

CAN

PEACE

REIGN

Can Peace Reign?

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Can Peace Reign

I was always taught that you can, but you may not. Fast forward, you can do something but protocol has to be correct, prudence demands this.

Friends, we inherited this world that featured lions and lambs getting along, foxes at play and not enemy of herds of cattle. Men were charged with mastering his dominion, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea and animal on land, my question: What happened?

We have been shown the ultimate act of love, Jesus died that we might be saved, He rose that we might believe and have peace, abundant peace. Yet the most important commandment He gave us is to "LOVE" and this we rarely do. Oh, we talk about it, we even show it, from time to time, but we make no real commitment. This season we are about to enter, we need to let Love pour from us, but if the past is an indicator it will not last long. See, our problem is that we would rather hurt somebody by not helping them than to help them; we would rather to bring them down by inaction or talking about them rather than trying to bring them up. Rather than hurt a hurting people we should want to help people. We do these things for what reason? What does it benefit us not to help a hurting individual?

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I think about Pharaoh and how God hardened his heart by bringing darkness, pestilence, blood, fire and death on his people before He would actually let pharaoh. free His people, The Israelites. People are a little mixed up on history see, it was not actually Pharaoh that let the people go, and it was God moving in God's own time, to make His people free. There was a lesson to be taught and the people had to be prepared for the journey ahead. After the people left Egypt in search of the Promised Land, we all know that Pharaoh had a large lapse in judgment and tried to go after the former slaves and ended up killing his own army at the Sea of Reeds.

I look at the world today and think about the existing tensions in what seems like every country; Europe has financial woes, our countries are crippled with deceptive acts that have them bordering on the brink, here in the U.S., we have and are suffering one crisis after another and our governing bodies can not put our needs first, they prefer to in fight over position rather than substantive issues of need. All this fighting, all the deceptive acts make me wonder what would it take to calm the waters within the borders of this earth?

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I look at the graft that has occurred in the mortgage industry and the fallout, the dependence on foreign oil, the elections worldwide, I mourn the violence that seems to breakout at a moments notice and I know that this is not the way Our Father wanted for us. I look at the political intrigue and realize that things can not be this complicated. When things are overly complex and crisis after crisis happening, believe me, someone somewhere is getting away with something or has already gotten away with it and left tremendous fallout. Friend, we live in a world where the precious, God given life can be taken for just a few dollars just because someone does not like the way you look.

Cain was mad because his own brother Abel gave a better offering then he did. We live in a world where Joseph's brother's put him in a well and threw rocks at him then decided not to kill him, but instead choose to sell him into slavery all because he had dreams and his father cared for him a little more then his other brothers (I have found that if someone favors you a little more than another, its usually a good reason) was this the fault of Joseph?

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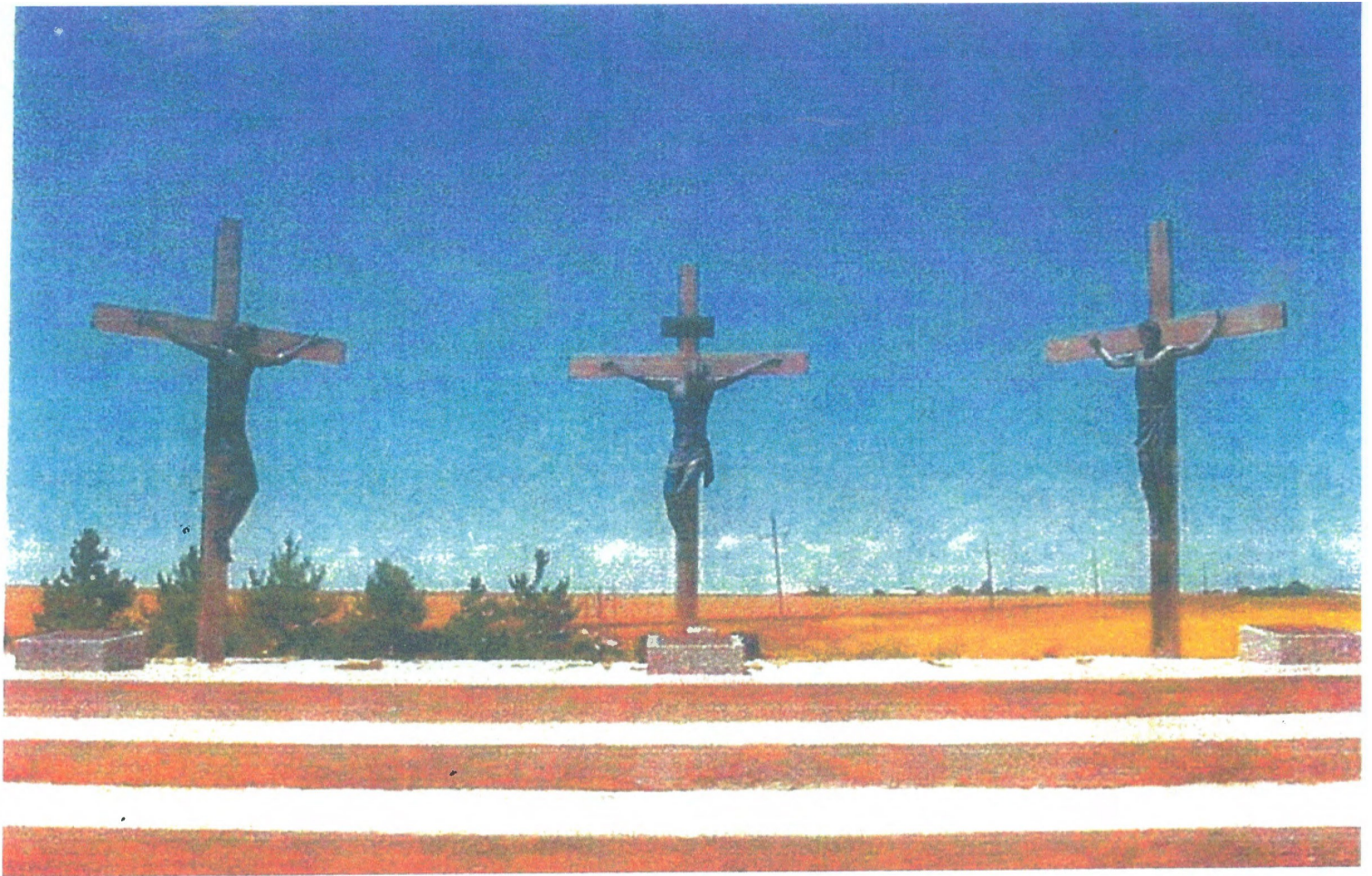
The key to unlocking this battle of good vs. evil is freewill, God could have made Pharaoh turn His people loose when He first sent Moses to pharaoh God could have not let His people make a golden calf, He could have not let the airplanes crash into the Twin Towers, He could have stopped the waters from breaking the levee's when Katrina hit the coast, He could have stopped the Typhoon that hit the third world country. My point is that God could have done all these things much like he did when He told the water to Be Still, He could have done it like when he told the man to Rise and take your bed, He could have done it like when he told Lazarus to Rise. But God, being God chooses not to do it and he is sovereign and can do what he wants whenever he wants, again, and again and again.

I am sure that you have experienced the power of God in your life at a time when you may have thought that your situation was impossible, but somehow you made it through, it were God. God is a loving Father and wants to help us in any situation, but like a loving Father, he wants us to make choices and decisions, our maturity will dictate what we do and the nature of our request has a lot to do with the outcome.

Friends, choosing peace is a choice that only men can make. It is a decision we make when we do not give into satisfying our greed or need for disrupting other people's lives. Peace will reign when we look around and try to help people instead of hurting them,







peace will reign when we choose to act as a Good Samaritan and not like the social infidels that we have been acting like.

I imagine God looking down upon His highest creation and wailing with a mournful cry as this was not the way it should have been. His instruction is too clear; His wishes are readily available, yet gone unheeded?

Jesus came to divide yet He left us peace, peace not that the world gave us but His peace, that which surpasses all understanding. Peace will reign when we start to love ourselves, because if we love ourselves we will not hurt each other; when we love ourselves we will respect each other; when we love ourselves the favor of God will shine brighter on this earth than ever before. When we love ourselves the scams and greedy deceptions constantly being played upon human prey shall cease. When we love ourselves we will not want to hurt our neighbor; Oh when we love ourselves.

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Peace starts with one person and leads to another then to another; this is the start of a chain and true love will not allow a weak link to cause it to break, see the chain only gets stronger and a chain of love will never break because Love is the strongest emotion and no power can break or bend Love.

So this season of renewal let us choose to celebrate the gift of love, love that was brought into the world by a baby born in a barn that slept in a manger. Love that died that we might live and live in abundance, love that rose after a vicious battle with the devil, a devil that was conquered that we might not fear, to Love. Because God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love and sound mind A mind that tells us He will keep us in perfect peace if our minds are stayed on Him. Love rose that we might have a right to the tree of life, love that sees no enemy but a friend in men. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me, with you, with the stranger you passed this morning. Let peace reign with the person you argued with last year. More importantly, let the Peace of God reign in your mind and heart; it will make for a healthier world and a healthier you, me and our children.

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The good news is that Peace will reign, whether you like it or not, whether you want it or not. God the Father has ordained and backed it up by His only begotten Son's act of love for us, His adopted people. God will turn stones into souls before the end of time so even if you shut the voices of the few, even the stones will shout out about the Goodness of the Lord.

The question, are you going to make a rock speak out in your place? Because in the final consummation of all causes God will have His way and Peace will Reign, it is a matter of you being a part of the chain of love, part of the multitude without number, because peace Shall Reign. The world will see that love conquers all. That the only penalty for waiting on the Lord is a permanent trip to the land of milk and honey, a ride down the street made of gold, a conversation with Paul, Job, Joseph and Daniel and a seat at the table of our beloved Savior.