

Aslan is on the move!

Any of you who have seen the Narnia movie (or read the book) will have made the connection between Aslan the lion and "The Lion," and between the white witch and the devil who desires to hold our planet in a perpetual spiritual ice age. The movie appropriately depicts a final battle between the forces of evil and the forces of good.



Jesus refers to this end of the age scenario in his parable of the wheat and the tares by assuring us that wickedness will escalate, but that righteousness will also ripen as we approach the end of the age. He describes that final conflict in his revelation to John. The beast and the kings of the earth gather together to war against the King of Kings and the Lord of the Lords, the man on the white horse who is joined by the armies of heaven. The outcome is assured. "The beast was captured, and with him the false prophet... The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur." (Rev. 19:11-20)

The prophets and apostles knew of this conflict as well. Zechariah sees the nations surrounding Jerusalem warring against the purposes of God just prior to the coming of the King, the One who will rule over the whole earth in a world at peace. Paul speaks of Jesus' return when all "his holy ones" will come with him (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

The increase of wickedness in our time should not surprise us. The heat of the battle is on the increase. Terrorism, violence, immorality, defiance and rebellion are rising as our enemy prepares for a last effort to overthrow the rule of God.

But Aslan, the Lion, is also on the loose. Nations long held bondage in a spiritual ice age are experiencing Spring. People groups who did not know of the Redeemer, who had not heard the name of Jesus, who had no access to the Word, who had not experienced the power of His Spirit, are awakening. Asia, Africa, Latin America and even the Middle East are hearing the call. Israel is slowly experiencing redemption.

David Garrison's Church Planting Movements

(www.churchplantingmovements.com) describes movements all around the globe where the gospel is in an out-of-control mode. Millions of former Hindus, Buddhists, animists, Muslims and others are experiencing for the first time the love of God: Cambodia 60,000 new believers, Mongolia, 60,000, the warring Maasai 90,000, 200,000 in North Korea, 500,000 in Nepal. Whole sections of China are known as "Jesus' nests" because of the increase of faith. The largest Muslim nation of the world, Indonesia, is nearing 20% believers. One Muslim

nation that will remain anonymous saw 500,000 new believers in an eight year period.

Do not let the daily news casts discourage you. Look beyond the obvious and look for God at work. Even here in the US there is a growing hunger among those for whom Sunday church is not enough. They want to know God. They are hungry for more of His Spirit. They are reading the Word, praying the Word, and watching as God is honoring that Word with an increase in radical new believers and in the return of the miraculous to the body of the Lord.

According to Jesus' parable, we should be expecting the strongest church that has ever existed in these next few years, one that is "ripe for the harvest."

Yes, Aslan is on the move. The Lion is here! And He is soon to return to rule.

Don Finto

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