

UPDATES

TAKE NOTE!

A black and white photograph of a pickaxe. The pickaxe is positioned vertically, with its head at the top and its handle extending downwards. The head of the pickaxe is made of metal and has two sharp, curved points. The handle appears to be made of wood or a similar material, with some texture visible. The background is dark and heavily textured, resembling a rough wall or a piece of old paper. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the pickaxe against the dark background.

TRAINING OUR HANDS FOR WAR

PART 4

CONFIRMATION

- Psalm 144:1 (NIV84) ¹ Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle.
 - As we continue with this message, I wondered if this was truly what the Lord was saying
 - I did not doubt the truth of this message, but I wondered if the timing was right
 - The Lord will confirm His word

A lion stands on a rock in the center of a cave. The cave walls are dark and textured, with glowing yellow and orange particles floating around. Light rays stream in from the top right, creating a dramatic effect. The lion is looking towards the right.

STARTING THE YEAR OFF RIGHT

2021

December 31, 2020 • Global Spheres Center

A Year of War and Triumph

WHY WE WAR

•For the Truth

- John 8:31-32 (NIV) ³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
- 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV) Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
- Ephesians 6;14 (NIV) Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,
- John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

WHY WE WAR

- For the salvation of others
 - Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV) ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
 - We are to make disciples
 - The only way we can do this is by speaking and living the Truth

WHY WE WAR

- For the Kingdom of God

- John 3:3 (NIV) Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”
- Luke 17:20-21 (NASB) ²⁰ Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; ²¹ nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or, ‘There it is!’ For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.”
- Matthew 6:10 (NASB) ‘Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

WHY WE WAR: MOST IMPORTANTLY

Isaiah 48:9-11 (NIV) ⁸ You have neither heard nor understood; from of old your ear has not been open. Well do I know how treacherous you are; you were called a rebel from birth. ⁹ For my own name's sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you, so as not to destroy you completely. ¹⁰ See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. ¹¹ For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another.

WHY WE WAR: MOST IMPORTANTLY

- God is speaking to us, to His church first
- Hear and Understand – listen to the Truth, understand the Truth, obey the Truth, and make known the Truth
- We hear what God has said, but we apply our own interpretation to His Word
- Instead of our changing to live the Word, we change the Word to fit our lives

WHY WE WAR: MOST IMPORTANTLY

- ⁹ For my own name's sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you, so as not to destroy you completely.
- We often grow weary of praying because we do not see an immediate answer
- Yet, God says He delays His response to give us time to repent and change our ways
- He chooses the times for His “suddenlies”
- It may take God days, months, years to act suddenly, but when He does, we will know it is He Who acted
- We are not to grow weary; we are to thank God for His patience, compassion, and mercy
- When we look at this nation, as believers of Jesus Christ, we cannot separate ourselves from God's forgiveness or judgment
- God delays His wrath so as not to destroy us

WHY WE WAR: MOST IMPORTANTLY

•¹⁰ See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

- Refine — put into the fire; make pure by smelting; to test
- Continuing process of being tested to bring to the surface those thoughts, beliefs, and actions that hinder our walk
- Not as silver has two possible meanings
 - Not with fire but with testing, suffering
 - Or, our repentance is not complete; the dross is not coming to the surface so we can repent
 - When it comes to the surface, we either repent and change or try to continue to hide it

FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE

- **Isaiah 48:11 (NIV) ¹¹ For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another.**
- **Ezekiel 20:9 (NIV) ⁹ But for the sake of my name, I brought them out of Egypt. I did it to keep my name from being profaned in the eyes of the nations among whom they lived and in whose sight I had revealed myself to the Israelites.**

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FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE

- Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.
- Romans 10:8-10 (NIV) ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,”^[a] that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved

FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE

- Bible is the literal word of God
 - Christians: 30% actual; 54% inspired but not literal; 14% myths
 - U.S. Adults: 24% actual; 47 inspired but not literal; 26% myths
- Read the Bible
 - Never: 2018 – 30%; 2020 – 34%
 - Once a month: 2018 – 6%; 2020 – 9%
 - Every day: 2018 – 15%; 2020 – 16%

FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE

- This war is a war that centers around God's name, not around Trump or Biden, Democrat or Republican, This Life Matters or That Life Matters
- This is a war where God is going to purify us so His name will not be a byword or a curse word
- There is no way this nation could still stand on its original Constitution, could survive wars we should have lost, could endure national crises if not for the Lord our God
- We fight this good fight because we believe in and follow our King
- We fight because God's glory will never be given to another