

# Weaving the Word

*Unless You Repent*

December 17, 2017

*Welcome to where we're learning how to fight the good fight!*



Do you know what battle you're in?

Do you know who your worst enemy *really* is?

A cold, cruel, heartless, horrific, tormentor that'll stand when all other foes fade away.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death. – 1 Corinthians 15:26 NIV

It's the only battle that matters in the end. And, sorry to say, **we were dropped on his battlefield the moment we were born.** *Merry Christmas!*

The **gift** of God is **eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Rom 6:23 NIV



The crowd listened in as Jesus prepared His boys to take up their cross and lay down their life for the cause of Christ. (Mt 10:38-39) 'Cause **He's about to send 'em out of Galilee and into Judea where He says they'll be hated and arrested and flogged for His name.** (Mt 10:18-23)



Then the boys listen in as Jesus warns the *crowd* to use the Word to judge what is right before they go before *the Judge*. (Lk 12:57-58)

Just then, news comes breaking in:



Now there were some present at that time who **told** [also: "reported to" or "informed"] Jesus about **the Galileans** [remember: Jesus and the boys are all *Galileans* (Mk 14:70; Lk 23:6-7; Acts 2:7)] **whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.** [i.e. *killed*] – Luke 13:1 NIV



Sacrifices were made in the Temple by Levites. (Lev 17:2-4; Num 18:6-8) And, many lived in Galilee, but served in Jerusalem for five weeks per year. And, Pilate only used deadly force against insurrection; but the Jews believed they'd be freed from Rome; so, zealots often rebelled.

15 months later, the crowd demands that Pilate release Barabbas.



Now Barabbas had taken part in a rebellion. – John 18:40 NIV

Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, [i.e. *Jerusalem*] and for murder. – Luke 23:19 NIV

**They backed the wrong fighter 'cause they fought the wrong fight.**

This news now comes to Jesus as He's about to send His men on a dangerous mission in Judea which was Pilate's jurisdiction. And it doesn't help that one of 'em is named *Simon the Zealot!* (Mt 10:4)

But, being that Jesus and the boys are Galilean in Galilee with a Galilean crowd (who think He'll free 'em from Rome), **it'll be assumed they'll be "blessed with success" if they're more righteous than the Galileans God had just "cursed" with failure.**

Jesus answered, "Do you think that **these Galileans** were **worse sinners** [more wicked] than all the other **Galileans** because they suffered this way? I tell you, no!

**They were just fighting the wrong fight with a mistaken enemy in a doomed attempt to save their way of life by their own power.** Jesus had just said to this same crowd that ...

*Anyone* who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever **finds his life** [outside of Christ] will **lose it**, [apollymi: perish; be destroyed] and whoever **loses** [apollymi: perishes; destroys] his life for my sake will find it. – Matthew 10:38b-39 NIV

And now He says:

But **unless you repent**, you too will all **perish**. [apollymi] – Luke 13:1-2 NIV

... unless you **"fight the good fight of faith,"** and **"take hold of the eternal life to which you were called."** (1 Tim 6:12) You see ...

The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable ... flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ... the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. – 1 Corinthians 15:42b, 50b, 53 NIV

How? **"Clothe yourselves with Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature."** (Rom 13:14)

**To defeat darkness you must become light.**

**To defeat death you must become life.**

**To become light and life you must wrap yourself in Christ.**

Death attacks in two forms: human cruelty *and* natural tragedy.

Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think **they** were **more guilty** [deeper in debt] than all the others living in **Jerusalem**? I tell you, no!

One year later, Jesus and the boys will be in Jerusalem for Hanukkah (a.k.a. Feast of Dedication), and come across a man born blind. It's the only other time *Siloam* is mentioned.

His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but **this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.** – John 9:1-3 NIV

**Seems a bit harsh, doesn't it? Only if you don't know the real enemy and what it actually takes to help us defeat him.** Then Jesus rubs mud on his eyes and sends him to the Pool of Siloam, and *heals* this “*sinner*” where the other “*sinners*” died.



Big discovery in 2004: The pool of Siloam.

The historian, Josephus, records that the Roman wall with towers (which were occupied by Roman forces) was just above this pool. So, some of the same Roman force that later kills the Galileans likely dies at Siloam.

**Nobody gets out of this battle alive ... *without Christ.***

But **unless you repent, you too will all perish.** [apollymi] – Luke 13:4-5 NIV

We're all in this together. **Your enemies aren't even your enemies; they're just a tactic used to distract you, by your *real enemy.*** But ...

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him **should not perish** [apollymi] but have everlasting life. - John 3:16 NIV

Sadly, “should not” isn't the same as “won't”. *But here's the promise:*

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” – Revelation 21:4 NIV

**Death is dead to those who are alive in Christ!**

[Jesus] has **destroyed** [lit. *unemployed*] death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. – 2 Timothy 1:10b NIV

When Jesus said, **“unless you repent, you too will all perish,”** His words had both a personal and a national application to His chosen people.

Four days before the cross He says, regarding Jerusalem:

The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. **They will dash you to the ground** [like those Galileans who were sacrificing in the Temple] ... **They will not leave one stone on another,** [like that tower at Siloam] because **you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you.** - Luke 19:43-44 NIV

**Whatever you do, don't miss your moment!**



About 40 years later (70<sup>AD</sup>) the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple. Those are the temple stones where they fell.

Over a million Jews were executed.

And at the newly discovered Pool of Siloam, they found the steps that led to the Temple. There was a large storm drain underneath; and, it was broken open by the Romans to get at the families who were hiding in the Siloam drain.



The only group of Jews that didn't perish were those who had judged rightly, recognized the time of God's coming, and repented and received Jesus as Savior. They were the only ones who believed the prophetic warning He had left them.

When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. – Luke 21:20-21 NIV

### **Those who didn't repent, didn't believe, and perished.**

The Galilean massacre and the tower tragedy were minor compared to the destruction of Jerusalem. And, *that* can't hold a candle to what death itself does on a daily basis in this world.

And, **the only reason it comes as such a shock when it comes, is that we spend so much effort mentally avoiding the inevitable.** But, like it or not, we've been in this battle since birth.

The length of our days is seventy years — or eighty, if we have the strength; yet **their span is but trouble and sorrow, [That's how it works down here!]** for they quickly pass, and we fly away. **Who knows the power of your anger? [He's calling our attention to the brevity of life and our accountability to the Judge]** ... Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. – Psalm 90:10-12 NIV

What is this wisdom that's gained from trouble and sorrow?

**We must daily live life in the light of eternity.**

**We all die. But, you can get the jump on it!**

When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. – 1 Corinthians 15:54-56 NIV

Merry Christmas.