



<Introduction>

“Wars And Rumors of Wars, Part 2” by Jeremiah

Today, we are continuing our study and analysis on “Wars and Rumors of Wars (Part 2)”

Mathew 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.

24:7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

Last time, we took a look at how there will be war “against the church and the Christian body” by the End Times. We learned that this is not a physical wars in which tanks or fighter jets are used, but a spiritual battles which destroys the temple of God, the foundation of the church as the temple of prayer or its doctrine. Today, I would like us to study this subject a little further.

As we read the scripture above, we can see that “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.” in those wars. Let’s think about it.

<What is the meaning of “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” in the Old Testament >

“Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” sounds like the time will come when all nations in the world will fight against each other. But, this may be a statement in the form of a parable.

Let’s look at this from the biblical point of view. There are many nations and kingdoms described in the Old Testament and there was wars between those nations and kingdoms. For example, there is a nation called Israel and close to Israel is another nation called Edom. These two countries fought against each other several times in the past. When we look at these two countries, Israel and Edom, they are descendants from two brothers who belong to the same family.

Those brothers were Esau and Jacob, and Esau became the ancestor of Edom, and Jacob became the ancestor of Israel. The two countries which shared the same blood line eventually started a war and tried to destroy each other.

Now, this helps in understanding the phrase, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” in End Times, because it is thought that this could happen between the brothers who shared the same blood line.

Usually, there is a peaceful and loving relationship between them. However, at the end of the church period (End Times), it will become a different story. The unity and peace amongst the brothers in the same faith will be destroyed, and they will start fighting against each other, because they will have different doctrines.

This is what “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” implies. Now, as you understand this, you will also understand the scriptures below.

Matthew 24:8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

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.

24:10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

24:11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

24:12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

24:13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Let's take a look at each verse.

All these are the beginning of birth pains.

“All these” means “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” as described above. The fight or separation between Christian denominations, churches and Christians are the birth of pain and Tribulation, as well as “the beginning”.

Matthew 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.

This verse is also related to “wars and the rumors of wars” and “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom”. This describes that the right Christians will be persecuted in the war between Christian denominations. Now, it doesn't necessarily mean that all Christians are persecuted here. Verse 3 describes in details as we can see in the verses.

24:3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

As you can see here, the warnings of End Times are given to the disciples rather than to all Christians. So, it is clear that it will be the disciples of the Lord who will suffer or become martyr in End Times. The other people who live their lives as crowds may not necessarily suffer then.

“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death”

Who would “hand over to be persecuted and put to death” on the day? To find out, let's think about the times when Jesus came to the world. The people who arrested Jesus and made Him suffer and killed Him were not gentiles. It was the Jewish crowds who were his “brothers” that crucified Him.

The same thing is believed to happen in End Times. Brothers and sisters who were part of the same church until recently will sue the right Christians and put them to death. This is because of the separation of doctrines at the Christian church, and the conflict caused by faith.

Why does this happen? As I mentioned before, the church as the temple of prayer will be destroyed, as well as the teachings of the apostles and prophets which are the foundation of the church, and the faith and trust towards Christ will be lost at the

church. In the midst of that confusion, worldly will Christians hate those Christians who stay faithful to Christ. This means, in the same manner as the crowd hated Christ will be repeated in present times. The book of Mark describes about this as below.

Mark 13:12 Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.

As a parable, brothers means brothers and sisters in Christian church. The father and his child could be that of faith, therefore the relationship between the pastor and believers. So, it says that people will be persecuted or handed over to death in End Times because of the differences between brothers and sisters in the church, pastor and believers, or doctrines.

“...and you will be hated by all nations because of me.”

How should we understand this scripture? If we take it literally, we see this as a prophecy that the day will come when we will be hated by the people of the world because of the name of Jesus. Is it possible that such day would come? Is it true?

Although we don't want such day to come, unfortunately, if the Bible says so, we should accept that it will definitely come. I would imagine that the day will come as a result of various negative campaigns and personal attack against Christ.

There may be books, papers and studies which make people doubt the historical credibility and divine nature of Jesus Christ deliberately. People may start to say things like, “Jesus Christ didn't actually perform miracles”, “He was just the greatest fraudster”, or “It is now historical truth that Jesus was liar”. And in the end, righteous believers may be seen as a cult religious people.

Plus, the common belief in the world will be turned around and Christ will be seen as a fraudster. The biggest problem will be the response from the Christian church. We can imagine that all Christian churches around the world will willingly turn their back to Christ and betray Him. The scripture below backs this up.

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[a] is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

As it is clearly mentioned as rebellion here, unfortunately, the day will definitely come when the Christian church becomes rebellious towards Christ. In the midst of this, faithful disciples will be hated by misled Christians. It is written as "...and you will be hated by all nations because of me." What is written in the Bible is when Jesus came to the earth for the first time, crowds who were believing Him until the day before completely changed their mind, got angry with Christ, persecuted and crucified Him. The same thing may happen in His second coming. Christians who used to believe in Christ would be persuaded by movements, rumors, and trends. They may hold strong grudge against Christ. Also, the anger may turn to righteous Christians living as disciples as well.

24:10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

This is also a description of what is going to happen in the Christian church. In the midst of confusion in the End Times, many people may stumble upon extensive negative campaign against Christ with their faith, betraying Him.

<Red Horse>

Now, Revelation also describes this day as below.

Revelation 6:4 Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword.

6:9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.

6:10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

6:11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

Let's take a look at this part.

Revelation 6:4 Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword.

What is written here is the same as what we saw about "wars and rumors of wars" in Matthew 24. "To him was given a large sword" means that there will be conflicts amongst Christian denominations because of arguments over doctrines. Sword represents the word of God or a doctrine. This parable mentions that as a result of conflicts, people will end up prosecuting and killing each other.

"Then another horse came out, a fiery red one."

Fire is the parable for spiritual things, so it describes that the conflicts between Christian denominations are related to spirit. Indeed, the Bible says when there is spirit, there will also be conflicts. Let's read below.

Luke 12:49 "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!"

12:50 But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed!

12:51 Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.

12:52 From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three.

12:53 They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

When fire (spirit) comes, there will be revival and everything seems to be OK, but it may not be the case according to this scripture. It is described that because there will

be fire and spirit, we will have conflicts, separations, and “there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three.”

Why is that? That is because there will be separation and conflict between spirits. When Holy Spirit comes down to do His work, demons will also definitely work which causes the attacks by affected people. The day of Pentecost was a classic example. People thought there would be peace amongst them when the long-awaited Holy Spirit finally came down, but that wasn't the case. Rather, rabbis and priests opposed it and they became separated.

The same thing may repeat in the End of Days. As the Holy Spirit starts to work in some people, other people who are influenced by the opposite spirit will go against it, and there will be conflict between them. In the end, they would sue and take each other to court, and righteous Christians would be accused and lose their life. The reason why they are accused is that they continue to insist that Christ is right, and do not intend losing their faith in Him.

6:9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.

Now, these verses in this chapter describes “the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained”.

We need to know that there is a connection between the fact that these people were killed, and the description about the red horses “Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other”. These people will lose their life as the result of doctrinal and religious arguments.

This means that they died because of many deceived Christians. Amongst other rebellious Christians who no longer believe the miracles of Christ, His divine nature, or the fact that he is the Son of God, disciples are going to lose their life because of their faithfulness to Christ.

6:10 They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”

And, those who kill righteous Christians are the inhabitants of the earth, which means they are worldly Christians who are based on the worldly logic, and live in the worldly way.

Who are the inhabitants of the earth? They are Christians who live in this world permanently. This is opposite to how Abraham lived as a traveler and pilgrims on this earth.

They prioritize the worldly commonsense or view which are easy to accept. In another words, they are the people who are swayed by the worldly trend or opinions, and accept homo-sexuality which is banned by the Bible, or don't say "salvation is only found in Christ" in fear of being resisted by other religions. We should know that when these Christians persecute righteous Christians, it will be the day of a war and Tribulation in End times.

6:11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

Here, it is described that the number of martyrs will be fulfilled, so we need to realize that there is a possibility for the righteous people who choose to stand on the word of God to be killed because of their faith.



An American Christian is arrested because of preaching the Gospel.

<Asking the Lord for the way>

I have already talked about “this way” in April 2011 edition, but since I had a message from God about this theme, I would like to talk about it again.

God said to me “Walk this way. This is the only way” in my dream. “This way” leads to “(Eternal) Life”, and I have started to walk “this way” ever since. Then last year, God taught me the clue to walk “this way” through the sermon about Psalm. Let’s take a look.

Psalm 25:4 Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.

25:5 Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

This is the prayer of David to God. If you look at the underlined sentences, you will find there is the word “teach” in both. What Pastor Jeremiah preached to us then is like this.

“Salvation is found in God. But, we need to be shown where to go through, or what is the way. We can’t find them by ourselves. The true way which leads to eternal life has to be shown by God, otherwise we wouldn’t get to know.”

When I heard this, I strongly agreed. Just as David prayed to God saying, “Teach me”, if we really want inherit the kingdom of heaven, I understood that we should follow David and keep praying for guidance. This is because, as Pastor Jeremiah said, I wouldn’t be able to find by myself. By the way, in terms of “find”, a scripture comes to my mind. Here is the one.

Matthew 7:14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

This is what Jesus said. It says “**narrow the road**”, and I think this means the same as “**paths**” in Psalm. We can see the road to “The kingdom of heaven” is “narrow”. This means that the road is not flat, but difficult to walk. Also, it says that “**only a few find it**”. The reason why there is only a few is, like how I used to be, probably many Christians don’t ask God to show them. But this is not God’s fault, but from biblical perspective, it is our problem that we don’t ask or pray for guidance.

The description of “He who has ears to hear, let him hear” is found in Revelation and the Gospels. This means if you really want to ask, just ask God. I mean, I think if we don’t understand “the pathway to life” without being taught by God, we have got to ask Him. But at the same time, I wonder if many Christians end their lives without asking God? Those people may miss “the kingdom of God”, despite the fact that they thought they could enter it. That is why it says “few”. But this is not good enough. If you really want to enter the kingdom of heaven, you have to be one of “few”. The thing is that it doesn’t say you can never be. Because you can be shown if you ask, so you just need to put it into practice.

Say, for instance, you got lost during hiking. What would you do to get to your destination then? If you found an information center, you would go there and ask direction, right? That is how you safely reach your destination, isn’t it? You can’t just wonder what to do to get to the destination, or unless you know the right direction, you could end up arriving at the wrong place. It also happens on the “pathway to heaven”. I think that it is impossible to keep going without the guidance of Christ. But if you ask God for directions, He will show you the right way so that you can enter “the kingdom of heaven” in the end. On the other hand, if you don’t ask or pray, you could be taken to the different place (place referred to as eternal contempt, Hades, or a lake of fire), so make sure you ask, listen and pray to God. If you feel His guidance, please put it into practice.

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

Amen