



# THE KINGDOM AT WAR

HOW TO CLEANSE THE HEAVENLY REALM  
THROUGH VICTORIOUS SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A large, detailed illustration of a sword and a dagger crossed in an 'X' shape. The sword is on the left, and the dagger is on the right. The sword has a silver blade with a dark hilt, and the dagger has a black blade and hilt.

ALAN VINCENT

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## DEDICATION

**T**O my wife, Eileen, my companion in the warfare, so wonderfully feminine, but a mighty warrior; and to my three children and their outstanding children along with them. I dedicate this book to this next generation of warriors emerging in the Church.

## ENDORSEMENTS

As Alan Vincent sets out in *The Kingdom at War*, he effectively re-prioritizes the Kingdom of God. He then gives us the training insights necessary to engage present-day principalities and powers from our position as “seated with Christ in heavenly places.” Our destiny as Kingdom citizens is to bring glory to our King. Father promises that His glory *will* fill the earth. As the Body of Christ, we bring Him glory individually and corporately by being transformed into the image of Christ who is Love (*Agape*). It is in *Agape* that we will see signs and wonders and miracles—the power to transform and reform the pillars of our present-day society. This author clearly shows us what the Church needs to do, apart from the encumbrances of religious tradition. *The Kingdom at War* will, in my opinion, contribute greatly to our seeing the Kingdom revealed in power and glory.

Bob Mumford

Lifechangers

Bible Teacher and Author of *The King and You*, *Dr. Frankenstein and World Systems*,  
*Agape Road*, and *Mysterious Seed*

This book expresses Alan Vincent’s heart—the Kingdom of God impacting our cities and nations in a tangible, practical way. I have had the privilege of walking with Alan Vincent as a son for more than 20 years and know his desire

for building “spiritual cities” and raising up churches and ministries with the characteristics of the “tabernacle of David.” The book you hold in your hand explains both of these concepts, the biblical foundation and the practical implementation of the revelation that Alan has carried for the way the Church in our cities should function. I have also had the privilege of implementing a measure of this teaching in various cities and seeing it work. Please do take time and study what Alan teaches here; it will change your city and/or nation.

Franz Lippi  
Founder and Leader, B.L.A.S.T. Ministries  
(Balkan Loving Apostolic Serving Team)  
Graz, Austria

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## FOREWORD

APOSTLE Alan Vincent is more than a great man of God whom I greatly admire and respect. He has the theology, revelation, and personal experience of the Kingdom. He is an authority on this subject. He took the Kingdom to Bombay, India, and today, he shares the divine revelation on how to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom of God, how to bring it to Earth, and how to see the glory of God invade the natural realm. He also teaches how to experience the flow of miracles—a rare occurrence in today’s society.

One important revelation you will find in *The Kingdom at War* is on new wine and new wineskins. I can testify that implementing his teachings on this subject, with the revelation and demonstration of the Kingdom, have been instrumental in the continual growth of our church. I am a witness as to how the revelation and demonstration of the Kingdom can establish the sovereignty and Lordship of the King of kings, Jesus!

I love and appreciate Apostle Alan Vincent for his practical teachings, which I am certain will bless you and lead you into a deeper understanding of the war we face against the kingdom of darkness. His wisdom on this subject will take you into a higher dimension of revelation and demonstration of the Kingdom of God.

Dr. Guillermo Maldonado  
Apostle and Cofounder,  
King Jesus International Ministry  
Miami, Florida

## INTRODUCTION

# PREPARATION FOR THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM

THE longer I live and dig into God's wonderful Word, the more I marvel at the revelation that the prophets (particularly Isaiah and Jeremiah) received in their day. I am amazed at the way they were able to look down the centuries, way beyond their own time, and see the unfolding and relentless purposes of God. The vision God showed Isaiah started in his day, moved down through hundreds of years to the birth of Jesus our Savior, and continues on to the end of the age.

Isaiah was first called to prophesy in the year that King Uzziah died. This king, as a young teenager, turned the nation of Judah back to God with great enthusiasm and restored many from their backslidden ways. In Uzziah's younger years, under the tutelage of the prophet Zechariah, God gave Judah great victories over their enemies and prospered them abundantly. The reformation under Uzziah's leadership moved in the right direction. However, it stopped short of God's full standard, because he did not remove the high places, which were still being used to worship other gods.

In later years, because of his great economic and military successes, Uzziah became proud and inflated with his own importance. He even tried to enter

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the temple to burn incense like the high priest did, but he was prevented from doing so by the Levitical priests. God immediately struck him with leprosy for his presumption; soon after that, he died in isolation after 52 years as king. Just as Uzziah fell into sin, the nation of Judah backslid again into witchcraft and the worship of other gods.

In the year King Uzziah died, Isaiah was called to become God's prophet. At that time, Isaiah had an awesome vision of the Lord in the temple. As God visibly filled the place with His presence and His glory, Isaiah melted in His presence, becoming acutely aware of his own unclean lips and the unclean lips of all God's people. (See Isaiah 6:1-6.)

In Isaiah 7:14 we read his remarkable prophecy regarding the virgin birth of Jesus:

*Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel [which means God with us].<sup>1</sup>*

In Isaiah 9:6-7, he further announced:

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. . . His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. Upon the throne of David, and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*

In between these two Scriptures, as we look back at Isaiah 8:10-21, we read of the dark and difficult days in Judah during which Isaiah was prophesying. God was no longer being honored, revered, or sought after by His people. Instead, every kind of witchcraft and occult activity, including openly consulting witches and seeking the dead, was being practiced. As a result, a thick spiritual darkness covered the land. It could be speaking of much of the present-day United

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States, Western Europe, and the rest of the world, which is tragically in a similar condition.

Isaiah looked to God as his only hope and waited to hear what He had to say and what He would do about this appalling situation. God's response at that time was to speak directly to him of the coming Messiah and declare in Isaiah 8:18:

*Here am I and the children whom the LORD has given Me! We are for signs and wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts who dwells in Mount Zion.*

This glorious passage is quoted again in Hebrews 2:13 and is directly attributed to Christ Himself.

God's answer was to declare His intention of using His own true children as human agents on Earth to overpower the devil in every way with a mighty manifestation of the supernatural power of God.

These signs and wonders demonstrated through His children would spearhead the breakthrough, but had to be accompanied by God-fearing holiness, humility, and purity of life in His servants. They would also establish proper government so the transforming authority and the peace of the Kingdom of God could be properly established and continue increasing until it finally filled the earth.

If we want to see the Kingdom of God established in our day and continue to increase, if we desire to see His government established in our cities and the power of Jesus and His Kingdom spreading over the whole earth, then we must cry out for mighty signs and wonders to be done in His name.

God is still passionate about this, just as He promised Isaiah, saying: "...*The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this*" (Isa. 9:7). God's government and God's peace always work hand in hand. For these reasons, this book is devoted to equipping you to:

1. Discover how to move in the power of signs, wonders, and miracles—which has always been God's way of announcing

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and establishing His Kingdom and the main means of obtaining the initial breakthrough—while maintaining a holy environment which allows this power to continue to flow.

2. Participate in establishing a proper spiritual government within the Church so that the Kingdom may go on increasing until it invades and transforms every pillar of our society.
3. Engage in effective spiritual warfare against the principalities and powers in heavenly places, resulting in the casting down of these demonic strongholds.
4. Identify the role of God's angels in these last days and how they will work together with the apostles, the prophets, and other God-appointed generals and soldiers in the Lord's Army.
5. Recognize and abandon all religious traditions that would hinder the coming of the Kingdom in all its power and glory.
6. Create and become a new, flexible wineskin that can hold the power and thrust of this Kingdom's "New Wine" without either the wine or the wineskin being spoiled.

We are living in perilous, yet exciting times, and I pray that the biblical principles set forth in this book will prepare you to walk into your God-ordained calling and destiny.

### ENDNOTE

1. *Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary*. CD-ROM. Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc. (© 1994, 2003, 2006); s.v. "Immanuw'el," (OT 6005).



## CHAPTER 1

# THE GLORY OF THE KINGDOM INVADING THE WORLD

**D**URING our initial ministry years in the early 1960s, my wife Eileen and I served as missionaries in Bombay, India (now known as Mumbai). At that time, God began preparing a small group of us who were desperately hungry for a move of God to be His instruments of change. He used us to break through the demonic darkness and forcefully invade that community with the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, thereby ushering in the glory of His Kingdom. This story is told in the first chapter of my previous book on the Kingdom, titled *Heaven on Earth*.<sup>1</sup>

A permanent transforming experience occurred in me during that time while spending 21 days praying and meditating over every word in Paul's letter to the Ephesians from 1:1 through 2:8 until these truths became part of my very being. The small group of us who took part in this exercise came to fully embrace the revelation that we could actually live the risen life of Jesus by faith, in spite of our circumstances.

We, first of all, had to learn how to corporately and individually live by grace through faith so that the power of His glorious resurrection life could be manifested in us on a continual basis. These realities became part of us, along

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with the wonderful words of Jesus in His final discourse with His disciples as recorded for us in John 13–17. Through the revelation of the Spirit, we came to understand the rights and authority God had already given us in Him in this life, providing we fulfilled the conditions of loving the Father and obeying Him in everything just as Jesus had done throughout His life on Earth.

Just like Paul, we needed to learn how to “sit down” with and in Jesus on His mighty throne, which was already situated in the heavens far above all principalities and powers in the lower heavens (see Eph. 2:4-7). From that position, He taught us how to exercise rule in His name over all the demonic forces that had already established themselves in the heavenly realm. We were then ready and able to deal with them and cast them down; we were also able to overcome all the demonic forces that opposed us and attacked us on Earth.

### DEPLOYING THE KING’S AIR FORCE

It is futile for us to attempt to advance the Kingdom by spiritual warfare and limit ourselves to fighting only at the earthly level. To be effective, we must, as a first priority, learn how to invade the heavenly realm and deal with the demonic principalities and forces already established there.

To fail to do this would be like an army trying to win a war using only ground troops without the assistance of air power. In a modern military battle, to refrain from using strategic air power would be a crazy military strategy. No army would try to advance through a valley with only tanks and foot soldiers; nor would the military fail to call on its air force to first target and remove enemy gun positions located up in the hills on either side of the valley. If they tried to advance without doing this first, the enemy guns on higher ground would rain down artillery shells on their advancing troops and cause heavy casualties.

Unfortunately, that is exactly what much of the Church has been doing for a long time—failing to deploy the King’s Air Force, which is an essential part of spiritual warfare. She has been far too earthbound. She has not seen her full potential or known how to exercise her heavenly air power effectively in the

heavenly realm. It is only when we learn to remove those demonic principalities in heavenly places by strategic spiritual warfare that we will begin to see the breakthrough on Earth.

That is why we are going to look at the essential elements of spiritual warfare in this book. To achieve this, we need to observe and understand the structure of the strongholds of the kingdom of darkness that are already established. With this valuable intelligence in play, we can learn how to overcome them more effectively.

### **SATAN'S STRONGHOLDS IN THE HEAVENS**

Shortly after their creation as man and woman, Adam and Eve made the tragic decision to believe the devil's lies and step out from under God's loving and benevolent rule into an independent life of their own. They thought they were stepping out into a life where they would be self-governing and self-emancipating and would, by their own effort, increasingly become like God. They expected to remain free from sin *and* become like God by using the resources of their own moral power. But instead, once they stepped out into independence, they and their descendants immediately came under the devil's merciless control. Sin came into the world; then, through people, the devil began to establish his own rebellious kingdom on Earth.

God did not immediately bring the deserved judgment upon the devil and humanity. Instead, because He loved Adam and Eve, God decided to redeem them and all their descendants and recover all that they had lost by sending His own Son, Jesus, to die for them on the cross. But this also meant that God, in His perfect righteousness, could not bring judgment to the devil and his angels without judging Adam and his descendants at the same time. So He allowed Adam to continue as His delegated authority on Earth and also allowed the devil to continue his activity on Earth while the process of humanity's salvation was still being worked out.

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To establish his own kingdom on Earth, satan has to work through people and use them as his delegated authority, just as God had done when He first created Adam and Eve and gave them rule over all that He had created on Earth. If satan cannot continue to deceive humankind and bring them under his power, whether consciously or unconsciously, then he cannot maintain his evil kingdom of darkness, fear, and death on Earth.

The Bible teaches us that the demonic influence keeping so many people captive in satan's kingdom here on Earth is a spiritual power that emanates from a polluted heavenly realm. Therefore, to be able to advance the Kingdom of God, we must learn to deal with that heavenly realm and cleanse it from all its demonic strongholds and controlling influences.

Then, when this is accomplished, many lost people will suddenly have their eyes opened to see "*the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ*" (2 Cor. 4:6). They will be convicted of their sin, cry out for mercy, repent and turn to the Lord, and joyfully come under His authority. As a result, they will be totally set free from satan's power.

Satan's kingdom has a hierarchical structure of arch-demons who lead hordes of rank-and-file demons that willingly serve satan under his headship. We meet two of these in the Book of Daniel. They are called the prince of Persia and the prince of Greece (see Dan. 10:20).

As soon as Daniel began to pray for the prophetic words of Jeremiah and Isaiah to be fulfilled, violent warfare broke out in the heavens. This was because Daniel's prayers were invading that heavenly realm and giving God's archangels, Michael and Gabriel, and their army of loyal angels, the legal opportunity to attack and cast down the princes of Greece and Persia.

Because of these warring prayers, Daniel was so strongly attacked spiritually by these agents of satan that the demonic pressure almost crushed him. So Gabriel was sent by God to strengthen Daniel and urge him to keep praying.

His prayers were an essential part of God's strategy to throw down these evil spiritual powers, thereby fulfilling God's prophetic Word and bringing about the final victory (see Dan. 10:1-20).

## WINNING THE LEGAL BATTLE

In *Heaven on Earth*, I discussed the prayer life of Jesus in Luke's Gospel and briefly explained the parable of the persistent widow in which Jesus taught His disciples the need to first get a legal victory before actually going to war against demonic powers.

When someone begins to pray as Jesus taught in Luke 18:1-8, things begin to happen in the heavenly realm. Spiritually speaking, we must first learn how to fight and win these "legal battles" before we engage in the full-scale "military battles" that necessarily follow. These military battles begin when a group of intercessors actually goes to war against demonic powers in the heavenly places with the purpose of casting them down.

If we try to fight the military battle before we have won the legal battle, we make it very difficult for ourselves.

When we fight military battles, numbers are critical, but when we fight the corresponding legal battles, one person praying alone can be enough. You don't even need two.

In this parable from Luke 18, Jesus taught His disciples that even one frail widow was enough—providing she was willing to persist until she got a favorable verdict from the Judge of the highest court, which is the court of Heaven where Jesus sits with all power and authority.

I can now see that this is what happened to us years ago in Mumbai. The Spirit of God taught my wife, Eileen, and me how to fight and win that kind of legal battle so that the ruling spirit over that region of our city finally had to leave. Thankfully, there were two of us, but it could have been done by only one.

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Omar Cabrera, a great Argentinean prayer warrior and evangelist, powerfully demonstrated this principle in the early days of the Argentinean Revival by single-handedly taking on and casting down the ruling demon in a number of cities in Argentina. Once he had accomplished this, he saw a tremendous breakthrough in a number of cities. Many people were converted, and large churches were established. I remember hearing this great pioneer tell the story personally to me about 40 years ago.<sup>2</sup>

This parable in Luke 18:1-8 was given by Jesus to teach us that we should always persist in prayer and never faint or lose heart due to opposition or delay. He especially seemed to emphasize this as being necessary as the day when His return draws near.

One of the puzzling things about this kind of spiritual warfare praying is the long delay we sometimes experience before we see any answers to our prayers. From our perspective, it seems like God is not very interested in the thing we are praying about, or else He seems powerless or unwilling to do anything about it. That is not the truth at all, but from our perspective, it sometimes seems like it is. In actuality, something is being wrestled through in the spirit realm, and it is absolutely essential that we stay in the heavenly courtroom pleading our case until God can give us the final verdict in perfect righteousness.

Jesus taught two stories on persistent prayer: One is in Luke 18:1-8; the other is in Luke 11:1-10. Each story teaches us to understand a different principle.

In Luke 18:1-8 we are taught that an unrighteous judge who does not fear God and who is not a bit interested in bringing justice can still be made to do the right thing. Although he doesn't care about the request being made to him, but is corruptly more concerned about his own power and financial benefits, righteousness can prevail. Jesus taught that if we persist in our appeals to God, who is the Righteous Judge, the corrupt officer will be forced, despite his own desires, to do the right thing. We see this being worked out when Paul appeared before Gallio, the proconsul of Achaia in Corinth (see Acts 18:12-18) and the city clerk in Ephesus (see Acts 19:34-41).

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We are also learning to do this effectively in the cities of different nations in which we presently work.

### **ASKING A FRIEND FOR A FRIEND**

In Luke 11:1-4, in what is usually called “The Lord’s Prayer,” Jesus taught that we must first of all have effective prayer lives of our own so as to get our personal needs met. But that is only stage one. Jesus then immediately asked (in verse 5) whether we are willing to go a stage further in prayer and learn how to appropriate answers to prayer on behalf of our friends.

Eileen and I first learned this lesson in Mumbai, and it moved us into the real spirit of prayer and intercession. Because of the desperate needs all around us, we constantly found ourselves praying for the needs of others. We learned how to obtain healings from all kinds of sicknesses and diseases and also saw numerous people wonderfully delivered from alcoholism. We helped obtain jobs for unemployed people and homes for people who had nowhere to live. We became experts in these prayers.

As a result, we never had any long-term unemployment in our church despite constant high unemployment in the city. Just as the economy of God’s people in Goshen was different from the economy of Egypt, so the economy of the Kingdom is different from the economy of the world. Through this, God taught us some important lessons. Sometimes He deliberately delayed answers in order to train us in persistence and to develop our spiritual muscles. But all this was only preparation. He was getting us ready for the real spiritual warfare that lay ahead.

### **REASONS FOR DELAY IN ANSWERED PRAYER**

I believe there are four reasons why God sometimes deliberately delays answers to prayer when we pray for our friends in need.

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First, He uses the delay to train and strengthen us in our persistence in prayer. In this way, we are prepared and strengthened for the real spiritual warfare that is still ahead.

Second, He sometimes uses delay to purify our motives. A wife may earnestly pray for her unconverted husband, saying, “Oh God, save my husband.”

God may then ask, “Why?”

She may have to get honest and confess: “Because I can’t stand him the way he is, and he would be much nicer to live with if he became a Christian!” Her true concern is not about his salvation, but the unpleasantness of his unsaved state.

Sometimes people pray for their cities with similar motivations, because they selfishly desire a nicer city in which to live. They are asking for the right thing, but for the wrong reason. It is not really the burden of lost souls or the many needy people that motivates them. It’s their personal enjoyment and comfort that mainly concerns them. Sometimes, a purification of our motives in prayer is required, and the answers are delayed until we begin praying for the right things for the right reasons.

Third, delay often sharpens the focus of our prayers. Many people came to Jesus with very general requests: “Oh, Lord, help me!” “Please Lord, do something!”

Every time people spoke that way to Jesus, He would ask them, “What exactly do you want Me to do for you?” He made them become very specific. Only then was He willing to answer their prayers (see Luke 18:35-42).

Fourth, we must pray in faith. Jesus and all the New Testament writers taught that our prayers must be prayers of faith without any doubt. We must trust the certainty that God will answer us, providing we pray according to His will (see 1 John 5:14-15).

Sometimes our prayers are only prayers of hope, not faith. We are thinking, “Well, let’s ask Jesus, and see if He is able and willing to help us; but in case He doesn’t answer, we’ll try some other things at the same time and hope that one

of them will work.” If there is not real faith, there cannot be true persistence. But if we come to Him desperately in real faith, certain that He alone has the power and will do what we ask of Him, then we will receive whatever we ask.

A man once came to Jesus with a demonized son saying, “Lord, if You can do anything, please, help me” (see Mark 9:22).

Jesus threw the question straight back at him by saying, “If I can do anything? If *you* can really believe! All things are possible to those who believe” (see Mark 9:23). The real problem was not Jesus’ ability or willingness to heal, but rather the man’s unbelief.

Sometimes God deliberately uses delay to perfect our asking and develop our spiritual faith muscles. In some people, God’s deliberate delay only develops a growing determined persistence. It may be driven initially by desperation, but it finally becomes a real prayer of faith that must be answered. A great example in Scripture is the persistent Canaanite woman with a demonized daughter. She would not let go till she got an answer and made even Jesus marvel at her faith (see Matt. 15:22-28).

## **PRAYER TACTICS OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

When we enter into real spiritual warfare, as we read in Luke 18, we are no longer praying to our Friend in Heaven for things our earthly friends may need. We have an adversary, the devil, who has come against us and is attacking us and seeking to do us harm or even destroy us. In such instances, we want vengeance—or more literally, we want our “legal rights” over him, because there is mutual enmity between him and us!

Once again, we find Jesus describing an unrighteous judge who doesn’t seem to be bothered about justice. Instead, he just wants this pesky widow-woman to stop bothering him all the time. Notice again that there has to be persistence because through our faith-filled, persistent prayer, we can actually force unrighteous officials to do God’s righteous will when they don’t even realize it.

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It is not really because of indifference on God's part that there is a long delay even though, from our point of view, He sometimes seems to behave indifferently. As Jesus goes on to explain in Luke 18:6-8:

*Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall not God avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?*

In fact, the Greek text explains more fully that God is passionately and earnestly waiting for the necessary righteous procedures to be completed so He can then act speedily on our behalf. Legions of angels are available to God and eager to help His saints on Earth, but they need to be released legally. If we fight and win these legal battles first and get a successful verdict from God, the Righteous Judge, then these angels can be released by Jesus to come and help us when the actual conflict with the demonic hosts begins. If we do not first win the legal battle to get these good angelic hosts righteously released to help us, we end up fighting enraged demons on our own without angelic help. This is not the best way to fight, and we will probably lose the battle.

This little widow had a strong adversary who sought to do her much harm, and she wanted vengeance against him because she was convinced of her legal rights. Jesus did not paint a picture of some strong, self-confident James Bond kind of individual; instead, He chose for His illustration a single, weak widow-woman who had a legally legitimate case against her adversary, but no power to enforce it. She knew her legal rights without any doubt, so she wouldn't give up.

What Jesus said in this parable is that it does not matter how small or weak you are. It does not matter how seemingly insignificant you are. If you learn how to pray and are sure of your legal rights based on what Jesus accomplished through the cross, and if you persist like this woman did, then you will get powerful answers to your prayers. You will defeat all the demonic powers in the heavenly realm over your city if you simply persist.

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These legal battles can be won by just one person. You can pray for your city on your own and be the instrument that causes the Father to release powerful angels to change that city. This widow had no influence, no money, and no power. All she had was persistence and real faith; but that was enough to get an answer.

If we are asking for the throwing down of a powerful demonic adversary, we have to go first of all to the courts of Heaven where the risen Christ sits on His mighty throne with all power and all authority. As plaintiffs, we have to be born of God and have learned by faith to sit down with Christ on His heavenly throne. We must know that we have authority to reign with Christ. We must believe that in Jesus' name we have a legal right to plead the case and take possession of the city on behalf of Jesus and His Kingdom.

It does not matter how small or weak you are. As long as you are that kind of person, you can become a legitimate legal intercessor for your city. Because of your legal standing as a redeemed child of the King, the case will be heard in Heaven before God's throne. The Spirit of God will show you how to pray and how to plead the case for your city (see Rom. 8:26-27). The Scriptures tell us that Jesus lives to make intercession for us (see Heb. 7:25). God, the Righteous Judge, is already on your side, but He cannot give you the verdict just because He loves you. He will, however, answer you speedily once your case is proven to be legal and righteous.

As he battles in the heavenly places, the devil attempts to present counter-arguments as to why he should not be thrown out of the city. During this time, he might come and attack you by trying to intimidate you so as to stop you from praying. He will attack you with doubt and depression. If you don't persevere until the judgment is given, even if you have a perfectly valid case, you will lose your case.

Many Christians start praying for a legitimate cause, but they don't persevere until the answer comes. With persistent and persevering praying, the answer may suddenly come even after many years of waiting. Its suddenness may surprise you. In my first book on the Kingdom I told about our situation in

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Mumbai. The breakthrough suddenly happened one Wednesday night after years of praying and battling. The ruling demonic principality was cast down; everything changed, and from that day the city was different.

If you persist, a day will come when the Judge will rule on your behalf. When that happens, He will legally and righteously be able to release many angels to enforce the judgment that has been given. They will come and fight with you. Oh, how they are longing and waiting for believers who will press through and open the way for them to legally enter into the battle! Then you become workers together with angels as well as with God, and what a beautiful and mighty thing it is when that happens!

## THE MILITARY BATTLE

Once the verdict has been obtained, the next phase is the enforcement of what has been judicially granted to you. When you come to the enforcement stage, you don't just stay in the prayer room. You take to the streets and go into action. You work together with other saints and learn to cooperate with angels to make glorious and wonderful things happen all over the city for which you have been praying.

This is what I call the military phase. It is when we go and cast out demons, heal the sick, and loose people from all their demonic bondages. Drug addicts, alcoholics, and prostitutes, as well as many respectable, ordinary people, turn to the Lord. The members of drug cartels and violent gangs are converted or leave town, and peace comes to the city. You shut down the sex shops and close the abortion clinics and, physically, you begin to change the feel and very appearance and function of your city. Corruption is cleansed from every aspect of public life, and then you see righteous and godly government established.

At this stage, numbers really count, so the more people you can muster, the better. According to Jesus' words, many angels are available in groups of thousands, and they are ready to go! They are longing for us to pray for our cities so that they can be legally released to come and do the work of God's Kingdom

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in partnership with us. But the military phase cannot effectively come until the legal phase has been successfully accomplished.

By nature, most humans are activists and not pray-ers. A common mistake made by churches is to go out too soon in a flurry of activity without the divine mandate to validate what they are doing. There are no fighting angels available because they have not yet been legally released to come and help. You don't want to find yourself in the position of fighting on your own. It's tough, and you won't see any results. When you do that sort of thing on your own initiative, little happens.

This often produces discouragement in individuals and churches. Some will give up the fight and back away, which is exactly what the devil wants to see happen. The people may have responded well at the start; but when nothing really changes, they are slow to respond a second time, because of deep disappointment. As a result, it becomes much harder to rally the people to try another evangelistic thrust. To get them to go out a second or third time is hard work, if not virtually impossible. It is so important to do the right things, in the right way, at the right time, and in the right order.

But if you organize real, God-directed, evangelistic activity in which many are being healed and saved and all of your people are being used and are seeing results, your people will not get bored or tired at all. They'll be absolutely thrilled. When angels are working all over the city and you just go and work *with* them, it's exciting and stimulating. When you actually see the harvest being reaped, it is exhilarating; you feel like you could joyfully do this for the rest of your life.

### **CHANGING THE POLITICAL MAP**

In the Book of Daniel, we find Daniel wrestling in prayer. He was praying for a nation to be delivered from captivity and for God's prophetic word concerning Judah to be fulfilled. God had already said through the prophet Jeremiah that after 70 years His people would be released from captivity and would return to their own land (see Jer. 25:9-12). At the end of Isaiah chapter 44 and into the

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beginning of chapter 45, Isaiah named the person through whom God would bring about this deliverance. He was a pagan king named Cyrus who didn't even know God. Nevertheless, God said he would be His instrument.

Daniel began his lonely prayer warfare possibly with only his three friends praying with him. It was a prayer battle that lasted more than 70 years. Daniel went into captivity as a teenager in 608 B.C. and prayed for almost 50 years (until 559 B.C.) before anything happened. Then Cyrus became the king of Persia. At that time Persia was not a particularly powerful nation, but I can imagine Daniel asking God, "Is this the man that Isaiah spoke about?" And God replying, "Yes, this is the man! Now I want you to promote him politically with your prayers."

That is something we need to learn to do. We cannot transform cities without getting the right politicians, civic leaders, and judges into place. We must either change the hearts of the present politicians to fear God or, by the power of our prayers, replace them with those who do. As a result, they will start working with us and not against us. We must pray for the right men and women to become more prominent, influential, and powerful while we also pray for the wrong people to lose their prominence and influence.

Wherever you live, remember also to pray for your national politicians, state politicians, and your capital city as well as those in your own city, because this will greatly affect what you are able to do there.

Whoever was on the throne of the Persian-Median Empire in Sushan, the capital city, politically determined what would happen in the city of Jerusalem more than 1,000 miles away. Getting the right people in the right political positions is a powerful and important part of taking cities for the Kingdom. Ezra records how the temple was rebuilt successfully through the prayers and prophesying of God's prophets, the activity of His apostolic leaders such as Nehemiah, and the cooperation and commandments of the three secular kings Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes (see Ezra 6:13-16).

Daniel's prayer life was the key for a whole nation to be released from captivity. In some remarkable scriptural passages, Jeremiah had prophesied:

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*Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: "Because you have not heard My words, behold, I will send and take all the families of the north," says the LORD, "and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations. Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity," says the LORD; "and I will make it a perpetual desolation. So I will bring on that land all My words which I have pronounced against it, all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah has prophesied concerning all the nations" (Jer. 25:8-13).*

*For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive (Jer. 29:10-14).*

Isaiah had also prophesied saying:

*Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and He who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who makes all things, who stretches out the*

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*heavens all alone, who spreads abroad the earth by Myself; who frustrates the signs of the babblers, and drives diviners mad; who turns wise men backward, and makes their knowledge foolishness; who confirms the word of His servant, and performs the counsel of His messengers; who says to Jerusalem, 'You shall be inhabited,' to the cities of Judah, 'You shall be built,' and I will raise up her waste places; who says to the deep, 'Be dry! And I will dry up your rivers'; who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," and to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid.'"*

*Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—to subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut: "I will go before you and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the LORD, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob My servant's sake, and Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, that they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other..." (Isa. 44:24–45:6).*

Israel's release from captivity was promised in Scripture; nevertheless, Daniel didn't just sit down in his favorite chair and passively wait saying, "I'm just going to watch and wait for God to do His sovereign will and fulfill His Word all by Himself without my active involvement." No! The written prophetic word of Scripture became the target and the motivation for his prayer and all his activity.

He knew exactly what to pray because God told him what to pray. When he saw a king named Cyrus come to the throne of Persia, he was not a particularly powerful or prominent king. But Daniel recognized him as God's man and

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began to pray to promote him politically. Through Daniel's prayers, Cyrus then conquered Media and became the king of the Persian-Median Empire. Over the next 20 years, Cyrus went on to conquer Syria and then Assyria. He continued to grow in power and stature until he became the most dominant political force in the world apart from the king of Babylon. Finally, Babylon was conquered by Cyrus in 539 B.C., just one year short of the 70 years prophesied by Jeremiah. This set the stage for the prophetic words of Jeremiah and Isaiah to be fulfilled right on time.

In the first year of his rule over Babylon, Cyrus was stirred by the Lord in a dream to send all willing Jews back to Israel to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. He sent back all the golden artifacts that were removed when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the temple. Cyrus ordered that the costs of rebuilding the temple should be paid out of the royal treasury.

While this prayer battle was going on, Daniel was feeling such pressure and heaviness that he almost gave up. But because Daniel's persistent praying was so important to God's strategy, He sent the angel Gabriel to strengthen him. The case was being heard in the heavenly courtroom, but the judgment had not yet been given. If Daniel had stopped praying, the case could not have been completed, nor the demonic spirits thrown down.

### **CONTENDING WITH REGIONAL SPIRITS**

The prince of Greece and the prince of Persia were two great demonic powers ruling over large regions of the world on behalf of Satan, and they were in this fight along with all their hosts of demons.

The archangel Michael was in warfare against them along with Gabriel and a host of God's loyal angels. This was the fight of fights in Daniel's day. Gabriel briefly left the battle and came to Daniel to strengthen him. In essence he said, "Daniel! Don't stop praying! You must hang in there, son! Your prayers legitimize our activity in the heavens to bring down these demonic powers and cause the Word of God to come to pass."

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Through Gabriel's visit, Daniel was strengthened to stick in there and pray till the victory came. These great demonic principalities were unable to withstand the prayers of this one God-empowered man. Through him God was able to legally enforce His Word. The right politicians came to the throne, and they started to work with God and His angels to bring about the restoration of the ruined city. But many more battles still lay ahead.

By this time, Daniel was well into his 80s or even early 90s. It was his prayers that produced the right political environment so that God's people were released to start rebuilding the temple right on time in 538 B.C.

Four years went by and the opposition from the surrounding enemies against the rebuilding became more and more intense. The people of God lost heart and were basically saying, "Man, I'm tired. I don't think this is the time to try to rebuild God's house. Why try to do something so ambitious? Besides, I have a few things to finish in my own house. It's not as comfortable as I would like it to be."

So they left the house of God in order to build more comfortable homes for themselves. Then the sympathetic and God-fearing King Cyrus was replaced by a renegade son named Cambyses II who repealed the political permission and removed the government funding they had been receiving to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. So everything stopped in 534 B.C.

Do you know what also happened in 534 B.C.? Daniel died, God lost His intercessor, and the whole political scene swung around to serve satan rather than God. Cambyses II went against the edict of his own father and stopped the building of the temple for over seven years. Then another pretender to the Persian throne, Artaxerxes I, continued to prevent the building for yet another seven years.

These kings actually violated the law and the constitution of the Persian-Median Empire in order to do this and have their own despotic way. All of God's people lost heart, and even their apostolic leader, Zerubbabel, diverted his attention to other things.

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So 14 years went by with everything at a standstill. Then, two young prophets named Haggai and Zechariah gained their spiritual vision. With the same spirit of prayer as Daniel, they started to prophesy and pray and rouse others to pray. Haggai in particular prophesied to the immediate situation and stirred the disillusioned builders to action. Infused with a new spirit, they were empowered to get back to building again. These two prophets also began to pray change into the political situation. Then the evil king was suddenly killed and replaced by another son of Cyrus called Darius II.

Darius II was a mild and reasonable man. When the facts were reported to him of what his father had decreed concerning the rebuilding of the temple, he said, “What are we doing? We should have never stopped the Jews from building the temple again. First of all, it’s against the law and the constitution of the Persia-Media Empire; second, it will also bring the wrath of their God upon us. Give them the finances they need from government funds and do everything you can to help them get this job finished.” (See Ezra 6.)

This prompted a major change in the political climate, as well as in the spirit of God’s people. It all happened because God found two new prophetic intercessors to replace Daniel. The Spirit of the Lord came upon these dispirited Jews, and in four years they completed what they had been saying was impossible to do for the preceding 14 years. The temple was dedicated in 515 B.C.

Can you see this very crucial and vital role of intercession? It does not require many people. One or two are enough. They can be as seemingly insignificant and lacking in natural influence as that little widow-woman, but if they know how to pray, they can elect a new president and decide who is going to rule over the nation.

Once you know how to rule in your prayers, you can choose the mayor of your town, the federal and state judges of your state or city, your political representatives, the chief of police, and so forth. There is power in intercession. We need intercessors who can clearly hear God and then, through their prayers and the right God-directed activism, get into the realms of politics, the judiciary, law enforcement, education, and the media so His Kingdom can truly come.

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The kingdom of satan has long been established on Earth and is still here until the Kingdom of God comes to forcibly replace it. There is no vacant, neutral territory anywhere in the world. Therefore, every attempt to establish the Kingdom of God is automatically an invasion of what satan has illegally occupied and now regards as his territory. That is why the Kingdom of God always suffers violence and is vigorously attacked the moment it appears to be gaining ground. The only way to deal with that demonic violence is to be even more spiritually violent in our response.

Satan understands the strategic role of cities, and he set up his spiritual power centers long ago establishing his rule from there. Satan knows that whoever controls the cities will also control the surrounding territories. Throughout the world, almost without exception, the cities of the nations are the strongholds of satan's kingdom, and they must be taken before the Kingdom of God can really come. Therefore, we must learn the tactical principles of spiritual warfare in order to be effective warriors in the Lord's Army in the critical days ahead.

It is exciting to know we won't be fighting alone, as we are about to learn in the next chapter.

### ENDNOTES

1. Alan Vincent, *Heaven on Earth: Releasing the Power of the Kingdom through YOU* (Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Publishers, 2008).
2. Information on the Argentinean Revival and Omar Cabrera's involvement in it is available on several different websites. See Peter Wagner, "The Awesome Argentina Revival—Lessons in Evangelism"; [www.openheaven.com/library/history/argentina.htm](http://www.openheaven.com/library/history/argentina.htm); accessed August 1, 2011; and *Vision of the Future*, <http://www.visiondefuturo.org/found.html>; accessed August 1, 2011.



## CHAPTER 2

# A BALANCED UNDERSTANDING OF ANGELS AND DEMONS

**M**ANY references to angelic and demonic activity are found in both the Old and New Testament. According to the PC Study Bible Concordance, the subject of demons is referred to 74 times in the Bible, four times in the Old Testament and 70 times in the New Testament. Angels are mentioned nearly 300 times in the whole Bible, with over 100 references in the Old Testament and nearly 200 in the New Testament. Messenger angels are particularly active in supporting and communicating with human prophets and prayer-warriors, such as Daniel, as they waged war against demonic principalities and powers in the Old Testament.

I remember very well one incident in my own ministry, which occurred some years ago when I was in Hyderabad, India, for a leaders' conference. God had shown me that I was to address the issue of the widespread poverty in the region, but I had told no one that this was my subject.

When I arrived, there was great excitement because a very large angel—over 60-feet tall—had appeared in the church compound a few days before and was seen by a group of leaders. The angel spoke and said, “My name is ‘Prosperity’ and I have come to destroy the spirit of poverty in this region.” It then

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