A Time For War

"To everything there is a season,
A time for every purpose under heaven:

A time of war,
And a time of peace." Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 8

Dear Brothers and Sisters, we are now entering into a time for war. Peace is over! As I travel and minister, when I ask the question, almost 100% of God's people agree that we are in "the last days" prior to our Lord's return. What they don't realize is that this means that from this point on we will no longer have peace. There is war both in the spiritual and the physical realms.

"... Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea. For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." Revelation 12:12

Satan knows his time is short! He is determined to take as many people to hell with him as possible. Satan hates human beings! His one goal is to torture and destroy as many people as he possibly can in the time that is left to him. The final race is on to see who will stand for God and who will not. Therefore, God is now withdrawing His hand and allowing Satan to make war against the human race as never before. We should not be surprised or upset by this, Jesus told us very clearly that these times were coming.

"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. 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. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end will be saved." Matthew 24:3-13

Jesus could not have said our situation with any more clarity. We are now in a time of war, and will be until His glorious return! Several things will mark the times in which we now live:

- 1. Numerous wars
- 2. Christians will be killed in large numbers
- 3. There will be all kinds of natural disasters
- 4. False prophets within the church will be numerous
- 5. There will be little love. Men and women will betray one another.

The apostle Paul also wrote about this time in which we now live:

"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!" 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Stop! Re-read that passage again. Look carefully at the list. Have you been hurt by someone recently? Why should you be surprised and upset? God is telling us that these are the characteristics of MOST people in these days. You cannot understand why your children are suddenly rebelling against you and turning against you? Just look at this scripture. God says that they will behave in just this way. We can no longer blindly trust people, accept them at face value or be gullible. God is telling us through this scripture to

be on our guard – at all times! We are now living in times of war. There will be few true friendships. Few people we can truly trust.

Why are you looking for peace and prosperity **and** the Lord's return all within the same time frame? Your expectations are dead wrong! You need to re-think your expectations and line them up with God's Word. God has a divine purpose for all of these hard times. His Word says that when Jesus returns He will come for a bride:

"... that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish." Ephesians 5:27

This most certainly does not describe the present day church! So, if indeed, we are close to our Lord's return, there is much work to be done to purify the church. How does God do this? By fire! Always throughout the Bible, God has purified His people by fire -- that is, through suffering. Peter put it this way:

"Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God." 1 Peter 4:1-2

Hebrews says:

"See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth, but now He has promised, saying, 'Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.' Now this, 'Yet once more,' indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:25-29

Does all of this sound bleak and pessimistic? That is exactly our problem, dear brethren. We have been taught so intensively by the false prophets of our day that we should expect only good things, that we have become weak and completely unable to deal with suffering of any sort. This state of mind is exactly what Satan wants us to have. Why? Because as long as we don't think we should have to suffer, he can defeat and destroy us. In this state of mind, when suffering comes, we become angry. Angry at God, angry at other people. We feel we are being treated unfairly, that we should not have to suffer this thing. Our relationship with God suffers as does our relationship with other people. When we become angry at God over our suffering, we disconnect ourselves from our only source of strength to help us through the situation.

In the military, in every survival course, the first thing that is taught is your "mind set." How you think is the number one thing that determines if you are going to survive a difficulty or not. In the Navy Seals, they have a saying, "The only good day was yesterday." If you fight against a circumstance by saying you shouldn't have to be experiencing it, you have defeated yourself already. Interestingly, scripture teaches us the very same thing. Peter says, "arm yourselves also with the same mind." What mind is that? The mind of Christ. Jesus set His mind to become nothing, and to suffer. He did not come to earth to experience wealth and good times. He came to earth, leaving all the incredible wealth and privileges of heaven, to experience hardship and unbelievable suffering.

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:5-8

Jesus, who is very God, left all the position and privileges of being God to come down here to earth to suffer! We are to have the same mind set. God did not put us here on earth to only experience good times. He also has suffering planned for our lives. All of us will go through seasons of suffering. Our problem is that we are not taught or trained to suffer. The false prophets of our day continually cry, "Peace and Prosperity, Health and Wealth, Good times for all! Faith is all you need to manipulate God into giving you everything your heart desires!" We have heard this message so continually that we fall into the trap of thinking something is wrong with us or God, if we aren't healed instantly, don't get a financial bonanza instantly, or have all our problems solved immediately. Therefore, when difficult times come into our lives,

we whine and cry, get down and discouraged and go into a depression, all because we don't think we should have to suffer. Many fall into the trap of running from prophet to prophet, church to church, alter to alter, conference to conference, trying to receive a "word from the Lord" and a miracle that will instantly bail them out of trouble. Many make terrible decisions in their lives based on the false prophecies given to them. Sadly, even more eventually turn away from God altogether, rejecting Him because they feel He is not a God of love. How wrong are our expectations! It is time to put Romans 12:2 into practice in our lives:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:1-2

It is time to renew our minds! That is, to change the way we think about things. Change our way of thinking to what? Well, try this for example:

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." James 1:2-3

"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:6-7

"This is a faithful saying:

For if we died with Him,
We shall also live with Him,
If we endure,
We shall also reign with Him." 2 Timothy 2:11-12

"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier." 2 Timothy 3-4

These are just a few verses. Read them more than once. Think about them! Arm your mind with them. Remember, God is much more interested in your character than your comfort! Character is developed through seasons of hard times.

So is there any hope or joy to be had in the midst of all these things? Most certainly. Once again, we have the promises of Jesus to stand on:

"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So that we may boldly say:

'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'" Hebrews 13:5-6

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world give do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27

"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:10-11

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Jesus has faced every suffering we will ever have to face. He is there for us, willing to help us and strengthen us, and yes, even give us His joy and peace in the midst of it all. God is not asking us to walk through these difficult times alone. He promises to be right there with us through it all.

A Time of Crisis

We are now at a time of crisis in our nation. We are facing the most important election in our history. False prophets and politicians are promising peace and prosperity. Unfortunately, far too many Christians are going to vote for a man who is giving us false promises of peace. Telling us that we are not in a time of war, that we should never have gone to war in the first place! Because their desire for peace and comfort is so great, they will fall into the trap of voting for a man who is pro-abortion and pro-homosexuality. Down through the ages, the two things that have brought God's hand of judgment down on a nation are the killing of children, and homosexuality. If a pro-abortion, pro-homosexuality man gets into office and pushes his agendas, we will see God move in judgment on our nation. Please please listen to the Lord. We are not in a time of peace, we are in a time of war! This is the time for a man of war! Satan will work through our fleshly desires for comfort to deceive us into following and electing wrong leaders.

Satan is watching. He plans to use Islam to wipe Christianity off the face of the earth. It is no accident or coincidence that the terrorists are be-heading their victims. The book of Revelation tells us that in the last days beheading will be the execution of choice by Satan. The book of Daniel calls these last days the "time of Jacob's trouble." Why didn't it say the time of Israel's trouble? Because Islam is descended from Esau. Esau swore to kill off Jacob because of his stolen birthright. Satan will attempt to fulfill that oath today through the descends of Esau. It is time for us to learn about our enemy so that we won't be deceived. There are several good books available, we are offering some of them at the end of this newsletter. You need to educate yourself so that you won't be deceived. Open your eyes!

Unfortunately, Christians have sought peace and prosperity so long that when the anti-Christ steps onto the world stage, promising peace and prosperity to all, many Christians are going to flock to him. The scripture tells us that this one will deceive even some of the elect.

This is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for what's coming. Satan is not going to back down. He's going to increase – scripture tells us that he is. We are entering into a time that requires much patient endurance.

"If anyone is to go into captivity,
into captivity he will go.
If anyone is to be killed with the sword,
With the sword he will be killed.
This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints." Revelation 13:10 (NIV)

"This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus." Revelation 14:12 (NIV)

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to face what is come victoriously. Are we happy that we are living in these times? Not particularly, but we are well aware that God planned this for us. It was for such a time as this that we, and you, were born. God has plans for us, plans for us to war and win. By accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we volunteered to fight in this war. God's word says:

"Your people shall be volunteers In the day of your power ..." Psalm 110:3

By being a volunteer, there is no room for complaints. You cannot say, "God why did you allow this to happen to me?" There's no retreat. The armor of God only protects our front, not our backs. The press is constantly complaining about the soldiers who get killed in Iraq. Yes, it is difficult. Yes, we wish it wasn't necessary, but everyone in Iraq volunteered to go to war just as we do when we accept Jesus.

Our Wrong Mind-Set Can Lead Us Into Trouble

Just this past month, September, I, Rebecca, ran into a situation that could have ended up very badly. It is a prime example of our need to understand that we are living in a time of war.

I was scheduled to travel and minister in two cities in North Carolina, and one in Virginia, the last two weeks of September and the first week of October. All three churches were Hispanic. One brother, Carlos, was the organizer for all three. As he advertised the meetings on his Spanish web site, he began to receive E-mails from some young men in Durham, NC, who are self-proclaimed Satanists. They threatened to come to the church in Durham and kill me. Over time, their E-mails became more explicit and threatening. One of the men in particular proclaimed that he was going to kill me and gain power to be able to "bring about mass destruction."

We were not concerned about anything they could do through the spirit realm, but we were very concerned that they could get hyped up on drugs and come to the church with guns and create some real problems. However, the pastor of the church blew the whole thing off and just said that they were "crazy," and that there was no cause for concern. Interestingly, the last part of August as I was traveling in New York and Florida, I mentioned the threats to three different pastors, asking them to pray for my protection. All three of them said the same thing. "Oh you don't need to be concerned, nothing like that happens here in America." Do you see? This is the mind-set of peace. But we are not at peace! Just look at all the school shootings that have taken place. In Columbine, CO, one of the boys came into the school library and demanded to know which students served Jesus Christ. One of the girls stood up and said she did, and he shot and killed her on the spot. In Kentucky, a boy shot up an early morning prayer meeting of Christian students in a high school, killing several. This is war!

I traveled first to Taylorsville, NC and ministered for 5 days. Durham is about 150 miles away, so I didn't have the time to make it to the police department with the E-mails. Carlos got more and more uneasy and spoke to me several times asking to change the meetings to a different church as the pastor of that church wasn't interested in contacting the police about the threats or doing anything at all about them. Finally I was beginning to consider agreeing to his request to change the meetings. It would be so much easier all the way around. However, on the last day at Taylorsville, during the altar call, the Lord spoke to me very forcibly. He said, "If I choose to send you into the very jaws of death you will go! I have a work for you to do in that church, you will go do it, no matter what happens." All I could say was "Yes, Sir!" Later that day Daniel called me and told me that the Lord had told him something very similar, which brought confirmation.

So, I transferred to Durham. The first day of the meetings, we were completely unable to contact the pastor of the church at all, and Carlos could not make it to Durham to bring the E-mails to go with me to the police department. However, praise the Lord, there was one young woman in the church who is a part of the praise team, who understood that we are in a time of war. She took the copies of the threatening E-mails to the Durham police department. Much to my pleasant surprise, the police took the threats very seriously. When we finally arrived at the church that first night, we discovered that the Durham police had sent three officers to the church -- two in uniform, and one detective in plain clothes from the Special Victims Unit. That first night was terribly difficult. The Satanists came to the church but did not come onto the church property. Instead they circled around and around the church doing their curses. The demonic activity within the church was so heavy that it was extremely difficult to minister. Carlos, who interpreted for me, and I were so exhausted afterward we could hardly function. After the meeting I talked to the pastor and showed him how to anoint and cleanse and seal the church to keep the demonic oppression outside. After that, the oppression lifted and there was a free flowing of the Holy Spirit. I have never ministered anywhere where the people were so hungry and enthusiastic to learn. They listened intently and asked very good questions. It was a pure pleasure to work with them.

For four nights, the police officers patrolled the outside of the church, but the Satanists did not try to come in. On the last day, Saturday, the meeting was scheduled for 2 pm in the afternoon. No one showed up on time, so I stood outside the church for awhile talking with the plain clothes detective, giving him a couple of my books. The other two officers went into the church. That's when the head Satanist thought he had an opportunity. He came running for me. He is a very big man, well over six feet tall. I wouldn't have stood a chance, but the police officers tackled him and had him down on the ground and in hand cuffs before he had the chance to hurt me. He was heavily armed and would have done significant damage if they had not been there! Praise the Lord, the Durham police department understands that we are in a time or war! It turns out that this man is an illegal alien from Honduras. He has been involved in violence before and was wanted by the police for other crimes. The detective later told me that they had talked about not sending officers to the last meeting because it was to be held during daylight hours. But he said that something inside him just told him that they had to be there because that's when this guy would attack. I believe that "something" was the Lord.

The young man had satanic tattoos all over his arms, and two CDs in his pockets giving detailed instructions on how to perform blood sacrifices as well as two satanic bibles and other paraphernalia used in various demonic rituals. He wore a "death ring" as well.

Satan is alive and well on planet earth! We can never just shrug off his threats. We must be sober and alert. Bad things DO happen in America, and will continue to happen more and more frequently. We should be alerted to pray for our police officers and all law enforcement agencies. I prayed much for the officers at those meetings, for their protection from all the curses the Satanists would be sending their way as well as mine. Can you imagine how many curses the police have sent at them by criminals involved in the occult? No wonder the burn out rate and suicide and divorce rate amongst law enforcement is so high. We should pray for their protection regularly. This incident drove that realization home to me in a big way.

We are in a time of war, dear brothers and sisters. Don't ever make the mistake of thinking that our enemy has no power. He has great power! But our God has the most power! Let us "arm our minds" so that we are prepared to fight in this battle and remain victorious until our Lord's return.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world." 1 Peter 5:8-9

Prayer Basket

As we have traveled and ministered, for the past 3 years or so, the Lord has given us a promise. He instructed us to place a basket at the front of the church. People were then to write down their prayer requests over the duration of the meetings and bring them and place them in the basket. Then, at the last meeting, we joined together with all the people and lifted the prayer requests up to God, anointing them with oil. God promised us that He would personally read every word written in those prayer requests and answer them. He did not promise that the answer would be "Yes" to everything, but He would answer them. As we have done this, we have received many testimonies from people who have placed their prayer requests into the basket. During the past two months, I have been surprised as people have come to tell me that God has answered their requests the very same day they put them in the basket, even before they had time to leave the church after the meeting! The wonderful thing is, we serve a God who is so great that people don't even have to put their name on their requests, or identify themselves in any way. God knows who has written each word.

Recently, Daniel and I began to seek the Lord about the people who cannot make it to one of the meetings. What about them? Last week the Lord told us that we can have a prayer basket here. If you want to send a prayer request to us, we will put it into the prayer basket, and on the 10th of each month, we will lift all the prayer requests up to the Lord, anointing them with oil. God has promised us that He will personally read every word written in the prayer requests, and answer them. Once again, He is not promising a "Yes" answer to everything. His answer may be "No" and it may be "Wait." But He will answer.

Copies

You are always welcome to copy any or our newsletters to give to other people. If you know of someone who would like to receive our newsletter, if they live inside the U.S., please send their name and address to us. We will be happy to add them to our mailing list.

Love Offerings

We are a faith-supported ministry. That means, we are directly dependant on your obedience to God to meet our needs and keep the many facets of this ministry going. We ask you to pray to God and ask Him what He would have you do to support this work. Our needs continue to grow as Rebecca's medical bills mount. Her back problem has not yet been solved, and she is now seeing a specialist for the difficulty. We ask your prayers for her complete healing.

We deeply appreciate those of you who do support us. As you send your gifts, we lay our hands on and pray over each one, asking the Lord to richly bless the sender in return. Please send your offering in the enclosed envelope.

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Tim, take off the Power of Proclamation, and Does Your Tongue Need Healing.

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