



**“I have told you ahead of time.” Matthew
24:25**

Arriving in Israel this time was different from any previous visit.

One of the differences was as I approached the “wailing wall,” I had an increased sense of nearing the geographical spot where “He” was tried and killed (thank God, also resurrected and ascended and soon to return). I sat and was deeply moved.

Then as I considered the invitations to address the believers of several congregations in the Land, I began to feel incapable of the task. What could I, as someone who was not inside the country during the war, say to them? Why would they listen? I have never experienced what they just went through. As I pondered all this, the Lord said to me, “When you get before them, I want you to take off your shoes—you are on holy ground.”

I began to get a message based on David’s experience when everyone had turned against him and he had to “strengthen himself in the Lord (1 Samuel 30:6).” I am aware that in each of our lives, there are lonely places to walk—places where no one but the Lord can accompany us. We must be prepared for such times.

In many ways this last war was a practice session for the hard times ahead. Both inside Israel and in the Diaspora (those of us living outside the Land), we must ready ourselves to hear from the Lord more than the news media, our governing authorities (remembering that there is only one Supreme Governing Authority), or even our own brothers and sisters in the faith who are not properly discerning the times.

Our family in Israel bears much of the prophetic weight of the world—first, because they are the chosen people of God to carry the message of redemption for the world, second, because they are back in their Land of promise, and third, because they are the first fruits of the end time harvest within Israel.

Jesus warned his disciples that a time of distress -- “unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again” -- would come upon the world, a time when “the love of most will grow cold,” a time when world prophets would be predicting peace, an era when even “the elect” would be in danger of deception. That time is here.

Scripture very clearly foretells of wars against Israel and of one future war in which the leaders of every nation of the world will turn against God’s covenant nation, even though there will be strong men and women of God in all of those nations. How do I know there will be those from every nation? Because in John’s vision, He saw representatives from “every nation, tongue, tribe and people” around the throne of God, Jesus spoke of the increase of both wickedness and righteousness (wheat and tares growing together until the harvest), and Zechariah, who sees the nations coming against Jerusalem, also sees many nations and peoples coming to Jerusalem to worship the King. It is imperative that we know what Scripture predicts and that we are ready to stand strong in Him and in faith on His Word as these final days approach.

The only people who knew what was coming to Jerusalem following Jesus’ death and resurrection were the believers. These were the ones who escaped Jerusalem before the destruction, because they believed Jesus’ Word. They did not believe those who said it could never happen in Jerusalem, as in the days prior to the first destruction under Babylon during Jeremiah’s prophetic tenure.

The recent war with Israel proved how the world media manipulates news. Remember that even now, there is only a cease-fire, not a peace treaty. There will be war again. It is only a matter of time. Zechariah, Ezekiel, and other prophets spoke of it. Jesus confirmed their words.

Are we then to move through the next years cowering in fear before the horrors that will descend upon the earth? No! We are to walk in confidence that all is well in Him. To judge only by the western world, it would seem that the church is losing the battle for the souls of men, but in lands long held in darkness, the light of the Lord is shining with great intensity. “Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end (9:7).” We have His Word. And His Word never fails. “Tell the righteous that it will be well with them (Isaiah 3:10).”



As we enter the Feast of Trumpets this weekend, let us rise to the head of this new year strengthening and encouraging ourselves in the Lord as David did.

Read the Word! Believe the Word! Pray the Word! Stand on the Word!

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