

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Gird Up Your Loins June 30, 2020 Suzi Armstrong

In the Spirit I keep hearing the phrase, "Gird up your loins". This is an Old Testament expression. Men wore loin cloths – basically this was their underwear. This covered and protected the parts of their body that was responsible for reproduction. Prophetically God is saying to us to secure everything that is valuable. Bring it all into alignment and secure what is of value – your thoughts, the attitudes of your heart, your understanding of who God is and who you are in Christ. "Gird them up" meaning make them secure. Do not be relaxed or loose. Do not become paralyzed by the wiles of the devil.

1 Kings 18.41-46 paraphrased

Context of this scripture passage: Elijah had just defeated the prophets of Baal. Fire had fallen from heaven right before the eyes of all the people. Their response was an IMMEDIATE SHIFT from worshipping false gods to worshipping the One True God – Yahweh. The powers of darkness were defeated.

Elijah told Ahab get ready because there is a sound of abundant rain. It had not rained in the land for 3 years because of the decree of the Lord that Elijah had released over the land. Rain is symbolic of the blessing of the Lord.

Elijah went up to the top of the mountain (God is calling us up His mountain) to pray. With great authority and travail Elijah called forth the rain. Dark clouds and wind filled the skies, and there was a great rain. The hand of the Lord came upon Elijah and Elijah girded up his loins and ran.

Prophetically what does this tell us?

Witchcraft is very active and visible in culture today. With Elijah this was symbolized by the narrative and intimidation of the prophets of Baal. Narratives filled with blasphemy are pushing against us in the atmosphere today. These narratives are evil and release an anti-Christ spirit manifesting as mind-binding spirits, intimidation, divisiveness and violence. Witchcraft spirits are seeking to shut the church of Jesus Christ down, silence our voice and render us as Christians powerless. The anti-Christ spirit seeks to separate us from the power and authority given to us by God. Mind-binding spirits bring a disconnect in our thinking, making it hard to think or make sense out of what is going on. Witchcraft brings a disconnect that causes us to forget who we are in Christ – we, as Christians, overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. James 4 tells us to resist the devil and he will flee from you. Resist means to set one's self against or oppose. Christians oppose anti-Christ narratives.

This is a day to be intentional, purposeful and self-controlled in our thinking and our speaking! Be intentional in who you are in Christ Jesus. Know your purpose. Be Holy Spirit led.

God is saying, "Gird up your loins". Secure everything that is valuable and life-giving. Because the Spirit of the Lord is going to come upon you and you are going to run supernaturally. It may seem like the enemy is out front in the race, but the Lord is going to move on us in such a way that the enemy will be overtaken and annihilated.

We are to be intentional in what we do, how we respond, what we say, how we think. We are to be purposeful in our actions and reactions. We are to be self-controlled, setting right boundaries. We are in a spiritual war. It is time to "Gird up your loins" and be ready to run!

1 Peter 5.8 NLT

⁸ **Stay alert!** Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, **looking for someone to devour.**

1 John 3.8b TPT

...The **reason the Son of God was revealed was to undo and destroy the works of the devil.**

Colossians 2.15 NIV

¹⁵ Then **Jesus made a public spectacle of all the powers and principalities of darkness, stripping away from them every weapon and all their spiritual authority and power to accuse us.** And **by the power of the cross, Jesus led them around as prisoners** in a procession of triumph. *He was not their prisoner; they were his!*

This is reality: Between the day of crucifixion and the day of resurrection while in the spirit-realm, Jesus destroyed death, the powers of darkness, and every work of the enemy through His shed blood on the cross. All the enemy's weapons have been stripped away from him and NOW the church has authority in Christ to enforce this triumph upon the dethroned rulers of this world.

Luke 10.18-19 TPT

¹⁸ Jesus replied, "While you were ministering, **I watched Satan topple until he fell** suddenly from heaven like lightning to the ground. ¹⁹ Now you **understand that I have imparted to you all my authority to trample over his kingdom. You will trample upon every demon before you and overcome every power Satan possesses.** Absolutely nothing will be able to harm you as you walk in this authority.

Ephesians 6.10-12 NIV

¹⁰ Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.** ¹¹ **Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.** ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

2 Corinthians 10.3-5 NIV

³ For though we live in the world, **we do not wage war as the world does.** ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have **divine power to demolish strongholds.** ⁵ We **demolish arguments and every pretension** that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Through the finished work of the cross we fight our battles from a place of victory. This means that the battle has already been won! The enemy has been defeated – witchcraft is not the prevailing power over us or the land. **Victory is our stance and the decree of the Lord is our command!**

From the beginning, the Lord has been the possessor of the heavens and the earth. It belongs to Him. The nations belong to Him, the cities belong to Him, the people groups belong to Him, the mountains and the hills belong to Him, the rocks and the fields belong to Him. God Himself gives orders to the morning and shows dawn its place; He takes the earth by the edges and shakes the wicked out of it.

Through us, the voice of the Lord is over our city and nation. The God of Glory thunders! The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning! Angel armies are gathered in the heavens above Detroit and our nation ready to execute the orders of the Lord of Hosts released through our command. We speak what God speaks! We see with eyes of understanding and spiritual discernment. The fire of God is on us. The war cry of the Spirit of God has been released over our nation and cities. We make no treaty with the enemy. The blood of Jesus and the work of the cross have utterly destroyed the works of the devil. Witchcraft has no place in our cities or our nation. We muzzle and silence the voices of witchcraft that come as accusation and intimidation through the declaration of God's triumphant victory. We worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness. We lift on high the name of Jesus, the name above all names.

We ARE THE LIVING GATEWAYS.

We lift our heads out of circumstances, out of the old scenery. We LOOK and SEE the REALM of VICTORY we have entered. Here we TAKE THE SPOILS. We are in a new era. We are not fighting battles like we used to fight. Our weaponry is new. We are NOT fighting to survive (that was the old era).

We are engaged in battle to take back, to plunder, to annihilate everything about the enemy. Take back our families, take back cities, lop off the heads of giants, and take the harvest of souls.

We have entered into the REALM OF VICTORY! We advance in VICTORY. EVERYTHING is in place. **NOW** is the time for God's kingdom to advance. We stand and command confident that nothing is impossible for God. We stand in the truth of the word and release the decree of the Lord! The two-edged sword of the Lord is in our mouth! No weapon formed against us will prosper!

Psalm 89.5-6, 8, 10-13 TPT

⁵⁻⁶ Can you hear it? Heaven is filled with your praises, O Lord!

All the holy ones are praising you for your miracles.

The sons of God are all praising you for your mighty wonders.

We could search the skies forever and never find one like you.

All the mighty angels could not be compared to you.

⁸ **So awesome are you, O Yahweh, Lord God of Angel Armies!**

Where could we find anyone as glorious as you?

Your faithfulness shines all around you!

¹⁰ **You crushed the strongholds of [satan]**

and all your enemies were scattered

at the mighty display of your glory-power.

¹¹ **All the heavens and everything on earth belong to you,**

for you are the Creator of all that is seen and unseen.

¹² The four corners of the earth were put in place by you.

You made the majestic mountains

that are still shouting their praises to your name.

¹³ **Breathtaking and awesome is your power!**

Astounding and unbelievable

is your might and strength when it goes on display!