

BEHIND ENEMY LINES

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“And these are the numbers of the bands that were ready armed
To the war...which were men that had understanding of the times,
To know what Israel ought to do.” ■ I Chronicles 12:23, 32

I continue to be amazed at how many Christians and Five-fold ministers not only don't understand spiritual warfare and “the weapons of our warfare” but also they don't even acknowledge or seem to understand that we are in a war against a well organized and powerful enemy! And without the proper use of weapons, strategies, revelation, teaching, etc., we will not be able to dislodge our enemies from the Dark Kingdom.

We've been teaching on these concepts for over 30 years yet in America and most of the West fewer churches seem to be involved in spiritual warfare today than there were back when we first began to teach on this.

This month we ministered at a church in Adrian, Michigan, and as the Lord always does He gave me a series of new messages titled, *Living in the Promised Land*. There are some wonderful parallels between Israel and the Church regarding warfare and being trained for war by the Lord because just like Israel, my brothers and sisters, you will never possess your Promised Land without warfare! If you're a Spirit-filled Christian and have had exposure to the prophetic then you probably have a file folder or computer file with your personal prophecies from the Lord. These prophecies, if they're truly from the Lord, speak about your Promised

Land—where God wants to take you. But let's be clear—it's one thing to know about the Promised Land and what God's promised you but quite another to enter into it and possess it. The enemy has occupied the territory for a long time and he's not going to give it up without a fight. In 2005 the Lord gave me a message titled, *Bringing the Will of God to Pass Through Spiritual Warfare*. You can order this message through our online bookstore because you must understand that *you—not God*—are the deciding factor as to whether the will of God comes to pass for your life. Remember, the devil has a plan for your life as well.

My wife had a night vision from the Lord many years ago regarding a young man she was very close to. In that vision the Lord plainly showed her two plans for his life—God's plan and the devil's plan. Unfortunately, it's been the devil's plan that has prevailed for this young man's life just as she saw it many years ago because of the choices he's made.

So because it requires spiritual warfare to bring God's will to pass for your life then if you don't understand spiritual warfare and how to wage war you will never possess your own Promised Land because you'd better get this straight once and for all—the devil is not dead—he has a plan for your life and it doesn't include your possessing the Promised Land. He will try his best to send you to hell but if he can't succeed with this he will certainly try to keep you out of your Promised Land of both physical and spiritual blessings and the ministry the Lord's called you to.

In Numbers 1:2 God spoke to Moses and said:

“Take a census of all the congregation of the
Sons of Israel, by their families, by their fathers'
Households, according to the number of names, every Male, head by head
from twenty years old and upward,
Whoever is able to go out to war in Israel, you and
Aaron shall number them by their armies.”

God is preparing them for war! The Bible records that there were 603,550 (20+ year old) males for combat. It was going to take warfare and a well-prepared army to defeat the inhabitants of Canaan, the Promised Land. These inhabitants were comprised mostly of three groups of people: **(1)** the descendants of Canaan (Noah's grandson through Ham), **(2)** the descendants of Lot (Abraham's nephew), and **(3)** the descendants of Esau. Esau, in particular, is important as we said in *The Gifts and Operations of the Holy Spirit* because, unlike Ishmael, he was born into the covenant promise for the Promised Land but he sold his birthright to Jacob!

I find it quite ironic, particularly in most churches today, that Christians live lives that defy the fact that we are living behind enemy lines—instead of being a “light” shining in the darkness they live like the world—they’ve succumbed to the secularization of the culture in which they are immersed. There are many reasons for this, not the least of which is the many false churches and false gospels being preached today. It’s only the Word that transforms—not the doctrines of devils or men.

Back in the ‘80s the Lord took my spirit like He did when He took Ezekiel to Jerusalem (Ez. 11) and showed him what was going on with the leaders of Israel. In my case, however, He took me to many churches and pastors’ homes and showed me many pastors in churches who were actively worshiping Satan! How shocked I was back then but no longer. We recently ministered to a woman in California who attended a Lutheran church that is heavily involved in Satanism. She left the church and is now under spiritual attack; they are trying to force her to return.

In Africa we have a saying, “You are always on the battle field.” It’s not just something that pertains to Africa, however, though the devil’s power is stronger there. If you’re a Christian then you’re going to be under attack in America, Wales, Canada or wherever you live. This is because Christianity is no longer the centre of Western life that it was 50 years ago. And, in fact, Christianity has become secularized on its own as a result of “user friendly” churches and false churches preaching many different popular false gospels.

Yes, today we are living behind enemy lines and we must be careful not just where we attend university but also where we attend church lest we end up in one of the myriads of *designer churches* offering a *designer god*, *designer Jesus*, *designer spirit* and *designer salvation* all for a *designer price* I might add.

These things are clear clues to even the densest mind that we are living in the last days. Jesus said, “As it was in the days of Lot ...” Everything today is relative—there is no *absolute* truth or *absolute* moral behavior. Lying, stealing, homosexual behavior, etc., used to be shameful but no longer. Like Judah in Jeremiah’s day (6:15) we have gone from a people with Christian morals and ethics to a society that does not even know how to blush.

Our society and culture claim to worship at the feet of *diversity* yet it is apparent for all to see that their idea of diversity refers only to those who hold their world view of morality, politics, truth, etc. True Christian beliefs are not included in this combination Orwellian and Aldous Huxley society where we find ourselves. And because the narcissistic hedonism of American culture has taken over most churches, the two false gospels—prosperity and “needs-centered”—have replaced the true gospel of dying to self and living for the Lord. Remember, the second part of the Gospel New Covenant is Christ likeness. It’s “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27) because the Holy Spirit told me in 1997: “The world is waiting for a true demonstration of the gospel.” People have heard the gospel but like the Greeks of Jesus’ time they want to *see* Jesus.

One of the greatest problems with living behind enemy lines is because we become susceptible to thinking, doing and speaking the way they do. God warned Joshua about this and gave him the secrets to success in possessing the Promised Land. We must be people of faith with transformed minds who think and act like Jesus. We must learn that there is absolute truth—the Bible—and it is one of our main weapons of warfare. Like Joshua, we must learn:

1. To meditate in the Word of God
2. To be a doer of the Word

3. To speak the Word out of his mouth

The true Church is the Body of Christ—that means we should look like Him, think like Him, talk like Him and act like Him. Jesus lived behind enemy lines all His days upon the earth yet He was never compromised by it. We should take comfort from His life and live as He lived remembering His words to us:

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also...they will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me...my prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world ... My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message” (John 15:18-21, 17:15-18, 20).

Maranatha