

TRUMPET SOUNDS

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ARM OF THE LORD

With the onslaught of negative news everywhere you turn, it is not hard to see why Christians have gotten caught up in frustration. Many have not seen the progression of frustration change to anger in negative, chronic attitudes.

You may not think this relates to you, but think for just a moment if you find yourself *against more things than for something*. Fighting in the spirit does not have to be a negative for we read:

Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

All the bad reports in the world or in our personal lives are an open invitation for us to intercede and make a difference. We have the ability to speak to the mountain and move it into the sea. This does not mean that we are to pirate prayers into making people walk the plank and plunge into the sea, but that we have an opportunity to snatch that one out of Satan's grasp and into the Kingdom with a testimony that could win thousands.

One of the most heart-rending Scriptures is: **Ezek 22:30** *And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that it should not be destroyed: but I found none. RRV*

There may have been many, like today, who were too frustrated to see the invitation to

stand in the gap and intercede. Frustration leads us all to the negative "water cooler discussions" where the Living Waters have dried up. We are too eager to repeat the bad report while washing in the water by the Word of God may be an afterthought as we close an hour of negative discussion into three little words, "God is able." As reading Ezek 22:30 we see that God is looking for one among us to build up the hedge and stand in the gap. He does not seem to be finding anyone who is willing to fight for something, since we are too eager to mouth what we are against and then throw the ball in God's court by telling Him *He is able*, therefore releasing the burden of responsibility to stand in the gap and build up the hedge.

God is asking you and I this question: **Isa 53:1** *Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?*

Did you realize that the arm of the Lord was Jesus throughout the OT, but today it is you and I who carry the good report of the Gospel of Hope and not the rehearsal of evil? Jesus turned all power and authority over to us to become the powerful *arm of the Lord* in this generation: **Luke 10:19** *Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

We need to be exercising the right arm of faith, since we see that the power we hold is

greater than any adversary. We are not arm wrestling our brothers and sisters but the powers and principalities that afflict them. Frustration may come in human packages but fighting them only strengthens Satan's cause.

Col 3:1 *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

Rom 8:34 *It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

No, this is not only Christ Jesus who is the right arm of God, if we go further to see this: **Rev 1:16, 20** *And he (Jesus) had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength...20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.*

As Christian believers we are the church and now the right arm of God on this earth to complete what Jesus came to conquer. We are riding the apocalyptic white horse sending the arrows of intercession to bring down the enemy.

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WHITE HORSE OF THE APOCALYPSE

Rev 6:2 *And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.*

Ps 18:13-14 *The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire. Yea, he sent out his arrows (archers), and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.*

Some have accredited the white horse of the apocalypse as Christ and some believe it is the spirit of anti-Christ. I believe it is God's children, intercessors who are the archers with prayers like arrows that scatter the enemy.

Jer 50:29 *Call together the archers against Babylon: all ye that bend the bow, camp against it round about; let none thereof escape: recompense her according to her work; according to all that she hath done, do unto her: for she hath been proud against the LORD, against the Holy One of Israel.*

Just as Jesus gave us His power and authority so that we have become the right arm of God on this earth, He has also given us a crown:

James 1:12 *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

Rev 3:11 *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*

We are the riders of the white horse with a bow of intercession shooting forth our arrows to halt an enemy. We are wearing the crown given us by our Savior and King Jesus the Christ! We are the violent who take the Kingdom by force. We are the people Joel prophesied: **Joel 2:1-11** *Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; 2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. 3 A fire devoureth before*

them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. 4 The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. 5 Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. 6 Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. 7 They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: 8 Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. 9 They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. 10 The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: 11 And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

Jesus did not fight a war when He came to earth as the Lamb sacrifice, but by His coming would trigger a war of the world against His Kingdom: **Matt 10:34-36** *Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.*

Luke 12:51-53 *Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: 52 For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. 53 The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.*

We are to be that mighty witness in the land

that goes forth conquering and to conquer. Why else would Christians feel so battle worn if we are not in a fight for good against evil?

It is because of who we are in the land today that the persecutions, wars and death to Jew and Christian alike follow in the red horse of war begetting the black horse of famine and pale horse of death. Satan's kingdoms fighting against the Kingdom of our God.

Jesus ushered in the last days of the apocalyptic horses over a 2,000 year span until the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled (Luke 21:24 fulfilled 1967) and today.

Next on the prophetic agenda is the very next Scripture in Luke 21:25-27 *And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; 26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. 27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*

The white horse was the early church after Christ's resurrection and is riding today. Did you notice the same wording in Joel 2:10 and Luke 21: 25 about the sun, moon and stars?

Could we be in this time frame? What does the tetrad of 2014-2015 on Jewish feast days have in common with all of this? Do I have to spell it out for you?

What else is there for me to say but...SADDLE UP!

Jer 50:29 *Call together the archers against Babylon: all ye that bend the bow, camp against it round about; let none thereof escape: recompense her according to her work; according to all that she hath done, do unto her: for she hath been proud against the LORD, against the Holy One of Israel.*



THE LAMP



The churches in Rev 1:20 are represented by lamps; they hold the oil and the fire dispensing the light. A lamp is not light in itself, it is only the instrument of dispensing light, for it must receive both oil and fire before it can dispense any. So, the church must have in itself all components from Christ its head or it can dispense neither light nor life.

There are many churches that have excluded the charismata meaning the use of the power gifts of the Holy Spirit. Some say the charismata ended with the disciples, others say it is for a very few elite of faith, but Jesus said that ALL believers would have these power signs following them (Mk 16:16-18).

Jesus is the flame of the lamp, yet without the components the flame is not seen. The vessel is the church, the wick is the mighty witness and the oil is the Holy Spirit. The vessel holds the components: the wick lifts the oil by capillary attraction to feed the flame. Christ is the Light:

Matt 4:16 *The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.*

Luke 1:79 *To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

RESURRECTION

This is the Resurrection season, and as such I have been thinking about what that means. We think of Jesus literally raised from the dead, and that we will likewise raise into an eternal life, as Martha thought: "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." But Jesus answered, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

Jesus did not wait for "the last day" in some future era of THE END. Jesus put resurrection in the present. So is it more than life after death?

Looking at the definition brought a more

Luke 2:32 *A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.*

John 1:4-5 *In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

A vessel without its oil and its wick has no flame and is set as a decoration never to burn or light the way.

We remember the virgins who had lamps but no oil in the most crucial of times. We can also remember the disciples who walked the lonely Emmaus Road as the lamps without a wick as they remorsefully gave death her due rehearsing the finality of the crucifixion. Jesus entered the picture unnoticed and drew the oil by capillary attraction to feed the flame by reminding them of the prophetic words that He would rise. By the light of that flame their eyes saw what they had not recognized before and the flame reached their hearts as they cried out: **Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures** (Luke 24:32)

Is your heart on fire? Do you have the oil? Are you a wick to draw the oil to feed the flame? Without all the components we are in darkness. If you have a light do not cast it under a bushel; its flame will not last

keen awareness to me...look at this in the Hebrew translation: *an-as'-tas-is*: a *standing up* again, literally a *resurrection* from death, **or** figuratively a moral *recovery* of spiritual truth: - raised to life again.

To stand up is to **come up higher!** There is a difference in standing faith and sitting faith. Sitting faith does not mean you have none, but that you are too battle worn to stand...much less move forward. Those who are worn out tend to allow things to slide, since putting it right takes more effort than they feel willing to give. Therefore, they need a moral recovery of spiritual Truth again.

The church needs to resurrect from death into life and STAND UP. We all get winded toward the end of the race, but that

long tucked away. The flame needs to breathe. Expose the flame to the darkness around you.

We are to bear witness of the light as we read of John: **John 1:7-9** *The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*

When Jesus comes it will be in the blink of an eye: **...Surely I come quickly...** Rev 22:20 Jesus was not saying *when* He would come but *how* He would come. The bridegroom came so quickly and was gone with His bride before the others could account for their oil.

Even though many believe His coming will be soon, when He does it will be quick! There will be no time to prepare. Just as in Noah's day, the people were caught up in life and the door to the ark closed quickly no matter who had changed their minds after.

Get into a Spirit filled church, use the gifts given you, and lift the oil to feed the flame!

Joel 2:16 *Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.*

is when we need all the reserve we can get to push forward.

Heb 12:1-4 *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. 4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.*

(Continued p. 4)

RESURRECTION CONTINUED

You have not resisted unto blood refers in the general sense of this passage to say, “*You have not yet been called in your Christian struggles to the highest kind of sufferings and sacrifices as those martyred. Great as your trials may seem to have been your faith has not yet been put to the severest test. And since this is so, you ought not to yield in the conflict with evil, but manfully resist it.*” In the language used here there is undoubtedly a continuance of the allusion to the agonistic games or strugglings and wrestlings for mastery there. “*In those games, the boxers were accustomed to arm themselves for the fight with strong leathern thongs wound around the hands, and extending only to the wrist, to give greater solidity to the fist. Afterward these were made to extend to the elbow, and then to the shoulder, and finally, they sewed pieces of lead or iron in them that they might strike a heavier and more destructive blow. The consequence was, that those who were engaged in the fight were often covered with blood, and that resistance ‘unto blood’ showed a determined courage, and a purpose not to yield.*” But though the language here may be taken from this custom, the apostle is surely referring to **Luke 22:44** *And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

Jesus resisted unto blood and finished His mission on our behalf, so that if need be we could strive against sin unto that blood sacrifice. All we are required to do is stand...**Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet**

shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Eph 6:14-17

To fight the good fight of faith is to be in constant training. Get into a spirit filled church, but also invest in gathering together with believers (not doubters). Surround yourself with the likeminded in Christ so that when you feel weak you have a network of strength to support you to recovery. **Eccl 4:9-12** *Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? 12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

If you are gathered together with sitters there is little if any victory. From a sitting position it is nearly impossible to lift another to his feet. I will tell you the threefold cord consists of three willing to stand. It does not mean one of the three will not fall but that the other two will bind together to help hold the fallen bringing him to a stand.

Fighting the good fight does not mean correcting someone and pointing out their faults and shortcomings but speaking life and encouragement to them. Our words are prophetic because the Word says in **Prov 18:21**

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

James 3:6 *And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.*

The word in Hebrew for nature is **genesis** meaning *nativity or birth-ing...a beginning*. If you put **Prov 18:21** and **James 3:6** together it says that we have the power to birth either degeneration or regeneration by speaking it.

Resurrection was not given to one Son of man, but through Him we have all been quickened in our mortal bodies and by the same Spirit have resurrection life. Just as Jesus is no longer on the cross, we are no longer at the cross but resurrected with Him in higher places having crucified the flesh and risen to a renewed mind speaking life and not death.

To coin a phrase from four lepers, “Why sit we here until we die?” Though all ways looked like death, they took a chance to stand up and move forward. They knew a sitting position was sure death.

Will you take a chance and stand up. This is the season for it. You can do this you know. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. I know you know it. Now you just have to believe it and...

COME UP HIGHER!



am

UNDERSTANDING THE I AM...that I

I had a hard time forgiving until God forgave me. I was a harsh judge of others until God extended His mercy to me. I shook my head over the senseless mistakes of others until God allowed His Grace to cover mine. I did not even see my own wretchedness until God gave me His love.

I said all that to say that we are all only as good as the God we serve. If we believe that God is demanding, then we demand of others. If He is a hard task master, then we are driven to drive others.

You can safely assume that you have created God in your own image when it turns out that God has a problem with all the same people you do.

This is a harsh reality check. I came to the realization that God was not on my side simply because of what I felt. Often I stood opposite to Him. I had to be on His side to have an agreement with the God who made the uni-

verse. We all need to take a closer look at where we are standing with others.

I am not any more or less a wretched creature than you, my friend. We have all just taken for granted that our own "rightness" is also God's. It is now up to us to try to understand where God stands on each situation. We can think of what the worst person has done to us or our family from our viewpoint. God's viewpoint looked down from the cross saying these immortal words, "Forgive them for they know not what they do." What do we do with that? What is the argument that is greater than what Jesus said to those persecuting Him? They did it for ignorance, hatred, jealousy and some for just plain meanness. It should not only leave us speechless but knock us to our senses and shake loose our old patterns. "That's just the way I am," does not wash any longer. We need to better understand the I AM that I am. Time to get out the Windex and wipe the glass clear of the darkness from which we have been looking.

God is, after all, not made in our image but we in His. We read in the Old Testament how mankind carved idols that could neither see nor hear, yet we form a god through our own understanding which is a far cry from Jesus and expect him to be in agreement to our feelings and thoughts giving readiness to act on our behalf.

The more we study Jesus is the more we should study self to make the necessary adjustments, yet usually we study a situation and adjust God to our thinking. When God called Himself I AM THAT I AM, He was letting us know that He is resolutely adjusted to the eternal template in which we are called to conform and pattern. **Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

We do not need to adjust God but adjust our thinking to Jesus Words and actions. Our breathing should be in tune to the breath of God.

COMFORT FOOD

In all life's complications, I am a big believer in comfort food. I have been known to send food without any reason except to comfort someone who has been stressed, sick or to have people over just to sit, eat and enjoy. My Aunt Patsey, who imparted this to me at an early age, used to bless people with her cooking.

Although it may not be listed in the five-fold ministry, I am confident the Lord sees its ministry. It may come under Rom 12:9-13, which speaks of hospitality. Also see: 1Tim 3:2, Tit 1:8, 1 Pet 4:9 as seeing the importance of hospitality or giving comfort food and serving guests.

God blessed His children with comfort food in a wilderness situation calling it manna. Jesus carried on the tradition when He multiplied the fish and loaves for the mega meal that followed as well as changing water to wine for a wedding gift!

More than substantial food is the spiritual food brought no less by the Comforter, who is Holy, the Spirit of God.

It is when we need comfort the most that Holy, the Comforter, will bring these words to remembrance:

Psalms 9:9 *The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trou-*

ble.

Psalms 27:4-5 *One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.*

Psalms 46:1 *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

1 Peter 5:6-7 *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

Psalms 22:24 *For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.*

Psalms 56:8 *You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?*

Psalms 116:1-2 *I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.*

Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts*

of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Nahum 1:7 *The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.*

Feed upon the comfort of the Lord. There are no calories to count, heartburn or indigestion. No preservatives or additives are necessary for eternal promises holding the signet of God.

Isa 43:1-2 *...Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. 2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*

Ps 34:17-19 *The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. 18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.*

Thank you Holy, Spirit of God, who gives such comfort food for us to feast upon and be full.