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We continue our series: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

Well, the year 2025 has arrived and we anticipate severe upheaval coupled with profuse uncertainty. Please suffer me to share from a *U.S. Sun* article: "NATO chief issues grimmest warning yet as he says the world must prepare for war". He adds: "We are not ready for what is coming..." I don't mean to be bleak or fill anyone's heart with despair, however, it is evident the birth pangs Christ spoke of are increasing daily.

Jesus declared: "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet" (Matthew 24:6). We observe a synonymous verse says: "And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet" (Mark 13:7).

I have petitioned all who will hear to pray for a wartime president. I believe God has given us one, namely, Donald Trump. I anticipate not long after he is inaugurated that the U.S. and Israel will seek to destroy Iran's nuclear capabilities. Remember, Israel's motif after the Holocaust has been "never again!"

Some days ago I was pondering God's covenant with Abraham: "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee" (Genesis 12:3). It would be about 200 years later when Jehovah would use Joseph concerning Israel's destiny and growing them as

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a nation. Through God's divine covenant with Abraham, we see how it would be magnified through Joseph, Abraham's great-grandson.

Once Joseph arrived in Egypt, everywhere he went we see divine and supernatural blessing to those around him: "And it came to pass from the time that he (Potiphar) had made him (Joseph) overseer in his (Potiphar's) house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he (Potiphar) had in the house, and in the field" (Genesis 39:5).

Sadly, it would be in Potiphar's house where his wife, Zuleikha (her name in medieval Jewish tradition), would seek to seduce the man of God, but Joseph would not submit nor surrender to her lustful desires.

As Satan would have it, Joseph was falsely accused, charged, and imprisoned for alleged rape. Nevertheless, even in prison, Joseph found divine favor with the prison keeper: "But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour (graciousness, #2580; Strong's Concordance) in the sight of the keeper of the prison" (Genesis 39:21).

Jehovah authenticated His divine covenant with Abraham through his great-grandson, Joseph. We read: "The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him (Joseph), and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper" (Genesis 39:23).

We then witness the power of the

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Abrahamic covenant when Joseph is summoned to Pharaoh's court. Egypt is supernaturally blessed and enjoys seven years of untold prosperity and bounty because of Joseph's presence: "And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number" (Genesis 41:49).

Never underestimate the power of Christ and His covenant. As the redeemed, we are blessed through that Abrahamic covenant: "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:29).

In our day, no doubt, the deep state seeks to sabotage and undermine the newly elected administration. Hell does not want to surrender its wicked, godless power. This is why it is imperative we continue to pray and fast, for we must believe God to expose the gravity of the wickedness and debauchery that has overtaken our nation.

As this present administration makes their exit, we are witnessing as they sabotage and undermine the will of the people. It is reported that it costs the U.S. taxpayer thousands of dollars each day to guard and protect the border wall materials that are now being sold for pennies on the dollar. This ruthless demonic government could not care less about you and your sacrifices.

The state of Texas is willing to pay one billion dollars for the material and give it back to the Federal Government but this administration will not allow it. Truly the government's waste is immeasurable and astronomical.

What a tragedy when people here

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in Western North Carolina are actually freezing to death due to the residual effects of Hurricane Helene. Our government says they no longer have any provisions for these citizens. Even the FEMA motel vouchers have expired. Thank God there is coming a day of divine accountability: "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God" (Romans 14:11).

Through your helping hands we've done everything we can to help, ameliorate, and mitigate their suffering. The total gifts you've given for Helene aid was \$26,819.00! We are so grateful for your sacrifice!

I feel constrained by the Holy Ghost to share a particular passage with you that I have been burdened with for some weeks: "And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace (of the city) thereof shall ye have peace. For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed" (Jeremiah 29:7-8).

While in captivity, Israel was admonished to pray for the peace of the cities so no foreign nations would attack Babylon and foster more chaos and calamity. Jehovah is simply declaring Babylon's welfare will determine Israel's welfare. Therefore, I feel the need to admonish everyone to pray for the peace of the city wherein you reside.

Satan will be disruptive in the coming days, throughout America and the world. As we approach the end times, we are warned: "And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword."

(Revelation 6:4).

I am not decreeing the apocalyptic red horse is presently riding, but I sense Satan is seeking to take peace from the earth.

Again, I cannot overemphasize the need for prayer at this present time. God is not unrighteous to forget His people and what they might have to endure in the coming days. Another translation reads this way: "Then another horse appeared, a red one. Its rider was given a mighty sword and the authority to take peace from the earth. And there was war and slaughter everywhere" (Revelation 6:4 NLT).

The goal of the rider on the red horse is to take peace from the earth; to instigate war and calamity. It is my prayer that you discern the gravity of the hour. We must remain *sober and vigilant*.

America's hope is not in a man; our hope is only in Jesus, the Lord's Christ! Righteousness alone exalts a nation: "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

It should be evident to the discerning mind that if righteousness exalts a nation, then sin, evil, and wickedness surely debase and bring that nation to naught! Scripture states: "The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds" (2 Samuel 23:3-4). The blessedness of righteousness is like the morning light when the sun rises on crisp, clear, sunny day without clouds or being overcast.

America needs this in this present hour. Pray the clouds of wickedness and the overcast of disarray be removed, and everything hidden be made manifest and exposed to us, the citizens. The more truth is revealed to our nation, the greater our liberty becomes. Falsehood, lies, and deception will always bring people into greater bondage no matter what.

Thank God one day you and I will live in a world no longer ruled by darkness but by the light of Christ. James 1:17 says there is no shadow, shade, or darkness in the Son of the living God. John's Gospel is very clear: "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" (John 1:4-5).

Even so come Lord Jesus!

I encourage you to strive and contend to dwell in His most hallowed presence. It will be in His presence wherein He will edify and strengthen you. We must contend daily for the faith and abide in His immutable Word.

Have you observed recently and pondered why two prominent politicians have fallen physically and suffered terribly? I ruminate: Is Christ possibly removing impediments and encroachments that seek to hinder this new administration? "But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another" (Psalm 75:7).

God alone decides who will rise and who will fall!

Let us continue to pray for guidance and direction in the coming days. As followers of Christ, we can be assured He will always give us peace in the midst of the storm.

As always we are greatly humbled by your love and generosity. The Lord is using you mightily in helping us as we share God's Word to a very vile and sinful world. Jehovah will be our refuge and present help in the coming days. I invite you to rest in the Lord for He is eternally faithful.

Serving with you,

David W. Lankford Pastor / Evangelist