

A TIME
TO
TRIUMPH

HOW TO **WIN THE WAR** AHEAD

CHUCK D. PIERCE



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To the Triumphant Reserve
that is now rising
throughout the earth!

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1



A Prophetic Portal into the Future

The times are a-changing—and we must understand the times!

Through more than thirty years, I have walked in God's destiny for me: to hear Him and communicate what He was saying to a divine people who will ultimately triumph on His behalf in the earth realm. That is what this book is about. As I began writing, I was watching confusion in the world intensify before my eyes. Mass murders, wars, ethnic strife, terrorism, economic turbulence and divisions seemed to increase. I watched as people—Christian, Muslim or overall deranged individuals who have lost the joy of living—grew bitter or embraced bitter-root doctrines and began shooting at others or killing them.

But God! We were created to walk in, hear strategies of, steward and then multiply His glory and the resources of the earth. This is a natural breeding ground for conflict. But He

knows all and does nothing without first sharing His will with His prophets.

On January 1, 1984, God began to alert me to shifts in world events. This came by a peculiar visitation of His Spirit while Pam and I were executive directors of a children's home outside Houston. God visited me and outlined strange happenings to come concerning the Soviet Bloc countries. This changed our lives.

After the Lord saw that He could trust me to pursue His purposes on a greater scale, He visited me on January 1, 1986, and revealed in detail changes that would come in ten-year cycles for the next forty years, ending in 2026. His army is being prepared for the battle ahead through these and other revelations that build the faith of His people. The book in your hands covers the next ten years, which I sense are summarized as the *time of triumph*.

You might ask, "Why would He visit you?" My answer to this day is because He does nothing on the earth without first revealing to His prophets what His will is in heaven (Amos 3:6–7). This means He strips away secret plans of the enemy and opens up His overall plan, which eventually leads to the triumph of His people and the return of His Son to reign in the earth. His eyes run to and fro to see whom He may communicate with regarding His ultimate purposes of victory. I love Him, seek Him, walk with Him daily and am available for Him to communicate with. You can, too.

God has also revealed to me His *kairos* time—an opportune, strategic or now time—through the Hebraic calendar. This is appropriate, because our covenant through the blood and Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth aligns us with Abraham the Hebrew, the one who crosses over. We are meant to always cross over out of adversity. By understanding

God's timing, we defeat the enemy, who changes times and laws to weary our minds (see Daniel 7:25).

In Hebrew, each letter, syllable and word has a distinct meaning, sometimes communicating a picture or sound. I believe that is why God made covenant with mankind in this language. When you examine it closely, you see the deeper meaning. For example, the number 2 in Hebrew is *bet*, which depicts a house. In September 2001, we entered the Hebrew year 5762, a year when history would change the way God's house was to be built. (This was the year of the house in the season of *Samekh*, things coming full circle and into fullness.) Most of us clearly remember the beginning of this Hebrew year because the World Trade Center was destroyed in New York City. I believe the world changed at that time so God's house would come to a new level of understanding and be built differently for the seasons ahead.

When I began to share what God had shown me in 1986—that there was a great war ahead, both physically and spiritually, and that America was key in the war—I was met with resistance. That resistance had hit its zenith by the end of 2000. The Body of Christ had no idea about the years of war to come, nor did they wish to really understand them. I was confronted with the accusation that I was leading the Body in America astray by telling them war was on the horizon. I was also chastised for attempting to help Christians understand they are called to spiritual war for their future.

To help the Body shift into a mindset for war, I wrote *The Future War of the Church* and a number of other books.¹ They are still helpful, because much of what was written to prepare us is now a daily reality. *A Time to Triumph* will show you how to process the war ahead. In the next chapters

we will begin to unravel the concept of the war Christians face and why they must fight.

The truth is that for the believer in Christ, the best is always ahead. We have a wonderful promise for our future—the promise of eternal communion with God. The Bible clearly tells us that we should not live on earth with our sights set only on what is temporal; we should have a view of eternity and operate from heaven’s perspective. God will give us grace to endure what is going on in our temporal world until we come into the fullness of our eternal destiny, which is with Him. This really is the bottom line. The war will intensify, but the best for God’s children lies on the road ahead!

Prophecy Is Key

The key to walking in the fullness of your destiny on earth is prophecy. I live in a prophetic dimension that is not bound by space and time but speaks *into* space and time. Heaven is not controlled by time on the earth; therefore prophecy can penetrate time. This book is written from that prophetic dimension, which was revealed by the Spirit of God to help communicate to His children about their future. We all prophesy, but some prophetic gifts are given to help the Body understand the times they are living in and know when to turn right or left on the road ahead. Some prophecies are for warning and direction; others are released for comfort and encouragement.

Prophecy is simply declaring, decreeing or imparting the mind and heart of God, who rules from the throne room of heaven. Therefore, to give an accurate word of God, we must have both His mind and His emotion. Prophecy can unlock the redemptive purpose of a person, city or nation

(including its people). On one hand, it exhorts or builds up; on the other, it tears down so restoration can bring individuals, groups and even places into fullness.

A prophetic declaration communicates God's intent to fulfill His promises to us. Receiving a prophetic word can have a powerful impact on the perception of your prophetic destiny; it can shape your vision for the future and bring you into a deeper understanding of God's heart for your life. Prophecy reveals His love, correction and will. Without prophecy we will lose our way; without a vision we will perish.

Here is a prophetic word to encourage you:

This is a time of preparation! I am bringing things up and bringing things down, and setting a straight course for you. I am planning your path. I am causing your path to begin to link with other paths. Be comforted from all the struggle of your past seasons.

Look ahead! Allow Me to bring you to the intersection of comfort. Wars are ceasing and changing; new wars are arising. Receive comfort like a healing balm upon your eyes from your last war season. Look ahead, for your path will now begin to illuminate in a new way. The signpost you could not see will now come into plain view. As you advance toward this signpost, the way you should go will become clear. As you go past the intersection called "Comfort," the directional arrow for the place that I call "New" will appear before you.

Choosing God's Ultimate Plan

When God knit you together in your mother's womb, He had a distinct purpose for your life and a timing for it to be fulfilled. He knew before the foundation of the world the season of your birth. He planned the time for you to fit in

the earth realm to influence the world around you. If you are reading this, that time is now!

Our lives are a series of choices. Each day when we arise, our first thought should be, “Choose you this day whom ye will serve” (Joshua 24:15 ASV). Many choose to make the world a better place for generations to come. Others choose to serve themselves, and still others to serve destructive structures and systems that are creating detrimental outcomes in society. These choices are making darkness darker. But those choosing light will dispel the darkness and fear that would love to take hold in the earth.

There are religious wars over ideology, and there are spiritual wars that lead to an abundance of life. If we serve God, we will succeed in the redemptive plan for which He created us. We will be aware of His presence. Jesus said, “Blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied) are those servants whom the master finds awake and alert and watching when he comes. Truly I say to you, he will gird himself and have them recline at table and will come and serve them!” (Luke 12:37 AMPC). This is comfort in chaos. In a world filled with confusion and evil, we know that if we seek to serve Him each day, then He will come and serve us. He has prepared a table for us in the midst of our enemies (see Psalm 23:5). This book should help each of us to be found awake and alert by the Master.

We should choose life. By choosing life and being empowered to see life, we are then able to discern both good and evil around us. As the apostle Paul exhorted the church of Thessalonica to understand the opposition that was facing them, we must choose to stay alert and come to know the Spirit of God as the restraining force of evil. By walking in the presence of God, we will know when we deviate from

His ultimate plan. We will also know when the enemy of our souls, Satan, attempts to interrupt the cycle of life in God that we were called to complete in this earth realm. We will discern the spirit of lawlessness that is working in the earth. By knowing Father God as we embrace His Son and learn His Spirit, we will eventually triumph over evil.

You might be reading this book and saying, *I am not sure that I know this God or even understand why I am here.* The very Creator of the universe, however, knows *you*; He has knit you together; knows all of your fibers, comings and goings; and has an incredible plan for your life. Choose today whom you will serve so that your future is assured. If you make a willful choice to know the God who is watching mankind's stewardship of the world—every good and every evil action—you will have a peace to live and do your part to accomplish His plan.

The Changing Horizon

To wage war—and win—we must have a battle plan. God knew that His people needed to develop their hearts and minds for war, so, more than thirty years ago, God began preparing me for this time of war and revealing His plan for the unfolding days ahead. We are a people who can tell the future, which is the *expected end*. This means that we have desires and emotions that are being activated, causing us to anticipate something yet to come. Know that the God of heaven can and does reveal to His people what is to come. You need not be afraid of the future! But you must understand times and seasons and know how to change with the future.

As an artist, I learned that one of the first principles of perspective is to see and define your horizon. Because God

created time and is time, He is not bound by time. By communicating with His people, He can shift our horizons, or perspectives, to a different time and space to show us what will be coming. Acts 17:25–28, 30–31 (AMPC) is key to understanding how our faith works in time and space:

It is He Himself Who gives life and breath and all things to all [people]. And He made from one [common origin, one source, one blood] all nations of men to settle on the face of the earth, having definitely determined [their] allotted periods of time and the fixed boundaries of their habitation (their settlements, lands, and abodes), so that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel after Him and find Him, although He is not far from each one of us. For in Him we live and move and have our being . . . for we are also His offspring. . . . Now He charges all people everywhere to repent (to change their minds . . .), because He has fixed a day when He will judge the world.

The Scripture above explains how the leading philosophers of Greece were unable to conceive of any real distinction between God and the universe. When that happens, darkness rests on any concept of true worship and interaction of the God who loves mankind. Creation had become the central principle of all true religion and was competing with the transcendental idealism of the day. *But God!* He is the Sovereign Ruler. He holds absolute subjection over all the works of His hands. That includes everything in the earth (see Psalm 24). He presides as royal God over all. He attempts to invade and communicate the best plan for each entity in the earth. This is not fate ruling; we are not in bondage to a *que sera sera* mentality—“what will be, will just be.”

Faith has an object. I pray that the object of your faith is the Creator of the universe, the Father of mankind’s spirits,

who sent His Son to redeem us, align us and refine us for the days when light and darkness clash. He Himself is the giver of all life, all breath, all things. The giver of all surely cannot be subject to the receivers of all. Humans are really one race flowing toward the best He has. Individuals and nations that begin to flow toward the sovereign will of God will flourish. He established their horizons by predetermining their times and places. He can move their horizons so they can see any part of the end from the beginning, receiving His arrangements of divine power, wisdom and love.

If we seek Him, we can find Him outside of any religion holding us captive to this present day. We do not merely exist from day to day but have a future, an expected end, and hope. We have life and motion in Him. We can become part of every movement He initiates. He is not bound by times; therefore, we are not bound by time. We become a prophetic people—and remember, He does nothing without first revealing what He is doing to His prophets.

Of course, He could do everything if He chose to. He is quite capable of shaking and rearranging the earth, just as He said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. But there was a condition in the Word of God—us! He created us and placed us in the earth realm to watch after and cultivate His “garden,” the earth. To continue to do that successfully, we must follow Him.

Place seems to be important to God. Our function or *sphere of authority* also seems key to receiving all the Lord has for us. Abraham had to follow God’s command and leave Ur of the Chaldees before God released the promise and came into covenant agreement with him. Following the will of God, Jesus left heaven for earth to redeem us from the power of sin and death. Can you imagine leaving glory

to reveal glory in the midst of chaos? In turn, Jesus said, “Follow Me,” and commissioned us to go! There seems to be a destination or place for each of us to serve and reflect our faith in the earth. Jesus said, “I will make you fishers of men”—in other words, “Follow Me, and I will cause you to catch mankind.”

As we read in Acts 17, along with place and function, *time* seems to be very important to the Lord. The Lord is not “in” time as we are in time. He *is* time. He knows the end from the beginning, yet He has set us into a timed sequence in the earth according to His plan. He expects us to seek Him during the allotted time He has fixed for our lives.

God Determines Times and Seasons

We must understand the times! In his tremendous book *God’s Timing for Your Life*, Dutch Sheets shares the following:

The word *chronos* refers to the general process of time or chronological time. The word *kairos* refers to the right time, the opportune or strategic time, the now time. . . . I have always completely separated these two concepts—chronological time and the right time—but God has been showing me that this is not accurate. Often, they are simply different phases of the same process. *Kairos*, in many ways, is an extension or continuation of *chronos*. As the processes of God’s plans unfold, *chronos* becomes *kairos*. The new is connected to the old and, in fact, is often the result of what happened in the old. *Kairos*, the opportune time, is literally born of *chronos*, the general time. When we’re in a nonstrategic general season of life’s daily routine, plodding along in the *chronos* time, God doesn’t totally start over with a *kairos* season. His overall agenda does not change.

He simply takes us through one phase of a process in which our perseverance and faithfulness have allowed Him to shift us into the next phase—a strategic season.²

Do you believe that your life can make a difference if you are at the right place at the right time? *Relentless Generational Blessings* by Arthur Burk reveals how God intends each of us to have a generational impact in this world.³ This very positive book encourages us to see generational blessings in our families as opposed to the negative traits and failures that seem to derail success. This book discusses how we not only inherit a toxic waste dump we do not deserve (generational curses) but also a gold mine that we have not earned (generational blessings). You should recognize your life as a life of blessings. You should also recognize that the nation you live in has an incredible redemptive blessing.

In the midst of strife and defilement, each generation has a responsibility to bring forth these blessings. That is why we are in the earth. I always define *success* as being at the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing. Therefore, vision will open up to allow God’s Kingdom people to advance. God’s Kingdom people will not only become successful but also strong and innovative in days ahead. Proverbs 29:18 (AMPC) says, “Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]—blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he.”

We must have vision. At this time in history God is bringing forth our past, aligning it with our present and opening a window so we have a glimpse of the expected end or future of all that is to come. He did this for Daniel. He did this for John. He is now unlocking much of what they saw that was sealed up and revealing the sealed revelation to us today. God

will cycle your times and seasons so you break the power of iniquities and injustices.

The Power of Agreement

In *The Future War of the Church*, Rebecca Wagner Sytsema and I described how God was bridging the gap between heaven and earth and bringing agreement between the two, which would lead to a “third-day Church” whose power is like nothing we have known. To become this Church, we must understand the heavenly realms we encounter as we seek to do the will of God.⁴

The Third Heaven

What we think of as “heaven” is usually the third heaven, as we read in 2 Corinthians 12:2. In the third heaven, God the Father sits on His throne with Jesus seated next to Him; from this vantage point, Jesus both knows intimately the Father’s heart and makes intercession for us (see Romans 8:34). Like Jesus, our inheritance in the Lord positions us to sit with Him in heavenly places (see Ephesians 2:6); this is where we receive our marching orders.

In the third heaven, there is no obstruction to the accomplishing of God’s will. He makes this possible through the gifts He gave to equip the saints for the work of the ministry and for the building up of the Body of Christ: “He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers” (Ephesians 4:11). He gave these gifts to produce unity of the faith in the knowledge of Himself, and from the throne room in the third heaven, He continues to release revelation so we will not be tossed to and fro by the craftiness and trickery of the enemy. He

is also releasing revelation so that we will mature into His headship.

The First Heaven

The universe in which we live, including the earthly realm and heavenly bodies, may be called the first heaven. All that we can see, touch and feel in our physical bodies belongs to this realm. Through Christ's death and resurrection, we on earth have access beyond this universe to the realm of the third heaven, where God is seated. That is what we call prayer.

Psalm 24:1 (ESV) declares, "The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof." Thus God also rules the earthly realm. Jesus broke the headship of Satan in this realm by going to the cross and overcoming the grave. He then established a structure on earth whose government was spiritually gifted and whose army was endowed with His power: the Church. The Church is in place to enforce His headship.

The Second Heaven

If we have access to heavenly places through prayer, why then is God's will not always done on earth as it is in heaven? That is where the second heaven comes in. Satan, the "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2), rules the second heaven, where his demons contest God's reign and His angels.

Satan is the prince of this *cosmos*, the "world" (see John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11), which he has set up with an enticing glory, giving the *cosmos* the ability to entrap. Thus, in Matthew 4:8, "The devil took [Jesus] up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory." Satan is also known as the god of this *age*: "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers,

so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Corinthians 4:4 NIV1984).

The enemy establishes a demonic hierarchy between us and the third heaven in order to block heaven’s will from being done on earth. These are the principalities, powers, rulers of darkness of this age and spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places of which we read in Ephesians 6:12. Any time we rebel against God or comply with the devil’s agenda, this hierarchy gains legal right to block heaven’s will on earth. Satan gains access to us and to entire territories through individual and corporate sin. In our individualistic society, we may have trouble grasping that we are corporately held responsible in the eyes of God for society’s sin. Satan exploits sin in a territory, just as he does sin in our individual lives and in the generations of our families, to establish strongholds that directly oppose God’s plan for that territory.

The existence of these three heavens leads us through cycles of change in both the earth and the heavens. At times the heavens shift, as we read in Psalm 102:25–28:

Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; yes, they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end. The children of Your servants will continue, and their descendants will be established before You.

Portals of Glory

When God is ready to express Himself, a portal of heaven opens and we and heaven become one. The past aligns to the

present, and then the future opens up. This is where revelation is released, for time loses all of its constraints. We are before the throne, and the Possessor of heaven and earth reveals Himself and His will to us. One of the best examples of a portal is when God came down to meet Abraham and Isaac as Jehovah Jireh (see Genesis 22). He came down at Bethel when Jacob fled Esau (see Genesis 28). He came down again when Jacob returned before crossing into the Promised Land (see Genesis 32). A portal is a place of access. Jacob declared that a “gate of heaven” had opened forever at Bethel. This would link his purpose on earth into eternity.

A portal is an opening for God’s presence. You may be exhausted from strife, contention and trials linked to the promise that you have been pursuing. Stop and rest, as Jacob did. “Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it” (Genesis 28:12).

In this visitation, God revealed to Jacob that He is Lord of the past, the present and the future. This brought Jacob into a relationship with Him. It caused him to have faith that he could actually grab hold of the promise and blessing that had been spoken over him. It also gave him confidence that he could have a relationship with Holy God, just as his father, Isaac, and grandfather Abraham had.

From this experience, Jacob began to worship God personally by acknowledging that the Lord had been at Bethel with him, even though before that point he could not see Him. He memorialized the place, set up a stone and poured oil on it. He recognized God as provider and desired to give a portion back to the Lord. Our encounters with the Lord cause us to either communicate or give.

In *Worship God!*, Ernest Gentile writes,

With the ladder, God initiated worship. He made a way for men to come before God. Then, Jacob saw angels model the responsive action of a worshiper. The text speaks of the angels ascending first and then descending. Symbolically, the angels showed what must take place in people's lives if they are to be true, successful servants of the Lord. First, having "seen" the heavenly invitation, they ascend the shining staircase through their worship. Then, after being in the presence of God, they descend the ladder back to Earth to perform acts of service. First they go up to meet with God; then they can go down to the world with ministry of service.⁵

Hope Is for Now

Through his encounter at Bethel, Jacob learned to hope in the Lord. Hope has an optimistic outlook without any foundation except trust; that trust produces confidence, and confidence causes us to press into the future. This is because hope is linked with expectation. What we are trusting God for needs to eventually manifest in a touchable form.

Are we just striving for heaven, for the sweet by and by? Is that all there is? What about our destiny while we are still here on earth? There *is* a destiny to fulfill. There *is* more than just grace to endure our circumstances until the Lord calls us to Himself. And God *does* have a wonderful plan for our temporal existence that will flow into our eternal communion with Him. Many things must be rearranged during our lifetimes. Many interruptions, distractions, confrontations and even blockages must be overcome as we advance into the fullness of His plan.

Should we continue to hope through the wars and confusion that abound? The answer is a definite yes! Here on the earth we have still not seen a full manifestation of what God intended the earth to experience. Psalm 24:1 (NOG) declares,

“The earth and everything it contains are Yahweh’s. The world and all who live in it are his.”

Finding the plan of your life and seeing that plan fully manifest can be a messy process. The order of life is sometimes interrupted so that a new order with greater benefit can be inserted. Daily change becomes a key for eventual victory. Yet even in the midst of drastic changes, we should have great joy in knowing that we are moving toward God’s destiny.

In *God’s Timing for Your Life*, Dutch Sheets writes,

Life is a series of changes—a process of going from the old to the new—from chronos to kairos. Growth, change, revival—all are processes. Life is connected. Not understanding this, we tend to despise the chronos times of preparing, sowing, believing and persevering. . . . We’re not losing or wasting time, we’re investing it. And if we do so faithfully, the shift will come.⁶

God has a future and a hope! He has given us promises for salvation, inheritance and spiritual life, and hell hates them. Hell hates the relationship that we can have with the One who can fulfill all promises, which are His promissory notes on which we can base our future. If hell can discourage us with the confusion of the world, we lose sight of the ultimate call to triumph. God has every intention of fulfilling His promises. The real war becomes a covenant war between each of us and an enemy who does not want us to experience the plan for which we were put on earth. The only way to triumph is through this covenant relationship with the One who knit us together to triumph.

This book is about the war of the coming years. It is also about our ability to communicate with earth’s Creator so that we have confidence and peace in the midst of confusion. We will encounter circumstances that we know have

been directed by God that will open or close doors. Yet we will learn to know when the enemy is preventing us from proceeding into victory.

Most importantly, we will see how God is speaking today to reveal His future. He is a supernatural God who intervenes through dreams, visions and miracles. He can tell us when to turn left or right. He releases power for us to discern the times and the circumstances that surround us. He will do what is necessary to communicate His will—for example, we may read the Bible and see a pattern that illuminates something in a way that is very appropriate for our lives. God gives vision to those who will hear. He has a portal of communication from heaven into earth. Psalm 19:2–4 shares that day by day He utters speech, and that He sends His communication around the lines of the earth.

As I wrote in *God's Now Time for Your Life*, “Each time we respond to the Lord in obedience [according to His plan], we see progress in the overall fulfillment of our earthly purpose. This process and progression is called prophetic fulfillment.”⁷ Let Him begin to show you His overall plan for you, your family, your city, your nation and, ultimately, the eternal place that He is preparing for you.

Let your hands be trained for war. Let a triumphant spirit be developed within you. Walk in discernment and redeem the times, for the days are evil. Serve the Lord, those in your life and the earth around you with gladness. When evil surrounds, know that there will always be a way of escape.

From Fellowship to Army

To be victorious in war we need to know our God, ourselves and our enemy. So . . . who are we? What is “the Church”?

In Matthew 16:13–20, when Peter tapped in to who the Lord really is, He responded,

Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Matthew 16:17–19

The Lord is saying that, through this confession of revelation, He will call out a group who will express His purposes from heaven in the earth realm to the gates of hell. He will give these called-out ones keys of authority to bind and loose, to forbid and permit. They will forbid the purposes of Satan to continue, and they will permit God's full diverse expression of Himself to be seen in the earth.

Many people often confuse the Church with the Kingdom of God. They are not the same. The Kingdom is the overall structure that the Church is attempting to express. The Church exists to see the Kingdom established and operating on earth. In other words, the Church facilitates the Kingdom. In the earth, the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan are at war. The Church operates as the armed forces of God in that war; it is the governing, legislating, mediating force that God has ordained and aligned to accomplish His purposes.

You can see the concept of the Church is one of power, legislation and corporate purpose. As God cultivated a people to enter the Promised Land and face giants, so He is cultivating us. We are a decreeing, demonstrating power in the earth. In *The Worship Warrior*, John Dickson and I write,

“Worship and war go together. But for war we must have an army [who is] organized for battle.”⁸

In *The Future War of the Church*, Rebecca Wagner Sytsema and I write,

The Greek word *ekklesia* (“Church”) means those gathered to accomplish something or a group of people who are called out for a purpose. The first time this notion of a people called out appears in the Bible is when the children of Israel come out of Egypt. . . . Even though the people of promise had remained in Egypt for 400 years, they had to be called out in God’s perfect time, so that they could journey to the place of the promise’s fulfillment.

What did God do to call out His promised people from one place and send them to their destined place of fulfillment? First of all, we see that He changed governments over the people:

Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

Exodus 2:23–24⁹

Shifts in civil government serve as a sign of Father God shifting things for His people. We continue,

This calling-out place is also the first time we see God’s heart to order His people for war. . . . “Bring out the children of Israel from the land of Egypt according to their armies” (Exodus 6:26). In other words, the order of the family clans was important for the future of their victories, according to the promises He had ordained for them.

God called the children of Israel out of Egypt because He had planned to govern them Himself. He had ways to govern them, and He raised up the order and method of government for His people so they could accomplish His purposes.¹⁰

We find this government being extended into the earth with gifts of grace by the Lord Jesus Christ when He was ascending after His death and resurrection. This ascension has brought Him to the right hand of the Father, making Him available to us to legislate God's Kingdom. Ephesians 4:11–16 says,

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

In the next two chapters, we will discuss the changing mindset of the Body of Christ. Armies have always been organized in different ways at different times. When we talk about a changing paradigm or wineskin in the Church, we are talking about God's army being organized in a way to express themselves to the dark forces of the age they represent. In *The Worship Warrior*, John Dickson and I share,

Today God is raising up an army of worshiping warriors. No force on Earth will be able to withstand this army. In the New Testament we find this principle: God had His Church, or *ekklesia* group, called out and assembled together as one man. This army was called out to complete the purpose of God in the earthly realm (see Hebrews 8:1–13).

This group was called to worship Him. They also are called to enlist others. They are established under His authority (see Matthew 16:13–21). They have a sure foundation (see Ephesians 2:20). They demonstrate His redeeming death by exercising the power of His resurrection. They know that He is the head. They are members. They fellowship together to gain strength and access the mind of their leader. They are fighting against an enemy and his hierarchy. They are bold witnesses, and they have a hope of their leader's return to fill and restore all things in the earthly realm. They worship unrestrained, so they can obey and further their master's Kingdom plan. They are a Bride ready for war at all times to avenge the enemy and defeat his plan of darkness. Arise, worshiping warriors! Let the Church arise!¹¹

War means the grace to *fight and triumph*. Throughout this book we will discuss the new wineskin that is necessary for war. We must carry the identity of God for this season to triumph over the cosmos that surrounds us. The world is attempting to mold us into the blueprint of the enemy, who rules the structures of the earth. We must learn, however, to come up higher and build accordingly in Him.