

**Mt. Zion World Outreach Ministries**  
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**Get Ready for War**

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*And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

*And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

*(Revelation 12:7-11 KJV)*

**Get Ready for War**

In order to get ready for the war that is about to come on this world, there must first be a decision to get ready. You must make up your mind, and you need to know that the decision is a spiritual decision and not a carnal decision.

A carnal decision is based upon your physical strength, and your confidence in your ability to fight in the flesh. A spiritual decision is based upon your faith in the power of God and your desire to trust Him, because the war is a spiritual battle and it must be fought with spiritual weapons. That is why Peter denied Christ. He made a carnal decision to fight in the flesh. Our warfare is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers; against wicked spirits. Paul said “though we walk in the flesh, we do not war against the flesh”, so we must get ready for war against the powers of darkness.

Revelation twelve is talking about our time. Most people think that this scripture refers to a battle that happened when Satan was kicked out of heaven. That is not what this verse is talking about. The title great dragon was not given to Lucifer when He was up in heaven. God gave him that title after he fell. He was also called that old serpent after he was cast out of heaven. In heaven he was called Lucifer. He deceived the whole world. He could not deceive the whole world until he was cast down to this world. This battle is going to take place in the heaven just above our head, to clear the way for the Lord Jesus to come and catch away His people.

According to I Thessalonians 4:17 the Church will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. This battle is yet to come, in the not too distant future, to clear the way for the Lord to return so we can meet the Lord in the air. Therefore, the heavens need to be cleared before our meeting in the air.

This battle has not yet happened, because when that happens, the devil will be cast down to the earth.

***And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. (Revelation 12:11-12)*** In verse 7, scripture states that there was war in heaven. That war will be fought between Michael and his angels against principalities and powers. But verses 11 and 12 are talking about the church.

Notice 3 things:

1. We are the ones that need the blood to overcome Satan.
2. We are the ones that have a testimony.
3. And we are the ones that can die, and angels can't die.

God wants the church to know that the battle is real, and we have to be prepared to die, if that is what it takes. How many people love the Lord enough that they are willing to die for the Lord and not receive the mark of the beast? Are you really sure?

Are you willing to be a martyr?

They loved not their lives unto death. Who is he talking about? He is talking about us, that have the word of God. God is going to give us everything we need to fight the good fight of faith. God is going to pour out His spirit on all flesh. Before he comes back, God is going to give His people a taste of the good word, and the power of the world to come. ***And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, (Hebrews 6:5)*** *The powers of the world to come*, are the power of the sevenfold manifestation of the Holy Spirit that are even greater than the nine gifts of the spirit. This is the sevenfold manifestation of the spirit that rested upon Jesus. This is the real power of God. Why do we need real power? Because we have a real enemy that is trying to destroy us, and we need to be ready. Whether we live or die, we live or die unto the Lord. ***For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. (Romans 14:8-9)*** Christ died and rose again that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. We are the Lord's whether we live or die. It is time to get ready for all the things that are about to come upon this world. Whether we live or die, we must...***continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. (Acts 14:22)*** I have found that you really can't be a dedicated, faithful Christian, until you have made up your mind that you are going to serve God even if it costs you your life. We don't want to be like the five foolish virgins in the parable of the ten virgins. Only fifty percent of the Church will be ready to meet the Lord when He comes.

The question everyone needs to ask himself is will you be ready? Half the battle is already won when you make up your mind to serve the Lord, even if it costs you your life.

***This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those***

*that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (2 Timothy 3:1-5)* Reading II Timothy is like reading today's newspaper. Satan is busy. He knows he has but a short time.

That is why the Church should be prepared. These things have already started to happen. These things are the beginning of sorrows.

This is God's counsel for the Church:

1. Be prepared. Lest these things catch you unawares, you have to watch, as well as pray. *And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. (Luke 12:39)* Time to wake-up, its high time. We have a commandment from God to watch as well as pray.
  
2. We must count it a blessing. *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. (Matthew 5:10-12)* You can count it a blessing, if you believe and know the truth. God is preparing you to live and to reign with Him. *If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: (2 Timothy 2:12)* Paul said if we suffer we shall all reign with Him, if we deny Him, he also will deny us. The early church rejoiced when they were persecuted. *... and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. (Acts 5:40-41)* *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. (2 Timothy 3:12)* All that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. Therefore, if you don't want to suffer any persecution, then live any way you want to live, and the world will love you. But if you live Godly, you will suffer with Him, and you shall also reign with Him. What I want the church to know is that it is an honor to suffer for Christ's sake, it is also a duty. *For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; (Philippians 1:29)*
  
3. Stand firm in your faith. *And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. (Luke 22:31-32)* Jesus said, Satan desired to have you Simon but I have prayed for you, that your faith doesn't fail, and when you are converted, strengthen your brothers." Satan is after your faith. It is your faith that activates the power of God in your life. The just shall live by faith. Be patient in suffering as you stand firm in your faith.

4. Be strong in the Lord. *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (Ephesians 6:10)* Be strong in the Lord, means to be strong in your trust and in your confidence in God's strength to deliver you. He is well able. We are never told to be strong in ourselves. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.
5. We must be a praying Church to be ready for persecution. Herod had killed Apostle James, John's brother, and had arrested Peter and was planning to kill him after Easter. *Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. (Acts 12:5)* Prayer is a powerful weapon against persecution, especially for those that know the power of prayer. The effective prayer of the righteous availeth much. It makes supernatural power available and dynamic in its actions.
6. Be faithful unto death. *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. (Revelation 2:10-11)* We must not fear the things which we shall suffer. Notice that the Spirit is talking to the churches. The Church will be on the earth during the tribulation. Notice, *he that overcomes or endures shall not be hurt by the second death.* The second death is eternal damnation. The best way to be faithful is to make up your mind before the time. That is why the three Hebrew boys were not afraid of the fiery furnace. They had already made the decision. They said "we are not careful, we will not bow down."
7. You will be Blessed. *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. (Revelation 14:6-7)* *And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. (Revelation 14:9-13)* Blessed are they which die in the Lord from henceforth, from this point on; that did not receive the mark of Satan. They are blessed because they rest from their labor, and they will enter into the joy of the Lord.