

When Kings Go Forth To Battle (Revised)

by Pastor F. M. Riley



Email from Pastor to me, 3/17/08

I am also sending you a corrected copy of my study, "When Kings go forth to Battle." When I typed that study up, I made an error in the dates towards the end of the article. I used the calendar date for last year instead of this year.



"And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle....," 2 Samuel 11:1.

This Scripture, like all the rest of God's Word, was given by *Divine Inspiration*, **2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21**. Therefore there is a **"time when kings go forth to battle..."** [*fight; battle; wage war*]. See **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**. What **"time"** is that?

This text is quite specific. The specified **"time"** in this passage is **"after the year was expired."** This would then place the **"time"** specifically at the beginning of a new year. There is only one place in God's Word where the Lord Himself declared when a year was to begin. **"And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you,"** [*the Jewish people*] **Exodus 12:1-2**. The year that the Lord Himself gave to the nation of Israel then began with the month of Abib [*Nisan*] in the spring of the year, **Exodus 13:4; 23:15; 34:18; Deuteronomy 16:1**. It is then the month of Abib [*Nisan*] in the spring of the year **"when kings go forth to battle..."**

History confirms this truth. With very few exceptions, kings throughout human history have traditionally gone to war in the spring of the year. It would be a stupid king that would send his troops into battle in the dead of the winter, or even in late summer as winter was approaching. So both Scripture and history confirm that spring is the **"time when kings go forth to battle...."**

The End of the Tribulation

Some readers will wonder why I am laboring this point. Just stay with me and you will understand.

In **Zechariah 14:3** the inspired prophet tells us, **"Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle."**

In **Revelation 19:11-21** we find the fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy. In verse **11** we read, **"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war."**

Both of these passages, in context, refer to the end of the seven year Tribulation period. This will be the time that the Lord Himself goes forth to do battle against His enemies and the enemies of His people. Since both Scripture and history confirm that spring is the **"time when kings go forth to battle..."**, and our Lord is most certainly the greatest of all kings [**Psalm 24:7-10; Revelation 19:16**], then it should be obvious that the Lord's going forth to battle will bring the Tribulation to an end in the spring of the year.

The Beginning of the Tribulation

Since the Tribulation will end in the spring of the year, then it must also begin in the spring of the year. This is just a matter of simple logic.

The years of the Tribulation are seven years of 360 days in each year, making a total of 2520 days in the seven years. $360 \times 7 = 2520$. This figure is confirmed in the Scriptures,

Revelation 11:3; 12:6.

That the seven years of the Tribulation set forth in **Revelation 4 – 19** are years based on the calendar which the Lord gave to the Jews is also obvious when one carefully studies the Scriptures. In **Daniel 9:24** it is specifically stated, **"Seventy weeks [of years] are determined upon thy people [the Jews] and upon thy holy city..." [Jerusalem]**. Subsequent history reveals that 69 weeks [of years] of this prophecy were fulfilled. The 69 weeks [483 years] came to an end the same day that Christ rode the donkey into Jerusalem, **Luke 19:28-44**. What day was that? It was the 10th day of Abib [*Nisan*] in the spring of the year.

Since the first 483 years [69 weeks] were Jewish [*prophetic*] years, then it should be obvious that the final 7 years [*Daniel's 70th week*] will also be Jewish [*prophetic*] years. And since the Jewish year, on the calendar the Lord gave to Israel, both begins and ends in the spring, it is then logical and reasonable to expect the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy [*the Tribulation*] to begin in the spring of the year, and to end in the spring of the year at the very **"time when kings go forth to battle..."** Glory!

The Point

Folks, all true believers saved during this present **"dispensation of grace"** will be resurrected and raptured to glory before the Tribulation begins. This truth has been set forth so many times by so many of God's people right straight from the Word that I am

not taking the time to restate it or defend it. It is the *"blessed hope"* [Titus 2:13] of God's people and it stands!

I have demonstrated in this study that the Tribulation will begin and end in the spring of the year. But what year?

Many serious and careful Bible students have been pointing out for months that **2008** is the year for *"the day of the Lord"* [the Tribulation] to begin. The writers setting forth this truth that have posted their studies on the Five Doves website [Internet] over the past few months are too numerous to list in this brief study. Look them up for yourself. It is sufficient to say that many of God's people [those truly saved] in various nations all over the earth are convinced that the terrible Tribulation will begin this year; 2008. Based on what I consider to be sound Scriptural reasons, I heartily agree!

I remind our readers that March 20th is when Spring begins this year. As I write it is only 24 days away. It is also worthy of note that this year April 6th is the first day of Abib [Nisan] on the calendar that the Lord Himself gave to Israel. It is later than some think!

Please do not misunderstand me or misquote me. I am not saying that the resurrection and rapture of God's people is going to occur on either of these two dates. Don't even suggest that I have said such a thing. I do not know the day when the resurrection and rapture of God's people is going to occur, and make no claim to knowing such. What I have done in this study is point out that the Tribulation both begins and ends in the spring, and that many of God's people, based on their own independent studies of God's Word, are expecting the Trib to begin during the spring of **2008**. If they are correct, then whatever day the Tribulation begins this spring, the resurrection and rapture of God's people will occur before the Tribulation begins. Glory!

Conclusion

Oh, how close God's people are to the reality of our *"blessed hope," Titus 2:13*. How very close we are to going "HOME," *Colossians 3:4*. Beloved, there has never been a time previously when God's people should be so totally dedicated to the Lord, and so absorbed in living for the Lord and seeking His will for our lives, *1 John 3:2-3*. We are soon going to meet our Savior face to face, *Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18*. What then? Will we be able to meet Him with joy and rejoicing? Or.....will we *"be ashamed before Him at His coming," 1 John 2:27-28?* Read *Mark 13:34-37* again, and take it to heart. Beloved, will we be able to claim the promise of *2 Timothy 4:8?* Will we be able to hear our Savior say, *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant.....enter thou into the joy of thy Lord," Matthew 25:21?* The choice is ours, and the time to make that choice is NOW. The last opportunity to love and live for and serve the Lord with our whole heart and life is NOW before us. What will we do?

May the Lord bless His Word to the hearts of every reader is my prayer.

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness," 2 Peter 3:10-11.



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