



**“In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;  
I have overcome the world” John 16:33b**

## **Periodical Message (January 2020)**

### **A Word from us,**

It was raining, cold and windy but the Lord showed His grace again when I received a call from a brother in Sulaymaniyah, another city in the Region of Kurdistan in north Iraq. He said ‘Just wanted to know how you are’ and I told him that I am fine, thanks be to our God. The Spirit led me to sense that he had much more on his heart, but ‘politeness’ hindered him from opening up and speaking. “I pray that all is fine with you too’ I said, that is when he opened up and poured out his heart. I learnt about the great struggle he was going through because of some ‘leaders’ who’ve been abusing the name of the Lord. ‘I feel ashamed to be called Christian like them!’ he said.

Brothers, Sisters I want to make just two points: **First** I like what those two blind men mentioned in Matthew did “And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, **have mercy on us**” Matt 9:27 – they were bold enough and had courage to ask. It is better to open up and speak.

**Second** we should PRAY when we see others abusing the name our Lord, because He is mighty and able to defend His name; our part is to talk to such believers with love and wisdom. Their behavior should not be a stumbling block for us, bringing bitterness and even anger into our hearts. So please keep the commandment of Jesus “A new commandment I give unto you, **That ye love one another; as I have loved you**, that ye also love one another” John 13:34...and applying 2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”

**Yours in the Lord,  
Salman**

## **A Word according to the Guidance of the Holy Spirit**

Be careful when choosing a leader,

Thinking of the ways of the Lord and the ways of the Church today brought me often to the point of kneeling and weeping before the Throne of Grace. Not that the Lord has changed; never, He is the Eternal One and never changes; the Bible declares: “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever” Hebr 13:8.

While in the United States last year, we were humbled to see Americans praying DAILY for their nation; waking up early in the morning they start praying at 6 AM. They cry to the Lord asking Him to be exalted in their lives and in America; they ask Him to “Raise up men and women of God to be our Presidents, Congressmen, Senators, and Supreme Court Justices. Raise up men and women of God to be our Governors, State Legislators, County commissioners, and mayors and city councilmen...etc.”

What was touching, is their faith in GOD to do such things and THAT reminded me of this verse from the Bible: “As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, **Separate me Barnabas and Saul**

**for the work whereunto I have called them”** Acts 13:2 --- it was God, the Holy Spirit, who chooses people to do God’s work. It is NOT the so-called ‘Mob-rule’ that is the ‘majority’ deciding about who will be who; NO, it was and SHOULD BE always GOD Who decides.

The Bible gives us ample of examples about ‘chosen’ leaders who ruined their lives and the lives of others and our just God clearly declared His just judgment upon them. Abimelech was an example; for me a frightening example to always remember “Thus God rendered the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did unto his father, in slaying his seventy brethren. And all the evil of the men of Shechem did God render upon their heads: and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal” Judges 9:56-57

We see here the story of Israel’s first, albeit illegitimate king, as a cautionary tale of how every people needs to choose its leaders wisely; it is not only ‘We elected him’ and it is done with. During the time of the judges Abimelech reigned in Israel for three years, as the Bible declares. “And Jotham ran away, and fled, and went to Beer, and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother. When Abimelech had reigned three years over Israel” Judges 9:21-22.

You see this period of the judges preceded the legitimate monarchy in which God chose Israel’s kings; it was NOT the people who decide. Abimelech was one of Gideon’s seventy-plus sons. As we know Gideon was one of Israel’s greatest judges, one of the deliverers whom God raised up to “render justice” for Israel; that is deliver it from its enemies. Yes, it was Gideon whom God used to destroy an army of 135,000 invaders with a small force of 300 chosen men; this is God’s Way. So grateful was Israel to Gideon that they offered to make him their king. However, as wise as he is, Gideon, refused the offer and forbade his sons from becoming king as well—he was a man of God, knowing God’s Ways and fearing the Lord. According to Gideon, only the LORD was worthy of ruling over His People Israel. Is it the same for you? Now Abimelech, whose mother was not a full-fledged wife, but a concubine of Gideon, had no such inhibitions to being king; thus he hatched a diabolical plan for seizing power, which included murdering all his father’s sons. I want you to imagine and think: WHO comes to kill? Abimelech wanted to kill AND not only that, but to kill ALL his own brothers. Then he shared his evil dreams with the people of the prominent city of Shechem.

In essence Abimelech did NOT only intend to do evil, but he encouraged others to do the same-- The people of Shechem embraced him as their king and funded his rise to power. Dear believer, watch with me WHAT will happened to them because they have chosen ‘their leader’—an evil one with evil intentions.

Abimelech was emboldened and empowered by the people of Shechem, so he proceeded to hire a group of thugs to help kill off all but one of his brothers. The lust for power could be bloody, as it is visible from this example--- or of what we are seeing happening in the United States today, and NOT only there.

In Iraq the corrupt Elite ruling there, supported by Iran and Iranian-backed militias, did evil things against peaceful demonstrators demanding the basic needs of life. Hundreds of demonstrators were kidnapped and never seen again, their families were terrorized and many were killed. In Lebanon it is not better and hundreds of people were injured and killed--- maybe because they’ve chosen the wrong leader!!

When Abimelech was installed as ‘king’, thus began the reign of Israel’s most unscrupulous leader; fortunately for the rest of Israel, **God did not allow this tyrant to get very far**. He turned Abimelech and his subjects against one another and the ‘great Abimelech’ would die an ignoble death. The Bible tells us that during his attack on Shechem, the very city that brought him to power, chosen him as ‘their king’, a woman tossed a small millstone from the top of a tower which struck him on the head. That small millstone mortally wounded him and he begged his armor bearer to kill him - lest he die from the hands of a housewife.

The just God did not let the people of Shechem go unpunished; what man sows, that he will reap in good or evil; those who supported Abimelech’s rise to power would also be held accountable for his deeds.

They also suffered destruction. Isn’t it a type for us and a lesson to learn from?!

I believe this story has repeated itself many times in human history. It has taken place wherever people have chosen leaders on the basis of their flair and charisma rather than on the merits of their deeds and character according to the Standard of God outlined in the Bible.

A nation is particularly vulnerable to choosing such toxic leaders when its people have themselves become corrupt and contemptuous of good, departing from the ways of God and deciding by themselves what is right and what is wrong. Such nations deny what the Giver of Life says about LIFE, and they choose to destroy it by killing unborn babies. They decide about marriage, forgetting that GOD was the One Who instituted marriage and the One Who made them ‘A male and a female made HE them’!!

I want you just to think of what decades of atheism, social Darwinism, and moral decadence did to Germany, where I studied and lived before returning to Iraq. It made the Germans ripe for choosing a leader like Adolf Hitler; well we know Hitler perished, but not before wreaking havoc upon the world. But those who supported him did not go unpunished; by the time of Hitler's death Germany was in ruins. Somehow I believe they learnt their lesson...

What is happening in our world, far or near, will impact our life, especially when it is NEAR, for example by choosing a President; it is necessary to go BACK to God and follow HIS Standard in order to choose wisely. It is not the charisma of a person or his 'strong personality' which should be used to judge, but by his/ her relationship with God. IF such 'leaders' have no fellowship with God, they can and will NOT be able to have fellowship with their people—those who elected them to power and the end will be catastrophic.

Brothers/Sisters, dear believers in the Saviour we need to be wise, because Jesus came to establish Justice and He declared "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand**" Matt 4:17. When we see God's Hand at work around us, people repenting and turning to the Lord, praying without fear and confessing Christ freely, THEN His Kingdom will be established and justice will rule. Not everyone thinking he is called, should be sent; we need to fast and pray, seeking the Face of the Lord first and WAITING upon Him until He, The Holy Spirit, declares 'YES, this ONE I've chosen'

It is necessary to choose our leaders wisely, for they will be a blessing or a curse to us. They will lead us to destruction or to peace and prosperity. But we need to pay greater attention to our own spiritual and moral conditions; for if we neglect God's commandments, we will get the leaders we deserve "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD" Ps 33:12.

## Prayer Ideas

1. Dear God raise up men and women of God to be educators in our public schools, colleges, and universities; raise up oh faithful One men and women of God to be journalists, entertainers, businessmen, and financiers. O God of heaven and earth, please fill every facet of our society with those who will honor the name of Christ and be a witness for Him. As you commanded us, O Lord, we pray, "May Your kingdom come and may Your will be done" .Amen.
2. May you agree with us, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, and pray that the Lord will take us beyond our expectation in this New Year, doing amazing things in our lives and around us. Agree with us in prayer that many will be touched by the word we speak, the service we do and the life-style we live. We claim from the Lord the impossible that we cannot do, to be done by HIM.
3. Though we are expecting believers to visit our Mission House in Iraq this year, we are in continuous prayer concerning the next steps BEYOND that. The Lord guided us to pray for a quantum jump in order to continue supporting our Team in Iraq, spreading the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus, but also to reveal the true face of Islam. It is essential for us to educate others, **especially leaders**, about Islam and the spirit behind it, in order to reach out to Muslims. Stand with us and pray for guidance through the Holy Spirit; we are claiming wisdom from above and crying to the Only Wise God for direction.
4. As we take steps of faith, we pray to our God, may Thy Word be always a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. Help us oh faithful Father and turn away our eyes from beholding vanity and quicken thou us in thy way. May our ways vanish, oh Lord, and your ways be established and may we desire but one thing, to always please you in doing YOUR will.
5. Yes, we have open doors to go to the United States and serve again, thus our prayer to you Father God: Guide us to the right place to serve, anoint our lips and let's speak words of life through the guidance of your Holy Spirit. We will go in faith, absolutely depending on you; provide oh Jesus a place where we could stay and give us oh Saviour, our daily bread. May our going to the States be a great blessing beyond all expectations and may you touch people and speak to them. Lord, we do NOT want to go for any selfish reason, but only as guided by your Holy Spirit. We have faith, and we KNOW that you'll provide for, guide and use us according to your own plan. To all of you, who read, please join this prayer.
6. When Your Glory appear, things seem different, thus we cry to you Oh Jehovah Elohim 'Shows us Your Glory' and let others see that our God is the God of the Living; the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. May people fall down on their faces, like dead and repent and may many receive the Gift of Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

**7.** In different ways the enemy is trying to rob our peace, joy and money; we rebuke any attempt and schemes designed against us and our Ministry and claim abundance from the Lord. We say, like our Lord Jesus did ‘Get thyself behind my Satan’ you have NO PORTION in us. We proclaim abundance in love, joy and finances in Jesus holy name shouting “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Amen” Ps 23:6

**8.** Our final prayer is: Lord Jesus, you are the Liberator and into your loving arms I flee. Cleanse and forgive me of all my sin daily, heal my wounded soul and save me, even from Self. Fill any void in my heart with your presence and make me free. Draw me, day by day into a deeper and more loving relationship with you, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Finally we encourage you in the name of Jesus to keep the Word, live the Calling and continue serving in a humble heart WITHOUT fear. Don’t ever forget your joy in the Lord no matter what might happen---He will never fail you.

We also ask you, dear Saints, to forward our Messages to as many people as you can, whether believers or else with many thanks. We would love to visit you, if invited to your Church, Prayer Group or else and share our testimony with all the Saints or hear from you. Please let’s know through an E-mail containing a phone number to send a message to or even call you back. We will be waiting for your Feedback or commentaries too. What did the Message tell you and what did the Holy Spirit teach you through it? If you want us to pray for you, or for somebody else, please let us know and we will pass the name/s over to our 24/7 Prayer Team-Jesus Highland Prayer House- JHPH.

Have a \^^I^\\ Blessed Day

***“...I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me” Micah 7:7***

Thank you for supporting International Christian Outreach Ministry and standing with us and the persecuted Christians in Iraq.