

Zion's Trumpet Newsletter

And his feet shall stand in that day
upon the mount of Olives, which is
before Jerusalem on the east...
Zechariah 14:4



Volume One

September 2007

Greetings

Dear Friends & Brethren,

Greetings in the name of the Lord. Well, it's been so long since I have written anything, some of you have called or emailed to see if I am still alive.

I'm still here, and I want to say "Thank You" to all those who have been keeping me in their prayers. Our family has been going through some spiritual changes, and also, some real testing through the last year or so. This has kept me from doing any serious writing. But recently I have had a desire to not only get back to work on Babylon Rising #7, but also to branch off on some new endeavors.

God willing, we are going to put out a monthly newsletter. One of the nice things about a newsletter is that it will allow me the freedom to share a burden that is on my heart, which may have nothing to do with the subject matter of the book I am currently writing.

Also, a newsletter can be more personal. It will provide a format for me to share personal information or make announcements—like the fact that we now have a web site. The address is: <http://users.wildblue.net/dmace>

One thing that has been on my heart lately is the desire to have a forum which would allow some kind of interaction between us and those of you on the mailing list that are desiring some fellowship.

We know very well how lonely it can get out here in the wilderness. Sometimes your heart cries out to be with other like-minded believers.

To that end, we are going to start a *Virtual Fellowship Room* via the Internet. This would give those of you who have a computer and an Internet connection the chance to have some interaction with us, as well as with others who are on the Zion's Trumpet mailing list.

If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of, see the details at the end of this newsletter.

God Bless
Dan Mace.

Bringing Forth Iron

Part One

*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate **to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

Romans 8:29

The Scripture reveals that God's desire for His people is that *after* we have been born again, we allow Him to conform us to the image of His Son. Understanding this truth is fairly easy. However, embracing *the process* that is required to actually conform us to that image is quite another matter, for this process requires suffering. This is precisely why the writers of the New Testament talked so much about the need to suffer.

*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; **if so be that we suffer with him**, that we may be also glorified together.*

Romans 8:16-17

*For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, **and suffer for it**, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. **For even hereunto were ye called**: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye **should follow his steps**.*

I. Peter 2:20-21

*That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves **know that we are appointed thereunto**. For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that **we should suffer tribulation**; even as it came to pass, and ye know.*

I. Thessalonians 3:3-4

*It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: **If we suffer, we shall also reign with him**: if we deny him, he also will deny us...Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus **shall suffer persecution**.*

II. Timothy 2:11-12 & 3:12

*For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, **but also to suffer for his sake**;*

Philippians 1:29

The Scripture is very clear. We are *called* to suffer; we are *appointed* unto suffering. When God calls us to become a believer, He is calling us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Those footsteps will lead us into a life of suffering, self-denial, loneliness and eventually death.

*Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him **deny himself**, and **take up his cross**, and follow me.*

Matthew 16:24

Jesus told His disciples that if they wanted to follow Him, if they wanted to be His disciples in truth, then they would have to take up *their own* cross and deny themselves. The same thing applies to us.

*And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, **cannot be my disciple**.*

Luke 14:27

There is no ambiguity in the Lord's message. He made sure we would understand exactly what He is demanding of us. After telling us we must take up our cross and deny ourselves, He goes on to say that anyone who refuses to do this *cannot* be His disciple. There are no loopholes, no exceptions, no special cases.

The cross is an instrument of suffering and death. So when Jesus said we must take up *our own* personal cross, He is telling us we have to embrace a life of suffering and eventual death. In other words, it's *God's will* that we suffer. That's right. God wants you to suffer!

Why would God want us to suffer? Doesn't He love us? The reason suffering is so necessary is because the only way *God's life* can come forth in us is if *our life* dies.

Our life is the fallen Adamic nature we are each born with. Some aspects of our life are wicked and vile. Other aspects of our life may be good, or even noble from a human standpoint. However, both the good and the evil aspects of our Adamic life must go to the cross. The whole thing must go down into death in order for God's life to come forth in us. This is the "life" Jesus was talking about when He said: "*For whosoever will **save his life** shall lose it: and whosoever will **lose his life** for my sake shall find it*" (*Matthew 16:24-25*)

The apostle Paul understood this. That's why he said if we "mortify (mortify means put to death) the deeds of the body" we would live spiritually. But if we live "after the flesh" we will die spiritually (*Rom. 8:13*). That's why he said we must bear about in our bodies "the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made

manifest" in us (*II. Cor. 4:10*). That's why he said he wanted to partake of the Lord's sufferings and be made conformable unto his *death* (*Phil. 3:10*). He knew that resurrection life only comes out of death. We have to make a trade, friends—our life for His.

This is also why he said he *took pleasure* in infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecutions and distresses. He realized these things were crucifying his life, and as a result, God's life was being released in and through him. It's not a pleasant reality, but the truth is, suffering is the only thing that transforms us into the image of Jesus.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of today's Christians are not being taught this truth. In fact, they are being taught *just the opposite* by deluded religious leaders! They are being taught that Jesus wants to make us happy and prosperous and healthy, and that He wants to give us all the desires of our hearts. They are being told to use the power of "faith" to persuade God to give them what *they* want and to fulfil *their* will. The idea that God wants us to suffer is a totally foreign concept to them.

But God has a remnant of saints today who have not been deceived by these religious leaders. He has a remnant of people who understand suffering is necessary if we want to be conformed to the image of the Son—and it is to *this* remnant we speak.

As we have been hearing the word that is coming forth from ministers and teachers who are part of this remnant, we see a serious imbalance in their view of exactly what the "image" of God's Son looks like. It seems to us that most of these people are focusing exclusively on *love*.

The apostle John did say: "God is love" (*I. John 4:8*). So we are not trying to minimize the importance of having that love worked into our personalities. But God has *other* attributes too, and without these attributes He would not be God. Without them Jesus would not be Jesus; and unless they are worked into our lives as well, we will never be conformed to the image of the Son.

One of those other attributes is *spiritual iron*. Thus, part of the process of being conformed to the image of Jesus includes bringing forth spiritual iron in our personalities. Spiritual iron has to do with righteousness and justice, and discipline and rulership.

*Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. **Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.***

Psalms 2:6-9

And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he [Jesus] shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Revelation 19:14-15

When Jesus returns, He is going to break the nations and rule them with a rod of iron. It doesn't say He will rule them with grace, or mercy, or longsuffering, or love. It says He will rule them with *iron*. Spiritual iron will be the main characteristic of his earthly reign.

Of course the Lord's love and mercy will also be present. He's not coming back as an unmerciful tyrant. But He is coming back as a King—and He's not going to tolerate any more rebellion from anyone, not even for a moment. The rebellion that Lucifer began in heaven, and then brought to the earth, will come to a violent and abrupt end—at least until the end of the Millennium.

If the nations submit and obey Messiah during His reign they will be blessed. But if they rise up and try to do their own will they will experience His immediate punishment. They will experience His iron.

And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Revelation 2:26-27

The Scripture also tells us that Jesus is not going to rule the nations alone. There is an overcoming remnant that is destined to rule with Him; and the same *iron* that is required for Jesus to rule is required for that remnant to rule. In other words, it's the spiritual iron that qualifies us for rulership. No iron—no rulership.

And his [the Dragon's] tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

Revelation 12:4-5

When God starts bringing iron forth in us, we enter a whole new dimension of spiritual authority. When you deal with spiritual iron you are dealing with issues of kingship and rulership. This arouses the full fury of the enemy, for you see, Satan doesn't hate and fear God because of His love. He doesn't hate and fear God because

of His gentleness, or His kindness, or His mercy. Satan hates and fears God because of His *spiritual iron*. He hates and fears God's iron because it's *that* iron which will finally cast him into eternal torment, and he knows it.

He also hates any child of God who is letting the Holy Spirit produce that iron *in them*. This is why you see him standing before the Woman in Revelation 12, waiting to devour the manchild (overcomers).

He's not obsessed with destroying the manchild because it will demonstrate God's love or mercy to a dying world. He's obsessed with destroying it because he knows that its destiny is to "...rule all nations with a rod of iron...." He knows that it's the iron in this people that will enable them to take away his dominion, just as he knows it's the iron in God that will eventually destroy him.

Satan hates the iron, brethren! The thing he wants to destroy *most* in us is the iron. The thing he desires most to keep us from coming forth in is spiritual iron. Any time he sees iron developing in a believer, he's there instantly to try and devour it.

The spirit of the Dragon is the spirit that pervades not only the world, but also the current *religious* scene. He is constantly trying to get us to accept ideas and doctrines that make the iron—as well as the things that *produce* that iron—repulsive to us.

In order to bring forth spiritual iron, certain things are absolutely necessary—and one of them is suffering the fire of God's judgment. Just as in the natural realm you must have fire to produce iron, so it is in the spiritual realm. We must embrace God's fire (judgment) as it comes to burn out of us all the things that are of Satan and self.

In order to keep us from embracing the fire which could end up producing some iron in us, Satan offers us a "fire-less" gospel. He offers us a gospel that says Jesus suffered so we won't *ever* have to.

Another way he tries to make God's iron repulsive to us is by over-emphasizing God's love—and *this* is the danger The Remnant faces. We are not fooled by the false gospel that's being spread throughout the world. We can see right through that deception. Neither are we fooled by all these false apostles and prophets who tell us a great "revival" is sweeping the planet.

However, we *are* in danger of being deceived by teachers and ministers who are part of The Remnant, but who are (without realizing it) creating in us a contempt for God's iron *by* continually focusing on His love.

A few months ago we received a message from a brother who ministers to The Remnant. He is very well known, and he is loved and respected by all. In his writing he talked about the need for us to be ready to meet the Lord

when He comes. But the emphasis of the message was on the love of God. In fact, God's love was presented by this brother as the answer to all the world's problems—even terrorism. At one point he tried to recast the possessed Gadarene (*Mark 5:1-20*) as a "terrorist", then he used this man's deliverance as evidence that love could even tame today's Islamofascist beasts, if only the Christians knew how to manifest that love more perfectly.

This kind of thinking is a *religious fantasy*. When Jesus walked this earth He demonstrated the love of God more than any other man in history. For over three years He walked the length and breath of Israel, pouring out God's love like a mighty river. Yet only a *small percentage* of the Jewish people responded to that love.

Friends, it's just not possible to "love" the rebellion out of the heart of man. When Jesus returns, it will not be possible to rule the nations with love. They can be *guided* in love, but they will have to be ruled with iron.

There are many people like this brother, ministering to The Remnant. They are teaching the people that they must be conformed to the image of Christ and this is good. The problem is, the "image" they have created in their own minds is a *distorted* image because it's unbalanced. It's all love and no iron. They tend to emphasize scriptures which speak of God's love, but ignore the ones that speak of His iron. One example is the following passage:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

In this passage Paul describes the virtues that should be coming forth in the life of the believer. All these attributes are positive; all of them could fall under the category of *love*. Now let's read the very next verse:

*And they that are Christ's **have crucified the flesh** with the affections and lusts.*

Galatians 5:24

Do you see the iron? Crucifying the flesh is also a virtue which should be coming forth in the life of the believer. But this virtue is a negative one. This virtue has to do with self-discipline and self-denial. In order to have it we must have some spiritual iron coming forth in our lives. Another oft-quoted verse is the following:

For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.

Ephesians 5:9

Again, Paul is describing some of the virtues that should be coming forth in the life of the believer. But just two verses later he says: "*And have no fellowship with the*

unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them (vrs. 11). Can you see the iron? Having no fellowship with evil deeds and reproving those deeds are also virtues. Indeed, they are every bit as important as the other virtues Paul mentioned. But they are negative in nature and they require spiritual iron.

Friends, in order to be conformed to the image of Christ, we must have *both* the love and the iron of God worked into our lives—and in order to have either of these we must embrace a life of suffering and self-denial.



About The Virtual Fellowship Hall

The Virtual Fellowship Hall will be a "locked" chat room. This means that only those who know the password will be able to enter the room. If you are interested, you can contact me to get the password.

Those wanting to visit the room must download the program we are using. It's called "Pal Talk". We are using this program because right now it's the best one of its kind on the web—and it's FREE. You can download the latest version by going to the following address: http://www.paltalk.com/en/start_chatting.shtml

The room will have text chat and audio capabilities. If you have **speakers** connected to your computer, you will be able to hear whoever is talking. If you have a **mic** connected to your computer, you will be able to speak. Video capabilities are also available, but only if you pay a fee and upgrade the free version.

The program works best with DSL or other high speed lines, but it will also work with a dial-up connection, provided it's no less than 28kbs. Connections slower than this will have problems with the sound breaking up.

We haven't decided on a day or time yet because we would like some feedback from those of you who might be interested in participating. If you are, contact me asap and let me know what day(s) and time(s) you would like to see the room opened.

Zion's Trumpet/ Dan Mace
RR3 Box 985
Mifflintown, PA. 17059
717-436-8773
dan_o_mace@hotmail.com