

# ESCAPING

the WRATH to Come



by  
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# Preface

The last thing a competent general will do in battle is order a subordinate leader to withdraw his troops from the fight. But when a general sees the enemy has gained a firm upper hand, and sees no purpose for keeping his troops engaged, he will order a withdrawal. Only blind folly expends valuable resources to try and take back what has been lost at great cost.

In the book of Revelation we see a time coming, when, for a season, God gives the world what it wants, a coming anti-christ to rule the world for seven years (Rev. 13:7). I find it grievous to think about. But, God, has clearly warned his people of this future time. While alarming, this should not catch any believer by surprise.

We have all experienced first hand how stubborn human nature is. Overcomers know how resistant most are to God's clear teachings. The Father sent his only son, Jesus, two thousand years ago to lay down His life for His sheep, and setting the stage for a spectacular future rescue plan that will trigger the winning of many souls to Christ through forced decisions for or against through (Daniel 8:23-25) an event called the rapture. Against a well entrenched enemy with superior natural combat power a tactical withdrawal will be ordered to accomplish the overall strategic objective.

George Washington, our first president, made a strategic withdraw under cover of darkness saving America's revolutionary army from certain defeat by the British. Regrouping at Valley Forge over the winter gave him time to grow stronger. Later he led his strengthened forces to victory. In the winter of 1950 in Korea near the Chinese-Korean border the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division was quickly surrounded by numerically superior Chinese forces. The Chinese

surprised America by their entrance into the Korean War. For three months the nation worried they had lost an entire Marine Division. Wisely General Smith, the division commander in the face of vastly superior forces and a harsh winter ordered an epic 127 mile withdraw of the forward elements of his 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division consolidating his forces in the rear. My father was the plans officer who wrote this historic withdrawal order in minus 55 degree weather. The general consolidated his defenses well to the rear and was able to help stop the advancing Chinese army.

Once again America is in a rapidly deteriorating combat situation having to do with end time biblical prophecy. Reformation and revival, the heart cry of the majority of the leadership of the American church, has failed and most are sound asleep spiritually. Repentance was the needed battle cry, but naive leaders instead called for revival. It is too late for the nation as God's judgment has begun and there is no turning back.

The wise are now preparing for a tactical withdrawal from a lost cause. Our forefathers fled from an anti-christ controlled Europe into the wilderness of America over 600 years ago. Their strategic withdrawal from that dark and lost continent gave God time to evangelize the world through a great missionary effort from the safer shores of America. Only a small remnant of believers escaped Europe where religious tyranny had a death grip on much of that dark land.

Now we see that same anti-christ spirit growing ever stronger in America and elsewhere around the world. Militant Islam is on the rise everywhere. Inside America we see growing moral decay and its resultant weakness. We are being ravished by the evil forces of pornography, sexual perversion, greed, alcoholism, drug abuse, illegal immigration, lawlessness, idol worship, pedophilia, liberalism and other godless, perverse forces from within. Satan has a death grip on increasing numbers in our major population

centers throughout America politically, economically, socially and also many of our religious communities.

Is it becoming futile to try to regain lost territories now in the increasingly firm grasp of the enemy? It seems that individual lives (souls) are of greatest importance. It seems to be time to prepare to tactically withdraw as did our forefathers when the trumpet is sounded. So, where will we escape to? Knowledgeable believers know this life is not about saving the world, but about saving lost souls.

We see that Christ is no longer being boldly preached from many of the famous pulpits of America. It is time to take to the highways and byways as did Christ in the last days of his public ministry.

History and the Bible amply demonstrate that physical flight is sometimes necessary for survival. Are things so bad for you that you would welcome the trumpet sounding retreat? Does this seem to you to be the only logical solution to the growing tribulation you see worldwide and increasingly around you? Is the restrainer about to be lifted? (2 Thes. 2:7)

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# 1

## the need for discerning of spirits

There are those in Christ who are mature believers. They are responsible ones who stay accountable to their Lord, accepting responsibility for their actions, making good decisions in spite of these difficult times where many now compromise their faith for the sake of convenience. Mature believers study the scriptures daily following a heartfelt conversion. They are quick to repent and seek diligently to please their Lord. For them religion is not just a choice to have some fire insurance in case of death, but a life long relationship with God.

Looking back over my life, I see I have grown in wisdom and understanding over the years since my adult spiritual transformation in 1978 when I first really understood what complete surrender meant.

No longer am I naïve, simple and immature in my faith as I once was. I can say I have sincerely surrendered to Christ and now am an overcomer in life. I see myself as a functional adult with the help of the Holy Spirit. Satan is increasingly less able to trip me up as he often did at the very beginning of my conscious walk with the Lord.

Looking around our culture and at this often troubling, daily environment we live in, I clearly see the growing darkness

surrounding us. I am deeply saddened so many I love and care about aren't seeing what I see.

The Bible clearly lays the blame for this awful state of our generation at the feet of the church. It alone has been given the supernatural power necessary to stand against our supernatural enemies. It has largely failed to use this power.

The institutional church with few exceptions is fast asleep. It looks like the predicted apostasy and deception to me. Jesus in Revelation 3: 14-20 describes this sleeping Laodician Church to a tee.

*“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen; the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God. I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold or hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thy eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent.”*

American Christendom generally has lost its God given ability to influence the larger culture surrounding it for good. Many Christians are hardly distinguishable from the unbelievers that surround them. I marvel at the times we live in. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ must be very near.

In these times the gift of discerning of spirits (I Cor. 2:14, 12:10) is vital for personal survival. We all live in a dangerous combat

environment influenced by invisible demons. Daily I am appalled as I see the obvious lack of this vital gift of discernment influential leaders fail to exhibit, revealing their spiritual ignorance in their public statements. (Ecc 8:5, Matt. 16:3, Luke 12:56)

The enemy is not only at the door of our nation, but inside, and laying the institutional church to waste. Lack of discernment is widespread. Who sees the damage being done? Not many! There is almost no understanding of what to do among those who should have spiritual eyes to see.

The healing power of God is largely missing from our midst. The crying need of the day is deliverance: the ability to cast out demons, and teach those who become free to keep them out. Few do deliverance. Fewer still see deliverance as a necessary life (combat) skill to have and employ. Most are overcome, and don't even know it. So how can such people ever believe in a coming rapture or that Jesus is coming again very soon?

This nation is in the final stages of judgment. What do those who see this clearly, do when so few will listen to the truth having no discernment?

# 2

## a table

### in the presence of our enemy

In these growing times of evil it is important to know with absolute certainty that those who are truly born again can still live victoriously in Christ. God sees His children as overcomers. But to be an overcomer we must pick up the supernatural tools we have been given and use them.

Scripture says: *“the Lord has prepared a table for us in the midst of our enemies.”* (Ps. 23: 5) But we need to come to the table. The first chapter made the point that spiritual discernment is essential so that we can know when to stand and fight and when to flee the scene. Sometimes we are to fight like a lion. Other times we will need to flee like a bird, seeing that others have let us down by not doing what they were supposed to do.

Know that whether we are on the run or making a stand, as long as we are hearing the voice of the Lord, and acting on His command things will turn out all right. We must learn to act in faith, not in hope or presumption.

We can have the mind of Christ in a matter by seeking his will, and waiting to hear his voice, and then acting in His timing. His ways are higher than our ways. (Jer. 33:3) His ways are how we will stay one step ahead of our enemies in these *“last days”* before the rapture of the church.

It is critical to stay in His written Word. This is how we become battle tough. At times we will be given a new word from God. When this happens our personal situation will soon be anything but routine.

There are days, months, even years when things are very normal; nothing much out of the ordinary. Then there are those times when nothing is routine, and we wonder will things ever return to normal again. It is in such times that we find ourselves in very unfamiliar territory.

It is smart to get in the habit during routine times of always employing God's help, guidance, and protection as a matter of daily routine. That way we will always have the "armor of God" on (Ephesians 6:11-18) when disaster strikes. By staying dependent on God we will be equipped to go it alone with the Lord when people we have counted on let us down.

There are times when the need for His Divine Help becomes overwhelmingly obvious. At other times the alarm bells may not be going off, and we can relax a bit. But even in those times it is wise to be "*sober and vigilant*" as we live in a combat zone until we depart this life.

The written Word comforts us with this fact: "*He daily downloads us with benefits.*" (Ps. 68:19; 103:2-6) Too often however those with little or no discernment miss out on these very certain daily benefits. They overlook them, not expecting them. Expectation is important. Also important is an attitude of "*thanksgiving toward God for His loving kindness.*"

God's Word (Hosea 4:6) says: "*My people perish for lack of knowledge.*" This is so sad. Too many are simple minded yet the book of Proverbs warns us not to take things for granted or trust those who are not to be trusted.

One must study to become very familiar with Biblical promises such as in Psalm 91 so they can walk in the peace of God when things and people around them are spinning wildly out of control.

*“The Lord is the strength of my life, so whom should I be afraid of?”*

Psalm 27:1

*“My God supplies all my needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”*

Philippians 4:19

*“I overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of my testimony.”*

Revelation 12:11

*“Declare a matter and I will establish it.”*

Job 22:29

*“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.”*

Luke 10:19

*“The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.”*

Deuteronomy 28:7

# 3

## Is it ever honorable to withdraw from a fight?

It seems that we are heading into a constitutional crisis similar to that at the founding of this nation and during the Great Civil War. Americans are increasingly at odds with each other.

It has not been the American way to run from a fight. Many consider turning from a fight to be a cowardly act. For much of my life my personal view has been that “the best defense is a good offense.” I have done what I could within my means to get involved politically and spiritually to try and make a difference.

There is a word that has not really been a part of my lifestyle and vocabulary. Look briefly at the tapestry of this word I want to discuss. It is the word: “*flee*.” It weaves in a quite interesting way through scripture. Interestingly I find this word used more often in the Bible than words such as stand, and fight.

Personally, I needed a more Godly perspective on this important dilemma of whether to fight or whether to flee as we are approaching times when we will all be confronted with personal challenges that will be almost unbelievable in light of our past lives and challenges.

I hope these personal reflections might be a help to others in the difficult times we will face in the future.

Biblical history reveals that wise and Godly men have had to flee certain situations that just became too overwhelming to stay in. Today in many parts of the world prudence and wisdom are telling Christians in distant lands that they must flee their homes and businesses to save their lives. This is certainly true right now in the nation of Iraq where we are making a significant investment of our national resources. You must have seen the recent news stories about Christians having to flee the country. This is very sad as America, still has a lot of Christians and we have befriended this country at considerable expense and sacrifice.

Could Americans physically turn on other Americans in bloody confrontations, as are now going on in Iraq and elsewhere? We have befriended so many countries. What has kept our differences civil unto now as been the “*restraining influence of God*” because we have been a Christian nation that looked to and worshipped the only true God and His son, Jesus Christ. But now we see collapsing morals all around us? The enemy within has greatly weakened us.

Recently in Yakima, Washington a friend and I talked to a thirty year old man at McDonald’s while drinking coffee. He had spent six years as a Marine. He had a Marine emblem on his civilian shirt pocket which initiated our conversation with him. We learned he had been born and raised in Los Angeles in the toughest section of that great city. He had just returned from visiting his family and friends where he had planned to stay two weeks. He told us he couldn’t stand the violence and lack of peace in his old neighborhood. Cutting short his family visit he returned to Yakima after only two days there.

He said it was bad growing up there. But now it is unbelievably worse. He said the gangs run Los Angeles. Many police are on

their payrolls. He was a hispanic-American who had proudly served his country and was a hard working businessman. This was so sad to hear about the deteriorating situation in LA.

Are the trends that are developing in your locale or personal situation becoming so negative that your particular situation is increasingly out of control?

Answers to such questions are not always readily apparent. Sometimes things have to get really bad before people wake up to the existing reality and start to implement necessary personal change. Sometimes by the time they wake up, it's too late. Some never do wake up.

There is a point beyond which a situation becomes non-redeemable. Judgment has started in many families, communities and cities in America. The present need for deliverance has been apparent to me for a long time, but few who are in bondage to demons want help. Many have lost control of their lives and situations, are bound up tightly, and stubbornly refuse spiritual help.

## **Are matters out of control?**

No matter how bad a situation is, God could have you there to work through you to win souls to the Lord. You may be a nobody in the eyes of many. But if you are a person of prayer, and intercede as God lays matters on your heart, you are more important than you will ever know this side of heaven.

On the other hand if you have lost the will to fight spiritually and intellectually; if you no longer have a burden to pray and voice your opinions; than maybe a change of locations is what you need to gain a fresh perspective on life. We need to retain

our excitement about life, or we become one of the growing number of walking wounded and dead who have lost all hope.

Most of us don't have a lot of control over our circumstances in life. But all of us should still have absolute control over our attitudes. God hates "murmuring" and "complaining." When you have lost your ability to fight, or see that it is a lost cause because of the quality of leadership around you, then it could be time to withdraw.

# 4

## is it time to flee?

This tactic of fleeing is used seven times more frequently in the Old Testament than in the New. An easy answer for why this is so, would be that we have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (the biblical Restrainer mentioned in 2 Thes. 2:7) as “born again” believers. Old Testament believers didn’t have this privilege.

This is a huge privilege we have and gives us a tactical advantage over our supernatural enemy if we will only use it.

Right away in the New Testament we see God telling Joseph through an angel in a dream to flee Herod’s wrath to protect his wife, Mary, and their new baby boy. This occurred thirty years before the public ministry of Jesus officially began when he turned thirty years old. At that time he was old enough to be a Rabbi, and he began to demonstrate the power of God in the face of all the hosts of hell in the power of the Holy Ghost after receiving this baptism at the River Jordon. Here he demonstrated that believers don’t have to flee Satan’s power. But they do need to hear clearly from our Father in Heaven so they can act in His Will.

At the end of Jesus three and a half years of public ministry where he continually demonstrated the power we all have to overcome Satan when we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit

by remaining “in Christ,” He willingly laid down his life for the sake of our eternal salvation through His Death on the Cross. No one took His Life from Him. He willingly gave it up for our sakes.

The Bible says a time is coming for believers where this tactic of fleeing will again be necessary for individual survival in the mostly anti-christ controlled areas of the world. Why? Because God says He plans to remove the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit. (2 Thes. 2:7)

I believe there will be angelically protected areas during the Tribulation. Why do I believe this? Because He did so for His people of old, and so I believe it is a shadow of things to come after the Restraint is removed, and Israel and her enemies are once more on center stage.

There were cities of refuge in Old Testament times. God clearly tells us He will remove His Restraining Influence, (II Thes 2:7) So, things clearly revert back to the way they were at the time of Jesus first coming.

## Who's in charge?

Back in the beginning God put Adam (man) in charge over God's creation here on earth. Satan talked Adam out of the dominion given by God. It's the same today. Many in the community of the faithful are talked out of blessings promised in the Bible that God has ordained his church to walk in. We know God is coming back soon. He will take back complete dominion at the time of His Second Coming to this earth.

Until that day Jesus demonstrated at his first coming how to walk in power in the Holy Ghost. The last 2,000 years of the church we

have seen Satan often tighten his grip over vast areas of the world using lies, deceit, fear, and trickery. Today masses of people are totally ignorant of the promises of God. Most inside Christian communities worldwide are not overcomers. They don't walk in victory though the Bible clearly tells us we can and should be doing so. Most of us are sheep who have gone astray.

What is the present situation? We have been given dominion on this earth through the Word of God. Jesus powerfully demonstrated this ability we have in the power of the Holy Spirit. But we must learn how to walk in the promises of God. I see very few Christians today who seem to be in charge of their destiny. Satan, the thief, has taken charge over most lives. He is stealing the inheritance of many on earth in this final generation.

## the last 2,000 years

In the last 2,000 years we have seen awful travesties. The "*dark ages in Europe,*" where for a thousand years so called Christians killed other Christians in the Name of Christ. In various periods and places the sinful nature of man has reigned supreme in spite of the fact that Christians lived and still live in these communities. As a people we have vividly demonstrated as did the Jews before us that human nature, not surrendered fully to God, will go from bad to worse. This was the case when the people of God rejected Jesus at his first coming. It is what is happening again just prior to his Second Coming. We are repeating the prevailing blindness at His first coming.

## given so much more

We have been given so much more than the Jews who were of course given so much more than the people around them in their time. They had promises and certainly awesome divine

demonstrations of God's Power. Also they were given the apostles and disciples after the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. Get a hold of and learn to walk in this awesome divine power as did the early disciples of Jesus.

We have been given the fulfillment of all the promises in the form of Jesus Christ and his indwelling Holy Spirit. Yet most have failed miserably as a people to grab a hold of what we have been given. For the most part we are only a shell of what God envisioned for us when He gave us the gift of His Only Begotten Son.

During the apostolic age we saw the demonstration of God's power. A generation of believers walked as "*overcomers*" to the point that they were accused of turning the world upside down. The enemy had to flee wherever believers stood on the promises of God in faith.

God has given us earth changing promises. When a believer gets a hold of a promise of God for a particular situation it is the enemy that has to flee, not the believer.

God promises that if we believe he will fight for us. We won't have to flee; the enemy will. In the Old Testament few believers had a personal relationship with the Living God. In the New Testament a remnant of believers in every generation have this personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ and walk in the power of the Holy Ghost. Most of us have heard the stories of a few Saints that walked increasingly in the glory of God.

In the Old Testament Satan had a level of power unavailable to him in the New Testament age. He took whole populations to hell. Because of the initial work of Jesus Christ here on earth we are given a chance they never seemingly had.

## lost the understanding

Many present day believers have no “*understanding*” of who they are in Jesus Christ. In these last days, many who say they are in Christ have no idea of the spiritual power available to them. They live in weakness through the lies, bad preaching, sin, fear, and deceit of enemies within, wolves in sheep’s clothing. We often suffer in the physical realm and sometimes have to flee physically because of other’s actions. We would not have to take some actions that are necessary if others knew and believed God’s Word.

Our God is a faith God. He responds to our faith when we believe what He promises he will do for us. If our faith is weak his response to our prayers is weakened. Where our faith is strong, his response to our prayers grows strong. We are in the days when some will do mighty exploits. But the majority will be subject to the “*wiles*” of the devil because of their prevailing fear, doubt and unbelief.

In the Old Testament the people of God were mostly ruled by their physical eyes and ears. They did not walk by faith but reacted based on what their natural senses were telling them.

In the New Testament we have the example of those who have overcome by following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Such do mighty exploits to the glory of God.

Psalm 11:3 says “*When the foundations are fallen what can the righteous do?*” Instead of subduing the culture of our times the American church has given itself over to the culture, and it is

now hard to tell a believer from a nice pagan. Many leaders have given their local dominion to the anti-christ spirit. Where such is the case it makes sense to leave. Have you thought of relocating to an area where God still reigns? Certainly such places are growing fewer as his church grows in fear and unbelief.

Is it time to prepare for the rapture? Will you go when the trumpet sounds? You can know whether or not you will go by studying and acting on Hebrews 9:28

# 5

## an end time command

In the book of Revelation, Daniel and in other Old Testament books we see unfulfilled end time prophecies. In the time of the end, scripture verses tell us it will get rough for the saints. Yet not many of the saints know this as the seeker friendly, politically correct leaders are telling us otherwise with respect to the future.

Yet we read of an increasing number of “*beheadings*” of believers in the secular news as is clearly foretold in the Book of Revelation. Such things were never heard of when I was a boy. Events are now coming to pass to test what we really believe. Who will we place our faith in when a real test comes? Many today in the church are lukewarm and will not take a stand for Christ. In the near future scripture tells us that all who dwell on the earth (minus those who are promised protection: (Rev 3:10) will be forced to take a stand choosing: life or death.

Saints in lands controlled by religions such as “*Islam*” are fleeing for their lives to avoid martyrdom. Will this word, “*flee*,” soon have major significance for those of us who live in America? Conservative theologians tell us we live in the last generation, and will see the return of Jesus Christ in our lifetime

to take back control of this earth from Satan, the present god of this world who is out to *“kill, steal, and destroy.”*

We are given a very specific end time command in God’s Word. We are warned to prepare for what is coming. Are you prepared for what is coming? When God gives the signal He has promised to give, will you even hear it, and if you do, will you know what you are hearing, and be able to act upon it?

What is the command we are to expect? Should we be training ourselves to respond to it when it is sounded? Children who ride a school bus are trained for emergencies. An emergency is coming. Are you trained and ready to respond appropriately?

*“Behold I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trump shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in Victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”*

I Corinthians 15: 51-55

Will you hear the trumpet when it sounds? It will sound very soon. There is a way to be sure we will be ready for that certain sound.

Satan is the god of this world. So he controls the systems of this world. We need to be sure we have been *“translated from darkness into the Kingdom of light.”* Revelation 18:4 tells us *“to come out of her my people so you won’t partake in her judgments.”*

How does a believer come out? I have learned it is a process based on a decision and takes time. We must be sure we are surrendered to Christ, and that we are under the control of the Holy Spirit. If the world has a hold on us, like Lot's wife, we will turn back and lose out on our "*blessed hope*." Jesus said the trumpet would be sounded in days like were experienced by Noah and by Lot. Be ready. These are such days.

# 6

## is Wisdom telling you to flee?

Could believers living in the strongly secular areas of America be hearing this word “*flee*” in their spirits right now? Could the act of fleeing soon save your life in the increasingly anti-christ controlled times we are now facing? If you have never fled a situation that is not of God, how can you be sure you are practiced and will do so when it will make an eternal difference?

Now is the time to be thinking about preparing to make the right decision for the crisis that is coming. Are you the type of person who rarely ever has had to back down during unpleasant times usually prevailing by strength of character and endurance? Maybe your honesty and strength of character is exemplary and you have led a blessed life. Or, maybe you are someone who is facing a severe personal challenge right now, and there is no good solution? You feel you are in the frying pan and are about to be thrown into the fire.

From the news it appears we are increasingly in a season where the words of Psalm 91: 7 will make increasing sense: “*a thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh you.*”

Societal changes are happening right now in America that are throwing great numbers of people critically off balance. Changing laws in many western nations are unfair to the productive workers who have been the strength of their economies. Leaders are now skewing favor toward the least productive, who mostly have not earned their way. I am not talking here of the truly disadvantaged who need our help and mercy.

Here in America we are the capitalist engine that pulls along many socialist nations throughout the world. The laws of this once great nation are being revised so they are no longer based on Bible truths.

Poverty is creeping upward as savings are usurped and wiped out by corrupt government for the seeming sake of the “*have nots*” and the elite who control them. This is socialism (communism).

Hard work, honesty, basic fairness and biblical morality are being discarded and are no longer the values of society’s elite. Right now appears wrong and wrong right. Liars and cheats increasingly are in high places. It seems that even amongst the masses honesty is no longer valued by a growing number of individual Americans.

So in an environment where you once felt safe and believed that you had a place, you are now increasingly feeling displaced. So what to do! Do you have an option besides staying the course?

I learned through sports, a study of history, and my experience as a United States Marine that “*the best defense is a good offense.*” But there are times in sports when you are out numbered and it is best to back off. Looking at past history we learn that flight is sometimes the best strategy for life where evil

has gained the upper hand. Certainly my Marine Corps tactical experience as a combat tested Marine has taught me to look at every situation realistically in light of the balance of power.

With certainty, no matter one's past experience and talent, I can say there is a time to withdraw or even run from a situation. We here in America in my generation (born in 1939) have not been in such a precarious set of circumstances as I am seeing today. Many Americans are coping with a growing set of doubts and fears and don't know which way to turn.

But there is always a way to turn when things begin to look hopeless; towards God. The first half of my life, I saw the "*wrong way*" though I thought it was the right way. (Proverbs 14:12) What do I mean? I looked at circumstances mainly from the natural standpoint meaning that I rarely saw or heard things with "spiritual eyes and ears." Therefore while I thought I had faith to endure in tough times, in fact, I didn't have a clue as to what spiritual faith really was all about. I depended on others for my biblical truth such as pastors, and had never taken time to study the Bible for myself. So I didn't have a true biblical faith though I did believe in Jesus Christ.

God has foretold the tough times believers in America are now beginning to experience. And He has designed a way out and through these difficulties, a biblical way out, but you must study it out for yourself before you will gain the confidence we all will need in these trying times.

# 7

## biblical examples of fleeing

### **Moses had to flee**

God used Moses to save his people. When God saves someone he often uses one who has to go through many trials and difficulties to be prepared for an important future work. Moses was a favored son of Egypt. So he had to be put in a position where he was forced to run and hid so God could chisel away his pride and any future reliance on his Egyptian education and upbringing in the household of Pharaoh before He could use him as a Hebrew deliverer. If you are a believer and have been going through unbelievable trials and rejections, be encouraged. It may be God's test before He uses you in a mighty way as He did Moses.

## **Jacob also ran**

One of God's names for himself is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob is one of the three original fathers of our faith. Jacob knew his Uncle Laban was too strong for him, and would never let him go peacefully after he had fulfilled his promise. So Jacob chose to flee while Laban was preoccupied elsewhere. Only after he came out from under the ungodly leadership of his Uncle Laban could Jacob be free to serve God and prosper.

## **David fled for his life**

David was mighty and fearless in battle. He killed Goliath while a teenager because of his faith in God. Yet he also had to spend years in hiding, fleeing from the King he faithfully tried to serve after he was anointed by the Prophet Samuel. King Saul who he served faithfully unfairly wanted to kill him because of jealousy.

During this time of being on the run other hunted men rallied to his side. They became mighty in valor, and were later willing to die for David because of the strong bonds of fellowship developed during years of survival in the wilderness. Though innocent of the charges against him and capable of killing the King, he chose to flee giving God time to work things out naturally.

## **Joseph and Mary also flee to protect the child**

We see this pattern of fleeing wrath early on in the New Testament. As in the Old Testament with Moses, Jacob, David and other men of God, we see an angel of the Lord tell Joseph and Mary to flee to Egypt to preserve the life of Jesus.

Because of the weakness of God's people during this time of Jesus' birth and early childhood years, until Jesus came of age (thirty) God chose to protect him through flight until He was baptized in the Holy Ghost in the river Jordon through the hand of the forerunner, John the Baptist, whose entire ministry lasted just six months.

God then drove Jesus into the Wilderness for forty days to be tempted of the devil. His character was proved through difficult adversity. He came forth in power never before seen working through a man. Until the appointed time God kept Jesus in hiding, as he does for all he will use in a mighty way.

Are you being kept in hiding for God's future divine purposes? Have you experienced the hand of the Lord's chastening as He develops you for a future divine work? It is never easy when God works on your character through people, tests and trials.

# 8

## you want to fight, but....

One of America's favorite pastimes is football. George Patton, a famous WWII fighting general, once commented that the sport of football was the very best individual training for combat for it developed courage in men. A pet phrase of many football coaches is: "*the best defense is a good offense.*"

The preferred tactic of generals and admirals, everything else being equal, is to force defeat on your enemy by forcing him to fight.

This is not always so in the Lord's army. Everything you have learned through this present world about fighting, God may have to undo as was the case with his servant Moses. Moses was trained from childhood to lead the army of Egypt. Before God can use you he probably has to reprogram you to develop the "*mind of Christ.*" In God's way of thinking, "when you are weak, He can become strong" because then you are more likely to look to Him. God's ways are not our ways. He might make sure that you won't be able to take the credit if He is going to use you in a divine way. This is for your own protection. It is human nature to want to take the credit for success, and to get puffed up when we accomplish something for God.

We have all seen God pull someone out of a situation where he or she was doing well and on top of things through natural strength, favor and talent only to unexplainably go through hard times before being used in a powerful way sometime later in the future. At that point there was no mistake who was doing what, as they were gladly giving God the credit, not taking it themselves.

Yet today in most of Christendom's organizations we see they were started by a man doing Godly works in the Name of God. What do we see? Like the man made institutions of the world, the American church is into talking about their great pastor, or wonderful building and programs. Bigger is better. And the use of natural power is what gets most things done inside today's church as the members look to their own strength, not the supernatural power of God.

The church in America is patterned after the successful secular establishments in the natural realm. They are on the attack for God through the use of programs and plans that have replaced God's ways. Today's church CEOs make policies and lead like those who run our Fortune 500 companies; in the flesh.

Many Christians when confronting a problem almost automatically go into a fight mode to solve the conflict. There is another strategy the Bible demonstrates called fleeing the situation. But it is not an option some ever consider when in conflict.

Sometimes fleeing is the only wise option one should consider. There is a coming seven year tribulation period when the Holy Spirit will no longer reside within people on the earth having been withdrawn by God (2 Thes. 2:7). During this period a believer who takes a stand and fights will be overcome by the anti-Christ who is given power by God to test the Lukewarm Church, and all the peoples of the world will be given a choice of taking the mark or fleeing the wrath to come.

A few will make it all the way through the tribulation and will be used by God to repopulate the earth during the Millinium period that lasts 1,000 years.

At the start of the Tribulation period God will withdraw from this earth His Bride. The rest of humanity will go through a severe testing period to see what eternity they choose.

# 9

## seven times more

The Word “flee” is found seven times more often in the Old Testament than in the New? Why is this so? Probably because the Holy Spirit did not dwell inside Old Testament believers as He does in those who are “born again” by the Spirit of God.

The believers before Christ had the Law and the Prophets. When they obeyed God’s laws and listened to God’s prophets they were blessed and when they turned away to other gods they came under a curse. (Deuteronomy 28) The history in the Old Testament shows that God’s people were more unfaithful than faithful and that they lived under more bad leaders than good.

Because the people were so dependent on their leaders in the days of old God sent His Only Son, Jesus Christ, not only to save us from our sins, but to give each and every one of us the great privilege that no one in the Old Testament had of having the Holy Spirit live on the inside of those who desired to be “*born again*” from above. (John 3:3)

Now in this dispensation that we see coming to a close the Kingdom of Heaven is on the inside of the “*children of God.*” So we have great power available to us to stand against the wiles of the devil if we will only use it.

Scripture tells us of this power very plainly:

Revelation 12:11 *“We overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony...”*

So what is our testimony?

Proverbs 6:2 says: *“We are snared by the words that come out of our mouth.”* And Proverbs 4:20 says: *“Life and death are in the power of the tongue.”*

So, we need to take care that the right words come out of our mouth, God’s words.

1 John 4:4 says tells us that the Greater one lives on the inside of us, and that we need not be afraid

*“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”*

We have great power in the words we speak:

Luke 10: 19 tells us: *“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.”*

The only question is: Will we believe it?

Those who do are truly overcomers in this life as well as in the next.

We haven’t seen the kinds of miracles that Moses saw in his day like the parting of the Red Sea to help him to lead God’s people to freedom from bondage, because in our day God has given us a Restrainer to keep that kind of evil in check if we will only use it. But soon he will remove this Restrainer and things will

return to the way they were before the first coming of Jesus Christ for a seven year period to test those on the earth. We see this in II Thesalonians 2:7

The effect of this removal will be that for a season God will give the power for the Anti-Christ to overcome the world and He will impose the "*mark of the beast*" and no one will be able to buy or sale except those who take the mark.

And the only thing that believers in that terrible day will be able to do is flee the wrath to come.

# 10

## the Great Escape

God warned Joseph in a dream to flee to save the life of Jesus. He was a child and would have surely been murdered by Herod except for the alertness of Joseph who acted on the prophetic warning dream he received. All the other children age two and under in that village died. Their parents either were not able to discern the warning of God to act or ignored the warning.

God will use the rapture (another word for flee) to remove his bride from this earth prior to the great and terrible Day of the Lord's judgment. For much of the church the rapture is a controversial subject. But it should not be so. There are many scriptures that directly talk about this coming way God will rescue those He loves who are looking to Him for help

Yet few that I know are looking for His Coming. My wife and I feel almost alone in this regard. After this rapture which I believe is imminent, things are quickly set in motion, leading to a seven year count down to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to set up His One Thousand year Kingdom before we go into eternity.

We who are looking for the rapture of the bride believe scripture tells us our King will come for us with a blast of a Trumpet and the call of our name. No amount of scoffing at this belief will deter us from this "*blessed hope.*"

*“God has granted to us precious and exceeding great promises.”*  
(II Peter 1:4). But we need to apply them or He will not act on our behalf. Let us look at some of the scriptures upon which we base our hope and wait in faith for the Great Escape.

*“Let not your heart be troubled; ye 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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am you will be also.”*

*John 14:1-3*

*“Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.”*

*Titus 2:13*

*“For the Lord himself shall, descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”*

*I Thessalonians 4:16-17*

*“Behold I show you a mystery, we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”*

*I Corinthians 15:51-52*

*“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away (Greek word: “departure”) first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.”*

*II Thessalonians 2:3*

*“Then shall two be in the field, the one shall be taken and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.”*

*Matthew 24:40-41*

*“Only He who now letteth (restrainth) will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall the wicked be revealed.”*

*II Thessalonians 2:7-8*

*“...who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son.”*

*Colossians 1:13*

*“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear, the second time without sin unto salvation.”*

*Hebrews 9:28*

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.”*

*John 5:25*

*“But ye brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.”*

*I Thessalonians 5:4*

*“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*I Thessalonians 5:9*

*“In such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh.”*

*Matthew 24:44*

*“Watch ye therefore and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the son of man.”*

*Luke 21:36*

*“And then when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth night.”*

*Luke 21:28*

*“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

*Hebrews 11:1*

*“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

*Hebrews 11:6*

*“But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”*

*II Timothy 1:10*

*“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death, and he was not, for God has translated him. And before his translation he has this testimony that he pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him.”*

*Hebrews 11:5*

*“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”*

*Colossians 3:2*

*“When Christ, who is our life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with him be manifested in glory.”*

*Colossians 3:4*

*“Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”*

*Mark 8:38*

*“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”*

*I Peter 4:7*

*“And saying, where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.”*

*II Peter 3:4*

*“And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.”*

*Luke 21:34*

*“And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose. And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.”*

*Matthew 27:52-53\**

*\* (1<sup>st</sup> fruits rapture of the dead)*

*“Behold I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.”*

*Revelation 3:11*

*“After this I looked and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were a trumpet talking with*

*me, which said, Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter.”*

*Revelation 4:1*

*“The manchild that shall rule all nations with a rod of iron...and her child was caught up unto God and to his throne.”*

*Revelation 12:5*

*“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him; for the marriage of the lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.”*

*Revelation 19:7*

*“And for this cause, God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.” \**

*II Thessalonians 2:11*

\* (many reject the rapture based on the verse “no man shall know the day or hour.” Not researching to find that Greek word for know actually means Know with difficulty, so they are blind to what these new testament verses above and the old testament verses that follow are actually saying)

*“Help, Lord, for the godly are no more; the faithful have vanished from among men.”*

*Psalm 12:1*

*“Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.*

*Psalm 34:19*

*“In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion. Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thy ear unto me and save me.”*

*Psalm 71:1-2*

*“Blessed be the Lord, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth.”*

*Psalm 124:6*

*“Let the wicked fall into their own nets whilst that I withal escape.”*

*Psalm 141:10*

*“Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.”*

*Proverbs 8:34*

*“For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hid me, he shall set me upon a rock.”*

*Proverbs 27:5*

*“Hear the word of the Lord, ye that tremble at his word, your brother that hated you, that caste you out for my name’s sake, said, let the Lord be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.”*

*Isaiah 66:5*

*“Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it, it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.”*

*Jeremiah 30:7*

*“But if you seek me diligently I will put my spirit within you.”*

*Ezekiel 36:27*

*“I will ransom them from the power of the grave I will redeem them from death: O Death, I will be thy plagues; O Grave I will be thy destruction.”*

*Hosea 13:14*

*“I am like the one who gathers fruits, the Godly have been taken away, not one upright man remains.”*

*Micah 7:1-2*

These are not all the scriptures that foretell the rapture. There is also the study of the Jewish wedding feasts which is a type of the coming rapture when the King of Kings comes for his waiting bride, but these above do show the promise that many reject or discount.

# 11

## when it makes sense to flee

Soldiers are trained to stand and fight in difficult circumstances. Fleeing the battle is usually thought of as a cowardly act. But there are times when it is wise to flee. Certainly if you are in the right and looking to Him, God will usually stand with you when you determine not to run. But this is not always the case as we have seen in earlier chapters of this book.

There are situations when God himself tells us to flee. In the present dispensation, the Age of Grace, those who are born again from above have the greater one living within them, and so stand in the power of God's name in obedience to His Word and see victory in the face of what looks like certain defeat. But this Age of the Gentiles is coming to an end. For a short season before the start of the Millennium Reign the focus will be back on natural Israel with the sealing of the 144,000 Jews, twelve thousand from each tribe. The church will no longer be God's focus here on earth.

The coming Rapture of the bride of Christ will initiate the seven years of Tribulation prophesized in the Bible ending with what the Bible calls the Day of the Lord, Armageddon and the Second Coming.

The Book of Revelation starkly tells us about this coming time. One of the things it tells us is that *"the saints will be overcome."*

For a season Satan will be given terrible power, All those who are on the earth will be tested to see where each man's loyalty lies: with God or with Satan.

In the natural realm those who don't flee to a safe haven will be killed or forced to take the mark of the beast without which no man will be able to buy or sell. This tells us the whole world will be under the sway of the anti-christ.

In old testament days we see established what are referred to as "*cities of refuge*" where an innocent person who was accused falsely could flee for protection and get a fair hearing. Could there be during this terrible time of judgment areas of the world where Satan will have more control and a few areas where he will have less control? Certainly we see where God uses angels to communicate the gospel as men will be killed who share *the "good news."* So maybe there will be some angelically protected areas where demons won't have control since God will need some righteous people to make it through this difficult period in order to repopulate the earth during the coming one thousand year Millenium Reign. God says He has to return "*less no flesh remain.*" That indicates how bad this time will get.

The only really safe place will be in Heaven during this time of testing. **Revelation 3:10** is one of the great promises of God that those who look to Him won't be going through this difficult time.

*"Because thou has kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of trial that will come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth."*

In the natural realm God will have to move his saints in order to bless them and use them in a mighty way during this time the whole world is in "*the valley of decision.*" *Why? Because the whole world will be a killing zone for the anti-christ spirits*

*according to scripture. The only protection will be “under the shadow of His wings.” (Psalm 91) We see that things will be so bad in Jerusalem that those who want to live will have to flee to a “place prepared in the wilderness.” (Many think this is the ancient fortress city of Petra in what is now Jordan. (Rev. 12:6)*

If he has such a place prepared for Israel than maybe there will be a few places prepared on other continents for those who come to Christ during this great trial of the soul where the double minded will have to make a **for or against** decision. But the Bible is clear that most will be killed for their faith.

Those who want to survive should be looking only to the Lord, and must clearly hear His Voice telling them what to do. Their foe will be a supernatural power controlling masses of people. Only supernatural protection will do. Nothing in the natural can stand against the power that will be aligned against God’s saints in this difficult time.

# 12

## where to run

When we become convinced we need to flee then it is only natural to wonder where can we run to find safety. Our first thoughts are with our natural mind. It starts to think about various physical locations that might be safe.

The Bible speaks much about safe locations. We see that many of God's faithful had to flee into the wilderness or into a far land to escape their enemy. Any one the Bible speaks about very much had to flee to remain in God's protection. It often came down to simple TRUST. Would you trust the "voice within" or the dream or vision warning you, or would you not.

In this natural world we live in evil is getting stronger. Anyone with eyes to see can not deny this is true. Many right now are in a situation where they need to leave the familiar: job, family, friends and city to avoid something very bad happening to them. Their instincts are telling them to run, but their fears might be keeping them in place. The Bible says in Hosea 4:6 "*My people perish for lack of knowledge.*" God can't protect those who won't listen and obey.

Over the centuries God has protected many people simply by telling them to flee. Once they obeyed God He blessed them with favor in their new location. We see this from Abraham right through the scriptures to modern times.

In the last 600 years America has been a great place of refuge for people who have come from *“every clime and place”* to make a better life for themselves.

But this chapter in American history seems to be coming to a close. Growing numbers of Americans are not feeling safe in America anymore. There are teachings out there that say America is what the Bible refers to as *“mystery Babylon.”* If this is so than Revelation 18:4 gives believers a command: *“Come out of her (the system) so that you won’t partake in her judgments.”*

So where does one flee to? There is a scripture that says something like *“every one departed back to their own lands of origin.”* My ancestors were European. That continent looks darker than even America. So where in the natural realm is a place of safety? Frankly I don’t see one.

I have been forced by this growing darkness to believe that the only safe place is in the arms of Jesus Christ. I look to his promises such as in Psalm 91 where the safety to be found is *“under the shadow of His Wings.”* Now some would say that God doesn’t have wings but as my wife would tell you: *“He has angels.”* Scripture tells us:

*“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth him.”*

*Psalm 34:7*

*“A thousand shall fall at thy side. And ten thousand at thy right hand: but it shall not come nigh you.”*

*Psalm 91:7*

The Bible in Revelation talks about a place that Israeli believers will flee Jerusalem and will be protected. So we know of one city of refuge in the Tribulation for sure. So some might assume there

might be a few angelically protected spots on other continents since we see that there are some righteous that make it through the tribulation to repopulate the earth. The Bible tells us “*they carry Jews back to their homeland on their shoulders.*” So hiding a Jew during these coming times may cause a blessing to fall as Genesis 12:3 tells us that:” *I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you, and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*”