

## Champions

"Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me,"<sup>1</sup> said God to Job out of the storm after He had listened to Job's litany of complaints about what had happened to him and endured the advice of his friends.

One thing we need to learn, elect, is to brace ourselves, for the Lord will question us and we will have to answer Him. For He has expressively said when He was speaking to Peter, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."<sup>2</sup>

In case you still do not understand the purpose of the book of Job and the events that happened to Job... Job was chosen by God when He referred Job to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job?"<sup>3</sup> as His champion who would withstand the temptations set against him and still not deny the Lord. Job went through his days of distress as he lost everything except his life, yet never denied the Lord, but rather, waited for the Lord to answer him so that he might know why he was so afflicted. When the Lord finally arrived to answer him... see Job's answers: "I am unworthy—how can I reply to You?"<sup>4</sup> and again, "My ears had heard of You but now my eyes have seen You. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes,"<sup>5</sup> because Job suddenly realised the enormity of God arriving to answer Him.

Likewise, elect, the days of distress that are coming as foretold by Jesus are not just days of distress for the unbelieving and the disobedient, but are also days of distress for all, even His elect and the elect of the Lord. That is why Jesus spoke of them in this way: "If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom He has chosen, He has shortened them."<sup>6</sup> As such, elect, all of us will suffer some degree of loss... a degree that can be distressing, even as distressing as that which Job went through, especially for those who, like Job, have faith and a religious way of relating to God but have no power or understanding. Job did not understand why he was going through his days of distress, which made it all the more distressing for him. He was not expecting them and when they came upon him, he had no answer from his religious relationship with God... the God of his understanding and not the God he should understand.

Everyone, those who believe and those who do not believe, will experience the days of distress... but not everyone will know or understand why they are now here. However, you are being given that understanding and the grace of His time (patience) for each of you to prepare them so that when they come, you would not only know but also understand. Job was given no such understanding, for the Holy Spirit had not yet been given. But you have received Him, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Understanding,<sup>7</sup> so that not only do you believe and know, you also understand why the days of distress are upon you, and in understanding, be far more of a champion of God than even Job who achieved so much with so little. He indeed will be the judge of all who are given over by God to distress as His champions. Job was God's champion to show that men can and do love God not for reward or protection, but just because they can. For Satan said to God, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"<sup>8</sup> saying that Job only feared God because God blessed and protected him.

Now, the times have changed but God's purpose has not changed. For you it is not because Satan is challenging God, but rather, it is the Lord challenging Himself, that is, the Lord proving for Himself that He has champions who not only fear Him, but also love and understand Him. Love and understand Him enough that these days of distress must come to prove Christ true to His words, and they must come to test the metal of those who call upon the Name of the Lord so that God is proved true and righteous in all His judgments. That is also why, elect, you now exist in the body of Christ almost like a newcomer, a stranger, one whom others did not expect to see, just like the man with the drawn sword outside of Jericho whom Joshua met.

So prepare yourself, brace yourself like a man and let the Lord question you and you shall answer Him. Consider then all the questions asked by the Lord of His disciples as practice beginning with the first, "What do you want?"<sup>9</sup> to His final questions, like the one He asked when He was about to leave them,

<sup>1</sup> Job 40.7

<sup>2</sup> Luke 12.48

<sup>3</sup> Job 1.8

<sup>4</sup> Job 40.4

<sup>5</sup> Job 42.5-6

<sup>6</sup> Mark 13.20

<sup>7</sup> Isaiah 11.2

<sup>8</sup> Job 1.9

<sup>9</sup> John 1.38

"When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?"<sup>10</sup> Consider carefully the questions asked by the Lord to His disciples as recorded in the four gospels... for they are questions for you to practise your answers to questions the Holy Spirit will pose to you in the coming days. "For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."<sup>11</sup>

The answer you give to the Lord's questions will indeed test your heart, for from the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. And you will see that the times you are brought before kings and judges to answer their questions are merely practice for you to be able to allow the Holy Spirit to give you the words that no one can resist or contradict, for the greatest of all judges and kings will one day question you and you must answer Him.

As surely as the distress and death was the way to glory and not only glory, but also kingship for those who have been martyred for the sake of their testimony and because of the word of God,<sup>12</sup> so now see the days of distress that are coming are your path to the same glory of kingship, except you will not be tested with death but with life. That is, as surely as the distress of the saints (martyrs) led to their martyrdom unto glory, so now the days of distress for the elect of the Holy Spirit and the elect of the Lord will lead you to your lives lived unto glory until He arrives so that indeed, as Paul desired, there will be a church purified and glorified waiting to be presented to Him when He arrives. For it is written: It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.<sup>13</sup> So likewise, the proof that some of you will attain your kingship in Christ – without taking the way of death and beheading but the way of life and enlightenment (so that figuratively you too will be like ones who have lost their heads) – is the way you have been given the privilege to search out the time sequence of the events of Jesus that has been hidden by the Holy Spirit in the four gospels. Indeed, it has taken great diligence, effort, frustration and time to search out each detail of not only what and where and how Jesus had said and done things, but also when. Your very work at this matter is the witness that the Lord has always intended and provided a way for those who grew from believers to be mature brothers and sisters of His who do God's will and keep God's words to be able to attain kingship so that indeed He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords as it is written on His thigh. A way that does not require the way of the martyr but requires the way of the overcomer. For the first promise of reward to the overcomer is this: "To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life, which is in the paradise of God."<sup>14</sup> The fruit of the Tree of Life gives life without death that allows the overcomer to be the witness of the truth of John 11.26.

If something has been hidden by God for His glory, then you can rest assured that you will not and cannot find it easily without great exertion. We are not speaking of gold nuggets lying on the ground waiting to be picked up, but treasures that take a king to search out. And what are the requirements of the Law of Moses for kings? "...be sure to appoint over you the king the Lord your God chooses. He must be from among your own brothers. ... When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the Lord his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees..."<sup>15</sup>

Now the kings of Israel had their laws set out for them by Moses... and the kings of the Kingdom of God have their laws set out for them by Jesus. The kings of Israel had it easy, for their law was set out clearly in a timely manner by God's own dictation to Moses who was faithful in all things... except for one. For you the words of the Law of Jesus (Jesus Law) are set out clearly, yes, in the four gospels and the Revelation... but in the four gospels their time sequence is hidden so that you cannot discern what should be obeyed first and what should be obeyed next. As in all things and matters that are by nature law, that is, commands, decrees and principles that must be upheld for the desired effect to occur, the sequence in which the law is fulfilled is as important as the fulfilment. As a simple example for you who live in these final days, there is a sequence by which you must correctly load your computer or else it does not work.

So likewise, the commands of Jesus need to be heard (listened to) and then practised, but not only that... be practised in a certain sequence before the glory (truth) that is hidden in them is fully revealed. And how can anyone do that unless he has access to the gospels and has read them again and again and written them enough under the supervision of the Holy Spirit for Him to trust him enough to reveal the sequence by which the commands of Jesus were given in timely order so that what God has hidden can be revealed... the way of the King.

<sup>10</sup> Luke 22.35

<sup>11</sup> Matthew 12.37

<sup>12</sup> Revelation 20.4

<sup>13</sup> Proverbs 25.2

<sup>14</sup> Revelation 2.7

<sup>15</sup> Deuteronomy 17.15, 18-19

So do you find yourself tested and tried? Then consider Job, and if you have complaints then "Brace yourself like a man..." for the Lord is coming to question all men and everyone will have to answer Him.

So be encouraged and do not worry, for the Lord has privileged you with the way of life and not of death that you who have ears to hear what the Spirit is and has been saying to the churches these last 1,900 years will live the reality of the overcomer who presents to Jesus the gift of the Holy Spirit to Him from the trials of this age.

So then, elect, brace yourselves, for this is the question: "What gift is worthy of the King of kings and the Lord of lords on His arrival on clouds of power and glory that will satisfy the Father?" If you think you know, be silent. If you do not know, search out the matter.