

# W O R D A T W O R K

## VOLUME XLI NUMBER II Weapons of Our Warfare

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4

1 Thessalonians 5:1-4 says, *“But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.”* As believers we cannot afford to walk in darkness concerning the times and seasons, as those who have not yielded to the Holy Spirit do. It seems as though America has just faced one of the biggest spiritual assaults in its history through lies, manipulation and deception that has led to upheaval in our democratic republic. It appears that if the tide is not turned, many Christian leaders may have to go underground for survival. Could the season of harvest we all expected to unfold in freedom may very well be headed underground. In such a time walking in the Spirit becomes a life and death daily proposition! We have to flow in the midst of national upheaval and by faith bring in a promised end-time harvest. When those things are difficult to impossible to do, only God’s Word can equip us to face this level of warfare.

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8

1 Thessalonians 5:4-7 says, *“But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.”* As believers we find ourselves in a season that is beyond sobering. Are we prepared? How many of us can say we know Jehovah as a Man of war who delivers by great judgments? Do we need a crash course in getting to know God as Jehovah? Are we watching and being sober as verse 6 says? Has all the extent of the devastation taken us by surprise? The pandemic and all the accompanying layers of problem have led to great control by leaders many of whom cannot be trusted. How many of us are ready to acknowledge that we may have been asleep to a sudden prophetic fulfillment of prophetic warnings of Revelation? How many of us have the depth of Bible training to be prepared for such a season? Is our prayer life robust enough to sustain such enemy advances? Are we crying out, ‘God, help us become the believers we need to be for this season!’

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17, Ephesians 6:12

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 says, *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing...”* What is it like to live totally focused on the Lord that includes a lifestyle of prayer? This is a season in which God’s Word and our prayers need to be fused

and united and come into sync with the voice of the Spirit. Why is prayer so important? We live in a culture where prayer is mocked relentlessly. From news anchors to celebrity actors, to socialist politicians, not a tragedy goes by without someone mocking people who would offer their prayers for the victims and their families. Prayer may be devalued by the culture, but that should make it even more valuable to us! The Scripture tells us why this is so in Ephesians 6:12 when it says, *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers (G746), against the powers (G1849), against the world forces (G2888) of this darkness, against the spiritual forces (G4152) of wickedness (G4189) in the heavenly places.”* Each of the key words in the Greek give us a hint as to whom and what we are fighting. Declaring the Word in prayer is a great strategy used by all Christian warriors who preceded us. Let God arise and His enemies be scattered!

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Scripture: Ephesians 6:12

Ephesians 6:12 says, *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”* *“Spiritual hosts of wickedness”* is a combination of two words, Strong’s Greek #4152 πνευματικός (phyoo-mat-ik-os’) meaning ethereal, spiritual, or non-physical, and Strong’s Greek #4189 πονηρία (pon-ay-ree’-ah) meaning depravity, malice, or wickedness. Taken together, it is obvious that the Apostle Paul is telling us that our primary enemies are satan and his fallen angels. From time to time, we may need to engage in warfare with satan’s human agents, but we should never forget that every human enemy has behind them a spiritual evil which is facilitating their actions. Jesus declared, *“It is written...”* on numerous occasions starting with the considerably hard battle He faced with satan himself after His 40 day fast in the wilderness!

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-13

Since prayer is the primary tool in our arsenal, how should we pray? What kinds of prayers are acceptable? God has placed at our disposal a variety of forms of prayer, including praying in the Spirit where we pray in languages we do not understand. Does having a relationship with Jesus Christ mean that our prayers can and should simply be free-form? The leading of the Holy Spirit is our key! In cultivating and building our relationship with God, His Spirit will direct our prayers! Does the Bible offer us any guidance on how we should pray and what we should pray? We have the model prayer offered by Christ Himself in The Lord’s Prayer, found among other places in Matthew 6:9-13, *“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’”* As far as using this for guidance or a model, the most important things Jesus says in Matthew 6 are in the context.

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Scripture: Matthew 6:5-8

In giving His disciples a model for prayer, Jesus first warned them not to pray like the Scribes and Pharisees. He says in Matthew 6:5, *“When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. “And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”* From these passages, we know that it is what is in a person’s heart when they are praying that is just as important as the words that are used in the prayer. The Bible offers a history of covenants God made with man! There are five theocratic covenants where God promises to rule

through man in the affairs of men. There are the Abrahamic, the Mosaic, Deuteronomic, the Davidic and the New Covenant! The promises of God through these covenants were recorded to be learned and prayed! As we avail ourselves of the covenant promises, these promises become a generational blessing! The Israelites while in bondage in Egypt groaned in prayer and God answered their prayers with the birth of Moses! Moses asked for adoption and God responded with covenant in Exodus 34:10! We are God's sons and daughters and can as such declare His Word!

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Scripture: Romans 8:26

Sons and daughters are encouraged to ask Father for a revelation of His prophetic purpose! Then we have the authority to call that forth as a command. As Creator, God spoke the worlds into existence. He invites us to follow His example by commanding His revealed will into existence. And how do we know His revealed will? Through His Word! Such promises as, *"He came to seek and save those who were lost"* as well as, *"For this cause was the Son of God manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."* The angels as ministering spirits wait for God's will to be declared so they can create it! Declaring and proclaiming God's will and doing so by faith is our part of this teamwork assignment. If we are sincere before God, the Holy Spirit will lead us and give us the words to speak! It is time to consider our relationship with God as His Own child our top priority. His Holy Spirit will lead us and guide us in all truth! We are to lean on His leadership!

#### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Scripture: Philippians 1:15-16, Jude 1:9-11

So what should we be asking the Lord for? Should it be provision for our families? Perhaps success in either our professional or personal lives? God declares His desire is that we prosper and live in blessing as our soul prospers! The Apostle Paul faced some of the same things we do today. Philippians 1:15 says, *"Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains"* Some are motivated by a desire to build their own kingdom while others build God's kingdom in their hearts and in the lives of their hearers. The Abrahamic Covenant promises provision. Prosperity is a covenant promise – but one that can be misunderstood. God's Word defines *"prosperity"* as 'enough for us to bless others.' That important key has been brought as a positive influence to the church. Christ summed up the appropriate way to pray for provision when He said, *"Give us this day our daily bread."* In an age of warfare being conducted against the church, our prayers should similarly be geared towards warfare, but that warfare must be conducted wisely and with discretion. Jude, in writing about the archangel Michael's battles with the devil over the body of Moses, says, *But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"* Of people who would pray directly against former angels, Jude goes on to say, *"Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah."* God judges motivation!

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Scripture: Numbers 22:9-41

Jude's reference to Balaam is interesting because it highlights the issue of mixed-seed. Baalam was a prophet who spoke for God which was a problem for Balak who sought the supernatural gift to curse Israel so his nation could prevail in their conflict with Israel. Baalam consistently blessed Israel to the great irritation of Balak. Baalam was eager to collect the money that Balak threatened to withhold for blessing instead of cursing Israel. Baalam taught Balak to lure Israel into sexual sin, then they could prevail. It worked and Baalam got paid. This ploy is referred to in Revelation as the Doctrine of Baalam and Jesus hates it. Once Israel dealt with their sin, they killed Baalam and prevailed. This is a great lesson for the church that demands we reject mixed-seed so our weapons work from a platform of purity and holiness! May the Holy Spirit pour discernment to distinguish the true and the pure.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Scripture: Job 1:6-7

God, in His Triune form, is the only Omniscient, Omnipotent, and Omnipresent Being in existence. He is the preexistent One! All creatures who were created by God lack these characteristics. This includes the angels, and it includes Lucifer, as one of the angels. Modern pop-culture universally ascribes an equal status between God and Satan. They are presented as two sides of the same coin. Order and Chaos. Light and Dark. This is a heresy called Dualism, and it is inescapable in the entertainment industry of the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century. In reality, Satan is not co-eternal with God. He is neither omniscient nor omnipresent.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Scripture: Genesis 15:16

How does God deal with those who seek the destruction of His people? With the sheer number of people decimated by the Israelites after the Exodus and during the establishment of Israel as a kingdom, annihilation would seem to be one of His most frequently used tools. However, we know that God is just and merciful in addition to vengeful. We know this because God tells us that it is only when a people has long sped past a point of no return for evil that He intervenes to wipe out the culture. This is why the outcry had to be “*great*” against Sodom and Gomorrah before God reached out His hand to strike them. This is also why Abram was able to barter with God to save the cities if a small number of righteous men could be found therein. Further, it is why God told Abram that his progeny would one day inherit the land because the iniquity of the Amorites “was not yet complete.” Yes, destruction, or termination is one of the arrows in God’s quiver along with many others for us to look at.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Scripture: Psalms 21:12

Psalms 21:12 says, “*Therefore You will make them turn their back; You will make ready Your arrows on Your string toward their faces.*” It is interesting here that God is causing our enemies to turn their backs on us while at the same time facing Him head on as He does the executing! God makes our enemy flee! Interestingly, arrows are a common motif used by writers of scripture to describe the actions of God towards His enemies, or towards the enemies of His people. Arrows are also used to describe attacks that the enemy makes against us and that we make against each other. The tongue when used to hurt others for instance, is frequently compared to flinging fiery darts. While we should not seek to sow hurt into the lives of others, when we are praying the judicial what kinds of things should we pray and how should we pray them? Over the next few days, we’ll take a look at some of the arrows in God’s quiver that are mentioned directly in the Word. Have we possessed God’s arrows for the last days? By faith we be in readiness to declare His covenant promises!

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Scripture: Psalms 144:6

Psalms 144:6 says, “*Flash forth lightning and scatter them; Send out Your arrows and confuse them.*” Arrows of confusion are scriptural arrows in God’s quiver. There are numerous instances in the Bible where God confuses the enemies of His people or His prophets. Confusion is not just relegated to the days of Biblical figures. The modern church has numerous anecdotal stories of the Holy Spirit intervening to cause Satan’s servants to become confused, especially in countries where the church has to operate underground. It is thus still an important tool for us to remember that we can pray!

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9

The first instance of divinely-caused confusion in the Bible is found in the story of the Tower of Babel. Humanity preferred to live without God and began to aspire through self and self-efforts to elevate them above their Creator. God stepped in and confused their language. Many times in our lives, God will allow things which look a lot like setbacks of resistance. Sometimes they feel like life-crushing setbacks. Other times, they DO in fact set us back. Only time and prayerful thought will reveal whether God was saving us from something and nudging us in the right direction. It could be that God is rerouting us onto a pathway of His choice

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Scripture: Judges 7:19-23; Joshua 10:10

Saving us from ourselves is not the only application of God's arrows of confusion. Divine confusion can also be used by God to save His people from their enemies. Consider the story of Joshua's defeat of the men of Gibeon, or the story of Gideon's defeat of the Midianites. When Gideon did as God had instructed, God brought confusion into the midst of the Midianites, and they killed each other instead of fighting the Israelites. In modern times, with so many factions promoting blatant darkness, it shouldn't be a surprise if the Holy Spirit leads us to pray for rifts among the various facets of darkness. God causes the enemies to fight amongst themselves with rifts and they end up coming against one another. To ask God to widen this breach and cause them to more ferociously attack one another would seem appropriate!

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Scripture: Luke 4:29-30

The Father does not use confusion merely to deliver His people as a group. He has also used confusion to protect Jesus from the crowd in Nazareth. When the crowd took Jesus to throw him off of the cliff, Jesus was able to escape through the midst of the crowd. The crowd was confused, and they lost their grip allowing for Jesus to simply walk away. Spend some time talking to missionaries who have spent time in communist countries, or other countries where Christianity is verboten. The odds are strong that you will hear stories of border guards looking through crates of Bibles and seeing nothing but food or medical supplies. There are exciting accounts of the secret police failing to recognize Christians who were wanted for proselytizing. The truth is that through prayer, God can and does cause confusion amongst the camps of the wicked!

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Scripture: Psalm 144:6

'Lord Jesus, please forgive us for failing to uphold your standards. Forgive us for failing to hold our nations to account for their transgressions against your Word. Please uplift us and teach us how to pray. Cast the enemies of righteousness into confusion. Rain your arrows of confusion down upon their heads and bring all of the plans of the enemy into chaos and disorder. Expose their plans against Your cleansing light and bring all of their plots to nothing! Give us divine moments of prayer that invite disruption and teach us continually how to pray to deliver our nations from the unrighteous.'

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Scripture: 2 Kings 13:17

2 Kings 13:17 says, *"And he said, 'Open the east window'; and he opened it. Then Elisha said, 'Shoot'; and he shot. And he said,..."* This is an account of the arrow of the Lord's deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria. Another of the arrows in the Lord's quiver is the arrow of deliverance, also termed the arrow of victory. This is

perhaps the one that we are most familiar with and likely already incorporate into our prayer life. We frequently ask God to give us victory over different areas. Asking God to give us victory over His enemies requires only an expansion in our thinking regarding who we should be targeting and why.

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Scripture: Psalm 59; 1 Samuel 31

Many times in scripture David prayed for deliverance from his enemies, including King Saul. The entirety of Psalm 59 was written while David was being watched by Saul's men who were on orders to kill him. And God did deliver David from Saul's hands, not once, but many times. David's final deliverance and victory over Saul's house came when Saul and his sons were killed by the Philistines on Mount Gilboa, after which David was seated as the King of Israel. Does it ever seem to us as though God likes to wait until the odds are impossible before He steps in with His arrows of deliverance? A little rhyme written in our office goes like this; 'God's timing's divine, fully perfect...Not mine.' God's thoughts are always higher than our thoughts. There is nothing that God seems to love more than to step in at the eleventh hour to rescue His people!

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Scripture: Esther, Exodus 14

Does God at times wait until the last moment to deliver His people? Frequently, yes He does. Look at the story of the Israelites delivered from annihilation at the hands of Haman and his treachery before King Artaxerxes. How can we not be mindful of the deliverance of the Israelites from the pursuit of Pharaoh during the flight from Egypt in the parting of the Red Sea! Look at Peter delivered from prison the night before his execution. Look at Paul's numerous deliverances. Let's recall the deliverance of the Jewish people in the 20<sup>th</sup> century from extinction at the hands of the Third Reich. Does God deliver His people? Indeed often He does. And do things look bleak before He delivers them? Yes, they usually do. Regardless the darkness of the moment, God's gives to His people the resources to stand in stability, strength and hope through it all.

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Scripture: Psalm 7:11-13

Psalm 7:11-13 says, *"God is a Just Judge, And God is angry with the wicked every day. If he does not turn back, He will sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready. He also prepares for Himself instruments of death; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts."* Another arrow in God's quiver are His arrows of fire. What does fire represent in the Bible? God used fire and brimstone in the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah. Fire from heaven came down to consume Elijah's sacrifice during the spiritual battle with the prophets of Baal. The incident of Elijah opposing the prophets of Baal could be aptly described in Romans where we read, *"Behold the goodness and the severity of God..."* God also protected Israel with a pillar of fire by night during the flight from Egypt, and chose to speak to Moses through the burning bush. The fire of God serves distinct purposes as we see in scripture, divided by how it relates to God's people, versus how it relates to His enemies.

#### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Scripture: Exodus 3; 2 Kings 2; Acts 2:1-4

One important purpose of God's divine fire is for purification and protection of His saints. We see in the story of Moses that God appears to Moses in the midst of Holy Ground in the form of a burning bush. It can also be seen in the ascension of Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind and chariots of fire. Finally, we see it in the form of the Holy Spirit coming to rest on the heads of the Apostles in the form of tongues of flame. Think of the concept of the refiner's fire. Fire is used to burn away impurities. To separate valuable ore from worthless slag. In a scene from the C.S. Lewis

Narnia novel *Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, one of the main characters Eustace Scrubb found himself in need of purification after making a number of bad choices. Aslan, representing the type of Jesus in this literary series warns him that the purification process will be painful, but he needs to be willing to endure the pain in order to be free from his sins. The truth is that the refining process is often painful for us. Whether emotionally, spiritually, financially, or otherwise, it is rarely a pain-free process. Yet it is a process that we should welcome. Remember that we cannot call down God's judgment in those areas where we ourselves are weak. Mature believers need to be in a place of readiness in order to stand in the fire we may need to call down on an unrelenting enemy!

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Scripture: Jeremiah 5:14

Another purpose of God's divine fire is to bring victory over His enemies or judgment to those who have filled the cup of iniquity. While this judgment took a literal form of fire in the case of Sodom and Gomorrah, on a micro-scale it can involve simply removing someone from our life who acts as a major hinderance. When we pray for God to bring judgment on the unrighteous or to deliver us from our enemies, we are praying for God's fire to rain down. God said something very interesting to the prophet Jeremiah concerning fire. Jeremiah 5:14 says, *"Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Because you speak this word, Behold, I will make My words in your mouth fire, And this people wood, And it shall devour them.'"* Should we be prepared to utter pronouncements as serious as Jeremiah was called upon to do? Some of us may be called upon to go there as we serve and war for God's purposes. Let's prepare to go there in prayer!

#### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Scripture: Ezekiel 5:16, Isaiah 26:9

Ezekiel 5:16 says, *"When I send against them the terrible arrows of famine which shall be for destruction, which I will send to destroy you, I will increase the famine upon you and cut off your supply of bread."* God sends the arrow of famine to bring repentance. God's may initiate His purpose of salvation through the judgment of famine! God said in Isaiah 26:9 that when His judgments come upon the earth the people of the world learn righteousness. For the one who has ears to hear God's judgments, there is an open the door to salvation! In Romans 11 we are told to behold the goodness and the severity of God. What arrows do we see God shooting at us as a nation today? Will we have ears to hear what God says to pray, keeping in mind that God's apparent severity can lead to His goodness of salvation!

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Scripture: Luke 18:1-8

In Luke 18 Jesus commands us to ask God for judgment. Asking for judgment is determined by the judgments specified in Scripture for the offense. God has a way of matching the judgment with the offense. Tribulation, sickness and termination are used by Jesus in Revelation 2 toward Thyatira for tolerating the evil of the culture! If Jesus used it in a church setting, it is available today to all of us! Paul was temporarily blinded by the light of God leading to his personal salvation.

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Scripture: Isaiah 28:14-19

A plumbline is a measuring tool that carries more weight than a ruler or scale. It is based on gravity – so it is a measurement that *cannot* be compromised. Isaiah 28:14-19 demonstrates plumbline prayer! When we choose to obey God's moral code, our obedience becomes a righteous plumbline, a standard of righteousness against immorality, corruption and all that is degenerate. It stands like a pure, white pillar of contrast creating a strong and powerful distinction between those who make righteous choices and those who walk in depravity. By praying

scripture that is Holy Spirit generated, we drop a plumbline of righteousness on a situation and the response of people involved will be met with salvation when there is repentance, or judgment if they reject God's Word! The Word establishes a plumbline that judges.

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Scripture: Isaiah 45:11

Isaiah 45:11 demonstrates declaration prayer! *"Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons, And concerning the work of My hands you command Me."* Where do we find the will of God! The **Word** of God is the will of God! That's why it's essential and not optional to study to show ourselves approved. In the Amplified Bible the phrase 'rightly dividing' the Word is termed *"accurately handling and skillfully teaching."* God's warriors need to hold themselves to a high standard when it comes to being knowledgeable in the Word. From that secure position, when the Holy Spirit reveals His will, we can skillfully and accurately command into existence that will. His Words out of our mouths as a declaration release God's creative power to establish God's will on the earth. Let's declare God's revealed will!

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Scripture: Psalms 144:5-8, 1 John 2:20

Psalms 144:5-8 says, *"Bow down Your heavens, O Lord, and come down. Touch the mountains and they shall smoke. Flash forth lightning and scatter them; Shoot out Your arrows and destroy them. Stretch out Your hand from above; Rescue me and deliver me out of great waters, Form the hand of foreigners, Whose mouth speaks lying words and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood."* In this passage God is doing business with the enemies of His purpose and people. God specifically calls forth arrows of destruction; one Bible version names them, arrows of confusion. We don't decide this indiscriminately, we ask God to show us. When such prayers and declarations are birthed by the Holy Spirit they are the unction from God that will move us forward! Let's not hesitate to call forth arrows of destruction or confusion to the lies of the enemies of God's purposes on the earth. Because of the level of darkness and the opposition to God's purpose and people, it is essential to cultivate the level of relationship with God that is pure, secure and mature! Are we in that place? 1 John 2:20 says, *"But you have an **anointing** from the Holy One, and you know all things."* The King James Version uses the word **unction**. For the son and daughter who is pure, secure and mature, we can become His agents of glory, His skillful warriors who do not hesitate when given a battle assignment. God's weapons are available! As His heir, will we prepare to share what God is offering? Let's arise and shine and be expectant for the Light of God's glory to shine in our midst!

**As God's heir  
To pray His prayer,  
Will we prepare  
To blare that prayer?**

*jhoughton*

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