

The Battle Belongs to the Lord!

We face many trials in today's sin-saturated world, and it is very easy to become downhearted and depressed over how we can possibly survive. We need to realize just how marvelous a God we have who has purchased us from this world of sin (Acts 20:28), and has guaranteed He would never leave nor forsake us, no matter how bad things might get (Hebrews 13:5). What proof do we have that God will fight our battles for us?

Let's first take a look at some more recent "impossible" situations where God intervened for the sake of people in severe distress, in order to carry out His will and reveal His incredible love and concern to save us from adversity and annihilation.

World War I

Many instances of divine intervention for individual soldiers and entire units could be recounted from World War I. Here are two of them.

Mons France — 1914¹

"During the Angel of Mons incident, the German army was in full swing to defeat the British and other allied forces in Mons, France, in August 1914. They had already advanced through Belgium and parts of France. The Allied forces were greatly outnumbered and exhausted. A day of peril had arrived. This is when the British instigated a National Day of Prayer for the troops. Their prayers were answered with divine intervention when Angels suddenly appeared. All gunfire stopped and everyone looked in amazement at the Angels between the Germans and British. They were described as larger than man, white-robed, bareheaded, and almost floating. They faced the Germans and held out their hands, indicat-

ing 'Stop.' The Germans fled."

Bethune, France — 1918²

"The White Cavalry made another appearance in 1918. They intervened to help the British during the Battle of Bethune. It was again a response to a National Day of Prayer held for the troops, during which America joined them in prayer to ask God for help. The Germans advanced through Belgium, and were headed through France and up to its ports. They were targeting Bethune where the British were. Then, miraculously, the Germans started firing into an open field. The British wondered what they were firing at, as they saw nothing. Suddenly, the Germans, who were in formation, started to retreat in mass panic. Captured German officers later told the British that they saw a White Cavalry, an army in all white uniforms riding white horses, trotting in formation toward them through drifting white smoke. None of the artillery seemed to faze this cavalry as they kept advancing. An officer of the Prussian Guard said he saw a leader, a figure of a man, whose hair was like gold with an aura around his head. He had a great sword and rode a white charger."



Stories from the battle at Mons, France, in World War I claim that a spirit army of bowmen came to the aid of Allied troops and put the German Army to flight.

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In both of these instances, at the beginning and at the end

of World War I, the adversary army was approached by horsemen riding white steeds, identical to the description of Jesus Christ and the angels and saints attacking the armies of the Beast and False Prophet in Revelation 19:14. Could the leader of this fearsome band be any other than Jesus Christ?

World War II

Dunkirk, France — 1940³

During Britain's and the Allies' darkest hours during World War II, when the German Army had swept across Belgium and France to encircle Allied troops and set them in disarray, a large contingent of troops had become concentrated on the coast of Normandy in northern France. With the German army and Luftwaffe mercilessly bombarding the 300,000 beleaguered Allied troops, survival looked hopeless. Then King George VI of England said, "We must pray. This next Sunday I'm calling for a national day of prayer." Winston Churchill, who was quite nonreligious but knew no other course but to submit to this plan of action, listened to King George on May 26 address the nation with these words:

'Let us with one heart and soul, humbly but confidently, commit our cause to God and ask His aid, that we may valiantly defend the right as it is given to us to see it.'

People throughout the nation united behind the King in this prayer, most not really knowing why they were praying, but so many people lined the streets outside churches that one newspaper reported, "Nothing like this ever happened before!" Meanwhile in Dunkirk, Allied soldiers hunkered down to face the inevitable final assault of the German tanks and infantry.

Then strange things began to happen, things historians to this day cannot explain. On May 24, the day the King called the nation to pray, Hitler inexplicably halted the offensive. The tanks remained unmoved in place for three days, allowing time for the British to form a defensive perimeter to temporarily hold back the German advance when it would come. Then came rain and clouds. German planes bombed Dunkirk on three separate days, but each time, for days afterward, the city was enveloped by inclement weather, making any effective follow-up from the Nazis difficult. What's more, a breeze seemed to collect smoke emitted from the German bombs and distribute it over the area the British were using to load men into boats. The allied exodus went undetected for days.

Meanwhile, word was spreading across England of the need for boats to cross the channel to Dunkirk,



Over 300,000 English and Allied soldiers were ferried by boats of all sizes from Dunkirk to England while the Germans were hindered at every turn.



According to reports, a supernatural white cloud hovered over the laager of the Boers all day during the Battle of Blood River. Not one Boer was killed.

for what purpose no one was exactly sure. Almost any vessel would do: rowboats, fishing trawlers, tugs, motorboats, any boat. Many of the craft lacked compasses. None of them were armed.

What's more, the normally boisterous English Channel became smooth "like a bathtub," as some said, allowing hundreds of vessels, large and small, to ferry 338,000 soldiers at Dunkirk across to England. They would regroup and return to Europe and fight another day.

Blood River, South Africa⁴

Facing a strong Zulu army of trained warriors on December 14, 1838, the Boer white settlers had moved their 64 covered wagons into a circle for protection against the certain attack from Dengane, the Zulu leader. The warriors were well-trained and merciless, having left a trail of blood across wide areas of the Natal, and were now concentrating their forces

against these white South Africans and their 900 oxen, 500 horses, and other livestock within the encircling wagons.

The night of December 9, Pretorius and his men penned the following words:

“My brothers and fellow citizens, here we stand in the presence of the Holy God, creator of heaven and earth, to make a vow unto Him, that if His protection shall be with us and He give our enemy into our hand so that we might be victorious over him, that this day and date every year shall be spent as a memorial and a day of thanksgiving, just as a Sabbath is spent and that we shall erect a temple to His honor wherever it will be pleasing to Him, and that we shall also instruct our children that they must also share in it, as well as for our generations yet to come. Because the Honor of His name shall thereby be glorified and the glory and honor of the victory shall be given Him.”

On December 15, Pretorius sent out a patrol to try and entice the thousands of Zulus to attack, but instead the warriors retreated, hoping to lure the horsemen into an ambush. The soldiers returned to the laager [an encampment formed by a circle of wagons], and one of the war leaders and his warriors followed them, but got lost in a thick fog that dark, moonless night. Those that reached the Boer encampment were mowed down by the gunfire of the Boers. As the fog burned away in the morning, the main Zulu army with maniacal, shrill shouting attacked in wave after wave after crossing a gully that strategically lay across one side of the encampment; the Ncome River protected the other sides. Into the midday heat the warriors attacked in waves, throwing their spears into the laager with the settlers and the cattle herd, which thankfully did not stampede.

Finally the Zulus hesitated, amazed and perplexed at their massive losses. The water of the river had turned red with blood, and dead bodies were strewn in heaps near the laager. Pretorius sent out men on horses to try and draw in the Zulus again, and seeing the Boers' bravery the remaining warriors fled

in terror. Feeble last charges of the most elite Zulu warriors proved futile, and the cavalry of Pretorius chased the fleeing Zulus for hours. The casualties of the Zulus totaled 3,000 to 4,000 dead. Not a single Boer was killed, and only three sustained minor wounds.

After the victory the white Boers observed a solemn thanksgiving service to thank God for their miraculous victory. Surviving Zulu warriors testified to seeing an army of white soldiers firing from a white cloud that hovered over the laager all day. During the battle they saw thousands of glowing giant men all around the laager that scared them into a panic, so they turned and fled directly into the ranks of the waiting older warriors who slaughtered their younger compatriots for desertion from the battle. Amazingly the livestock did not stampede during the horrible chaos of the battle; they could have trampled many of the men and women. Finally, when Dengane received the message of the defeat, he burned his capital city and ran with the retreating warriors to Swaziland where they were killed by their enemies, the Swazis. The mighty but evil reign of the Zulu nation was broken.

The Battle Belongs to the Lord

The common thread through each of these modern-day examples is that victory was achieved not through the hands of men, but through the direct intervention of almighty God and His forces. Note the examples below from Scripture.

“Then the assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear, for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands” (I Samuel 17:47; see verses 40-51 for the entire episode of David and Goliath).

“And he said, ‘Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you, “Do not be afraid of dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's”” (II Chronicles 20:15).

“For I will not trust in my bow, nor shall my sword save me. But You have saved us from our enemies, and have put to shame those who hated us” (Psalm 44:6-7).

“No king is saved by the multitude of an army; a mighty man is not delivered by great strength. A horse is a vain hope for safety, neither shall it deliver any by its great strength” (Psalm 33:16-17).

“Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, will save them by the Lord their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword or battle, by horses or horseman” (Hosea 1:7).

[See also Isaiah 31:1-2; Psalm 3:1-8; 147:10-10; Proverbs 18:10; 21:31; I Samuel 14:6; II Chronicles 14:8-12.]



Israel was delivered out of Egypt — a type of sin — through the mighty power of God’s hand by causing Israel to be “baptized under the cloud,” as it were. God fought the battle for them!

The victory in battle is determined not by physical power and might — the number of horses and chariots, bows and arrows, tanks and artillery, bombs and fighter jets — but by the almighty God who orders life, and who gains the victory of the righteous over their oppressors. The battle is in reality between the forces of good and evil, as Paul so clearly stated in Ephesians 6:10-13.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the

Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

We know so well the story of Israel leaving Egypt. They fled the oppression and slavery of a nation that embodied everything possible of a gentile nation sold utterly into sin. The tribes of Israel began to leave Ramses the day of the death of the firstborn of all the Egyptian people and livestock, those not protected by the blood of the lamb applied to the doorposts and lintels of their homes. For six days the

Israelites trekked eastward across the arid lands of Egypt to the shore of the Red Sea, Egypt’s army eventually following after them to try and bring them once again into captivity.

We all know the story. When Pharaoh’s army drew near, Yahweh in a fiery cloud stood all night between the Egyptians and the Israelites to protect them. That night the cloud remained while an “east wind” caused the Red Sea to part, forming a wall of water on both sides of a pathway that stretched clear across to Arabia. Then Moses told the people,

“Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today you shall see again no more forever” (Exodus 14:13).

Yahweh told Moses, “The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace Tell the children of Israel to go forward” (Exodus 14:14-15). They did, and all day long commenced their trek, along with their cattle and carts, to the other side. The

Egyptians pursued, but Yahweh "... took off their chariot wheels, so they drove them with difficulty" (Exodus 14:25), until finally Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the walls of water returned and utterly crushed Pharaoh and his army.

"So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses" (Exodus 14:30-31).

Notice that God's command was not to fight back against the enemy Egyptians. No, they were to (1) not be afraid, (2) stand still and watch God's saving power, and (3) then move forward as He willed to a safe place out of the enemy's reach. **THE BATTLE BELONGED TO HIM, EVEN AS OUR BATTLES EACH DAY TODAY BELONG TO HIM!**

In fact, in Gideon's day God had the size of the army reduced from 22,000 to a mere 300 "... lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me'" (Judges 7:2). Notice that Proverbs 18:10 states, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe." The Hebrew word *safe* is *sagab*, meaning "to be strong, lofty, to lift high, to protect and be safe." The righteous flee to God and *are safe*, not "might be safe." It is a promise they will be safe, as the Israelites discovered at the Red Sea, and the army of Gideon learned when they faced the huge Midianite forces.

Fear Not ...

While the battle belongs to the Lord, it is incumbent upon the elect to cast away the greatest enemy of all during a conflict: fear! We have already read in Exodus 14 how Moses and Yahweh commanded the Israelites to "stand still" and "fear not," for the enemy, the Egyptians — which are the personification of all types of evil, would be demolished before their very eyes. They did not have to lift a finger ... only "move forward" as He directed, just as we are

told to move forward in life without fear of whatever evil might befall us. We are to keep moving, just as Proverbs 24:16 states, "For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall into calamity."

It is the faith that God will be with us, never leave us, that keeps us moving along the strait and difficult pathway that leads to life. Faith is the antonym of fear, a surety that Christ promised when He said, "... lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

God's command to us to "fear not" is stated frequently throughout Scripture, such as in Genesis 21:17; 26:24; 46:3; Exodus 20:20; Numbers 14:9; 21:34; Deuteronomy 1:21; 3:2, 22; 31:6, 8; Joshua 10:8; Judges 6:10, 23; Ruth 3:11; I Samuel 12:20; I Chronicles 22:13; 28:20; II Chronicles 20:17; Psalm 27:3; 46:2; 56:4; 118:6; Isaiah 35:4; 41:10, 13, 14; 43:1, 5; 44:2, 8; 51:7; 54:4, 14; Jeremiah 30:10; 46:27, 28; Lamentations 3:57; Daniel 10:12, 19; Zechariah 3:16; Haggi 2:5; Zechariah 8:13, 15; Mat-



The army of Gideon was pared down from 22,000 to only 300 to make it clear that the battle against Midian would be won through God's power, not by man's.

thew 10:26, 28; 10:31; Luke 12:7, 32; John 12:15; Hebrews 13:6; Revelation 2:10.

While God admonishes us to not fear, it is the objective of the world's governments to rule by fear and force! The world's governments are controlled by Satan (II Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2), whose objective is to hold people captive to him and his carnal ways ... to coerce people to fear men, especially dictatorial governmental leaders who can then force people into their own vision of slavery to their system ... opposed to the freedom and liberty inherent in every person born on this earth, and promised by our

Creator as a fruit of His spirit (Romans 8:21; II Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:1, 13; James 1:25; 2:21). Thus, we are pitted in a continual battle against the evil spirit forces around us as we cling to a state of liberty imparted through God's spirit dwelling in us. We fight to avoid captivity to Satan's devices. As Peter stated,

“For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome ...” (II Peter 2:18-20).

Let us look at instances in Scripture that illustrate casting out fear so we might not fear, but put our faith and trust in God, not in men, the God who gives us liberty and wins every battle for us.

Acts 5:25-32. “So one came and told them, saying, ‘Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!’ Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned. And when they had brought them, they set them before the



Courage to face and overcome obstacles is a trait that God places in us when we submit to Him, and have the faith that He will carry us through the toughest times.

council. And the high priest asked them, saying, ‘Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!’ But Peter and the other apostles answered *and said: ‘We ought to obey God rather than men.* The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the holy spirit which God has given to those who obey Him.”

Psalm 146:3-4. “**Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man,** in whom there is no help. His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; in that very day his plans perish.”

John 14:1-2. “**Let not your heart be troubled;** you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.”

Luke 12:29-32. “And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, **nor have an anxious mind.** For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. **Do not fear,** little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

Joshua 1:5-9. “No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. **Be strong and of good courage,** for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. **Only be strong and very courageous,** that you may observe to do according to all the

law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? ***Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed,*** for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Genesis 15:1. “After all these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, ‘***Fear not, Abram:*** I am your shield and your exceedingly great reward.’”

Genesis 46:1-3. “So Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, ‘Jacob, Jacob!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ So He said, ‘I am God, the God of your father; ***do not fear to go down to Egypt,*** for I will make of you a great nation there.’”

Genesis 50:15-24. “When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, ‘Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him.’ So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, ‘Before your father died he commanded, saying, “Thus you shall say to Joseph: I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.”’ ‘Now please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father.’ And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, ‘Behold, we are your servants.’ Joseph said to them, ‘***Do not be afraid,*** for am I in the place of God? But as for you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to

save many people alive. Now therefore, ***do not be afraid;*** I will provide for you and your little ones.’ And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father’s household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. Joseph saw Ephraim’s children to the third generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph’s knees. And Joseph said to his brethren, ‘I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.’”

Exodus 20:18-20. “Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, ‘You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.’ And Moses said to the people, ‘***Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.***”

Numbers 21:33-35. “And they turned and went up by the way to Bashan. So Og king of Bashan went out against them, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘***Do not fear him,*** for I have delivered him into your hand, with all his people and his land; and you shall do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt at Heshbon.’ So they defeated him, his sons, and all his people, until there was no survivor left him; and they took possession of his land.”

Deuteronomy 1:20-21. “And I said to you, ‘You have come to the mountains of the Amorites, which the Lord our God is giving us. Look, the Lord your God has set the land before you; go up and possess it, as the Lord God of your fathers has spoken to you; ***do not fear or be discouraged.***”

Know for Sure He Will Fight for You!

We have seen numerous examples of prophets and disciples who stood up against the forces of evil in this world. While it is true that the Israelite armies were instructed to exterminate the pagan tribes of Canaan, we also know that they would not have had to fight wars had they obediently followed the Creator's commands. In I Samuel 8 we read that Israel unwisely desired a king like the nations around them — a very bad request — and as a result wars and terrible sufferings dogged the nation. On the contrary, God said He would send "... *hornets* [*sirah*, "hornets, discouragement"] before you, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite from before you" (Exodus 23:28; see also Deuteronomy 7:20 and Joshua 24:12).

Like destroying the Egyptian army in the Red Sea, He could have fought all of Israel's battles without them having to lift a finger, or prepare trained armies, spears, and arrows like the nations did around them ... and like all of the major nations do today. Even so, because of God's promises to Abraham, He granted Israel great victories throughout history and preserved Jacob's descendants to fulfill the promises of race (a great multitude of people and nations) and grace (the Savior Jesus Christ coming through the line of Judah to be Savior of all mankind).

So here we are today as a people of God living amidst a people that, as a whole, believes that a modern military and strong, top-down government based on the fear of men is the way to greatness and goodness. We, the elect, understand that living under the canopy of militarism and hierarchies is the opposite of the Creator's system of love to God and love to neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40). We know that fear is

diametrically opposed to faith and love, and we are to allow the eternal living God to fight our battles, as so eruditely expressed in Matthew.

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also." (Matthew 5:38-45).

"Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance in Mine, I will repay.' says the Lord. Therefore 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is

thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:17-21).



We must put on the whole armor of God to succeed in overcoming the Adversary, having our loins girt with truth, a breastplate of righteousness, feet shod with the good news of the Kingdom, the shield of faith, and the helmet of salvation...while wielding the sword of the word of God.

destroy the people of God, and ultimately the entire human race made in God's image. Note Ephesians 6:10-17, where in verses 11 and 12 we read,

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against *principalities*, against *powers*, against the *rulers* of the darkness of this world, against *wicked spirits* in heavenly places."

principalities = *arche*, “authority, principality, magistrate, first place.”

powers = *exousia*, “ability, faculty, dominion, jurisdiction.”

rulers = *kosmokrator*, “monarch of the world, worldly prince, a power paramount in the world of the unbelieving and ungodly.”

darkness = *skotos*, “gloom of punishment and misery, moral or spiritual darkness.”

wicked = *poneria*, “bad condition, evil disposition of the mind.”

spirits = *pneumatikor*, “spiritual, pertaining to the soul and spirits as distinguished from the body.”

We must personally battle these wicked spirits, and are assured that when we resist them they will flee from us. As James 4:7-8 states,

Always remember: THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD!

“Therefore *submit* to God. *Resist* the devil and he will *flee* from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you *double-minded*.”

submit = *hypotasso*, “to arrange under, subordinate, to bring under influence.”

resist = *anthistemi*, “oppose, stand out against.”

flee = *pheugo*, “to flee, take flight, make escape.”

double-minded = *dipsychos*, “inconstant, fickle.”

“For the weapons of our warfare are not physical, but are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds” (II Corinthians 10:4).

This Adversary is a destroyer (I Peter 5:8-9), a liar (John 8:44), a murderer (John 8:44), a deceiver (II Corinthians 11:3), and our adversary (I Peter 5:8). As an *adversary* [*antidikos*] he is “an opponent in a lawsuit,” as it were, like in Luke 22:3, where Jesus

told Simon Peter that Satan wanted to “*sift* you as wheat” [*siniazo*, “sift by trials and temptations”]. We must know the wiles of this destroyer, but not be afraid of him. Rather, we are to expose his evil agenda (Ephesians 5:11) and resist him with every good work, thought, and word (James 5:7-8; I Peter 5:8-9).

We need not fear the Adversary, but practice the perfect love that casts out fear (I John 4:18). We must not fear death, for such fear holds people in bondage to other people who might kill you, such as in Communist, totalitarian governments.

“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is the devil, and release those who though fear of death were all

their lifetime subject to bondage” (Hebrews 2:14-15).

We have the promise of eternal life ahead of us. Fear has no claim in our daily living, for we know ***the battle belongs to the Lord***. We can rest assured on that fact every day until the day of the resurrection!

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