

## **“Training for War”**

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, November 10, 2019

**Genesis 14:14-16 NKJV:** <sup>14</sup> Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. <sup>15</sup> He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. <sup>16</sup> So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.

Lot was taught to prosper and to live comfortably but didn't know how to fight against his enemies, and therefore, did not train those in his house how to fight. When his enemies came to attack, he and his whole house were taken captive along with all his possessions. Abraham's house was a different story.

**“The Church is not a place to train children how to play on a playground, but a place to train and disciple disciples how to fight on the battleground of life.” - Pastor Al Brice**

There is still a great spiritual warfare going on today for the lives of men and women, young and old. As Christians, we must understand that this war is, first and foremost, a spiritual war that manifests itself in the natural realm of our culture and society at large.

(Even the Romans had a god of war, Mars; Greeks had Ares, the same god of war in Wonder Woman. This is mythology, but the devil and demons are real!!)

### **#1. Where did war originate?**

**Revelation 12:7-11 NKJV:** <sup>7</sup> And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, <sup>8</sup> but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. <sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.

**“Testimony”** - ‘Evidence given by the declaration of truth. It is a declaration by a witness who speaks with the authority of one who knows.’

**Revelation 12:12 NKJV:** “Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! 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 12:17 NKJV:** 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.

In Vs.17: “**Enraged**” - ‘A passion that is furious and raging with a desire for revenge and death.’

This is why there are ambulances, hatred, racism, violence, murder, vulgar language, sickness, disease, addictions, selfishness, bullying, suicides, funerals, tears, cemeteries, and heartache.

- a. Jesus said in **Luke 21:9-11 NKJV** that in the last days there would be wars and **commotions** (instability, a state of disorder, disturbance, confusion).

Physical wars are products of the spiritual warfare being orchestrated behind the scenes by Satan and his organization of demonic forces.

The New Testament reveals an invisible hierarchy of evil powers who deceive and manipulate human behavior, thereby advancing satanic strategies (**Ephesians 6:12, 2:1-3 NKJV**).

**#2.** Jesus came to the earth to wage war against Satan and his kingdom, to redeem the human race from the slavery of Satan, the bondage of sin, and to show His Church, born again believers, how to act towards the devil and his works. **1 John 3:7-8; Acts 10:38** (There was no one here to help the people: **Matthew 9:35-38 NKJV**.)

**a. Jesus was victorious!! Colossians 2:15 NKJV**

- b. Jesus has gone back to Heaven, so who is to carry this victory?

**Ephesians 1:19-23 NKJV:** <sup>19</sup> and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power <sup>20</sup> which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, <sup>21</sup> far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. <sup>22</sup> And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

**#3.** Who is to continue waging this spiritual warfare on Earth, right here in Fayetteville, America, and around the world, to do the works of Jesus and bring the good news of freedom and liberty to every human being? After His resurrection, Jesus sends us all out to do what He did: "As the Father has sent me, I also send you" (**John 20:21 NJKV**).

And He gives us His authority to do it:

**Matthew 16:19 NKJV; Matthew 28:18-19 NKJV**

"All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and earth. GO, THEREFORE.."

Why else would He have given us His authority if we weren't supposed to go and use it?

The attitude of so many Christians today is anything but fierce. So many Christians and churches seem to be apathetic, passive, and ready to accept anything without protest or resistance. We're acting as if this spiritual war is over, as if the devil isn't doing what he has been doing for thousands of years; that he and the Church are now fast friends, having picnics together!!

It seems that we're being taught to take off our armor, lay down our swords, only pray when there is an impossible crisis, don't have come to church as much or just come to church when I feel like it or the weather is nice, and it's not necessary for me to read or study the Bible, as the armies of Satan move upon us and are stealing, killing, and destroying.

We've bought the lie of the Passive, Powerless, and Religious theology, which says, "You don't need to fight against demonic spirits because 'whatever will be, will be.'" Let Jesus come do everything for you, you don't need the power of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. That's absolute nonsense and it's totally unscriptural!! It's like a private in the Gulf War saying, "My commander, General Schwarkopf, will do all the fighting for me; I don't even need to fire my weapon."

We are commanded, in God's Word, to "submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (**James 4:7 NKJV**). We are told, "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in faith" (**1 Peter 5:8-9**); "Fight the good fight of faith." "Wage the good warfare"; (**1 Timothy 6:12; 1:18**).

**2 Timothy 2:4 NKJV:** "**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 Corinthians 10:3-4 NKJV:** <sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds..."

**Proverbs 24:11 NKJV:**

<sup>11</sup> Deliver those who are drawn toward death,  
And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter.

Seriously, just the other day, a young pastor on TV, with thousands of people in his congregation, said, "We don't need to fight the Enemy. Jesus has won. I believe that the best way to fight is to lay our weapons down and just rest in Jesus."

Yes, Jesus has won the victory over Satan and his kingdom. However, the war is not over.

Look at **1 Corinthians 15:24-25 NIV**: <sup>24</sup> Then the end will come, when he (Jesus) hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

After He has destroyed the rest of the Enemy's works. Until then, He must reign by bringing His enemies under His feet. Jesus is still at war, and He commands us as His body, His army, to do spiritual warfare and reign with Him!!

**Romans 5:17 (NKJV Strong's):**

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 3:10-12; 20-21 NKJV**