

## The Seed of The Woman shall bruise the serpent's head

It has become very clear to us who have been praying so much during this pandemic how hard it has been to make progress and how strong the things are against which we pray and it has appeared at some times that we have failed altogether in our requests.

The Lord spoke to us at the beginning of the pandemic that this has been allowed to show to the developed countries that they are not in control and that He would have mercy on the poor and the needy, and that has worked out in the results of what has happened worldwide. Still the efforts to control fail, especially in the so called developed countries, and the panic at being unable to control the virus extends through the countries where, having very much rejected the gospel of Our Lord Jesus, there is no longer any hope and definitely no assurance of eternal life. They are without hope and without God in this world. We see human beings all their lifetime subject to the fear of death, and in the developed countries where people expect to have a means of rescue them from illness it has been a huge shock to their citizens. We see science, medicine and the dreaded politics all vying with one another for control and to find and answer to this current plague.

One has never been so aware of the corruption, dishonesty and self-centredness of those who rule over us and also been aware of the huge sin in and of the world, which goes against the declared morality of the Bible and allows every unclean practice to operate all in rebellion to God. Other religions which are contrary to Our Lord Jesus operate and the spiritual offence that this causes to the Lord is immense. People practice so many evil things as they go everywhere and anywhere, apart from Our Lord, trying to find the answer to their needs. The source of much of course is hidden and lots of practices become socially acceptable but merely is the 'pleasures of sin for a time'. No wonder there is a rise in serious mental health conditions, especially in the children of the so-called rich countries when their parent participate in spiritual wrong doing. It is awful: and yet we pray and continue to call on Our God of mercy while we so understand the reasons for this judgement on the earth due to the rebellion of man against God, God's mercy is greater and is the basis of our heart cries to God. Psalm 2 is still so relevant today:

*Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sits in the heavens shall laugh: The Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath and vex them in his sore displeasure.*

So, as we pray, the immensity of the task to bring the change we seek becomes more and more clear. We want God to move and the show His almighty power and give a testimony to His people. We ask Him to bring this pandemic to an end, so it is clear God has moved. We ask Him to save souls and for revival as people see their mortality and vulnerability and look for help from God; to someone so much bigger than the government, scientists, and doctors in the country in which they live. We are aware of our persecuted brothers and sisters down through the centuries as they stand for the gospel and how their suffering has endured for many years under oppressive persecution in spite of, no doubt, their cries for the deliverance, which may not have ever seemed to come. There is deliverance in one way as, whether we live or die we are the Lord's, but the broken hearts of the saints who have suffered and seen their children suffer are many and why we read the cry "How Long".

So, we see the power of darkness, it has its hour and is the work of him who comes to steal, kill, and destroy and yet the first promise in the Bible says, "The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head". In other words, there will be a human being who will defeat satan, the enemy of all people. It will be through a human being!!!!

The thought is amazing, the promise immense declaring that the victory could come through one man. This when we are aware of how strong the spiritual things are against which we fight and wrestle in these times and which have caused the nations to rage and oppose God since sin arrived in the world.

His NAME IS JESUS. O How great He is and how marvellous are His works. He did the work as one human being. Many are praying at this time and we fight on and will gain the victory, but we read that this one man, after He had once offered Himself for our sins, sat down on the throne of the majesty on high. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. He took on Him the sin of us all. He was bruised for our transgressions; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed. Wonderful, O so very wonderful; this one offering was enough for all people for all time.

This declares the immensity of His godliness, His holiness, His faith, His sacrifice, and His love. Jesus openly defeated all the powers of darkness in His death, in weakness, on the cross. We see how strong they are, but Jesus broke their power, out in the light where spiritually it could all be seen and known. Jesus, then in complete control of life and death: He offered Himself to God. When the world, especially the so-called developed world, panics in the face of death, we have one man in complete control. He laid His life down and took it up again. Truly Jesus, the seed of the woman bruised the serpent's head: He destroyed him who has the power of death even the devil. God's promise was fulfilled. It was all through this one wonderful man. O how great God's wisdom and intentions for us when He made that first promise, understanding what His beloved Son would do.

Jesus rose from the dead, He had too of course, 'it was not possible that death could hold Him'. How could it? He had overcome death and all the powers of darkness, all seemingly impossible for a man and yet totally true. God, His Father, has therefore given Jesus a name above every Name and very other name will bow and honour Him.

Jesus could therefore say "Go into all the world and preach the gospel, all power (authority) is given to me in heaven and earth.

Yes, the powers will rise up as the centuries pass, and the nearer the second coming the more rapidly they will do so, and powers will come and go. They will fight against each other as the kingdom of darkness is a divided kingdom. We see that now, nation against nation but other powers which seek to control human lives working for supremacy. All the powers will fail, they will have their day, but Jesus is already Lord, nothing can change that. God says, "Your throne is for ever and ever". Jesus will be seen to be Lord of all when He comes again.

We are told in the book of Hebrews to "See how great this man is" not was of course, as Jesus is alive from the dead; there is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. Jesus who has been for ever and by whom the worlds were made became a human being, He was being born as a baby in a manger. He grew up to be the one human being who in His death defeated all the powers which seem so strong to us. The seed of the woman had truly bruised the serpent's head and there is a way of salvation from sin and death which all may find. We have a God who, as Lord of all, can keep His people in all their trials and difficulties, even unto death and bring them through to life everlasting, that they may ever be with Jesus, the Lord of all.

So, we pray, we continue to pray. We pray for the church of Jesus Christ; we pray for our brothers and sisters whom we love. We pray for the salvation of souls; we pray for the end of this pandemic. Yes it is hard work, Jesus sweated great drops of blood, but we continue even when everything seems so impossible. Abraham believed when all hope was gone and received the promise. Paul prayed and when all hope was God worked. So, we pray and will prevail because the seed of the woman has bruised the serpent's head. The man Jesus Christ overcame and is Lord of all.

Praise the Lord