And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle?
1st Corinthians 14:8

Prayer Study #504

2016: A TIME OF WAR

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To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1

A time of war, and a time of peace.
Ecclesiastes 3:8b

"The world in which we live is a combat zone, a violent clash of kingdoms, a bitter struggle unto the death. I am sorry if I am the one to break the news to you; you were born into a world of war, and you will live all your days in the midst of a great battle, involving all the forces of heaven and hell and played out here on earth. Where did you think all this opposition was coming from?"

John Eldredge in *Waking the Dead*

WE ARE AT WAR
(AND WE MUST, WE MUST, WE MUST ENGAGE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE!)

Fight the good fight of faith.
1st Timothy 6:12a

I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith.
2nd Timothy 4:7

…I came not to send peace but a sword.
Matthew 10:34b

The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is His name. [The Lord is in us who have received Him, so the warrior is in us!]
Exodus 15:3

Who is the King of Glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.
Psalm 24:8

Proclaim this among the nations, Prepare for war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near, let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weak say, I am strong.
Joel 3:9-10

And I saw the heaven opened and behold a white horse and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war (One of the Lord's main reason for coming to earth was to make war-1st John 3:8b: *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil*. To do this He uses spirit-filled believers on the earth to make His enemies His footstool-Psalm 110:1, Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:43, Acts 2:35, Hebrews 1:13, Hebrews 10:13).
Revelation 19:11

HOWEVER…COUNT THE COST

"And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it-lest, after he has laid the foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'"
Luke 14:27-30

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
2nd Timothy 3:12

Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time. Revelation 12:12

And the dragon [Satan] *was enraged with the woman* [the Church], *and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.* Revelation 12:17

WHO ARE WE FIGHTING?

And the dragon [Satan] *was angry with the woman* [the Church] *and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*
Revelation 12:17

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all, to stand.
Ephesians 6:10-13

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
1st Peter 5:8

Therefore, rejoice, ye heavens and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea. For the devil is come down unto you having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.
Revelation 12:12

These will make war with the Lamb and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are called chosen and faithful.
Revelation 17:14

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places
Ephesians 6:12

Organization of Satan's Kingdom of Darkness

SATAN

Commander in chief of evil forces

Satan is neither omnipresent, omniscient, or omnipotent. He does, however, have power which is much greater than human power. We can defeat his power, however, through the Blood and Name of Jesus, through the Word of God, and through *dunamis* or the Holy Spirit's power working through us.

PRINCIPALITIES

These are very powerful demonic forces usually over large areas of land and sometimes, I believe, over ministry groups. These princes are the strongman over an area and influence religion, lust, suicide, murder, etc. Anywhere there is an obvious spiritual problem, you can be sure there is a strong demonic prince over that area behind the problem. San Francisco, for example, obviously has a principality associated with lust and homosexuality over the city. They are powerful, and yet we, as a corporate body, are to wrestle them to the ground. Gabriel in coming in answer to Daniel's prayer about the last days had to call the archangel Michael to fight the Prince of Persia before he could get through and stated that he would have to deal with the Prince of Grecia on the way back. If the Body of Christ could get a revelation about Principalities, we could change whole areas and bring forth righteousness and peace.

POWERS

Powers are demonic forces right under Principalities in rank and power. They are evil powers over institutions, such as schools, churches, penal systems, etc.

RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD

These demonic beings influence literature, rock music, television, liberal and unbiblical sex education teachings in our schools, unclean movies, and slanted news reports, etc.

SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES

These demonic spirits have to do with spiritually high places. They are what's behind occult groups, demon worship, cults, false doctrines, Islam, etc.

DEMONS AND EVIL SPIRITS

These are evil spirit beings that are some of Satan's main agents in his warfare against humanity. They are disembodied spirits who seek to embody human beings. I do not think that I can prove this Biblically, but from my experience, I see demons as being more powerful than spirits, but I am not sure there is a true distinction between the two.

WHY ARE WE FIGHTING ?
(OR WHAT IS OUR GOAL?)

"In this manner, therefore, pray ye: 'Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven…'"

Matthew 6:9-10

From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize]. Matthew 11:12 AMP

From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has forcefully advanced, and the strong take it by force. Matthew 11:12 MEV

I was watching, and the same horn was making war against the saints and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.

Daniel 7:21-22

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 3:1-2

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation and strength and the kingdom of our God and the power of His Christ, have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Revelation 12:11

For the Kingdom is the LORD'S, and He rules over the nations.
Psalm 22:28

Your Kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.
Psalm 22:28

All Your works shall praise You, O Lord, and Your saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of your Kingdom and talk of Your power.
Psalm 145:10-11

And you shall be to Me a Kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.
Exodus 19:6

"But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials, and I bestow unto you a Kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one unto Me…"
Luke 22:28-29

Jesus answered and said to him, ***"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."***
John 3:3

…for the Kingdom of God is not eating or drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Romans 14:17

For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.
1st Corinthians 4:20

Therefore, since we are receiving a Kingdom, which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
Hebrews 12:28

After that comes the end (the completion) when He delivers over the Kingdom of God to the Father after rendering inoperative and abolishing every [other]rule and every authority and power.
1st Corinthians 15:23-25 AMP

What is the central theme of Jesus' ministry?

1. His teaching was designed to show men how they might enter the Kingdom of God (Matthew 5:20, 7:21).
2. His miracles were to prove that the Kingdom of God had come upon the people (Matthew 12:28).
3. His parables illustrated to the disciples the truth about the Kingdom of God (Matthew 13:11).
4. The prayer He taught included the words, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).
5. Before He was arrested, He assured His disciples that He would share with them joy and fellowship in the Kingdom (Luke 22:22-30).
6. He promised after His resurrection that He would come again on earth to bring the blessings of the Kingdom (Matthew 25:231, 34).

"Kingdom theology divides spiritual history into two great ages: The present age brought by the Fall of Man and lasting until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. This present evil age is governed by Satan's "kingdom of darkness," and through the influence of Satan and sin, has become characterized by death, disease, godlessness, war, poverty, and evil and suffering of all kinds. The age to come was inaugurated in the ministry of Jesus Christ and will last into the eternal future. The age to come is governed by the kingdom of God and is characterized by eternal life, freedom from sickness and suffering, humanity's intimate knowledge of God, universal peace on earth, and God's absolute reign over all creation. In the kingdom of theology framework, the present age is caught between those two ages: Jesus Christ has established the kingdom of God on earth but will not abolish this present evil age and its kingdom of darkness until He returns.

"Because the Kingdom of God is already here, believers in the kingdom theology expect to see God actively working, sometimes even miraculously in the present day. Most of them testify they have seen this experience being fulfilled. In a kingdom theology framework, present-day manifestations of the Kingdom of God, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, successful evangelism and missionary activity, as well as divine healing and other miracles. Additionally, the role of individual Christians and of the Church as a whole is to represent the Kingdom of God to the world, through evangelism, missions, and social action.

"Because the Kingdom of God is not yet here in its full expression, the works of this present evil age continue, though not as unlimited as it would have without the presence of the Kingdom of God. Although Christians

have eternal life, they still sicken and die. Although they have been freed from sin, temptation to sin and sin itself continue to plague their lives. Although God dwells within them, their knowledge of God at times seems quite limited. War, poverty, sickness, godlessness, and death continue, and kingdom theology teaches that they will continue until the end of the age, though these things will be caused to go into retreat by the advancement of the Gospel."

Unknown Author from *Wikipedia*

WHAT ARE OUR WEAPONS?

The weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood]. Our weapons are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
2nd Corinthians 10:4

A Few of These Weapons

a. **THE BLOOD:** *And they* [the sold out believers of the Last Days] *overcame him* [the devil, the accuser of the brethren] *by the blood of the Lamb and the Word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.* Revelation 12:11

b. **THE NAME:** *All nations compassed me about; yea they compass me about, but in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.* Psalm 118:10a ***"And these signs shall follow those who believe: In My name shall they cast out demons…."*** Mark 16:17

c. **THE WORD:** *For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword…*Hebrews 4:12a *…and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.* Ephesians 6:17 (also see Revelation 12:11) *I will worship toward your holy temple and praise Your name for your lovingkindness and Your truth. For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.* Psalm 138:2

d. **PRAYER:** *The poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.* Psalm 34:6 *Call to Me, and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.* Jeremiah 33:3 *In the day when I cried out, You answered me and made me bold with strength in my soul.* Psalm 138:3

e. **PRAISE:** *Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand.* Psalms 149:6

f. **DECLARATIONS OF FAITH:** *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world---our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?* John 5:4-5

g. **FASTING:** *And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son; for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said,* ***"O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me."*** *And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them,* ***"Because of your unbelief, for assuredly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."*** Matthew 17:14-21

h. **AGREEMENT:** ***Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, "It will be done for them by My Father in heaven.*** Matthew 18:19 *Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?* Amos 3:3 *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things unto Him who is the head-Christ-from whom the whole body, joined and knit together for what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.* Ephesians 4:11-16

HOW DO WE FIGHT?

Ephesians 6:10-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

10 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.* ***11*** *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.* ***12*** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.* ***13*** *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.* ***14*** *Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,* ***15*** *and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;* ***16*** *above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.* ***17*** *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;* ***18*** *praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—* ***19*** *and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,* ***20*** *for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

A. BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT!

B. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD.

C. RESIST AND STAND YOUR GROUND AGAINST THE SCHEMES, STATEGIES, AND DECEITS OF THE DEVIL. IF YOU ARE IN THE WILL OF GOD, THERE WILL BE RESISTANCE FROM THE ENEMY.

D. KNOW YOUR ENEMY AND RECOGNIZE THAT THE ENEMY IS NOT FLESH AND BLOOD.

E. PRAY AND PETITION IN THE SPIRIT WITH SPECIFIC REQUESTS.

F. INTERCEDE FOR ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE.

G. PROCLAIM BOLDLY THE GOOD NEWS OF

SALVATION.