

Rest in the LORD

by Jeremy James



The Word of God repeats certain things for our benefit. When the Holy Spirit does this, He is asking us to pay particular attention to what He is saying.

An image He repeats several times, in both the Old and New Testaments, is that of grass growing in the meadow. The Psalmist says, “**As for man, his days are as grass...**” (Psalm 103:15). The Apostle Peter repeats this thought in his First Letter – “**For all flesh is as grass...**”

The grass may flower and produce beautiful blossoms, but they quickly fade. Before long it is trampled down, eaten or mown, to be used as fodder for animals or as hay for bedding. Or it may wilt in the sun before its few precious blossoms even appear.

James uses the same image to make a similar point: “**...as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.**” (James 1:10)

Jesus said the lilies (or wild flowers) of the field were arrayed in a finery more beautiful than anything worn by Solomon, supplied by the providence of God. In saying this he was using an image that also conveyed the fleeting nature of our existence here on earth.

The Holy Spirit wants us to take stock of our fragility. We could meet with an illness or accident at any time and quickly expire. We know not the hour. His exhortation applies to all men equally, but to believers it would appear to have an additional purpose: **“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12)**

Spiritual maturity

When he was addressing the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul set out an account of their many shortcomings. In doing so he reminded them that their lack of spiritual maturity meant he had no choice but to feed them with milk and not solid food. However, in the letter to the Hebrews (which he probably wrote), he begins immediately to address some profound theological issues and we think, *Ah, this time we have a spiritually mature audience*. But our assumption falls apart in chapter five when Paul refers to them as **“babes”** who **“have need of milk”** and not solid food.



They were not numbering their days, as the Psalmist put it, and applying their hearts unto wisdom. They even appeared to have forgotten **“the first principles of the oracles of God” (Hebrews 5:12)**. They had allowed time to slip by and taken for granted what they had been taught, when instead they should have grown in maturity and learned **“to discern both good and evil.” (v.14)**

Babes who have need of milk are a long way from soldiers who know how to put on their armor!

The main difference between them is a fear of God. Babes have not yet learned to fear God. They have little understanding of who He truly is. We gain this only from a heartfelt study of His Word. The world cannot teach it because the world rejects God, and the “god” it does teach is a false god.

Seeking the fear of God

In our fallen human condition we are very reluctant to seek the fear of God, but it must be done. Otherwise we will continue to live as babes and miss much of what the Holy Spirit wants to impart for our benefit.

Truly it is said, **“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom” (Psalm 111:10).**

So many believers today have no wisdom because they never learned to fear the LORD. Few seem to realize that it is something we must learn. We don't have it naturally. Hear what the Psalmist said:

“Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.” (Psalm 34:11)

The **“children”** are the babes to whom Paul referred.

There was a time when Christians spoke of a selfless elder as a God-fearing man. This was about the highest virtue one could have, in their estimation. They saw him, not solely as a righteous man or a good man, but as something greater, a God-fearing man.



The wisdom of God is given only to those who fear Him:

**“The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him”
(Psalm 25:14)**

This fear, as we all know, is very different from the fear produced by our enemies, by those who are out to harm us. We experience the fear of man in our flesh, but our fear of God is the awed respect we have for Him in our soul.

Those who fear God are teachable! He can take us in hand and show us what, in our fallen condition, we would otherwise miss, ignore, or reject:

“What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall He teach in the way that he shall choose” (Psalm 25:12)

The Eye of the LORD

The eye of God is fixed continually on those who fear Him:

**“Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that
fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy”
(Psalm 33:18)**

Fear of God and trust in His Mercy go hand in hand. Those who trust Him know that He is **“righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.”** (Psalm 145:17) Both their faith in God and their fear of God are grounded in trust.

We are looking closely at this topic because we are about to enter a time when the Enemy will use fear like never before, to frighten to whole of mankind and demoralize the saints. If we fear the LORD in a time of peace and harmony, we will have no difficulty doing so when times get rough. However, those who had no fear of God before this begins will have trouble finding it when the world is in turmoil and all the old landmarks, the comforting certainties, have been taken away.

The Enemy knows this and will exploit it ruthlessly.

The full armor of God

Those who fear God will habitually do what the babes are seldom moved to do, namely, put on the full armor of God. They know how important it is to protect oneself spiritually! The babes tend not to see the dangers ahead and to rely instead on more ‘senior’ believers to give them guidance. But in a time of great turmoil this is foolishness. With little or no foundation in the solid food of God’s Word, they simply cannot distinguish between good counsel and bad. They don’t know how to listen to the still small voice within.



The Word of God gives us a stunning example of the way these truths are connected. Elijah was a giant among pygmies, a remarkable servant of God. Both his courage and his exploits have inspired believers throughout history. It is hard to imagine how anyone else could have done what he did on Mount Carmel! His enthusiasm for Truth was such that the Bible in one place referred to God as “**the LORD God of Elijah**” (**2 Kings 2:14**). He was even invited by the LORD to attend the transfiguration of His Son and to discuss with him and with Moses his coming sacrifice on Calvary (**Luke 9:31**).

Have no doubt, the Tishbite was a truly great warrior of God. In light of this, it would seem hard to believe that a mere letter from a wicked woman would send him into a tailspin, causing him to flee in fear of his life and head as far south as he could. But that’s what happened.

Given the challenge now facing the church, this troubling episode from God’s Word is especially pertinent. We are not told why such a great fear came upon Elijah, but it did. The Word of God refers briefly to the critical moment:

“Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them [i.e. the slain prophets of Baal] by tomorrow about this time. And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life...”

(1Kings 19:2-3)

Queen Jezebel sent a “messenger” but the message itself was in writing. We know this from the clause, “And when he saw that [i.e. the message]...” If the message had been delivered orally by the messenger, the clause would have read, “And when he *heard* that...”



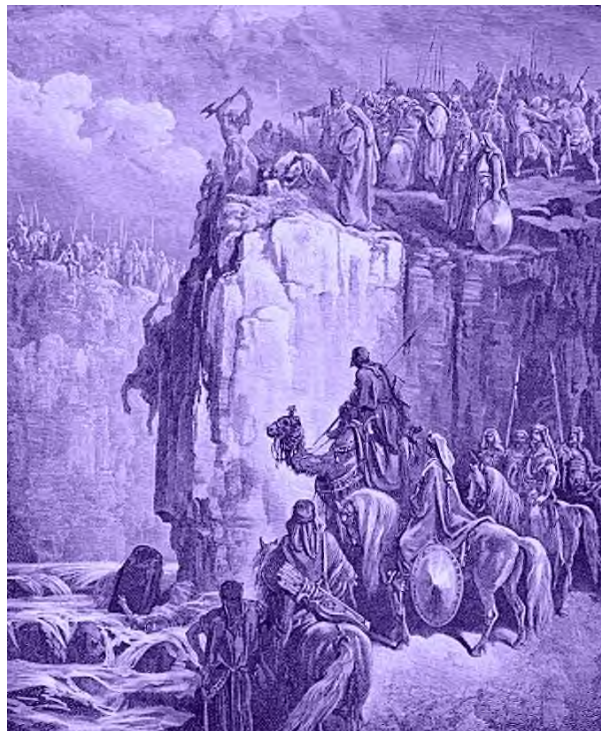
Jezebel Promising Naboth’s Vineyard to Ahab [c.1517]

Letters in the Old Testament

Letters or written messages in the Old Testament are often used as instruments of evil. David wrote a letter to his general, Joab, by the hand of Uriah, with instructions to arrange the death of the bearer. Sennacherib sent a blasphemous letter to king Hezekiah which the king took immediately to the Temple and spread out before the LORD. The leaders of Samaria wrote a letter to King Artaxerxes condemning the Jews for attempting to rebuild their Temple in Jerusalem and asking him to forbid any further construction work. They in turn received a response from Artaxerxes which they immediately took to Jerusalem and waved before the Jews. The letter forbade them to carry out any further work in the city. Sanballat sent nasty letters to Nehemiah, trying to unnerve him and weaken his resolve. And then we have the letters that Haman sent to all provincial governors, sealed with the king's ring, ordering them to annihilate the Jews on a given day.

We must also note another evil letter sent by Jezebel, telling the governors of Jezreel to bring false charges of blasphemy against Naboth and have him executed, along with his sons.

Jezebel was a high-ranking witch, a woman who exulted in her ability to call upon the power of Baal. Jesus warned of a dangerous woman named Jezebel in Revelation 2:20 “**which calleth herself a prophetess**”. This reference, along with his reference to Balaam in Revelation 2:14, would indicate that the original Jezebel, like Balaam, was imbued with a dark supernatural ability.



Slaughter of the Prophets of Baal (Doré, 1865)

When she penned her wicked letter to Elijah, she probably summoned a legion of demons to curse it. After his great victory on Mount Carmel, Elijah seems to have let his guard down. In a sense, he may have taken off his spiritual armor. As he opened the letter he was probably reflecting on the remarkable events of the day and not giving proper attention to what he had just received – willingly – into his hand. As he opened the letter and read its menacing words, the demons seemingly launched themselves at him.

We don't know for sure that this happened, but our speculation is well founded. Elijah had spent most of the day taunting and humiliating these evil entities. He then killed hundreds of their human hosts. For that entire period he was perfectly protected, doing all he did in the fear of God.

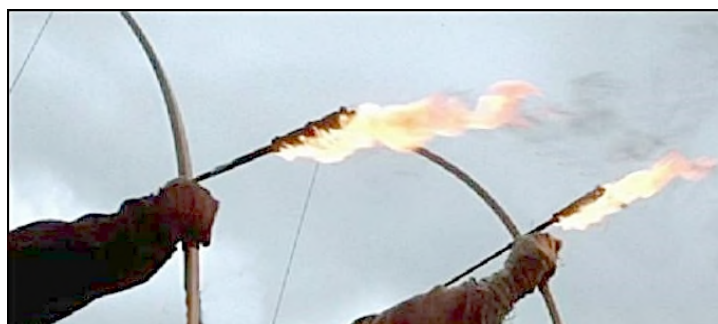
Whatever may have caused the lapse on his part, the attack struck home. Suddenly he was filled with a great fear of man and fled **“for his life.”**

The Enemy never rests

In relating this event we are not suggesting that believers today will be attacked in this way or with such concentrated force. What we do need to see, however, is that even the most experienced and well-grounded servant of God is a potential target. Since the Enemy never rests we can never afford to underestimate **“the fiery darts of the wicked” (Ephesians 6:16).**

Some of the worst attacks may come from people we trust. These attacks carry the greatest wallop because we simply don't expect them. In a sense, we are caught off guard, just like Elijah. Similar intrusions may come in our dreams.

This is why the Enemy will often use those who are close to us as ‘platforms’ from which to launch his fiery darts. Even when we know they are being used in this way, we may find it hard to repel their projectiles, largely because we still want to trust these people and rely on their friendship.



If we are attending a local church we may be a target. Our grandparents would have been aghast had they heard this. Surely the safest place for a believer is his or her church? Alas, many have found that this is not the case anymore. We are living in an era where, with increasing frequency, the spirit of this world dominates the hearts and

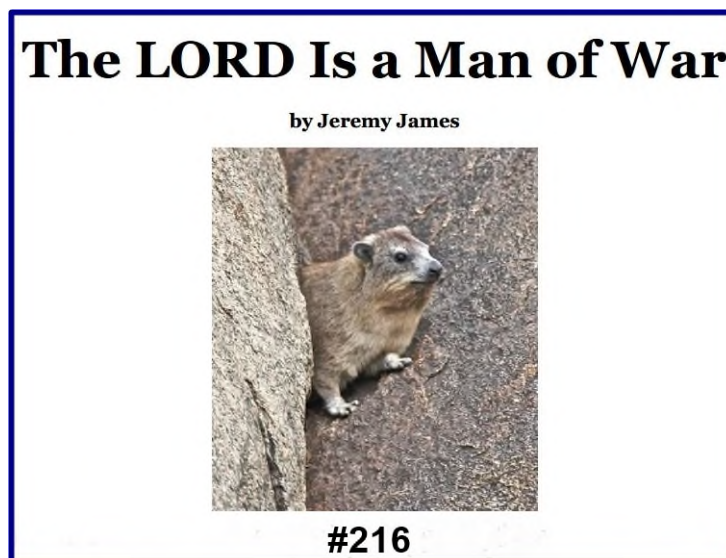
minds of those who profess to be Christian. They play the part like seasoned luvvies and know all the best lines, but they have no fear of God.

We need to check whether they pass the basic test: Do they “**serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling**” (Psalm 2:11)?

The Word of God tells us that these true believers will not be hidden from us. We just need to know what to look for:

“Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah.” (Psalm 60:4)

The LORD has actually given a banner to these believers! Generally speaking this is not something the babes can handle. It is given only to those who put on the full armor of God and face the Enemy (See our earlier paper on the armor of God [#216]).



Carrying the Banner

Nothing upsets the Enemy like a frail old man clad in the armor of God! Of himself, he poses no threat whatsoever, but he carries the banner. This means God Himself is with him. Touch him and you touch the apple of His eye. And when he wields the Sword, stand back, for it cuts with the power of God!

The Covid vaccines would appear to be part of a deadly plan by the Enemy to make recipients more receptive to his message, to weaken them spiritually and cause those who are most vulnerable to open themselves to demonic influence. The ongoing mental programming in the media, which is highly seductive, is part of this process.

When minds and hearts are bombarded continually with imagery chosen by Satan, we can be sure that they blend together in ways that are hard to discern. None of this was possible until the right technology came along.

Since these powerful tools were designed to be highly attractive, they were adopted universally. Over the past twenty years or so the proportion of data or cognitive stimulation that we receive through a screen or digital medium has grown

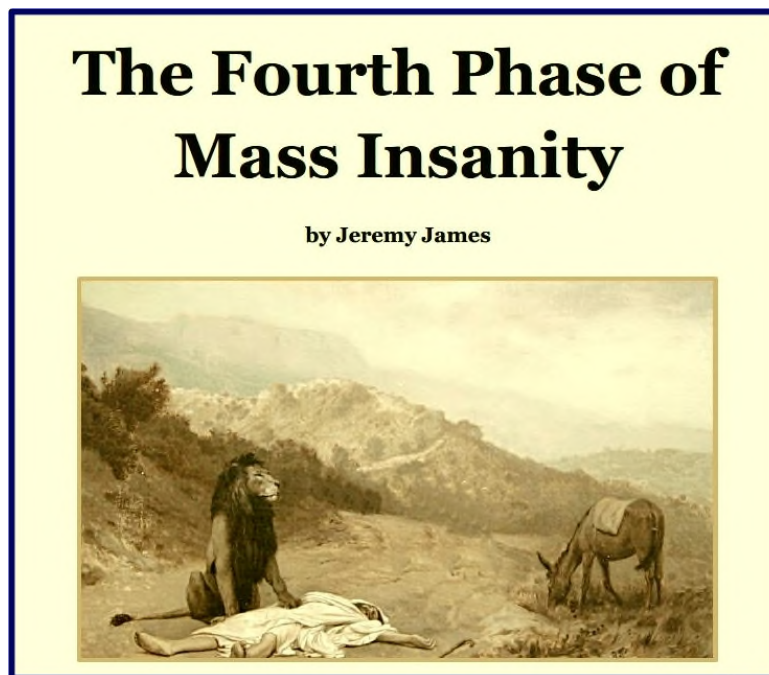
exponentially. Today the mind of the average person is like an immense keyboard on which the Enemy can play whatever tune he pleases.

Only through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit are we spared this sinister interference! The LORD is with those who fear Him and hope in His mercy.

We are now at a crossroads in history where the born-again believer is being typecast as a threat to humanity. A vast audience is absorbing the same set of messages, all of which are tailored by the Enemy to modify their perception of reality. The values our grandparents esteemed as immutable are being quietly shredded before our eyes. Furthermore, the malice behind all of this is invisible to those who are most affected.

A shift like this has never happened in history. We saw it on a small scale in Germany in the 1930s when millions of people willingly adopted a mindset which conflicted sharply with what they had learned as children. The programming today is even more dangerous because it begins in childhood and embraces most of humanity.

As we said before (#289) we have entered the fourth phase of mass insanity. Those who are not protected by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit will be carried along on a tidal wave of emotion, fuelled by seditious promises of moral innovation, religious renewal, and social reform. Everything the LORD ordained for our benefit will be “reimagined” by the New World Order.



CONCLUSION

In the days ahead we will need to spend as much time as we can among those who fear God and hope in His mercy.

As Jesus said, the world will hate us because it hated him first. Note his choice of the word “hate”, which was probably the strongest verb he could have used.

The fellowship of those who love God will do us more good, both spiritually and emotionally, than ever before. We can infer this from Hebrews 10:25 -

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25)

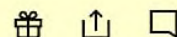
The Enemy will try to do to each one of us what he did to Elijah. The fear of man is a snare, and it has been used from the days of Cain to control mankind. But it need not affect us. Even the weakest among us is formidable if he puts on his armor and stands.

The Enemy used letters to get to Nehemiah. They were designed to shake him and scatter seeds of fear in his heart, but they failed. He may try to do the same today, using emergency messages to shake the nation. For example, the ‘Presidential Alert’ system was first tested in October 2018. Around 225 million Americans received this unprecedented test message. These can be used, not to inform – there are a great many ways to do that – but to frighten. Deployed in this way, it could prove to be a powerful weapon against the American people, instilling fear – the same fear – in millions of individuals simultaneously and paralyzing their ability to think rationally.

How many of these will turn to God? The message or ‘letter’ will have done its work.

The Washington Post

By [Brian Fung](#)



October 4, 2018

Beginning at 2:18 p.m. Eastern time Wednesday, Americans across the country were interrupted by an urgent notification on their cellphones.

“Presidential Alert,” the message read. “THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed.”

Blasted out by cell towers nationwide over a 30-minute period, the message was expected to reach some 225 million people in an unprecedented federal exercise.

After the Philistine armies had gone forth to Gilboa, David arrived back at Ziklag with his force of 600 men and found the entire settlement on fire. Their wives and children were all missing. The men howled with grief. The most horrifying thing imaginable had happened:

“Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.” (1 Samuel 30:4)

The shock for David was even greater since some of his own men wanted to stone him for his failure to guard against this eventuality -

“And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters...” (1 Samuel 30:6)

At this point in the Scriptural narrative we are given nine words (in the English translation) which changed everything:

**“...but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.”
(1 Samuel 30:6)**

There is probably no other moment in the life of David, not even his epic confrontation with Goliath, which better displays his true spiritual character. When he was confronted with the greatest fear that man could throw at him, we discover that his fear of God – his awesome respect for the LORD God of Israel – was even greater.

Remember, this was a man who at that moment **“was greatly distressed”**. We are talking about someone who was reeling from a grievous blow. And yet in the midst of this emotional catastrophe he could hear the still small voice as it whispered, *Trust Me*.

We are all frail and fragile, like flowers in a meadow. It wouldn't take much to sweep any one of us into the sea. And we are here for such a short time. But the LORD looks upon us and the LORD hears us. In the months and years ahead we will avoid much unnecessary grief and heartache if we can remember to call on Him, to *stand above* the sea of manmade fears and rest in His arms:

**“For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.”
- Psalm 103:14**

**Jeremy James
Ireland
January 20, 2022**

- SPECIAL REQUEST -

Time is running out...

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jeremypauljames@gmail.com

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