

The Battle for Truth?

Part 9 – Security

1

INTRODUCTION

September 11, 2001 changed America forever. Terrorists used planes loaded with jet fuel to crash into the Twin Towers, and Pentagon while Flight 93 fought back and crashed their plane before it could reach its target. Some 3000 people were killed, and thousands more were injured.

America's security was shattered!



2

INTRODUCTION

There are dangers all around us. We live in a world of insecurity. COVID caused many to examine their own mortality which left many crippled by fear. This was followed by riots in the streets and social unrest. A major recession looms on the horizon. Many businesses have closed their doors unable to recover from COVID losses. There are supply chain issues, and gas prices. Add to this drug addiction, gang violence, and political uncertainty. These things just scratch the surface of all that works to undermine our hearts and confidence.

WHERE DOES ONE FIND SECURITY IN THIS WORLD?

3

NOT A NEW PROBLEM!

This is not a new problem. It has faced every person who has ever lived. We are not wise or powerful enough to control every situation we face. We and those we love are vulnerable to a myriad of unseen forces and events.

Some people retreat to the shadows attempting to be invisible so no one will notice. Others go to the opposite extreme, fighting for control even at the expense of others. Another group tries to collect and hoard things attempting to be prepared just incase they need something. All the time fear and uncertainty eats away at our souls.

4

NOT A NEW PROBLEM!

As nations face insecurity, they turn to military might both for offense and defense. Archaeology shows us that most ancient cities were surrounded by fortified walls to keep attackers and danger out. Think about this, we are digging up many of these cities from the rubble. Excavations paint a picture of how they were attacked, the walls that the people trusted in breached, and the cities destroyed and left in ruin. Are man's defenses adequate to truly protect a population?

5

NOT A NEW PROBLEM!

The City of Jericho trusted in their walls with good reason. They had stood guarding the city for hundreds of years. There was an outer wall that was 13 feet high backed by another wall 28 feet high with towers and defensive capability. The space between the walls were sloped away from the city so if attackers got in and attempted to breach the inner wall, their ladders would slide down and away. The inner wall was wide enough that two chariots could go around the wall side by side. This tells us that the city could rapidly deploy their defending troops to where they were needed. The people of Jericho (though they had heard what had happened to the Egyptians) trusted in their walls. They did not believe that the Israelites could prevail. We see this from the jeers they called out. The Bible tells us their trust was misplaced.

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NOT A NEW PROBLEM!

Other nations tried to obtain security through offensive weapons. They tried to subdue their enemies to protect both themselves and their political and economic interests.

Egypt was the “world power” of its day. Egypt had subdued it neighbor and anyone who dared come against her. She had all the latest in military hardware. She had housed and protected Israel from the time Jacob came to live there (a little over 70 people) to a nation of millions. Egypt fearing its own security and enslaved God’s people. It took 10 plagues to break Egypt’s will and economy. Even when Pharoah let Israel go, he had second thoughts and sent his army with all its chariots and weapons of war to bring them back. All these were destroyed in the Red Sea.

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NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

Things have not really changed. Every nation, ideology, and interest group fights to protect their interests. Attacks, both physical and verbal, are flung back and forth against opposing sides. Just look at politics in Washington DC.

What is taking place here is taking place in some form all over the world.

Nations are building “super weapons” because they fear what other nations are developing. Many today fear that the world is once again on the precipice of world war. Every person and nation believe they are right and those who oppose them are wrong and evil. Yet these decisions are in the eyes of the beholder.

We need to stop and ask ourselves, “What is going on from God’s perspective?”

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A LONG WAR

There is a long war between God and Satan. Satan is busy moving and working in the nations. He hates the things of God and God's people (Jew and the Church). When a country turns its back on God, it becomes pliable for Satan's purposes. We see this in our own nation today. Good has become evil, and evil is being called good.

Satan's long-term plan is to put his man on the worldwide throne (antichrist). We should expect to see movement in this area.

In the Book of Daniel, we see that Daniel had a vision, he asked and kept asking for understanding. An angel had been sent with a message but ended up in a battle with the "prince of Persia" for 21 days (Daniel 10). This appears to have been a demonic force of great power, but not greater than God's.

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FEAR

The underlying emotion that is created by this is fear. I believe that there are those who are intentionally creating fear in the world. There are two reasons for this.

1. Control of the population. Create a fear and people will obey and do what they are told in order to find safety.
2. Punish those who stand up against those in power. The soviets punished descenders in such a way that others would not do the same. I believe that it is to communicate that the government is in control and the people are not.

GOD DOES NOT CALL US TO LIVE IN FEAR OR ANXIETY BUT TO LIVE IN TRUE FREEDOM!

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FEAR

In writing to encourage Timothy to exercise his gifts and calling, Paul writes, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. ⁸Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God” (2 Timothy 1:7-8).

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TRUE SECURITY

Stop for a minute and quietly evaluate where you are placing your security. I am not talking about head knowledge and “Sunday School” answers, but the practical reality of how you live...

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TRUE SECURITY

So many people put their trust in government or a leader, but these are “fallen” and unstable. The object in which you trust for your security will be directly proportional to your fear and anxiety.

I see so many people filled with such fear. They fear COVID, terrorism, loss of work, uncertain finances, and the list can go on.

LET’S FACE IT; WE CANNOT CONTROL THESE THINGS!

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TRUE SECURITY

Old Testament David had every reason to be filled with fear and anxiety from the human perspective. King Saul was hunting him and wanted him dead. Look at what he penned in Psalm 20:1-3

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble;

May the name of the God of Jacob defend you;

² May He send you help from the sanctuary,
And strengthen you out of Zion;

³ May He remember all your offerings,
And accept your burnt sacrifice. *Selah*

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TRUE SECURITY

He does not stop there. He goes on to say:

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses;
But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.
(Psalm 20:7)

We can rephrase this, “Some trust in stealth fighters, missiles, and nuclear warship.” But the truth declares, “if God is not on your side, they will amount to nothing.”

Our only true hope in this world is to place our trust and security in God. This does not mean that we do not prepare and do what we can, but our ultimate hope must be in God.

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CONDITIONS

We need to remember the book of the Judges. When Israel turned their back on God, He allowed them to face the consequences of their ways. They were defeated by their enemies and placed in bondage. When things got bad enough, they would cry out to God. He would hear them and raise up a deliver who would set them free. Things would be good for a generation, then things would repeat, and repeat, and repeat.

I certainly want God to be there for us, but our country, like Israel has turned its back on God.

As individuals, families, churches, and a nation, we need to turn back to Him!

16

A WARNING

If we are entering the “last days” and the world is heading to the Tribulation period, then there will be coming a charismatic leader who will unite much of the world. The Bible states that he will look so “good” that if it were possible, he would deceive the elect of God (Matthew 24:24).

The world is going to be in bad shape – fear and insecurity will be rampant.

When this world leader (antichrist) steps on the scene, he will preach “peace and safety”.

1 Thessalonians 5:3

For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

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HOPE

God does not promise us that life will be easy, but He promises us that we will not be alone. In this sinful world, we can only trust in Jesus, and be His lights in a darkened world.

Jesus warns in Luke 12:4

“And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.”

The worst thing the world can do is kill our body, but they cannot take our eternal rewards. They cannot take our souls. To step out of this body is to step into the presence of God, and that is not so bad!

18

HOPE

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Don't look and be filled with anxiety about the state of the world and our nation. God still sits on the throne. He is still all powerful, and nothing can touch us that He will not use for good if we just trust Him. Be strong and be courageous!

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HOW IT ENDS!

What about the antichrist? Jesus comes back and destroys him with the word of His mouth. He used that same mouth to speak creation into existence. Antichrist will not be able to escape judgment. For those who get saved during the tribulation period and survive to the end...

Isaiah 2:4

He [Jesus] shall judge between the nations and rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

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