

Wars and Rumors of Wars

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Signs, Times and Seasons

Text: Matthew 24:6, Luke 21:9

From the beginning of the twentieth century **150** million lives have been lost around the world as casualties of war. This statistic includes world wars, regional conflicts and local unrest and violence. This does not include statistics for crimes like murder. From national saber rattling to **domestic** terrorism, wars and rumors of wars have become a familiar theme in our everyday news.

Where we once had people learning to duck and cover, we are now learning what to do if an **active** shooter presents themselves in our schools, churches and shopping centers. Although many wars have been fought throughout history, Jesus prophesied that conflicts would increase at the end of days. Although many nations will certainly experience these signs, **Israel** will become a focal point of international conflict in the last days.

It is important to know that when Jesus prophesied these words to His disciples, He was speaking to people who were **familiar** with war and were familiar with war in their lifetime. Most of the known world at that time had been conquered by the Roman Empire from Italy throughout Europe and Britain, to the Middle East and Northern Africa. Before then this area knew occupation and domination by the Greeks, Persians, Babylonians, Assyrians and the Egyptians and others.

Remember, the disciples believed that Jesus is the Messiah or the Deliverer. The term Messiah is both a political and military term. When Jesus comes back, He will conquer the world with the **sword** that comes out of His mouth; His Word. He will put an end to all wars with the war to end all wars and He will be and already is the victor.

For those who are afraid of the future you need remember that History is written from the perspective of the **victors**. History is **HIS**-story. The Bible has already been written and we already know who wins. Talk about more than a conqueror. God already declaring the victory is not hubris it is **prophetic**.

The word 'wars' in Matthew 24:6 is the plural form of a word that means **armed** conflicts. This word includes the idea of battles, fights, skirmishes, and large-scale conflicts. Jesus told us that, at the end of the age, large and small scale conflicts of all types would occur at the same time across the planet on a scale never known before.

In Luke 21:9 Jesus said that there would be a rise in **commotion**. This word describes **instability** that is a result of upheavals that are societal, political and military in nature. This includes any activity that sends society reeling as a result of its unpredictability. We see this happening in Hong Kong, America, South America and in Europe.

Jesus said when you see these things do not be **terrified**. **Matthew 24:6 (NKJV, AMP, NLT)** **Mark 13:7 (AMP)** This word in the Greek deals with the idea of being so afraid that we cry out in terror. These verses could be translated to read "be not terrorized". Even in Jesus day organized terrorist uprisings were a common occurrence and although these people would rise up against the government, many innocent people were caught up in the upheaval. Jesus was telling His disciples not to live in **fear**.

It was prophesied by Jesus that in the last days there would be rise in **terrorism**. No one can dispute the fact that it is increasing around the world. From the Middle East to Europe, to America, Australia and Africa all have felt the effects of terrorism.

Rick Renner ~ Few have anticipated what has transpired on the planet in such a relatively short period of time. The possibility of random terror attacks has come so close to our everyday lives.

From going to the grocery store to taking a trip to another country, **situational** awareness has never been more important.

In each of the verses God instructed His disciples to be not **afraid**. It is important to know that fear and paranoia are not God's will for His people, and this includes YOU.

2 Timothy 1:7 By faith, we have a different perspective because God has told us ahead of time what would take place. Remember when we see these things our **redemption** is close at hand.

Luke 21:28

Jesus did not just prophesy that there would be wars, but that there would be **rumors** of wars. The word rumors in the Greek is used to describe the ear. Jesus let us know that the last days generation would be getting an **earful** of news and information about events going on around the world. Jesus never said that we would see all the wars and disturbances but that we would hear about them. The idea behind rumors is a non-stop flood of information. Some recent rumors are that Iran and Hamas are about to go to war with Israel. We know that China is building up its military arsenal and are purposefully vying to be a new superpower. North Korea has been firing and testing long range ballistic missiles. Because of the current political climate in America there is talk about an up coming civil war that will be none too civil.

Because we are living in these last days, it is imperative that every Christian understand and live in the **peace** of God. **Isaiah 30:15, Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV & KJV)**

The Bible promises that if we will seek God, His peace will **keep** our hearts. The word 'keep' in the Greek is a word that describes soldiers who stood guard at the gates of a city and it was their job to determine if someone was permitted to come in or if they would be denied access. If a person was determined to be a danger or a nuisance they would be turned away. The peace of God will do that so we have peace of heart and mind if we will **yield** to it. God's peace will block the entrance of fear, panic, hysteria and alarm if we **permit** it to do its job. The peace of God is the **gate** to our heart. We must make anything that we allow into our life and emotions to pass through the gate of God's peace.

This means that we must guard what we allow to constantly consume our thoughts and **time**. **Philippians 4:8** Everyday, but especially in the last days, Jesus will be our peace, but we must keep our mind **fixed** on Him. **Isaiah 26:3, Ephesians 2:14** Remember that Jesus didn't tell us what would happen to scare us but to **prepare** us. Remember much fear comes from the unknown. Remember there are 365 times in the Bible where we are told to "fear not" one command for every day of the year.

Jesus said when you hear of wars and rumors of wars the end is not **yet**. **Matthew 24:6** The word 'end' means immediate or imminent. Wars and rumors of wars are not the **final** signs. There will be others as we get even closer to the closing of the age.