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INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Dr. Peter D. Wyns Entry 8 - 10

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Nations, Rulers and God

As I write, 21 nations are experiencing radical Muslim protests against the USA and Israel. Embassies and consulates have been attacked and people have been killed. A new wave of prophetic words have flooded the digital highway. Some state that World War III has begun, others say that global devastation is here. Allow me to restate my words of January 2012, "Violence and catastrophes will increase, mostly around the Middle East, but the end is not coming this year." This is only part of the expected run-up to the book of Revelation. It is time, however, to see what God is doing. The Bible reveals details about the last days. It tells us what God will do, that His people will be protected, and that they will partner with Him. In this study, we will look at 7 biblical directives that will help us see things from God's perspective.

1. A Spiritual Attack Against Jesus

Psalm 2 begins with a question from God, "Why do the nations conspire and the people plot in vain?"

Immediately, God gives the answer, "The Kings of the earth take their stand ... against the Lord and against his Anointed One. 'Let us break their chains ... and throw off their fetters." Ps. 2:1-3

God's perspective is the accurate one. The reason the nations are conspiring and scheming is to shake loose from God and <u>His Anointed One</u> (which means Messiah, Jesus the Christ.) Anti-Christ demons, in the Muslim world, are fearful and angry with the end-time plans of the God. These spirits scream, "Get out of our Muslim nations. We do not want you here!" The same anti-Christ spirit is in the USA. I have seen atheists on TV shows, saying that they are being persecuted by Christians because Christians are promoting prayer,

the Ten Commandments and Christmas in the public square. Like radical Muslims, these atheists are demonically inspired to take their stand against the Lord and His Anointed. The attack is against Jesus.

2. The Lord Steps Forward with His Plans

Psalm 2 tells us God's response to this demon anger. "The one enthroned in heaven laughs ... scoffs ... rebukes ... and terrifies them in his wrath saying, "I have installed my King on Zion." Ps. 2:4-6

These verses will soon come to pass. Do you see that God is not on the defensive? He is starting to execute His end-time plan. He will rebuke and terrify nations and defend His people. He has installed Jesus as King on Mt. Zion and His choice is not negotiable. Psalm 2 also declares that Jesus is His Son, that the nations have been given to Him as an inheritance, that the ends of the earth are His, and that Jesus will rule with

a rod of iron. (See Psalm 2:7-9) This is God's plan. Following this 4-part declaration about the rule of Jesus, He gives a 6-part warning.

He says; 1. Be wise, 2. Be warned, 3. Serve God with fear, 4. Rejoice with trembling, 5. Kiss the Son, & 6. Know that His wrath can flare up in a moment. (See Psalm 2:10-12)

Finally, the Lord gives His people comfort. He says, "<u>Blessed are all</u> who take refuge in Him." Ps. 2:12

When God strikes the nations with wrath, He provides a refuge and protection for His people. When we read Isaiah, we discover more.

3. How God Sees the Nations

"The nations are as a drop in the bucket ... as dust on the scales ... Before Him all the nations are as nothing." Isa. 40:15,17

A drop in a bucket or dust on scales is insignificant, and the power of the nations is insignificant to God. Christians, however, fear the wrath of nations more than God.

4. How God Sees Rulers

"He brings Princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. No sooner are they planted ... no sooner do they take root ... than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away." Isa. 40:23-24

Christians fear ungodly rulers both here in America and abroad. God says these leaders will be reduced to nothing and be blown away by the wind. Christians fear ungodly rulers, but fail to fear the Lord. Some are fearful over the possible outcome of this next US election.

5. God will Empower His People

A few verses further in Isaiah 40, the Lord gives His perspective. He says, "Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God"? Do you not know? ... The Lord ... gives strength to the weary and increases power to the weak. ... those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isa. 40:27-31

Notice, to whom this promise is given to Jacob (Israel). No doubt, it is also for the Church and for you. In this chapter where God says that nations are a drop in the bucket and ungodly rulers will blow away in the wind, He says what He will do for us. He promises to give strength to the weary. We must see things from God's perspective. Hold on to faith, for God will empower us as He unfolds His plans.

6. God will Judge the Nations

The prophet Joel makes things clearer. "In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah ... I will gather all nations and bring them

down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. There <u>I</u> will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people Israel and divided up my land." Joel 3:1-2

This is the time when God restores the fortunes of Israel and gathers His people to their land. Soon, He will gather the nations to the valley of Armageddon for judgment.

7. God is a Refuge for His People

"Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes ... Multitudes in ... decision! For the day of the Lord is near ... the Lord will roar from Zion ... the sky will tremble. But the Lord will be a refuge for His people ... Judah will be inhabited forever ... Their bloodguilt, which I have not pardoned, I will pardon." Joel 3:13-21

The Lord tells us that; 1. The endtime battles are against His Christ. 2. That He is going on the offensive. 3. That the nations have no strength. 4. That wicked rulers will blow away in the wind. 5. That He will empower His people. 6. That He will judge the nations. and 7. That He is a refuge for His people.

Regardless of what happened during other seasons of history, this is a new day and God's end-time plan is afoot. He will begin to rule with a rod of iron, He will shelter you and use you as He judges the nations. $A\Omega$

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Christians for Messiah Ministries PO Box 36324, Rock Hill, South Carolina, 29732

ph: 803-324-0739 or 704-608-7793 e-mail: reachus@peterwyns.com www.peterwyns.org www.lifeatantioch.org Facebook