

## 1 Chronicles 20

### Spring is the time kings go out to war

February 11, 2010

Dear Saints;

I would like to share some information with you the Lord placed on my heart a few weeks ago. While this information was shared initially with those who co-labor with me in the work of the Lord through **Clarion Ministries**, I have been released to share it with others in the body of Christ. The Lord wants us as His kings and priest to be ready for the warfare of spring. I pray that what is shared will be a blessing to you and welcome any comments that you may have.

Matthew 11:12 states;

**“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.”**

The above verse of scripture is not implying that the Kingdom of God is being violently attacked by its foes! On the contrary, it is declaring the unconquerable power of the Kingdom of God to advance even in the midst of great opposition.

In the Strong's Concordance the words suffer and violence are the same Greek word “biazo” pronounced “bee-ad-zo” This word means, “to crowd oneself into, or crowd oneself pass, to be seized- to press, suffer violence.” The word “biazo” has its root in two other words “bia” pronounced “bee-ah” which means, vital activity, force:- violence and “bios” pronounced “bee-os” meaning, life (the present state of existence), livelihood:- good life, living (Strong's # 971, 970 and 979).

Keeping these things in mind, we can read the same scripture using the NIV translation and see that the scripture reads;

**“From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. (Matthew 11:12 NIV)”**

There is a connection between Luke 16:16 and Matthew 11:12 that brings greater clarity to what the Lord is saying. It reads;

**"The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. NIV"**

Praise the Lord! We are not helpless, feeble or weak Christians who are fighting as if to gain victory! We fight to maintain our victory in Jesus Christ!

The words that we use in today's standard English often times have an entirely different meaning in Hebrew and Greek. The word "suffer" in today's language can mean:

"To undergo hardship; To feel pain; To have a disease or condition; To become worse; To endure, undergo; To allow suffering - agony: a state of acute pain; misery resulting from affliction (dictionary.net)"

While many different translations of the bible use the word "suffers" to imply distress, I am of the persuasion through research that this scripture speaks about the church's aggressive determination to advance the Kingdom of God in the face of satanic opposition. I would suggest you research it for yourselves and see what the Lord says to you. I found excellent information on the matter at, <http://www.barnabasministry.com/seminary-passages-matthew1112.html>

The reason I have taken a little time to expound on Matthew 11:12 is because I want us to face our upcoming battles from the mindset of, "It's already been conquered in Jesus' name!" We are about to enter enemy territory and take back with force that which the enemy has stolen and we need to do so with the mind frame of victory! The Lord is about to use us to advance His Kingdom in our families, church's, governments, islands and yes throughout the world. I believe it in Jesus' name! Lord, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven!

One day while going through my bible my eyes fell on something in 1 Chronicles 20:1 which reads, **"It happened in the spring of the year, at the time kings go out to battle..."**

I'll stop right here for a moment. I felt the Lord was saying something to me that I needed to clearly understand. There are 8 verses in 1 Chronicles 20 and I have read them over and over to see if I could get the revelation of what the Lord is saying.

The Lord began to speak to me as I read this chapter saying that as the church, we need to prepare for war. The first day of spring is March 20, 2010 and we must be battle ready! It is a time when territories are conquered, spoil is reaped and our enemies subdued but we have got to be prepared to skillfully and strategically engage and destroy the enemy.

Our great and conquering King, Jesus Christ, waged the greatest warfare of all times against the adversary during the spring. It was during spring that the manifestation of Genesis 3:14-15 was accomplished and our Savior purchased redemption for the entire world with His blood! The death, burial and resurrection has forever defeated the enemy securing all who will enter by Him a place in the Kingdom of God forever. Genesis 3:14-15 prophesied the end from the beginning describing Satan's defeat by our Savior. It reads;

**"<sup>14</sup>And the Lord God said to the serpent, Because you have done this, you are cursed above all [domestic] animals and above every [wild] living thing of the field; upon your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust [and what it contains] all the days of your life.**

**<sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her <sup>[a]</sup>Offspring; He will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel." Amplified**

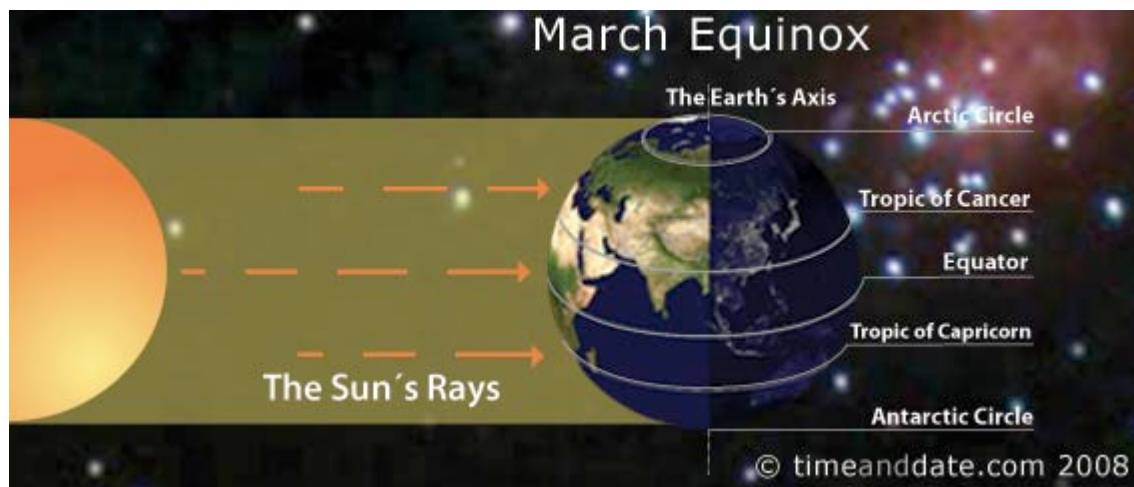
The Jews recognize the warfare of spring as one their most notable battles was fought and won by God's mighty hand and His chosen vessels Esther and Mordecai. It was the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Adar (March in the Gregorian calendar) that the enemy of the Jews planed to totally obliterate them. The entire nation was slated for extermination but the Lord overturned the plans of the enemy. God released a boomerang strategy to His people that returned the plot of evil back on the head of Israel's enemies and they were slaughtered. Don't mess with God's children!

Spring signifies the triumph of light over darkness as it is the first season we enter after the winter season (a time of less light). As the earth makes its transition from winter to spring the length of time that we have daylight begins to increase. During this transition there is a period of time when there is **almost** an equal amount of day time and night time throughout the world. This phenomenon is called the March Equinox.

The March Equinox occurring on the first day of spring vividly portrays the battle between light and darkness for dominion of the world. The occurrence of this event is the essence of spiritual warfare with the question being, "Who will dominate?" The answer is obvious, Light will always prevail!

The following information on the March Equinox was researched from [timeanddate.com](http://timeanddate.com).

"Twice a year, around March 20 or 21 and September 22 or 23, the sun shines directly on the equator and the length of day and night are nearly equal in all parts of the world.



The word "equinox" derives from the Latin words meaning "equal night" and refers to the time when the sun crosses the equator. At such times, day and night everywhere are nearly equal length in the entire world.

During the March equinox, the length of daylight is about 12 hours and eight to nine minutes in areas that are about 30 degrees north or south of the equator, while areas that are 60 degrees north or south of the equator observe daylight for about 12 hours and 16 minutes."

What I receive from this is light will always triumph over darkness. They will never be equal. Even in this occurrence called the equinox there are still a few minutes more light than darkness. As we prepare for the warfare that spring time releases, we must remember that we who reign as kings and light bearers will never be overcome by Satan the prince of darkness. It might feel as if we're cutting it close and that darkness is closing in but we must remember even at this time that light prevails! John 1:1-5 states;

**“<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend<sup>[a]</sup> it.”**

The darkness did not comprehend the light. The word comprehend is the Greek word “katalambano” and it means, “to take eagerly, i.e. seize, possess, apprehend, attain, come upon, comprehend, find obtain, perceive, or overtake” (Strong's #2638).

Praise the Lord! No darkness is going to apprehend or overtake us as we go out as kings to war and battle the enemy for our inheritance and possessions. The light of Jesus Christ in us cannot be extinguished.

Now that the foundation has been laid of the importance of spring and the wars that occur during this time, we can go back to 1 Chronicles 20 to see what else the Lord will say to us.

**“<sup>1</sup> It happened in the spring of the year, at the time kings go out *to battle*, that Joab led out the armed forces and ravaged the country of the people of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. And Joab defeated Rabbah and overthrew it. <sup>2</sup> Then David took their king's crown from his head, and found it to weigh a talent of gold, and *there were* precious stones in it. And it was set on David's head. Also he brought out the spoil of the city in great abundance. <sup>3</sup> And he brought out the people who *were* in it, and put *them* to work<sup>[a]</sup> with saws, with iron picks, and with axes. So David did to all the cities of the people of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned *to* Jerusalem.” 1 Chronicles 20:1-3**

The Lord wants us to know that He has given us victory over Rabbah and the warfare is worth it because the spoils are great! What you overcome you will possess! So what did David's army gain when they overthrew Rabbah? Let's find out!

Rabbah's Definition according to Strong's is:

\*great, east and west (this refers to the expanse of the territory of Rabbah) #7237

\*captain, chief, great, lord, master, stout, **king's heap** (when you conquer Rabbah, God makes you great and master over your enemies. He also gives you portions fit for the king you are!) #7227/ 7378

\*abundance, excellent, huge, be increased, more in number, much, multitude, plentifully, very large, **multiply by the myriad**, ten thousands, many, million (This is self explanatory! Your spoils/ blessings are going to be more than you can imagine once you've conquered Rabbah) #7230/ 7231/ 7233

\*a rain as an accumulation of drops:-shower (The Lord is going to shower you with blessings. If you can count the rain drops then you can count your blessings!) #7241

You can check out this website for further information on Rabbah, <http://www.ancientsandals.com/overviews/rabbah.htm>

The battle at Rabbah will be intense but the Lord has anointed us to capture the city and take the spoils! Did you notice in the scripture text that when Rabbah was defeated they took the crown off of the king's head and placed it on David's head? The crown was great, weighing a talent or 75 lbs! This crown represented the glory and majesty of Rabbah being removed from the headship (authority and rule) of one king to the conquering king. The removal of the crown from the former king of Rabbah also symbolized the loss of protection and fortification for the king as well as for his people.

The Greek word for crown is "atar" and it can mean to, "Encircle for attack or protection" (Strong's # 5849). When the crown was lifted off of the defeated king, it meant the end of his rule.

When we have conquered (bound) the "king" his subjects will be our slaves and his spoils will be (loosed) to us. This is to say that when we have overcome the principalities of the battles the lower ranking officials of the kingdom of darkness will be easier to subdue. We can then plunder the enemy and take what belongs to us. This point is proven in Matthew 12:29 and Mark 3:27:

**<sup>29</sup>Or how can a person go into a strong man's house and carry off his goods (the entire equipment of his house) without first binding the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house." Matthew 12:29 AMP**

**<sup>27</sup>But no one can go into a strong man's house and ransack his household goods right and left and seize them as plunder unless he first binds the strong man; then indeed he may [thoroughly] plunder his house." Mark 3:27 AMP**

The Lord wants us to understand that as we go in to battle we must go with other members of the body of Christ who are skilled generals in spiritual warfare. David sent Joab the general of his army to siege Rabbah. Joab's name means Jehovah-fathered. This is powerful because it implies that those who will lead us into great victory and conquest must be Fathered by God. One who is under the Fathering care of the Lord will have ears to hear what the Spirit of God is saying. It is vitally important that we allow the Lord to link us with those who can help us prevail in battle.

Another important point to note about Joab is that he was the son of David's sister Zeruah who was the mother of the three leading heroes of David's army. Her name means, "**balsam:-balm**"

(Strong's 6870, 6875). In the midst of our battles we can rest assured that the Lord will bring healing (balm/ medicine) to any wound or backlash we may experience because of our warfare.

Continuing on with 1 Chronicles 20:4-8, the passage reads;

**“<sup>4</sup> Now it happened afterward that war broke out at Gezer with the Philistines, at which time Sibbechai the Hushathite killed Sippai,<sup>[b]</sup> who was one of the sons of the giant. And they were subdued. <sup>5</sup> Again there was war with the Philistines, and Elhanan the son of Jair<sup>[c]</sup> killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. <sup>6</sup> Yet again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, with twenty-four fingers and toes, six on each hand and six on each foot; and he also was born to the giant. <sup>7</sup> So when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea,<sup>[d]</sup> David's brother, killed him. <sup>8</sup> These were born to the giant in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.” 1 Chronicles 4-8**

After the battle at Rabbah, David's army was at war again but this time it was with the philistines, a long time enemy to the Jews. It seems as though the battles kept coming!

The first battle that broke out occurred at Gezer which means, “something cut off; a portion:- part, piece, to cut down or off (fig) to destroy, divide, exclude, or decide:- cut down (off), decree, snatch” (Strong's Concordance #1507, 1506, 1504).

What we can learn from this scripture is that the enemy is cut off even before he begins his warfare against us. The battle ground of Gezer was saturated with the prophetic decree of the philistines defeat. The ground was literally prophesying to the enemy saying, “You're going down!” God caused his people to triumph and gave them great victory.

Verse 5 starts out by saying “again there was war with the philistines.” Understand that some enemies resurface and you have to stay in the battle and finish the job. In the first battle with the philistines, Sibbechai killed Sippai the son of the giant. In the next battle, Elhanan killed the giant Lahmi. The Lord is showing us that we must train the generations to come in spiritual warfare. Our children must be trained to fight and overcome the enemy. The body of Christ is going to have to work together like never before if we are going to walk in victory. This work includes our children.

The name of the second man who slew the giant is, “Elhanan” which means, “God is gracious, God...great...might...power...favor, bestow...move to favor by petition...” (Strong's Concordance #445, 410, 2603)

The Lord is speaking to us saying that our battles with the giants are going to be won by God's grace, might, power, favor and petitions. We will not win the wars that are coming in our own strength. We must depend on the Lord who is able to deliver the enemy into our hands. Elhanan's name also tells us that we have got to pray because our prayers are the vehicle by which the Lord will send His help. I am not referring to just any kind of prayer, you know, the kind where you're half asleep and don't even remember what you said to God! I am speaking

about sincere, word filled, power packed, Holy Spirit generated prayer! That's what's going to over through the enemy!

We are moving on to verse 6 and please take note that the scripture says something about this giant that was not mentioned about the other giants. War broke out again and this time the giant that David's army faced had 6 fingers on each hand and 6 toes on each foot. I asked the Lord what this meant and received the following scripture:

**"<sup>1</sup>Blessed be the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, *And* my fingers for battle"  
Psalms 144:1**

The Lord spoke saying that these extra fingers and toes represent a higher skill level of expertise in spiritual warfare. Strong's defines finger and toe as "something to seize with, grasp, divers..." (Strong's 676, 6648)

As the body of Christ we must be prepared to war against the enemy on another level. The extra fingers and toes represent additional devices of ensnarement, entrapment and strongholds that the enemy will seek to use to overcome us. A stronghold is defined as, "to fortify through the idea of holding safely...to hold such as possessions" (Strong's 3794/ 2192).

In the midst of warfare there can be no areas in our lives that Satan can use as an internal or external weapon against us! Jesus said;

**"<sup>30</sup>I will not talk with you much more, for the prince (evil genius, ruler) of the world is coming. And he has no claim on Me. [He has nothing in common with Me; there is nothing in Me that belongs to him, and he has no power over Me.]" John 14:30 Amplified**

Did you catch that! There was no place within our Savior that would give Satan a legal right to hinder Him and the mission the Father sent Him to accomplish. Successful warfare is accomplished by various means, the chief of these being a clean and holy life. The 24 digit giant is looking for something within us that he can grab hold of during the battle to capsize us. This is a clear warning to us that before the war begins to intensify; we must take time for self-introspection to ensure that we are battle worthy and ready.

I noted that in verse 7 when the giant began to defy Israel, David's nephew Jonathan rose up and killed him. Defied as used in scripture means to "...defame...blaspheme, rail, reproach" (Strong's 2778). What I receive from reading this verse is that there must be something in us that gets angry when our enemy begins to slander and blaspheme Christ in us. To defy Israel was to defy the God that they served. To defy us is to defy the Christ we serve. We can no longer tolerate the enemy blaspheming the name of Christ in us by allowing him to wreak havoc in our families, churches, governments etc. We have been called like David who killed Goliath and Jonathan who killed this no name giant to step up to the plate and dismantle darkness.

I noted that this 24 digit giant had no name unlike the other giants. I asked the Lord what this meant and received that this giant is nameless because it may take on different names in each of our lives. For some it may be marital problems, for others it may be financial crisis. Still others

may face sickness. The list can go on and on but the important thing to remember is that in Christ we win! We will conquer every giant no matter how many extra fingers or toes it has!

The Lord also said to over through the giants we need the anointing of David. Realize that David was the first one to kill a giant, then after him came several others, one being his own nephew. Ask the Lord for the anointing of David to either kill the giants or assist the generals in warfare prayer in doing so. You must know your rank and scope of authority before getting involved in spiritual warfare. Fight within the boundaries of your God given jurisdiction.

Another very important point to mention is when kings go out to war you must be numbered among the ranks of God's people. If you stay home when you should be at war, mischief will certainly overtake you. Notice in 1 Chronicles 1:20 that Joab led the forces to war but David the king stayed home:

**“It happened in the spring of the year, at the time kings go out to battle, that Joab led out the armed forces and ravaged the country of the people of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem.”**

What this verse of scripture does not indicate is that it was during this time when David stayed home he committed adultery with Bathsheba. 2 Samuel 11:1-5 tells us;

**“<sup>1</sup> In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.**

**<sup>2</sup> One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, <sup>3</sup> and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" <sup>4</sup> Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home. <sup>5</sup> The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."**

David did not initially go out with Joab and the army to war when he should have. This provided the enemy with just enough time to ensnare him and create strongholds in his life and the generations after him. David ended up having battles and warfare that were far worse than anything he would have met out on the battle field when he was first called to war.

May we learn from the lessons of those who have come before us and heed the call to spiritual warfare when our Master, Jesus Christ gives the summons! Again we are kings and priest before the Lord and are expected to engage in successful warfare. Don't delay, suit up and be battle ready when our Master calls!

Please feel free to share your comments.

Yeshua's servant,



Sincerely,

Apostle Jael J Hodge

**Clarion Ministries**

Advancing the Kingdom of God  
Through the Order of Melchizedek

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