



# THE EXHORTER'S CALL

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Page 1 of 3

## WORSHIP

As I began my own time of personal worship before the LORD, I entered into the truly close fellowship with Him that I love so dearly. When in the Spirit, I never want to leave. My understanding is increased and I find myself in a state of just "knowing." During this time, all manner of scripture comes to my remembrance as well as clarification as to its significance. If you are a Christian, I'm sure you know exactly what I'm talking about since the same Spirit that raised Christ Jesus from the dead dwells in you.

As for me, I always feel detached, disoriented, and disappointed when I return to this present "reality." I find myself mourning the feelings of peace, love, joy, power, and understanding that fill my soul when worshipping before the LORD. This link is only created by "lingering" while seeking after God and I'm sad to say that, often, I'm rushed with scheduled activities that prevent me from "lingering" as I desire.

This is of extreme importance and all so much the more as I am convinced that the return of the Lord is imminent. Times of great trouble are nearing on the horizon and the world is aflame with war and rumors of war. Yet, the Word of God tells us in 2 Corinthians 10:4

*"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;"*

Praise and worship are a form of prayer since we are speaking directly to God. The Bible notes that such praise and worship amounts to a powerful force in the spirit realm. As you may recall from your Bible reading, when the enemy came in like a flood, King Jehoshaphat sought the Lord with fasting and prayer. The Lord responded to the king's supplication and told him, not to fear, that the battle belonged to Him.

What was King Jehoshaphat's response? He positioned praise and worship "prayer" teams at the forefront of his armies. Time and time again throughout the Word of God we see this theme played out. I was reminded of this as I observed an Israeli soldier praying atop his tank prior to engaging the border of South Lebanon. James 5:16 tells us that the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. If you are a born-again Christian, you have taken on the righteousness of God in Christ and your prayer, praise, and worship carries great significance.

Please accept my direct invitation to you in asking you to set aside specific time in your day for intense prayer, praise, and worship to the Lord. The Lord has need of intercessors for the Land of Israel and for our great nation, the United States of America.

Our redemption draweth nigh, but there are still yet those that have not accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into their hearts. I pray that the Lord will embolden us all to declare his Word without hesitation to a world in desperate need of answers.

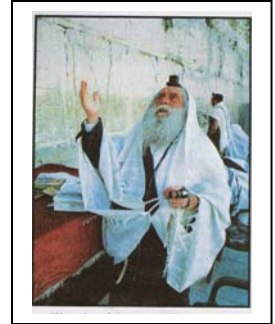
Reverential worship is often a key ingredient missing in the Church today. Yes, praise abounds as we rejoice in what he has done, but solemn worship of His omnipotence is often overlooked. I encourage you to seek a private place where you can be alone with God to honor His majesty and sovereign grace.

Then, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.



שְׁאֵלוּ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַיִם

Yē-rū-sha-lī'im ←--- Shalomí ←--- Sha-alū



## BIRTH PAINS

As I'm sure you are aware, there is war in the Middle East.

Many is the time I have sat down to write this latest installment of The Exhorter's Call only to find that it has become outdated in a matter of minutes. It was then that the Lord gave me the topic I am writing now.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-4 tells us: *"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as **travail upon a woman with child**; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief."*(bold emphasis mine)

Without diving into an in-depth eschatological survey of the Bible, suffice it to say that the signs of the coming of the Lord for the Rapture of the Church have been likened to birth pains of a mother delivering a child after a long pregnancy. A father myself, I understand that as the delivery time draws near, the pains not only intensify, but are found to occur closer and closer together.

The Gaza withdrawal was supposed to offer "peace and safety." Yet, disastrous news and information from all over the world pours in so rapidly now that it is impossible to keep up with it all. Yes, there have always been wars, earthquakes, floods, and disease, but we have never heard of a time in which this has occurred so frequently and so quickly one after another...like birth pains intensifying, timed closer and closer together.

In Matthew 24, Jesus gives an account of the events preceding His sudden return. An overlooked phrase within those scriptures bears great significance: *"and ye shall hear"* of these things *"but the end is not yet."* This is the only time in history when we can hear and see these things taking place "live" on cable news stations. CNN, MSNBC, FOX, and many others have non-stop coverage reporting bird flu, tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanoes, and war from all over the world.

Despite the provocation of both Palestinian and Lebanese Islamic terrorist groups, the world seems only too willing to condemn Israeli use of force and call for immediate cessation of action on their part. Despite the repeated assertions of nations such as Iran that Israel is illegitimate and deserving of obliteration, the international community favors sanctions against Israel and prefers to ignore these increasing threats of annihilation. It is madness.

The Islamic Republic News Agency has made the inflammatory charges that Israel has engaged in chemical warfare. Islamic groups are reported to be readying radiological strikes in "retaliation." Whether any of the allegations are true or not remains to be seen, but the threat of a WMD engagement is certain to quickly engulf the concerns of all nations.

The Bible indicates that, with all these signs, the Church would be caught up in the Rapture to be with the Lord...but the end on earth is not yet come. Without the support of Christian America on the earth, Israel will have few friends. The prophets of old revealed that all of the world's nations would then gather against Israel at the end of days. Nevertheless, *"He who keeps Israel neither slumbers or sleeps."* Just as it would appear that Israel faces certain destruction, Jesus Christ Himself will visibly descend in great glory to destroy her enemies. HALLELUJAH!



## Revelation 22:20

“He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely I come quickly.** Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

### SURELY, I COME QUICKLY

God created hell for the unrepentant Devil, and his Fallen Angels, who are wholly consumed with evil since sin cannot abide in the presence of a Holy God. God's Holiness is as a consuming fire, it is his nature, and Who He is. Just as a leaf that gets too close to a campfire bursts into flames, so does sin in the presence of God. If you've ever so much as had a bad thought, you have sinned. We all have, it is the curse of a fallen nature. God knew we were doomed and that He never again would be able to dwell in the presence of His beloved creation without consuming him instantly. Unless....

God Himself chose to manifest Himself in the flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. By impregnating a virgin by the same Spirit that created all life, God was able to bring forth Christ and bypass the sin nature passed through the seed of the man. Jesus lived a perfect life, without sin, by the indwelling Spirit of God. Since His life was perfect, He could offer Himself as payment for the sin of mankind and, since the price was willingly paid, God's Word was not broken regarding the penalty of sin...death.

You see, if God EVER altered His Word, he would no longer be an unchanging God. Evil would triumph. But by offering Himself as the vicarious sin offering, all who believe in Him and accept his payment of their sin-debt are GUARANTEED to receive eternal life; once again in fellowship with the Creator God. If you are missing "something" in your life, that empty space, well, it was designed to be filled with an intimate relationship with a God who loves you dearly. This relationship was and is stolen by the Devil through on-going deception... but a mighty God who loves you moved heaven and earth to restore it.

The word in the verse above translated "quickly" also carries the meaning of "suddenly." I am convinced that current world events are rapidly leading us to the sudden appearance of Jesus Christ.

Are you ready? Why not ask Him into your heart today? Hell is a terrible place to spend eternity.

**Rick Wagnon** is a born-again, Spirit-filled, firm believer in Christ who was saved eternally and securely by the grace of God through the blood of Jesus. His father is a former Baptist minister who became Spirit-filled and received ordination from Rhema Bible Church bringing Rick up with a solid foundation of faith and knowledge of God's Word. Rick is married to a beautiful, loving wife of faith and blessed with two fine sons that love the LORD. Rick currently serves as the Bioterrorism Training and Education Coordinator for the State of Oklahoma and operates as the Intelligence Officer and Security Liaison in emergency capacities after a life-long commitment to public service in law enforcement and protective security. Rick is available for special services within your church or fellowship and loves to worship the LORD.

