

# THOUGHTS ON THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

## VIOLENCE AND THE KINGDOM

**Seek peace and pursue it; but understand that The Kingdom of God is forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it. For this reason you need to be prepared with funds, a “Go” bag and a weapon.**

**Do not concern yourself with worldly needs, but seek to help people become part of The Eternal Kingdom. As you go about your daily life help people see The Kingdom by what you say and do. Work for justice. “Help the down-and-out. Stand up for the homeless. Fight for the defenseless. You’re here to defend the defenseless, to make sure that underdogs get a fair break.” “Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people. Your job is to stand up for the powerless, and act against all those who exploit them.” If you see a person being attacked by evil people and do nothing to help them, does God’s love dwell in you?**

**Remember whatever you do in word and deed must not be done for selfish reasons, but to bring glory to God. “Do your best, prepare for the worst—then trust GOD to bring victory.” “The world is unprincipled. It’s dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn’t fight fair.” God teaches us how to fight the battles we face in life. As followers of Jesus “we don’t live or fight our battles the world’s way—never have and never will. The tools of our trade aren’t for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture. We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ.” “Our tools are ready at hand for clearing the ground of every obstruction and building lives of obedience into maturity. That about wraps it up. God is strong, and He wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we’ll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the devil and all his angels. Be prepared. You’re up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it’s all over but the shouting you’ll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You’ll need them throughout your life. God’s Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other’s spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.”**

**Question: Are you doing your best and prepared for the worst as you seek to be used of God to establish His Kingdom on earth?**

Scriptures: The message above is a personal paraphrase and quotes from Psalms 34:14; Matthew 11:12; Luke 22:36; Matthew 6:25-34, 10:7-8; Isaiah 1:17; Psalms 82:3-4; 1 John 3:17; Colossians 3:17; Psalms 144:1; Proverbs 21:31; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, and Ephesians 6:10-18  
The quotes are from the NKJV, The Message, and the NLT.

**NOTE: Some reading this message may be concerned about Luke 22:36. It seems to stand in direct contradiction to Matthew 26:52. From experience we should know when two scriptures seem to contradict each other that there is a deeper truth somewhere. It can only be found by searching out other scriptures. If Jesus literally meant that everyone who used earthly weapons to fight would die by those weapons many good men would die violent deaths. David, a man of war, died peacefully in His bed. The traditional understanding of Matthew is better stated “Those who live by the sword shall die by the sword.” A deeper study of the words used there allow for this interpretation. As we understand it Jesus was rebuking Peter for depending on the arm of flesh rather than allowing himself to be guided by The Spirit. Being led of The Spirit does not mean we can’t use things of this world when fighting our battles. It does mean we must seek God in every earthly battle we fight. From scripture we see that King David did this in his earthly battles with the Philistines.**

**We have tried to make it clear in “Violence and The Kingdom;” that all we do must be done for God’s Glory and His Kingdom. There can be no fear or self-motive in the way we react in the battles we fight on earth. That being said, it is clear from scripture that we have a God given responsibility to protect and fight for our families and those God places in our sphere of influence, from the attacks of the enemy of men’s souls. Not fighting in the flesh doesn’t mean we passively sit there and do nothing expecting God to send a lightning bolt from heaven. We must seek God’s wisdom, and do what we can do, trusting God to do the rest.**

**Having a weapon or not having a weapon won’t keep us from reacting carnally when we’re attacked. Only learning to walk in The Spirit instead of the flesh will do that. Peter seems to have learned this lesson when he spoke death over Ananias and Sapphira; something much more severe than cutting off an ear, but okay because it was done in The Spirit. Walking across India carrying a large cross, we were confronted on more than one occasion by the radical Hindus. On every occasion God gave us victory. One time a large group rode up on motorcycles and scooters. I could hear them coming up behind me and one of our coworkers whispered, “the radical Hindus are here”. I prayed and God led me to wait until they were almost upon me. When they were within a few feet I stopped, and without thinking lifted the cross off the ground and into the air. Then I stood it up in front of me. The crowd instantly stopped in their tracks. I looked at the person who The Spirit told me was the leader, and asked, “Sir what is your question?” He stood silent for a few seconds and then said to me, “I just want to tell you how happy we are to have you here in India.” The crowd turned around, got on their cycles and scooters and left. God had delivered us one more time.**

**Jesus told us we need to have a weapon for a reason. It doesn’t mean we must use it to harm people, although we cannot say ahead of time what God’s Spirit might prompt us to do. Part of God’s judgments is the release of wild beasts on the earth. In 2013 there were 50,000 abandoned dogs roaming the streets of Detroit in packs of 20. The Post Office could not even deliver the mail in some places because of the danger. Only an assault weapon, which many want banned, can handle that kind of danger. As we see it, if Jesus said we need a weapon then it was for a reason. All we can do is obey and trust God to give us the understanding of how to use it.**

We hope this message helps you understand about violence and The Kingdom. God is loving, merciful and gracious in all His ways, but He is not a pacifist. Psalms 24:8 tells us He is mighty in battle against all that resist His Kingdom. Even Jesus became violent when He saw His Father's house being desecrated. Let us join Him in the battle to bring His Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven.

*Henry & Rita*

**Please share this important message**

with as many people as you can. If you would like to know more about joining the battle to bring God's Kingdom on earth, please contact us.

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Proverbs 24:11 Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to die;  
save them as they stagger to their death.

<sup>12</sup>Don't excuse yourself by saying, "Look, we didn't know."

For God understands all hearts, and he sees you.

He who guards your soul knows you knew.

He will repay all people as their actions deserve.