SOUND THE TRUMPET IN PRAYER

**And if you go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the Lord your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies (Numbers 10:9).**

What Happened?

Recently, I heard a story that outdid most horror movies Hollywood could dream up. It was about the unspeakable evil a man committed against his 13 year old daughter. Considering this and other heinous things that men will do, caused me to wonder what has gone wrong with humanity. We must surely be more evil today than they were before God destroyed humanity off the face of the earth in the days of Noah. When we study the word of God, we can determine that certain laws were meant for Israel, but God does not change His judgment on moral issues. The things that God hated then, He assuredly hates now. There are many principals in the word of God that can be applied today. The children of Israel typically had a man to lead them, but it is recorded in Judges 1:1 that after the death of Joshua, the people spoke directly to God asking Him, *“who should go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?”* God spoke to them saying Judah should go up. Another way of saying this would be, praise shall go up first. In every battle we should let praise go up before us, knowing that the battle really is the Lord’s when we put it in His hands in prayer. And when fighting a battle created with our own hands, we should still praise God for His grace and mercy.

The Bible tells us that when the people took the land, they did not heed God’s warning in driving out the inhabitants of the land. God sent an angel, letting them know they had not obeyed His voice in making an alliance with the people of the land; people who served other gods. He admonished them saying in Judges 2:3, *“I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you”.* To be sure, there are many other gods all around us, gods who need to be driven out of our lives. These gods have become a snare to us as they were in the children of Israel’s day. They led to their destruction, and they are leading to our destruction. In our day, we might not stand before some idol, but we still put many things before God. There are many more things to draw us away from God today, than there were then. In our day, people are deceived into thinking God does not hate the very things His word calls an abomination. As if God has forgotten what He hated. As if He is willing to call evil good and good evil; as many are doing today. I am concerned that many will find on judgment day that the things that were put before God, His word, and His ways will not be able to stand.

The children of Israel cried and wept at God’s admonition, but did nothing to rectify the situation. Perhaps they felt sorry for themselves, perhaps they grew angry at God. When they fell into the hands of their enemies, and their cries reached heaven, God, in His mercy, sent Judges to fight for them. It is recorded in Judges 2:10 that all that generation died; *“and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel”.* Scripture gives us an admonition here. We are not only admonished, but encouraged. There is still time to speak to God; to call out to Him in prayer; to seek His direction; to remove the false gods from our lives. These gods are anything we put before God, including our worries and fears. There is still time to praise Him in all we do and say. There is still time to tell of His marvelous deeds. Everything God has done for us should be passed on to the next generation, and be told to those around us.

The prior generation did not do this. As a result, a generation rose up that did not know God because He was never spoken of. Instead of leading the inhabitants of the land towards God, the children of Israel let the inhabitants of the land lead them astray. And in time God was not glorified, His ways were not known, and evil overtook the land. This is what has happened in our day. It is written in Romans 1:21, *“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened”.* The Bible also goes on to tell of all the evil acts that are committed by those who allowed themselves to be turned over to the vain and worthless things of this world (see Romans 1:22-32). Furthermore, scripture speaks of men’s consciences being seared, and their minds being turned to reprobation. Both of these result in the inability to tell the difference between right and wrong, which will lead to eternal damnation. No matter what our current situation is, it is not too late to turn our hearts, and ways back towards the Lord; regardless of what has happened BME

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WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

IN LINE WITH GOD

When sharing my plans for my release with a friend, he shared with me Proverbs 19:21, which tells us there are many plans in a man’s heart. I find that funny because my whole life, like others, is full of planning. Our plans are short term or long, realistic, or dreams. The second part says only our Lord’s counsel will stand. The difference between those old plans and the ones I have are, the new are for good, and the old were for evil. This verse gives me hope to continue working for good because my bad ideas came to no good end.

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TROUBLE NOW

The reading of Revelations 12:10-12 shows me why on the news everyday people think the world is coming to an end. Instead of being afraid to live life or hating what life has dealt you, you should consider we have already won, and have a great life waiting for us that lasts forever. Since the devil is fighting a losing battle, he is trying to bring down as many as possible. So don’t give up your victory out of unfaithfulness; just wait, trusting in the Lord’s return, and rejoice. **William Moctezuma**

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THE TWO SIDES

“Come to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to our sanity”.

Have you ever watched the movie Lord of the Rings? Well, let me bring your attention to two of the characters: The first one being Gullum, how he was addicted to this ring, and normal looking at the beginning. He left the shrine in search of a better life in the world, but the things of the world overwhelmed him very quickly. He became obsessed with the ring. It was his (the sinners) hearts only desire, and it was the force of the ring (the devil) that captured his mind, body, and soul. He went from weighing 200 pounds to 90 pounds, and people were scared to even approach him. The second character was challenged with the same temptation, but he fought it. He (the Christian) resisted every day. And even though he fantasized and dreamt about it, he saw what it did to Gullum. And he made a decision to fight for his life. As Christians, we have to practice not responding to, and avoiding temptation. And also be ready for our new exciting life. One that only our God can give us. So which side will you choose? **Charles Moctezuma**

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OFF THE PUMP, INTO THE FLOW

“Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey (Exodus 33:3)”

In Egypt, God’s people had to pump water from the Nile to irrigate the crops and stay alive; slaving on an old foot pump just to survive. But then the season changes, “go in and take over the land…flowing with milk and honey…not like the land of Egypt…where you planted your seed, and irrigated it by foot” (Deuteronomy 11:8-10). There is a place in your spiritual walk where you can get off the pump, and get into the flow; where you stop sweating over everything because God’s goodness simply flows into every area of your life. But this promise is only to the obedient! “Observe therefore all the commandments I am giving you today, so that you may have the strength to go in and take over the land” (Deuteronomy 11:8). It’s like having the right access code, and account numbers. All you have to do is make withdrawals because now you’re walking in harmony with God. We all want to live in the flow of God’s blessings, yet only a handful of Israelites made it into the Promised Land. Who were they?

* (a) Those who dared to go in on the instructions God had given them.
* (b) Those who were willing to confront the giants of fear.
* (c) Those that refused to be swayed by the opinions of others.
* (d) Those whose faith said, “The Lord will lead us into that land. {He} will give it to us. Do not be afraid (Numbers 14:8-9).

You can be one of those people! **Brandy Holmes**

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INMATE ASKING FOR CHANGE

The U.S. has been fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan for nearly a quarter of a century without clear definition of who the enemy is, and what determines a victorious outcome. We heard from our previous President, George Bush, that we are fighting a war and a terror? Who are we really fighting? And secondly, how do we know when we’ve won the war? In 2013, President Obama declared, “Global war on terror is over”. Seriously, does anyone believe that to be true? I don’t. In one of his speeches, he said by 2013 all my soldiers will return to their families. What happened to that? This world is full of words. I am going to do this and that, but nothing is true. The White House needs a change for the better. Maybe what we need in our country is a woman for President? The Bible said we are all equal. So we need to respect what our good book says. This world needs to change. Men are marrying men, and women are doing the same. We need to open our eyes to what’s wrong, and who is in charge of it, and I’m not racist. **Manual Malave**

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**FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR**

It is finally April. ☺ Happy birthday to those who have April/May birthdays! Thank you all for your submissions to the newsletter, and for making the column Words from Behind the Wall possible. There are many Inmates serving LWOP or near to it that may not receive other mail. Also, I am not able to print your locations. It is illegal in Illinois for Inmates, who are not co-defendants, to write one another. I also avoid the use of nicknames. We do not ever want IDOC to suspect that our newsletter is being used for any type of gang communication. Rest assured that I am not afraid to speak out against gangs; nor do I support this activity, as it has caused destruction in many lives. I trust that all understand. God bless you all. . **Beth Marie Evans**

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**Inmates, please submit your inspirational thoughts for Words from Behind the Wall to Beth Marie Evans, C/O International Christian Fellowship, 9146 Lincoln Avenue, Brookfield IL 60513. Office Phone: 708-387-9009.**