 10:36-38 we are told, *“The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”* God sent a Word to the children of Israel. He also sent a Word to the people of North America. Father God is talking to the church but are we listening? Regardless of what nation we are in, God has sent a Word to us. That Word we know. That Word we preach. Jesus and the Word are one! The same God who anointed Jesus anoints us. He has given us His Holy Spirit with power for the same reason: to do good, to heal, to deliver. God is with us. He is no respecter of persons. He is therefore with us like He was with Jesus. It means He will go to war on our behalf. He will cause people to lose their grip. When we are a target and have not finished our race, He will blind people to our very presence if needed! Begin to believe, lay hold of, claim and trust God to manifest the fullness of His war against evil in our behalf!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:5-8

1 Corinthians 14:5-8 says, *“I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification. But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching? Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played? For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?”* When God's trumpets make an uncertain sound, no one prepares for war. The Greek word here is **pol-em-os**. Are we preparing for war or are we assuming peace? When we are not preparing for war then we will not be ready to represent the Jesus of Revelation. The church today has heard an uncertain sound and very few in it are believing and preparing to represent the God of War. That means many are unprepared for what lies ahead. Are we among them?

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

Scripture: Revelation 12:7-11

Revelation 12:7-11 states, *“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.’”* It is obvious the New Testament says there are not only wars on earth, but the book of Revelation says there is a war in heaven. God is not surprised by war. He is not surprised by rebellion in individuals and He is not surprised by the rebellion of nations. When we have a war over our nation it is the church’s responsibility to bring the Hand of God on the enemy so that evil does not prevail. If we do not, then our passivity *enables* the enemy. Only religious tradition could blind the church from the God of War in the New Testament. But the enemy has, and the fruit is utter passivity. According to Revelation 12:11, they overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. They were not afraid to go to war. That is just another translation of, *“...they did not love their lives to the death.”* They were willing to stand up and die for something. The church in America is passive. Is it any wonder that we are far from the New Testament church?

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

Scripture: Revelation 12:13-17

Revelation 12:13-17 states, *“Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”* Now it certainly seems to me that Jesus did His part and made a show of him openly defeating satan. Since the Son of God took a seat at the right hand of the Majesty on High, it seems that the current war is on the earth. It is obvious that war is against both the Jewish and Christian people. How long are we going to tolerate the enemy deceiving generations through education and through schools? God, in the last days, may have a zero-tolerance policy of His own! It is clear to me that I am in conflict with an enemy who is warring against me. And I have every right to demand the covenant-keeping God come war against any representative that wants to advance an antichrist agenda. The God who dispenses double death can visit them like He visited Herod and we should see the same results. To pray anything less is a denial of the fact that we are in a war. I never thought I would live to see the day when the church would choose passivity rather than stand up for the truth of Scripture, but we many have arrived. Thank God for the remnant. I trust you are in that group!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

Scripture: Judges 3:1-4

Judges 3:1-4 reveals why war is essential, *“Now these are the nations which the LORD left, that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan (this was only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it), namely, five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath. And they were left, that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the LORD, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.”* God left the adversary in Israel so that there would be no generation that did not understand and know war. War is essential for keeping freedom. Men and women who are not willing to go to war are men and women who will lose their God-given

freedoms. It is only when people are willing to sacrifice themselves and go to war, that they can keep their God-given freedoms. Are we willing to go to war? It is the only way we keep our freedoms. When individuals are determined to advance evil to the point of destroying a nation, then war is inevitable. Radical homosexuals have been warring against the church for forty years! Radical abortion-supporters are warring! Is it not time to begin the war-cry in our prayer closets!

MONDAY, AUGUST 15

Scripture: Judges 3:5-7

Judges 3:5-7 says, *“Thus the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods. So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs.”* Any generation that is not willing to go to war ends up submitting to the culture around it. When a nation that covenants with God submits to the culture around it, it transgresses the covenant. Breaking the covenant opens the door to the judicial side of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 where God begins to war against that country. In that place, only the church can stand up and redirect the war to destroy the perpetrators. To save the culture, we must move God's Hand against those within the culture who are polluting it. Unless the church is willing to stand up against the evil in our culture, then we will lose our freedom as God wars against our nation. The national cup of iniquity is rising toward fullness and has been in that position for a number of years. The real question is, will the church go to war to preserve the land? Is it not time to move forth with that war-cry in prayer?

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16

Scripture: Judges 3:8-10

It is interesting to see what happens to a covenant nation that goes into captivity and begins to cry out in repentance to God. The Holy Spirit comes. When the Holy Spirit comes, what does He do? Verse 10 makes it clear that when the Spirit of the Lord came upon Kenaz, he made some judgments. And as soon as he made judgments, he went to war. When he went to war, God delivered the enemy into his hands. But he had to make a decision: “Evil is evil, and I will not stand for it!” When he went to war, God went with him. Is it not time we made a decision to participate in God-directed war?

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-3

It seems like the Abrahamic covenant that we participate in is really quite profound when it comes to the issue of war. It actually promises that God will war against our enemies, and it has not changed. According to Galatians 3:29, we participate in that covenant. It is still good today, guaranteed by the Blood of the Lord Jesus. And in Genesis 12:1-3 it promises, *“Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”* God said that those who curse us, He would war against. God said He would **aw-rar** in Hebrew, declare harm, injury or anathema! There is a judicial covenantal side to the Abrahamic covenant. When you find yourself facing an adversary, you have to ask God to destroy the adversary who refuses to repent. If we are deceived into thinking that the only thing we can do is to ask God to bless the adversary, then we aid him in his advancing of evil. When we think we can only bless our enemies and pray for those who persecute us, we put a sword in **their** hand to destroy **us**. That is not only passive but self-destructive and yet it permeates the modern church. No wonder Jesus was indignant when He went to church. No wonder He wove a whip out of three strands. With the level of deception in the church today, I think that Jesus may be at war with the church. Let us walk with Him and see if we cannot turn this tide and gain a greater harvest.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

Scripture: Genesis 12:14-17

Is God really willing to war on our behalf? He promised Abraham He would. Genesis 12:14-17 states, *“So it was, when Abram came into Egypt, that the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful. The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken to Pharaoh’s house. He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels. But the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife.”* God went to war for Abram even when Abram was not totally truthful with Pharaoh. But because of the covenant, He went to war and Sarai was restored. The covenant we have with God is the foundation of everything that we do. Ignorance of the covenant in the last days will stop the church from being all it is called to be. We cannot afford to be ignorant.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

Scripture: Genesis 20:1-7

Verse 7 makes it really evident that God will war on our behalf simply because we are in covenant with Him. Why are we not fully availing ourselves of our covenant? Verse 7 clearly states how far God is willing to go in covenant, *“Now therefore, restore the man’s wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”* The covenant-keeping God has obligated Himself to war in our behalf. Covenant changes how we pray!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:1-4

1 Samuel 18:1-4 says, *“Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father’s house anymore. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.”* When Jonathan and David made a covenant, that covenant included their armor, their swords, their bows *and* their ability to war! Their covenant included their ability to war. According to Genesis 3, if you and I are in the Blood Covenant then God is obligated to go to war when we ask Him. What are we asking? Are we asking God to bless the enemy or are we asking God to put the enemy under our feet? His revealed will proclaimed by His own Word in the New Testament seven times, is that God is going to make our enemy our footstool. But if we are asking Him to bless the enemy instead of making him our footstool, somebody has entered the realm of the **id-ee-o-tace**. I pray it is not us.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

Scripture: Joshua 10:11-14

To what degree is God willing to go to war? When a man who knew he was in covenant and had a heart for war prayed, observe what happened. God stopped the heavens. He did it for one reason – so that Joshua could kill more of the enemy. Now that is a statement. That is a statement about God's Heart. Only God could arrest the rotation of the planets. That is one of the most spectacular miracles in the history of the Bible. That is right up there, not too far from creation. He stopped the rotation of the planets - why? What was so important in the Heart of God that He would be willing to stop the rotation of the planets? Answer? So Joshua could kill more of the enemy. Where is that heart in the church today? Somebody has been successful in neutering the church. Tradition has robbed us of the God of War. It is about time we put that under our feet and stood up to be all that God has called us to be.

MONDAY, AUGUST 22

Scripture: 1 Samuel 7:10,11

1 Samuel 7:10,11 says, *“Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel. And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car.”* Here again we see God's willingness to answer over one purpose – to go to war on behalf of His people. How can we read the Bible and completely miss who God is as a Man of War? God is at war against evil!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23

Scripture: Numbers 16:28-32

Numbers 16:28-32 states, *“And Moses said: ‘By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will. If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the LORD has not sent me. But if the LORD creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the LORD.’ Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods.”* When is the last time you prayed and the earth opened, swallowed the enemy and they went alive into hell? Now *that* is covenant. *That* is a God who is willing to go to war in your behalf. But maybe we cannot say what Moses said. Moses asked God for something never seen before – a demonstration of the God of War. And he got what he prayed for. Joshua asked for a demonstration. He got it. Moses asked, Hezekiah asked. What is wrong with us? The Bible is full of people who asked God to go to war on their behalf. What happened to the New Testament church? We have been captured by tradition.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24

Scripture: Numbers 16:29-32, 15

Perhaps the reason that our generation has not been able to lead the church into the place where they understand the God of War is because we have not walked in the same standard of integrity and righteousness. If we could say what Moses said in verse 15, maybe we could get what he prayed for in verses 29-32. Verse 15 says, *“Then Moses was very angry, and said to the LORD, ‘Do not respect their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them, nor have I hurt one of them.’”* When we stand in the pulpit can we say, “I have not taken, and I have not hurt?” If we cannot, then no wonder we cannot lead people into the place they need to be. Is it not time we ordered our lives so we could say the same thing Moses said? Otherwise there can be no expectation of ever getting the same results he got.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

Scripture: 2 Kings 2:23-25

2 Kings 2:23-25 says, *“Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, ‘Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!’ So he turned around and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the LORD. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths. Then he went from there to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.”* Now we are taught that this is impossible in the New Testament but that is not true. Paul did it. He brought down curses on people who were not preaching the gospel. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever and this *has not changed*. The covenantal biblical proclamation of judicial justice is, in fact, an Old Testament curse. Elisha was mocked by a bunch of rebellious kids. He proclaimed covenant justice and bears came and mauled forty-two of the youths. Isn't it interesting that this is just casually mentioned in Scripture, and it goes right on as if it is routine. It is simply our God of War, in action for His people. The God of War who was in action for Elisha does not seem to be in action for the New Testament church. Where is the disconnection? Our culture tells us that war is bad and that it is to be avoided at all costs. I am glad God does not have that opinion. When we think that way, we never ask the God of

War to intervene against evil. We should live so we can access covenant justice when needed. God can intervene against evil.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

Scripture: Acts 12:1-6, 23

Acts 12: 23 says, *“Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.”* The early church prayed and when they prayed, God went to war. The same way that Herod touched the early church, God touched Herod. That is biblical, New Testament covenant justice in action. When we pray, believe and demand in covenant, the same God who was in operation then *will* show up for us now. There is no difference. Elisha spoke and the bears came, while the early church prayed and Herod was eaten by worms. I can hear many people now saying *“No, that is Old Covenant stuff.”* The bears *were* in the Old Covenant but the worms are in the New. The bears just mauled the kids but the worms *killed* the ruler. The degenerating of nations parallels the loss of power in the church. Most believers do not know they can ask the God of War to come in their behalf and put the enemy under their feet. Jesus has weapons of power! He has bears, hail, thunder and worms. It certainly seems to me there are specific people promoting pure evil who are deserving of worm. Where is the church to access the God of War in the New Testament?

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

Scripture: Acts 13:8-12

Thank God there is somebody in the New Testament who knew how to access the God of War. Paul met Him on the road to Damascus and got to know Him well enough to invite His hand at any given moment. This is a picture of how the New Testament church should operate. When you need the God of War, He is there. He is there to blind, He is there to dispense worms, and He *has not* changed. He is the same God of War in the New Testament that He was in the Old. If you want to see Him exceed anything He did in the Old Covenant, just go meet Him in the book of Revelation. How can we represent the Jesus of Revelation and not fully understand our covenantal foundations with the God of War? If you get to know the God of War you become a very different believer.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

Scripture: Revelation 2:12-16

Revelation 2:12-16 says, *“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: ‘I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.’”* Perhaps one of the first things we should ask is, will God war against the church? He was certainly willing to war against Pergamus. Jesus said, *“I will fight against them with the sword of my mouth,”* and if that is not war, I do not know what is. God wars with weather and earthquake and He strikes out with a rod of iron. God is coming to confront. It is just a matter of time. I would not want to be associated with a leader or member of a congregation whose denomination had chosen to ordain and support homosexuality. These people become a bulls-eye for the God of War. When He visits those groups, what Jesus promised in Matthew 10 will become a reality. Do not fear man, but fear the God that, after He kills the body, can kill your soul forever. That tells us the God of double death is going to visit.

MONDAY, AUGUST 29

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1:4, 32-34

Hebrews 11 has long been known as Faith’s Hall of Fame where we understand that it is our job to trust God and initiate the faith-walk by our prayers and declarations. The examples of people who did that and got victory populate the chapter. Verses 22-24 say, *“And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.”* Is it not interesting that these believers became valiant in battle (Greek for ‘war’)? When they did, they turned to flight the armies of the aliens. God is a God of War. These Hebrews 11 saints did not do it single-handedly, they did it through prayer. They did it through faith. They did it by activating heaven in their behalf. And when they did, the God of War sprang into action and gave them victory. Isn't it interesting that the greatest Hall of Faith chapter in the entire New Testament gives such prominence to applauding saints who used their faith to war? Some of the Faith-greats we aspire after did not turn their cheeks but swung their swords! When will we follow suit?

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30

Scripture: Exodus 15:1,2

Exodus 15:1,2 says, *“Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: ‘I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father’s God, and I will exalt Him.’”* This is where Miriam grabbed a tambourine and began to praise God. She was more than likely dancing around the dead bodies on the seashore. How is it that the Lord is a Man of War in the Old Testament and He is a Man of War in the New Testament and yet the church of our day hardly knows anything of the God of War? Something is wrong and it has to change!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

Scripture: Revelation 6:7,8

Revelation 6:7,8 says, *“When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, ‘Come and see.’ So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.”* It is obvious that the God of War in the New Testament is going to do more than He has ever done in history. Instead of the God of War diminishing in the New Covenant because of what Jesus did, He actually increases. There is one place in the Old Testament where, through the flood, God killed the population of the earth. But the population of the earth in those days would not even number a small percentage of what one fourth of the population is in the last days. Here, in one fell swoop, the Lord kills one fourth of the population and when we go over to Revelation 9:13-15, it is one third. The New Testament Jesus, in one instance, released an anointing to kill more than ever existed during the Old Covenant flood, and then released an anointing to kill another third of the earth’s population. It is obvious that in the book of Revelation, one half of the earth’s population is killed by the God of War, in the hope that others will repent. Why do we not represent this God of War today? It is obvious that He is real and it is obvious He is at work. Some of us have some growing to do.

ITINERARY

8/5-8/6	Lebanon, TN	Hillside Church, 1906 Old Shannon Rd., Lebanon, TN 37090 Fri 7 PM, Sat 6 PM	Jerry & Pat McBride 615-453-2511
8/14-8/15	Andrews, TX	City of Refuge Church, 1501 North Main , Andrews TX 79714 Sun 10:30 AM, 6 PM, Mon 7pm	Pastor Larry Brewer 915-523-6800