

## Audio Teaching Sermon

## Message #44

## War and Rumors of War

[ **A** Intro – Pastor Jefferson 0:00 thru 1:25 ]

Welcome to all of you followers of Christ, who the word of the LORD is meaningful and brings you great joy as you come to first comprehend and then appreciate it. You are now listening to the **44<sup>th</sup> Message** of the **Audio Teaching Sermon Series**. Hey friends, pastor Jefferson here, where I assure you the pleasure is all mine to be able to speak to you today. In the last lesson we were discussing the 3<sup>rd</sup> prophecy of the parable of the Fig Tree, which I entitled “**the imminent**,” where we discussed the **1<sup>st</sup> sign** Jesus warned us about. Recall that in **Matthew 24:5**, Jesus began answering the **1<sup>st</sup> question**: “*When will these things happen?*” when He says, <sup>1</sup> “*For many will come in My name,* <sup>2</sup> *saying, that I am the Christ,* <sup>3</sup> *and they will mislead many.*” We showed that He was speaking of those who would come in the Name of Jesus, affirming that He is indeed the Christ, but they would still result in misleading many. As I have demonstrated many times, it is happening now, and the yeast of the Pharisees has spread all throughout the modern-day church. They use the Bible, but they twist and pervert its words.

[ **B** 4<sup>th</sup> Generation Warfare 1:25 thru 3:18 ]

The next sign Jesus gives us is found in the very next verse, **Matthew 24:6**, Jesus says, <sup>1</sup> “*You will begin then* <sup>2</sup> *to hear of wars* <sup>3</sup> *and rumors of wars.* <sup>4</sup> *Behold,* <sup>5</sup> *but be not alarmed* <sup>6</sup> *for it is necessary for this to take place,* <sup>7</sup> *but not yet is the end.*” Let me just tell you that in this verse, Jesus is not speaking about any old wars. Humanity has literally had wars over the whole course of its history. In fact, just since **1946**—the end of **WWII**—there have been **285 distinct armed conflicts**, a number which doesn’t include the more recent wars in Israel and Iran for instance. In fact, the birth of the Fig Tree came out of the biggest war of all time—WWII. After its conclusion, there have been countless instances of hostilities raging all across the planet. So, Jesus here cannot be talking about just the run of the mill armed conflict. What we see today is referred to as **Modern War**, which is defined as ‘**conflicts with increased focus on technology.**’ These wars, referred to as “*fourth generation warfare*” are increasingly reliant on tracking systems and drones, with mounting use of AI controlled vehicles, with far less emphasis on the traditional definition of ‘*boots on the ground.*’ These conflicts are complex, long-term and decentralized. They blur the line between combat military strategy versus civil policy.

[ **C** Errant Beliefs Hurt our Credibility 3:18 thru 4:44 ]

As I studied to break down this particular verse, I began with the thought that it would be a simple task. But I struggled mightily to hear what the LORD was trying to tell me. As usual, I went and looked up all the relevant words in the original languages. I then read and studied all the cross references in an attempt to reach a conclusion with the help of the Holy Spirit. But I still experienced real difficulty seeing what Jesus wanted me to know. The reason is, I had to undergo a lot of **reverse learning**, where I had to un-learn what I had previously been taught in error. Growing up in the faith I was told that the number of wars and subsequent rumors of wars would greatly increase—like with what Daniel spoke regarding the increase in knowledge and travel, as we discussed in the last lesson. Here’s where the sceptics rip us apart over our errant beliefs. There has been zero increase in the rate of warfare. It has more or less remained rock steady, since the creation of the nation of Israel. **False information** is easily defeated by cynics and sceptics and that is why we need to ensure we are not ever found guilty of speaking it.

[ **D** Bad News to Our Ears 4:44 thru 6:34 ]

Once more, the solution to my dilemma lies in the definitions of the words within the original languages. Look now at **T-1**. The Greek word we see for **you will begin** is [1] **mel-LES-seh-tay**. This word is used just this one time and so its definition is unique. It means to **‘be at or near to the point of experiencing or suffering something.’** The verb conveys the nearness, intention or certainty regarding a forthcoming act or series of actions. Thus, we can affirm that Jesus is discussing the approaching consummation of history by the sudden appearance of the prophesied sign. So, what will we all be experiencing or suffering from at that time? The topical info stated in **T-2 & 3** says **“to hear of wars and rumors of wars.”** Look now at the word for **to hear of** in **T-2**. It is **ah-KOO-ein**, and means **‘to come to the ears, to be reported or to give audience to.’** Today we would say, **“to have something reported,”** as on a newscast. The root of this Greek word is where we get the modern word **“acoustics.”** Just like most folks, I receive regular news and get headline updates on my cellphone. But the news Jesus is talking about will be reported aurally. I expect that we will all be glued to live broadcasts listening to this soon coming terribly bad news.

[ **E** What Kind of Wars? 6:34 thru 7:55 ]

The other word we see in **T-2** is **wars**. The *Greek* word used here is [3] **POL-leh-mos**

which means **'fighting, warfare or battle.'** It can also mean having a dispute, to suffer strife, or even to quarrel. We see a similar word used for **wars** in T-3. It is [2] **POL-leh-mon**. So, what is it that is different about these 2 words Jesus used here for **wars**? Man has experienced wars for all of his recorded history. And, as I just said, there have been very many wars since the creation of the modern state of Israel continuing right up until now. In fact, since **Israel** declared her independence there have been something on the order of between **30** and **50** wars being waged at any given time. But these 2 words for wars which Jesus uses, are recorded in only **3 verses** in Scripture, and in each case the writers are each reporting on this very same phrase. So, this warning that **Christ** is giving to His disciples must be unique, despite all the wars being waged all over the world.

[ **F** **Shocking, Brutal and even Criminal** **7:55 thru 9:34** ]

We discover more information in T-3. Notice the word **rumors**. In the *Greek* it is [4] **ah-ko-AS**, and translates to **'infamy, speculations or hearsay.'** The word **infamy** means **'evil reputation brought about by something grossly criminal, shocking or brutal.'** The nature of this soon coming information that we will be hearing regarding these wars, will indeed be shocking, brutal and possibly even criminal. I want you to notice that this word for rumors shares the same root as the *Greek* word for **to hear of** as we just spoke about in T-2. They too will be aural warnings of some sort. A close friend of mine speculates that these reports will be described as something along the lines of *"dangerous rhetoric."* To determine the actual meaning of the *Greek* word **ah-ko-AS**, we must take a closer look at the **4 places** where it has been used. First off, both **Matthew** and **Mark** use the word in identical verses. [**Matt 24:6 & Mark 13:7**] The 3<sup>rd</sup> place we see it is **Luke 7:1**. It reads: *"After Jesus had concluded all His sayings, in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum."* Here the word **ah-ko-AS** is translated as **'hearing.'**

[ **G** **Dialog can be Reasoning** **9:34 thru 11:27** ]

So, are we to assume that **Jesus** was speaking of *rumors* when He was delivering His **Sermon on the Plain**? Nope. He most surely was not! Was He discussing dangerous rhetoric? Possibly, because Jesus did mention **4 curses** in His sermon. He doesn't state curses, instead He uses the word **woe**, which is used **'to express grief, regret or distress.'** And was He possibly speaking about how evil will bring about some events, which will indeed be shocking, brutal and perhaps even criminal? Absolutely, yes! In fact, we will discuss this more later, but in the **Sermon on the Plain**, Jesus was speaking primarily to

His **12 disciples**. And yes, there is a 4<sup>th</sup> place this exact word is used. When we look over in **Acts 17:20**, it reads, *“For what you say sounds strange to our ears. And we want to know what these ideas mean?”* Here, **ah-ko-AS** is defined as **“ears.”** The words Paul was preaching in Athens, sounded strange to the ears of those listening to his reasoning in the synagogue. When you read **Acts 17:3**, you see the phrase where Paul reasoned with them over the Scriptures. And when you look at **Acts 17:17**, we see the *Greek* word for **reasoning** is **[4] die-el-lah-GET-toe**, the root of which is where we get our modern word **dialog**. It means, **‘speaking to a conclusion or attempting to get across logical analysis.’**

[ **H** Strange Words to Our Ears 11:27 thru 12:45 ]

Preaching is a sort of debate, where the clergy is attempting to educate the audience. So, I ask you, *“Was Paul spreading or discussing rumors while he was preaching in the synagogues?”* No! Of course he wasn’t. He was debating the meaning of Scripture, which necessitates its proper interpretation, as this is the only way to arrive at the appropriate conclusion, just as I try and do with each audio sermon. As I’ve said, Biblical interpretation is certainly not the wild west. As with the **Apostle Paul**, the proper interpretation of the word of **Yahweh** requires a lot of digging and explaining to the unfledged masses. Okay, so we’ve established that these wars are somehow different from “ordinary wars”—if there is indeed such a thing, based on the use of the word wars as spoken of by **Jesus**. And we’ve determined that rather than rumors, the Bible is discussing the strange words being heard perhaps from the government and media, attempting to rationalize these shocking, brutal and even criminal wars.

[ **I** Disorder, Confusion and Tumult 12:45 thru 14:34 ]

There is another avenue we can use to examine this phrase. Open your Bible to **Luke 21:9**. Rather than using the words *“rumors of war,”* as **Matthew** and **Mark** did, **Luke** reports Jesus speaking a different word. In its place, He uses the word **commotion**, which in the *Greek* is **[2] ah-kat-tas-tas-SEE-as** and means **‘disorder, confusion and tumult.’** It brings with it the idea of being unable to stand, which is a metaphor for being under intense mental stress, creating the feeling of being unsteady. It gives the idea that people will be experiencing the sensation that things are out of control and that they are in grave danger. The word **tumult** is defined as **‘disorderly agitation of a crowd, resulting in an uproar and confusion.’** Based on the news people will be hearing, it will literally be blowing their minds. So, what kind of wars and the resulting tumult can Jesus be talking

about? What would be the worst kind of war which would be placed in its own category? Which news would be equivalent to having strange things come to our ears which would cause disorder, uproar and confusion in the minds of the public, as Jesus concluded in His discourse on the Sermon on the Plain? Short of having aliens arrive at the White House or a seeing a huge asteroid suddenly appear in the sky, there aren't too many things left which would create such a ruckus—a commotion or disturbance.

[ **J** Living Under the Shadow of WWII 14:34 thru 16:31 ]

Well, from my point of view, Jesus can only be warning us of just one type of war: and that is **nuclear war**. Before you are too quick to disagree, remember there is a 2<sup>nd</sup> half to **Matt 24:6** which we haven't discussed yet. But it will bring a bunch more light to this topic. The simple fact is that **nuclear war** hasn't occurred since the establishment of the nation of Israel. Nuclear weapons have been used in war exactly twice, and both instances were prior to **14 May 1948**, Israel's Independence Day. And while we lived post **WWII** under the shadow of a nuclear arms race called the **Cold War**, there was never any use, or blatant discussion of or actual threats made for the use of nuclear weapons. Instead, official public speech was restricted to things like, "**Peace through Strength**." Or the Strategic Air Command's motto of "**Peace is Our Profession**." Nuclear deterrence was secured via the idea of mutual assured destruction via the triad of nuclear forces. "Hey, if you attack us first, we will still be able to respond and obliterate you," thus making nuclear war unwinnable, and the use of nuclear weapons irrational. Talks between the US and USSR did result in large reductions in the total number of nuclear weapons. We lived in a time of détente, with a red phone hotline established between the US and Soviet Union. So, while we lived with the specter of nuclear war, we did not experience it, nor were we directly threatened by it.

[ **K** Talk of Using Nuclear Weapons 16:31 thru 17:56 ]

Lately, we have begun hearing and seeing the emergence of threats to use nuclear weapons by nations which possess them. It was recently mentioned by Russian talking heads, after the start of the Russian-Ukraine war, saying that any additional assistance rendered by NATO to Ukraine, which threatens the motherland, will be met with the use of nuclear weapons. North Korean dictator **Kim Jong Un** in 2024 threatened to use nuclear weapons on **South Korea**, calling for the obliteration of the South's capital of **Seoul**. In the recent **Pakistan-India** war, nuclear weapons were mentioned as a viable option on

both sides while the short-lived hostilities were ongoing. Israel and the U.S. just bombed **Iran's** nuclear sites due to Iran threatening to destroy the Great Satan (US) and the lesser Satan (Israel). These nations clearly saw through the deceit that Iran only wants a nuclear capability for peaceful reasons. These threats are new, and they are real. There is an undeniable belief emerging within the world that the use of nuclear weapons is an acceptable and even palatable option to subdue an enemy.

[ **L** **Dates are Rapidly Approaching** **17:56 thru 19:07** ]

The reason I bring this up is the Bible predicts two things which might happen in the near term. The larger of the two, is an event predicted to happen on **6 January 2027**. I call this event the **2<sup>nd</sup> Wake-Up! Call**. It is where Russia and her allies will attack Israel but will instead be destroyed on the Megiddo plain. The description in **Ezekiel 38 & 39** makes it pretty clear that this war will involve the use of nuclear weapons to stop Russia in her tracks and kill 90 percent of the invading forces. But there is also an embargo of Israel, lasting **540 days** exactly which is prophesied to happen prior to this event. So, if my calculations are correct, there will be some event which will lead to Israel being blocked in some manner on or about **16 July 2025**. The Bible does not give any other details on this event that I can find. As of this sermon, that date is less than 1 month away.

[ **Z** **Some Final Thoughts** **19:07 thru 20:27** ]

My intent is not to scare anyone. It is to simply show two things. First of all, we are living in the end times. And while we haven't completed our discussion of the **Fig Tree**, the fact they have come to pass and are still happening cannot be denied. We are on the verge of perhaps witnessing the first use of **nuclear weapons** since August of 1945. And 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Word of God is real, and perfectly accurate in the extreme. Now, while things might seem to be reaching a point of getting out of control, remember in the words of Jesus, He said, *"We would be at or near to the point of experiencing or suffering something which would create quite a commotion."* He associates the arrival of that with wars which are shocking, brutal and even criminal. Jesus also says for us to not become overly alarmed, for these are things which must take place. I will continue this discussion in the next sermon. **So, until next time my beloved, this has been Pastor Jefferson, speaking in God's Holy name and for His glory alone. Amen!**