

Prophetic Insights

Live As The Remnant!
September 9, 2013

*“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, **but** we trust in the Name of the LORD our God” (Psalms 20:7).*

We noted recently that the numerous ethnic conflicts taking place around the world are being precipitated by demonic principalities vying for power. For example, on the surface the current crisis in Syria is a political/religious war between factions of Islam. But in the unseen realm vicious battles are raging among demonic princes agitating human beings as pawns to achieve territorial dominion. The kingdom of darkness would love to get this country involved militarily as another way to hasten our demise.

For over a half century God has been permitting these principalities to seduce the United States into conflicts we can't win. The painful results? Multiple thousands of needless deaths as well as a national debt no one can pay—especially not the generations to come.

Look at the current crisis. A post-Christian country, the USA, is laboring to enlist a post-Christian Europe to join us in a fight between the demonic principalities of Islam. What a hopeless pursuit! In no way is this country God's instrument to bring about righteousness around the world. Far from being the watchdogs of public morality we sanctimoniously purport to be, in truth we have strayed eons from the vision of a just and virtuous republic intended by our forefathers.

This nation's Constitution is in reality a collection of impotent idealisms unless the God of the Bible and His Word are at its foundational core. Bumper stickers

proclaim “God bless America,” but it's presumptuous to call on His blessings when reliance on Him and on His Word are so rapidly disappearing from influence on our society. As with the proverbial frog in the water pot, most of our citizenry have been willingly sucked into such compromise with evil that they can't make a distinction between wicked and good—nor do they want to.

The last actual war this nation won was World War II. Have you ever asked *our Lord* why we lost the conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and now Afghanistan? We're a country that increasingly relies on the sophistication of our weapons rather than on our responsibility to truly be “**one nation under God.**” Our government responds according to its deceived view of itself as independent operators. Underlying the decisions being made in Washington is a theme that has traversed world history in an arrogant refrain: **There is no God; our government is supreme!**

All too often, too little is presented and weighed before abrupt action is taken. Deceived leaders of any nation which enters conflicts are like someone who's being bitten by a dog but focuses only on a flea on the canine's back. No country exists in a vacuum, especially in the Middle East! Powerful tentacles reach out in all directions from Syria, and any attack in that region may well precipitate far more death and destruction than our political leaders anticipated.

When those in leadership fail to humbly cry out for God's perspective, they're left to their own human (and demonically vulnerable) limitations.

Their “prophets” are the CIA, as deceived as the counselors of ancient King Ahab of Israel (see 2Chronicles 18:18-22). A modified adage fits our nation’s elected officials: **“Once a government is deceived, it doesn’t recognize that it’s deceived because it’s been deceived!”**

By no means is this nation morally innocent! Long has the white majority oppressed and belittled minorities. Yet we who haven’t experienced the pain of injustice do little to help another human being who’s different on the outside but is made in God’s image and someone for whom Jesus died.

We as a nation have collectively murdered over 50 million babies who were conceived with a spirit given by God and we don’t feel the pain. No wonder our longsuffering Father has taken into account our overwhelming iniquities and transgressions and has decreed disaster for us. It’s time to take seriously the warning prophesied of old (Zechariah 11:16).

God is allowing our nation to go broke: individually as the self-idolizing are consumed with gratifying their own wants, and collectively as lying spirits entice us into international battles in which we have no hope of victory. Lies, lies... and more lies. But lies are what people want to believe.

“If you only knew today what is needed for your peace! But for now it is hidden from your sight” (Luke 19:42).

Among the Christians we talk with are strong opinions about this country’s participation in Syria. But *none* we’ve spoken with have expressed any concern about the lost souls there who are held captive by demonic powers. And from what they say, it hasn’t even crossed their minds to *pray* for those in bondage to

Satan. It grieves us that self-proclaimed Christians who are aware of world conflicts or even of the encroaching evils in this land don’t feel the pain of those who are suffering—and therefore conveniently ignore any responsibility for those in harm’s way as if they didn’t exist.

You may be among those who have yet to register that we are a *post-Christian nation* despite the hundreds of thousands of congregations of all stripes. Few stop to question, “What’s wrong here?” Yet our focus shouldn’t be directed toward the tolerated evil which has insinuated itself even among those very congregations. Rather, each of us who believes that we belong to Jesus as His own must search our souls to determine if we bear His burden for the lost (John 4:34-36). That’s His heart!

A proverbial rhyme plaintively illustrates how the chaos and conflicts around the globe come about when the smallest essentials are ignored:

For Want of a Nail

For want of a *nail* the shoe was lost.
For want of a *shoe* the horse was lost.
For want of a *horse* the rider was lost.
For want of a *rider* the battle was lost.
For want of a *battle* the kingdom was lost.
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.

Let’s interpret this from another angle. • Consider the **‘nail’** to be our Lord Jesus nailed to the cross to atone for the sins of all mankind (1John 2:2). • The **‘shoe’** is you opportunely sharing what our Lord did on the cross with the lost you encounter and care about with His love (Ephesians 5:16, 6:15). • The **‘horse’** is the Holy Spirit Whom you let use your anointing to do your part in the battle for souls (1Corinthians 15:57,58). • The **‘rider’** is you crying out and interceding for the lost you know and for those

around the world who have yet to hear of Jesus (Colossians 4:2,3). • The **'battle'** is the Kingdom of our Lord being advanced against demonic principalities and powers (Ephesians 6:12).

Keep in mind that in this battle you're either a warrior or a captive. There's no middle ground! A warrior engages the enemy on behalf of his or her commanding officer, Lord Jesus. A captive, however, submits to his enemy's will. Which are you?

"So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace."

(Romans 11:5; see also 1Kings 19:18; Matthew 7:20-27)

Throughout the cities and towns in this nation are an estimated 300,000 to 600,000 congregations. The prolific number of steepled buildings in a community creates a false impression about this nation being "Christian." Another flawed subconscious assumption abides among those who weekly occupy those edifices: "We're the ones who've been chosen by grace; those other folks aren't."

You've heard of the economic 99%? Well, the "spiritual" 99% are self-satisfied in their church affiliations—and have *no concern* about the burden of our Lord Jesus for the unbelievers they know. Content in regarding themselves as the biblical "remnant", they ignore the grace our Father would pour out on them to serve His heart for the lost. But consider this:

If our military had as many bases as there are congregations in this nation yet accomplished so little, a lot of those bases would be shut down. Why are so many congregations still open when they're serving only their own interests?

- How great is the burden in your heart that your own relatives and others you care about be welcomed by our Lord into heaven?
- How are you serving our Lord as our Father's ambassador to those presently on the road to hell?
- Describe to someone what the lives of the "remnant chosen by grace" would look like.

Is The Battle for the Kingdom at a Crossroads Because You're Squandering Your Life In Self Pursuit?

To belong to our Lord Jesus is to *bear His burden*. He declared that His burden is light, and that we'd find rest for our souls when we're yoked together with Him (Matthew 11:28-30). Living at this point in history yoked with His Spirit means you're among His remnant, called to use the grace He's given you to war against an unseen enemy who's holding people captive. Souls are at stake, people for whom Jesus died to redeem if they would respond to His saving gospel, repenting and receiving Him as Lord and Savior. Isn't that the glorious message of hope to which the entire Newer Testament points?

But who's going to come alongside the lost and reveal Jesus to them by word and by loving action? It's easy to have strong opinions about things "out there" where you don't feel any personal responsibility to do anything. But can you honestly look at yourself and recognize where and how you are disobeying our Lord in your unconcern and disregard for the eternal state of those around you—and of those around the world?

- How would the unbelievers you know recognize that you bear the burden of our Lord Jesus to bring the lost to Him?

A key way to assure yourself that

you're among the remnant chosen by grace is to judge yourself by how Christ-like or unChrist-like are your life goals, motives, values and actions. Underneath each of these must be the heart burden of our Lord Jesus!

“Therefore this is what the LORD Almighty says: “See, I will refine and test them, for what else can I do because of the sin of My people?””
(Jeremiah 9:7; see also Luke 7:31,32)

Can you envision how grieved our heavenly Father is as His Spirit tries to convict those who identify themselves as Christians to forsake their sinful ways and live according to His good and righteous ways? Even now throughout this nation many Christian households are being judged and *they don't recognize it.* How many families do you know that *aren't* facing severe illness, divorce, homosexuality, relational estrangement, financial loss or various other forms of tension and strain? We shouldn't be surprised since we've been warned: ***“For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”*** (1Peter 4:17).

Before the final Judgment Day our Lord is judging us—but not to destroy us. (See Romans 2:1-11 for a full discussion of God's judgment.) Rather He purposes to turn us toward Jesus with greater loving and grateful resolve. Our merciful Lord is using these “negative” events to compel us to draw even nearer to Him in love and dependent trust. But if you respond with stubborn resistance to His warnings and chastening instead of wholehearted repentance, you're setting yourself and your family up for disaster (see Proverbs 29:1).

But now, in the mercy and compassion of our Lord, many are being given an opportunity to reconsider the depth of their loving commitment to Him as **LORD.** If you or those you care about are experiencing His judgment, please know that it's meant to be *redemptive.* Our Father is eager for you to turn to Jesus and repent so that you might experience intimacy in Him through His Spirit.

Take seriously Paul's admonition to self-evaluate. While this particular warning is directed toward eating the bread and drinking the cup of the Lord, its lesson for our entire lives applies: ***“But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world”*** (1Corinthians 11:31,32). Especially judge yourself according to the heart burden of our Lord Jesus for souls, as the entire Newer Testament supports. Be the *'shoe,'* the *'horse,'* and the *'rider'*—among the *remnant chosen by grace* whom our Lord will use to win the battle for His Kingdom.

In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like Him.”
(1John 4:17)