

<Introduction>

“Wars and rumors of wars” by Jeremiah

Today, we are looking at “Wars and rumors of wars”.

<Wars and rumors of wars are the signs of End Times>

The book of Matthew 24 is known to contain lots of prophecies declared by the Lord Jesus Christ. The lord has described that there will definitely be wars and rumors of wars and lots of incidents about the end times. This is revealed in scriptures below.

**Matthew 24:6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.**

Wars and rumors of wars are the indicators that point to the fact that we are in the end of days, the same goes for other occurrences that happens in end times, “Wars and rumors of wars” appear to be of importance, what do they mean?

<Fulfilling Prophecy Twice>

When you think about the fulfillment of the prophecy in the book of Matthew 24, you will realize that the prophecy here is to be fulfilled twice as below.

1. The attack of Rome on Jerusalem and the conquer in 70 A.D
2. Attacking on Jerusalem and church and it's conquer in the end times.

Event number one has already taken place and number two is yet to happen. When we analyze the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D, we can create a picture of what could happen by the end of times.

<War Started by Rome destroyed Jerusalem>

“Wars and rumor of wars” were first fulfilled in 70 A.D when Rome attacked Jerusalem. The people of Jerusalem who crucified Jesus Christ later heard of “wars and rumor of wars” that the Romans will attack the Jews and occupy Jerusalem. This was not just

rumor, an attack on Jerusalem by Rome did take place, and Jerusalem, the capital of the blasphemous people who crucified Christ and its citizens were destroyed.

This is what will happen in End Times.

Because of the war against Rome which took place in A.D. 70, many disasters came upon God's people as written in the Gospel.

1. The temple was destroyed as a result of the war against Rome (Matthew 24:2)
2. Witnessing by "standing in the holy place the abomination that causes desolation" (Matthew 24:15)
3. People of Jerusalem ran away because of the war against Rome (Matthew 24:20)
4. Jerusalem gets surrounded by the army because of the war against Rome (Luke 21:20)
5. People fell by sword because of the war against Rome (Luke 21:24)

So, we can see that the various disasters which happened to God's people (people of Jerusalem) on the day of fulfillment of this prophecy were through the war against Rome. It was definitely not a random war, but rather a particular one which destroyed Jerusalem and its people. This is the prophecy of the End of Days and the same pattern is thought to be repeated now.

<The church will be destroyed by wars by the end of days>

We can imagine that this will be repeated by the End of Days and the church which is also seen as Jerusalem will be destroyed by wars.

Just like Jerusalem that was destroyed by the Roman Empire in A.D. 70, Jerusalem and the current Christian church will be destroyed by the country of the beast.

The country of the beast, based on my understanding is the United States. U.S will start the war against the Christian church in End Times and the Christian church would probably lose. The war doesn't include airplanes and tanks, but it is rather the war against Christianity. Through this war, the prophecy in Matthew 24 is going to be fulfilled as below.

1. Because of the war led by the U.S, the church known as a temple of prayer will be destroyed.

**Matthew 24:2 “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”**

Right now, there is a strong movement to overturn the fundamental doctrine of Christianity led by the U.S. For example, the U.S government has enforced Canon Law 501 (C) 3 against the church.

This law gives an advantage in taxation for the churches which don't “accept” the fundamental doctrines, such as resurrection of Christ, atonement, and the Advent. This means that a satanic law which encourages to overturn the teachings of Christ and Apostles which are the foundation of the church as a temple of God is being enforced.

There are some churches which accept such blasphemous suggestions in the U.S. Indeed, because of the war led by U.S, Jerusalem and the temple of God are about to be destroyed.

2. Because of the war led by the U.S, the abomination that causes desolation will stand

**Matthew 24:15 “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—**

“the abomination that causes desolation” means the anti-Christ which is written as seen in scriptures below.

**2 Thessalonians 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.**

**2:4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.**

Here, it says “he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God”. God's temple, in the New Testament, is the church, and the phrase, “the abomination that causes desolation will stand in the holy place” indicates that anti-Christ will be in

where Christ is supposed to be.

It is hard to imagine that the day like this will come for the church, but it may happen as a result of meticulous plans orchestrated by the U.S. Therefore, many accusations, personal attacks, and all manner of abuse against Jesus Christ could be accepted. Various movements which question the credibility of the history of Christ such as The Da Vinci Code may take place one after another. As a result, many people may come to hate Christ, believing that Christ is a liar and what is written in the Gospel is not the true history. It is written as below.

**Mathew 24:9 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.**

As the reputation of Christ gets lost and the reputation of Christ being a cheater spreads wider, the anti-Christ will turn up to occupy the place where Christ has been in. This is the day when the church starts to display apostasy.

3. People of the church in Jerusalem will run away because of the war led by the U.S

**Matthew 24:20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.**

It is written that just like the people of Jerusalem ran away from the city when Jerusalem was destroyed by Rome, as the teachings of the anti-Christ dominated the churches, faithful Christians may “run away”. Therefore we need to know that God’s will for us isn’t going to be to stay in the church, but rather faithful people have to run away from such blasphemous churches, leaving them behind. The scripture below also seems to encourage us to leave blasphemous churches. He made this point clear through the use of parable.

**Matthew 24:16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.**

**16:17 Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house.**

**16:18 Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak.**

**16:19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing**



mothers!

**A police officer arrests a Christian as he preached the Gospel on the street.**

4. The churches in Jerusalem will be surrounded by armies because of the war led by the U.S.

**Luke 21:20 When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near.**

The City of Jerusalem was once surrounded by armies. Not long after that, Jerusalem was destroyed by the same armies, so you know that Jerusalem is about to be destroyed when surrounded by armies.

In the same way, Christian churches will be attacked by the U.S. Its doctrine and Christ will also be attacked. Therefore, there will be attackers and armies of Christian churches everywhere, and the day will come when Jerusalem and the church will be surrounded by armies. This is the sign that the church is going to be destroyed.

The reputation from the public will change, and faithful Christians will be criticized for being fundamentalists. This seems to be the day when they are surrounded by armies, and once the day has come, we can infer that the day when the church will be destroyed is close.

5. People will fall by the sword because of the war led by the U.S

**Luke 21:24 They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations.**

**Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**

“The sword” is used as a parable. As it is written, “Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17), the sword is a parable representing the word of God. Therefore, falling by the sword means falling by the false doctrine about the word of God.

It will probably mean that people will fall by false doctrines such as, “salvation is found not just in Christ, but in Buddhism, Hindu, and Muslim as well.”

The phrase of “taken as prisoners to all the nations” also sounds suggestive. Jerusalem was once occupied by Babylon, and its citizens were removed from the Promised Land to be taken to the foreign land. This suggests that, in End Times, Christian churches will fall by strange doctrines, and Christians from those churches will be moved away from the kingdom of God (the Promised Land).

<The country of the beast will start the war against Christians>

Once again, the war in the End Times and rumors of wars don't indicate some random wars, but rather the battle and attack against Jerusalem and the Christian churches by a specific country. The Bible describes the country as the country of the beast, and Revelation talks about the war in End Times which is led by the country of the beast as see in scriptures below.

**Revelation 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months.**

**13:6 It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.**

**13:7 It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.**

Now, let's take a look at **Revelation 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months.**

This beast means the U.S which is the country of the beast in End Times. It is written that this country was given to exercise its authority for forty-two months. Forty-two months means three and half years of Tribulation, and giving tribulation to the right people starts with the U.S. Also, it is written, “given a mouth to utter blasphemies”. Blasphemies are the words which go against God and the word of God. Right now, The U.S tends to go against both God and the word of God. President Obama, who is the leader of the country, declared that the same sex marriage is legal despite it is clearly prohibited by the Bible. If same sex marriage is legal, opposing it can be seen as “illegal” and whoever does so will be theoretically seen as criminals. Based on this theory, there are many Christians who have been arrested in this country as the result of following the Bible and opposes same sex marriage. We can definitely see that U.S is uttering blasphemies here.

**13:6 It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.**

It is written here that the country of the beast muttered blasphemies towards God and “slandered his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.” So, from now on, the U.S will lead many kinds of attacks, criticisms, and utter blasphemies to the name of Christ. Also, His dwelling place (Christians) who live in heaven will be slandered in the U.S because of Christ.

It is already seen that people now pray in Jesus’ name in churches in the U.S. You should pray as “We pray in Jesus’ name”, but it has been changed to “We pray in the name of almighty the highest” instead. The prayer which is hard to say whether you are praying in the name of Muslim or Lucifer is being encouraged, and the name of Jesus Christ tends to be avoided. In addition, lies which could affect the faith, trust, and reputation of Christ will be spread from the U.S. Also, “slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven” is often practiced in U.S, and the right Christians are getting criticized in this country. People are getting arrested, just because they have prayed in public or preached the Gospel on the street.

**13:7 It was given power to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.**

Here, “It” which is the country of the beast, the U.S is allowed to conquer God’s people, churches, or Christians. Therefore, unfortunately, the Christian churches in the world are unable to win “the war” led by U.S. The reason for losing is the blasphemy of the church. And, it is written that “it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation”, so all the Christian churches in the world will eventually be controlled by blasphemous U.S. It will happen in the whole world and there is no exception. It is written as below.

**Revelation 3:10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.**

This will be the day of blasphemy and the beginning of Great Tribulation. We need to know this and prepare for it.



**American Christians are arrested for preaching the Gospel**

<The guideline of the “Disciples” in the Bible>

This time again, I would like to share my testimony from the message given by Pastor Jeremiah at the discipleship training meeting on Saturday. Because I thought it was important and Pastor Jeremiah actually repeated it thrice, I would like to talk about this. First of all, we are going to look at the scripture he used then.

**Luke 14:25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said:**

**14:26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children,**



brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.

14:27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

14:28 “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?

14:29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you,

14:30 saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

14:31 “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?

14:32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

14:33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

As is written in verse 26, we will receive the calling from Jesus first to become His disciple. I suppose that each church, along with Remnant and Christian church has people who walk their lives as disciples or servants. And, I don’t think many people will start their lives as disciples or servants soon after they got baptized. Just like I was, most people start walking their lives as crowds before starting to live as the disciples of Jesus. “**The large crowd**” here indicates that Jesus also called the people who were “walking their lives as crowds”.

Now, in verse 26, 27, and 33, Jesus is talking about “the conditions to become a disciple”. So, I am going to jot them down here and take a good look at each verse.

#### **1. Someone who hates father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters**

In verse 26, it says “**...hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters even their own life**”. By the way, this “**hate**” doesn’t mean “to stop or end the

relationship”, or “emotional hatred”. What it means in this verse is whether or not you would still decide to live your life as a disciple even though your father, mother, brothers, sisters, wife, or children are opposed to it. Also, as I often mention, there are many parables in the Bible. So, from this point of view, it seems that **“father and mother”** means “father and mother” of the faith who are “pastors” or “priests” in the church. And I think **“children”** means “believers”, and **“brothers and sisters”** are the ones in Christ. Therefore, this scripture is asking, when what the pastor, fellow believers, or brothers and sisters at the church say clashes with what God says, whether you would follow those people or the word of God. If you choose to follow the people instead of the word of God, it is recognized that you don’t hate them, so you are not suitable to be a disciple of Jesus. Also, it says **“(who hate) even their own life”**, so we are going to refer to the next scripture to find out what it means.

**John 12:25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.**

As it says **“Anyone who loves their life will lose it”**, when you cling onto your life as flesh, you will actually end up losing **“it (life)”**. I think that **“it (life)”** probably means “eternal life”.

Since we have already received “life as flesh”, this must mean “eternal life” as it is also mentioned later. Also I think that it means our thoughts and ideas, too. Therefore, anyone who puts their thoughts and ideas first before the word of God will be the one **“who loves their life”**.

But, Christ says that if you live such life, you are not suited for being His disciple, and will not have eternal life. On the other hand, **“anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life”**. Yes, if you surrender your life as a flesh as well as all of your thoughts and ideas, God will see you as someone **“who hates their life”** and inherit **“eternal life”**. You will also meet the standard of disciples which is mentioned in the Bible. Let’s read the scripture below.

## **2. Someone who carries their cross**

This must be related to **“hating their life”** as I mentioned above. You can’t put your thoughts and ideas first before **“carry your cross”**. Because what Jesus shows us tends

to be opposite to our own thoughts. For example, the Bible says **“love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you”**, and you can’t put into practice those unless you kill your thoughts and ideas. But, if you dare to do so and put the scripture into practice, you indeed are **“carrying your cross”**. Apart from this, as you choose to think “My thoughts and ideas are important, but I will put the scripture first!”, then you will become someone **“who carries their cross”**, and also meet the criteria to become disciples of Jesus. On the other hand, if you keep holding onto your own thoughts and ideas, you may become someone who is far from being a disciple of Jesus. Also, as you know, one of the conditions to enter “the kingdom of heaven” is said to **“carry your cross”**, so if you choose to not to do so, not only are you going to be unable to become a disciple of Jesus, but also you may not be able to enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, as you sense the will of God or God has given you the desire, I encourage you to carry the cross. Let’s move on to the next.

### **3. Someone who gives up everything**

In verse 33, it mentions **“Someone who gives up everything”**. Pastor Jeremiah said that in KJV version of the Bible, it is translated as “possessions”. You may think of money, jewelries like a diamond for “possessions”. But it is more like “all of your possessions” including your status, fame, goals, achievements, and abilities as well. So, I think it says that if those could hinder your walk as a disciple, you should throw them away or give someone else. By doing this, you will be seen as **“Someone who gives up everything”**, otherwise I think you will be unable to become a disciple of Jesus.

It is important to decide what to do when Jesus told you to “throw away” or “give up”. If you don’t hesitate to throw away or give up, Jesus will be pleased and see you as His disciple. By the way, Peter, John, and James also showed no hesitancy. When Jesus talked to them, they **“immediately throw the net away and followed Him”**. Because I personally thought this was important, I checked the KJV version as well, and found that “immediately” was translated as “straightaway”. Humans may normally think “sooner or later” or “one day”, but the point seems to “immediately” take an action including “throwing away”. Especially as long as “following” God is concerned, it seems that acting “immediately” is the standard in the Bible, so we need to understand this correctly.

These are what I learned from a message at the meeting. Pastor Jeremiah also said,

**“To desire to become a disciple is one thing, but whether you can live through it or not is another thing. So, we need to understand the standard which the Lord requires from us.”** I completely agreed with it. I once believed that as long as I attend the discipleship training sessions, I can be His disciple, but I have come to understand that is not the case. Of course it is important to attend the meetings or training sessions, so I will continue to do so. But at the same time, I would like to respect and follow “the standard of becoming disciples of Jesus” which is written in the Bible.

What I mentioned above are not necessarily pleasant to hear, but because the standard was set by Jesus, I thought that I would live my Christian life according to this and pray that I could meet the standard.

May glory and honor be given to God who always teaches us the important lessons.

Amen