

VOICE OF THE SPIRIT

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IS THE WAR IN ISREAL A SIGN OF END TIMES? PART I

As I monitor the unfolding events in the recent war between the Jews and Hamas, I asked myself these critical questions, which I believe will challenge most of the readers to search the scriptures.

1. Is the war the sign of end-times?

2. Who owns this land?

Going through the history, the following nations once took over the land through wars:

a. Philistines in Canaan, who came all the way from Caphtor according to Amos 9:7 and occupy the land. This Philistines were totally destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar 11, of Neo Babylon era. They lost their distinct ethnic identity and disappeared from historical and archeological records.

b. The Israelites that could not occupy all the lands of the Philistines during Joshua's war in Canaan, due to the violation of God's covenant.

c. Assyrians that took over the northern kingdom of Isreal.

d. Babylon that took over the southern kingdom

e. Kingdom of Medes and Persia that later defeated Babylon.

f. Alexandria the Great who later took over most territories in the middle east; including the promised land in late 330 BCE.

g. The Romans that defeated the Seleucid empire, under Antiochus III and took over the promised land around 64BC.

h. Byzantine empire which was orthodox Christian nation, was in control of the land around 285 CE

I. Arabs took over the promised land from Byzantine empire in 637CE

J. Crusaders (Christian warriors) took over the promised land after a brutal war with the Arabs in 1099CE.

K. Mamluk Sultanate(the Arab free slaves) took the land from the Crusaders in 1250CE.

L. Ottoman empire subdued the Mamluks and took over the land in 1516 CE.

M. Britain defeated the courageous warriors of Ottoman empire with their firepower and took over the land in 1917 CE.

In 1922, The League of Nations awarded Britain an international mandate to administer Palestine, during the Post war deal. The award of this mandate endorsed the 1917 Balfour Declaration in which Britain expressed support for a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. So, who owns this land? is it the Philistines people of Bible days, that lost their distinct ethnic identity and disappeared from historical and archeological records or the Jews that have divine right over the land by irreversible covenant?(Genesis 13:15 & Exodus 6:8)?

Is it the Arabs, Christian crusaders or the Mamluks?

If the modern state of Israel is the fulfilment of biblical prophecy according to the claim of Christian Zionism in the later chapter of Ezekiel 39, why do we see only the prophecy of restoration of land without national spiritual renewal?

We shall dig deeper by the assistance of Holy Spirit into the scriptures in Part 2 to unveil the will of God regarding all these questions.

God loves the Jews as well as the Gentiles. We need to know that 56,000 of Palestinians Christian brothers are in Gaza.

Let us pray for the peace of Jerusalem as well as the families of those that have lost their loved ones in Israel and Gaza.

Let us also pray that God in His infinite mercies should stretch forth His hands and touch the hearts of more Jews and Palestinians to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.



CHRIST MODEL OF SPIRITUAL WELFARE PART 2

The world is a war zone, whether we like it or not, we will be confronted with challenges from time to time. This could be in the form of spiritual battles or natural battles.

As children of God, we should rejoice because Christ has declared victory over every challenge of life on the cross of Calvary. All we need to do is to equip ourselves with the revealed wills of God in the Bible.

In spiritual warfare, it is wrong to overestimate the operations and power of Satan. Some Christians believe everything is about Satan and demons and through their unguided statements and actions, it looks like Satan is reigning in the Church. We need to know that despite all our challenges in life, Christ is still reigning in our lives and His Church. Secondly, we should also be careful not to fall into the error of underestimating the wiles or schemes of the devil. There are some Christians who love to declare authority over the devil but are ignorant of the devil's wiles, We all know that in terms of power, Satan can not overcome believers, but he can ensnare believers who do not have deep intimate knowledge of God's words. Intellectual or head knowledge of the Bible can not overcome satanic schemes and strategies!

HOW CAN WE OVERCOME THESE BATTLES?

in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Paul says, "For though we walk in flesh, we do not war after the flesh 4. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. 5. Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

1. Cast down every imagination that exalts itself against the knowledge of God in your minds.

For us to overcome the battles of life, we must first deconstruct our unscriptural worldviews and traditional knowledge and then, reconstruct our beliefs in line with the revealed will of God in the Bible.

Mark 7:7 says "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandment of men" We can only overcome by right orthodoxy and good hearts.

2. Lean on the undiluted words of God.

Proverbs 3:5 says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your understanding"

The path to all-round victory in Christ is by leaning on His undiluted words, not by holding onto traditional teachings, syncretism, and worldly philosophies. It is the inner spiritual strength and wisdom which is built up in you, as a result of deep revelation in the undiluted words of God, that will enable you to overcome the battles of life. These battles may be long and hard, but with the potent power of the sword of the spirit in your hand, no force of evil can stop you.

I would like to leave you with this free verse poem, which is one of my collections on spiritual warfare.

THE BATTLE SONG OF VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS.

We may be small in number.

But we are more than conquerors.

The front lines of these battles are our target.

We will push through with our armor of warfare and resist these dark forces from the air.

Pains and hardship will make us stronger.

We will move through the camps of the enemies to rescue the captives.

The battle is becoming fierce by the day.

It seems the enemies have changed their tactics.

Some of the comrade soldiers have taken to the heel.

As the echo of confusion and the sound of gunpowder fill the Mother Earth,

The commander of the dark forces continues to roar like a lion.

As he roars, Mother Earth witnesses a thunderous boom.

These battles will be long and hard.

There will be a lot of casualties on both sides.

But the forces redeemed by the blood of the lamb will not surrender.

We will put on our armor of war,

And rely on the strength of our commander.

As we move with the wings of power to demolish the dark forces,

Our trumpeters come out with their trumpets,

Their trumpets project the vibrating sound of victory and hope.

This is the sound my soul has been yearning for,

The great sound of freedom.



PRAYER FOR THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

THE PRAYER FOR THE NATION THAT WAS ONCE CALLED
THE JERUSALEM OF THE EAST.

Our prayer for this quarter will focus on North Korea, a nation that cleaved to Communist influence after the Korean Peninsula was freed from Japanese occupation and the Allied Power agreed to split the peninsula into two nations which we know as North Korea and South Korea today.

Whenever there is discussion about North Korea, what easily comes to minds, is the nation's absolute focus on development of nuclear weapons and missiles.

In 1907, there was a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit on people of Korea peninsula. This revival spread to Pyongyang with the spirit of heaviness and sorrow for sins. Men and women would rise, confess their sins, break down and weep and then throw themselves to the floor and beat the floor with their fist with deep conviction and repentance from their sins.

Seminaries and Colleges began to spring up and many brothers and sisters were used mightily by God in the field of evangelism. Unfortunately, the communist influence among the political class affected this growth.

It is time to stand on the gap for North Korea

Let us pray that God should visit this "Iron gate" nation again!



BY
PASTOR TOYIN OLUWIBE