

Dear Friend,

There is an old saying that declares, *"Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it."* That saying is so true. This week I have been reading again from the book of Judges. That book deals primarily with the generations who lived after the death of Joshua, and the death of all the people who did warfare under his leadership to possess the Promised Land. During the times of those later generations, there were many Canaanites, Hittites, and other pagans living in the land with them because the Jews had chosen not to drive them all out. Sadly, just as Joshua had warned them, those unbelievers became thorns in their sides and pricks in their eyes. The Jews allowed their sons and daughters to intermarry with them, and this caused them to serve other gods than the Lord God who had brought them out of Egypt.

Judges 2:11-13 **And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim: (12) And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that *were* round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger. (13) And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.**

Much could be written about these two false gods, but for the purpose of this lesson I will just say that Baal was the sun-god and Ashtaroth was the moon-god. Many pagan cultures worshiped those two gods under various names. All of them had much to do with "fertility" and incorporated the most vile and hedonistic practices in their worship. Let me say it in a little more graphic, modern terms ... the "flesh" loves to worship when it involves temple prostitutes, whether they are male or female.

God had warned Israel that if they bowed down to other gods, they would wind up in captivity. That happened again and again. Eventually the people of Israel would cry out for God to deliver them from their oppressors. God still loved Israel and He would raise up judges like Deborah, Gideon, Samson, and others to deliver them.

Judges 2:14-16 **And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. (15) Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed. (16) Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.**

You would think that after the Lord answered their prayers and delivered them by the hands of the judges He had given them, that the people would stay faithful to the only true and living God. But time and again we see the following pattern repeated:

Judges 2:17-19 **And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; *but* they did not so. (18) And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. (19) And it came to pass,**

when the judge was dead, *that* they returned, and corrupted *themselves* more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.

"Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." I read this week that seven different cities in the United Kingdom have refused to allow Franklin Graham to hold evangelistic crusades in their cities. The reason? They have chosen the modern false gods worshiped by the LGBTQ supporters in their nation. Franklin Graham has stayed true to what the bible teaches about homosexuality being an abomination to God and that it is a sin to be repented of and forsaken. He has accurately stated that the legislation of same sex marriage was "orchestrated by Satan."

CNN reports that one of the UK cities responded with, "Franklin Graham's views are wholly inconsistent with our city, which is preparing to welcome huge celebrations and tens of thousands of people this summer for UK Pride." Of course they mean ... "UK Gay Pride."

There was a time when the United Kingdom burned with revival as the true gospel of Jesus Christ was preached with the fire and anointing of the Holy Spirit. This is the land of Charles and John Wesley, George Whitfield, the Welsh Revival, the Christianization of Ireland by Saint Patrick, and so much more. This is the land of the Puritans who eventually would sail across the Atlantic ocean on the Mayflower to claim this new land of America for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

But now, like Israel of the Old Testament in the time of the judges, they have gone whoring after other gods; gods who glorify all manner of uncleanness and sexual immorality. These false gods are not gods at all. They are demonic forces, the very same forces Paul said we as Christians are to constantly war against:

Ephesians 6:10-13 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) 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. (13) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

I wrote this letter primarily about the United Kingdom because of the recent headlines, but these same demonic forces are working constantly to destroy our Christian heritage in the United States also. The time for passiveness is over. God is calling for Joel's army to rise up in the authority and power of the name of Jesus Christ to do warfare against the hellish onslaught of the enemy. If we do not engage in spiritual warfare to bring down these spiritual, demonic enemies ... we will eventually find ourselves repeating the same kind of history as Israel in the Old Testament. God forbid!

Here at the Prayer Center in Tulsa, and in many other places around the world, all of us are encouraging the people to pray and fast like they never have before; to get into the Word deeper than ever before so our minds can be renewed to the truth and we shine as lights in this dark, lost world. Jesus said to let our light shine before men. It is time to do what He said.

How do we do spiritual warfare against these enemies? The first thing that must be done is to put on the

whole armor of God. It is not something we do symbolically, like "play pretending" to put on each piece of the armor each day. No, you put on the armor of God through repentance and walking in truth:

The belt of truth ... stop lying and only say what God says.

The breastplate of righteousness ... repent of all sin and walk in the righteousness of the new nature.

Feet shod with the gospel of peace ... cast all of your care upon the Lord and walk in the peace of God.

The shield of faith ... quench every fiery dart with, "It is written, it is written, it is written."

The helmet of salvation ... have your mind renewed to know who you are in Christ.

The sword of the Spirit ... the offensive weapon of the Word of God spoken to set the captives free.

Praying with all prayer ... praying always, never quitting, never giving up until victory is achieved every single time.

Your friend and co-laborer,

GARY