

READY OR NOT; HERE I COME!

BY KAREN SANKOWSKI

When Jesus spoke to people, he often spoke in parables; so that, He could tell them of heavenly principles in everyday things that they would know and understand.

Do you remember the phrase: ready or not, here I come? In the days of our youth, we played a game called hide and seek. Someone would hide their eyes and count to one hundred; while the others ran to hide. When the one counting got to a hundred, they cried out: Ready or Not - Here I come. While this is no longer a childhood game for us; it certainly has parallels of some heavenly principles.

God the Father is (as it were) the one hiding His eyes – so to speak; in this sense: He is extending great amounts of mercy; and He is demonstrating His longsuffering. ...when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, where in few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. **I Pet.3:20.**

In Noah's day; God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. **Gen. 6:13.**

But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou **shalt come into the ark**, thou, and thy sons and thy wife, and thy son's wives with thee. **Gen.6:18.**

The Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. **Gen.7:1.**

And the fact that: God doesn't want any to perish. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. **II Pet.3:9.**

Beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **II Pet. 3:8.** Here in lies the bump in the road; you have no idea when the Lord gets to **your** one hundred.

Now Satan on the other hand is the one seeking. He isn't running after his own; he is seeking after God's children. He's seeking after us! The scriptures tell us: he walks about as a roaring lion: seeking whom he may devour; **I Pet. 5:8, as a lion indicates:** stalking his prey, looking for victims to attack: that are sick, young, weak, straggling behind, alone, not alert. This tells us: he is cunning, fierce, and loud. This is such a one, that we can not withstand him alone. Praise God we don't have to.

We have a better covenant: To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God **by** Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. **I Pet.2:4-6.**

Today, just as in Noah's day; The Father is still counting as it were; still demonstrating His longsuffering, waiting patiently for the harvest; and although The Father alone knows the appointed time; in both cases, God has provided a hiding place, **and** tells us How to make it! Noah had to build an Ark. We have to believe that Jesus is the Son of the living God; and He [Christ] will take us to the Father.

Christ is our hiding place, we hide in Him, and it is there, we are truly safe. Behold, a King shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. And a Man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. *Isa. 32:1-2.*
Satan has NO! Power there.

This little child's game, demonstrates that since the time we were born into this world, something **bad** is always after us, and we must hide, if we are to be safe.

Is it not the same today? This once, childhood game, has become a very real reality. The evil one takes every opportunity to catch us in a weakened state. It is then that we are the most vulnerable. We are not ignorant of the fact that Satan will continue to try and re-capture us; but we have hid ourselves in Christ Jesus; and we will remain safe **IF** we keep ourselves hid in him.

Satan, knowing that his time is short, this ungodly vile beast remains puffed up in his self proclaimed righteousness. The arrogance and repugnancy of this creature; is in complete defiance of the Almighty God and His Christ; and will remain so until he is thrown into the lake of fire.

Even when we played this game as children, the objective was not to get caught. So we hid ourselves. When one was caught, the one counting would yell: Ollie, Ollie Oxen Free. Which meant: all was clear; – the danger was over, and we were safe to come out from hiding. In due time our Father will send forth the command: The danger is past and we will come out from hiding, to be in the presence of our God and King, face to face.

We have been set free from Satan's tyranny that once held us captive. We have a hiding place; a place that our Father has provided for us in His beloved Son; Christ Jesus. Let us therefore: be sober, be vigilant; and hide ourselves in Christ Jesus; and when the Father tells His Son: the appointed time is come, get the children. The entire world will be faced with: "READY OR NOT; HERE I COME! Amen.

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