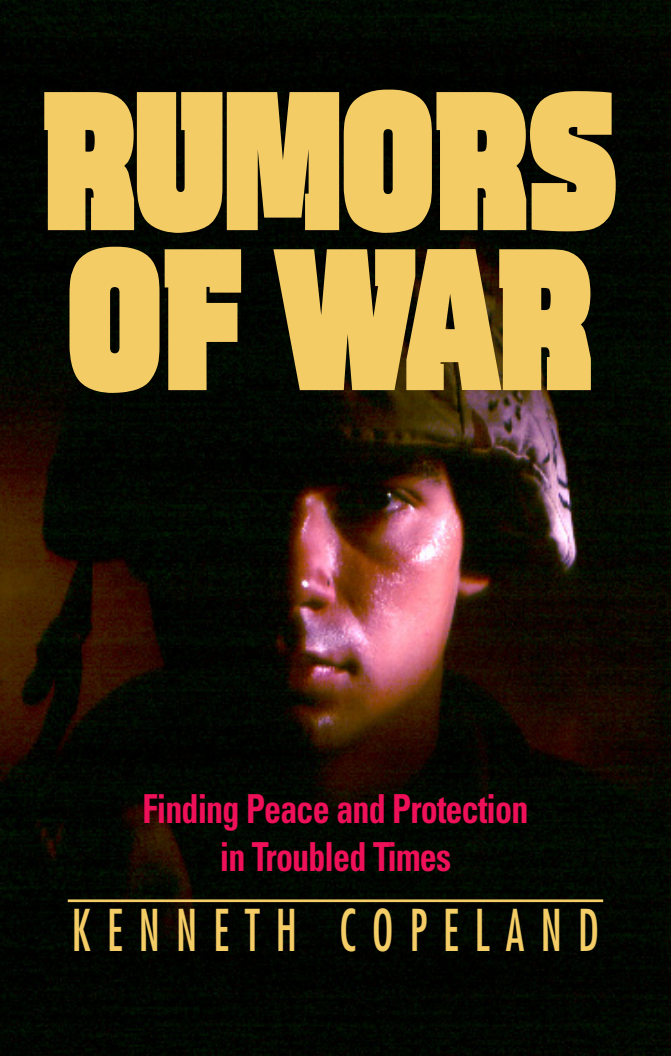


RUMORS OF WAR



**Finding Peace and Protection
in Troubled Times**

KENNETH COPELAND

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PUBLICATIONS

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

Rumors of War—Finding Peace and Protection in Troubled Times

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Rumors of War

Finding Peace and Protection in Troubled Times

If there was ever a generation where people needed to know how to enter into God's protection and stay there, it's this generation.

We face harm and harassment at every turn. People drive down the street shooting guns through the walls of houses. Wars and rumors of wars are commonplace news. There are drug wars, violence in the Middle East, Afghanistan and South America. Then there's the African nations. It's literally all over the globe, staring us in the face.

Most people react to the danger in one of two ways. They either get

calloused to it and ignore it...or simply wring their hands and moan, "Dear God, help us." But neither one of those ways will get us through. Ignoring the problems won't make them go away and our helpless cries of despair will do nothing to bring change.

We have to deal with the dangers around us. Whether it feels good or not, whether it looks pretty or not, we have a part to play in them.

Jesus Himself knew we were going to have to face times like these. He warned us about them in Matthew 24. He said, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled..." (verses 4-6).

Jesus said when we go through

dangerous times or hear of wars and rumors of wars, we're not to let it cripple our faith and throw us into anxiety. We must see to it that we are not troubled. We are to refuse to let that trouble enter into our hearts.

We are also to guard against deception. "Take heed," Jesus said, "that no man deceive you." These days everyone has something to say about what's happening. The news media, the politicians, your next-door neighbor—everyone! Even though those people don't intend to deceive you, they're looking at things through the world's eyes instead of through the eyes of the Word of God.

If you'll let him, Satan will use them to fill your mind with worries. He'll use the media to bring to you all the terrors of war, to show you every kind of horrible thing you can think

of. Why? To stir up hate and fear inside you. To deceive you into abandoning your faith and letting fear fill your heart.

The devil creates wars outside you so he can gain access to your insides. If war stays outside you, it won't accomplish his objective. He has to deceive you into opening your heart and mind and letting it in.

But you can guard against that by “taking heed,” as Jesus instructed—paying attention to what God is saying instead of what the world is saying and by concentrating on Him, looking at things through His eyes.

That means, whether you're the one facing danger or the one at home praying for a loved one facing it—you have to lock in to God's Word and stay there. It doesn't matter what's on

television. It doesn't matter what's in the newspapers. Your future isn't based on that. Your future will be determined by your faith in God's Word.

But I'll tell you right up front, it takes real commitment to keep your attention on that Word when violence is breaking out all around you, because that violence is specifically designed by the devil to distract you from it. Let me show you what I mean. For years, there were prophecies about a great and mighty revival that would come at the end of the 20th century. Sure enough, evidence of its beginnings were being seen all around us. During a Southwest Believers' Convention in that time period, we experienced such an amazing outpouring of the Spirit, every person there realized we'd stepped across the threshold of that revival. We knew it had begun.

Strangely, it was that very week that the incidents in the Middle East exploded quite suddenly. “What’s happening here?” I asked the Lord. “What is this?”

God showed me that whenever He pours out His best in a mighty display of power, people get healed and saved and delivered and encouraged and set free from the bondages that have held them. We call that outpouring “revival” and when it comes, Satan tries to counter it by pouring out his “best.” His best takes the form of relentless destruction, maiming, crippling disease and death. In its ultimate manifestation, we call that “war.”

All through history, and particularly during the 20th century, the revivals of God have been paralleled by war. We saw mighty outpourings of God during the 20th century,

but at the same time, we also saw mankind's most terrible wars.

Those wars have actually been Satan's specific attempts to sidetrack us, take our attention off the outpourings of God and center us up on the war, instead. It's a diversionary tactic whose sole purpose is to stop the move of God.

How do we keep from falling prey to it? How do we keep from falling into the fear and deception Jesus warned us about?

Settle the Victory in Your Heart

First of all, we have to come to the complete and absolute decision that we are the victors. The victory is ours and the battle is the Lord's. We must settle that within ourselves.

It's imperative we do whatever we have to do to get that into our spirits. We must stay in the Word, taking Communion every 30 minutes if necessary. We must fellowship with the Lord until confidence in Him rises up within us and chases out every thought of failure and defeat—not only for us as individuals, but for us as a nation.

Let me tell you something. After Jesus defeated the devil and left the earth, the Bible says He sat down at the right hand of the Father. He sat down expecting all His enemies to be made His footstool (Acts 2:34-35). Do you understand what that means?

It means Jesus is not standing up wringing His hands. He's seated, confident in His victory. So you and I need to start acting that way too. We need to talk and act like Jesus has

actually taken authority over the devil and his bunch. We shouldn't go around crying and acting like He never went to the Cross. We shouldn't scream and carry on and wait for someone to come get the devil off us.

No! We need to *act* like Jesus has already won. As far as He's concerned, it's done. So we need to learn to act like it's done, as far as we're concerned, too.

We need to say, "Thank You, Lord! Praise You, Jesus!" and tell the devil, "You take your dirty hands off me and my loved ones. Don't you realize that Jesus is seated on the right hand of the Father?"

Remember this: You don't look up at the devil, you look down at him. He's under your feet! (See Ephesians 1:17-23.)

Is it possible to have that kind of

confidence in the midst of the kinds of threats we're facing right now? Yes! The Word of God says so. Psalm 112 says the man who fears the Lord and delights greatly in His commandments "shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies" (verses 7-8).

That kind of person is locked in. He's sure the victory is his. Once you have that kind of assurance, nothing—not even wars and rumors of wars—will be able to move you.

Speak Out Your Deliverance

The second thing we need to do to keep from falling into Satan's trap is to speak out loud about the deliver-

ance of the Lord. Psalm 91:2-3 says, “I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver [me]....”

Notice that scripture doesn’t say, “He will deliver me and then I’ll go everywhere telling about it.” No, it says, I’ll *say* it and then, in response to what I’ve said, He will deliver me.

That’s not just some super-spiritual idea either. It works. I know one soldier who, during World War II, survived a bombing raid by huddling underneath a bunk bed shouting out Psalm 91. By the time that raid was over, the bombs had destroyed the building he was in and everything in it, except that one little bed sitting right out in the middle of the room!

I have a close friend who did that same thing all through the time he

fought in Vietnam. He was in hard infantry with guys falling around him left and right. But all the time, day and night, he held on to that 91st Psalm, saying right out loud, “A thousand shall fall at [my] side, and ten thousand at [my] right hand; but it shall not come nigh [me]” (verse 7).

For two years he fought in the worst places with extreme danger all around him. But he was protected. He said of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress. He is my God, in Him will I trust. Surely, He shall deliver me!”

You can do the same thing those soldiers did. Take hold of that 91st Psalm. Say it to yourself so often that you absolutely know it by heart. Just go around muttering it again and again.

Romans 10:17 says faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of

God. When you speak the Word of God to yourself, your spirit hears it, and the more you hear it, the more your faith grows. So, keep on speaking God's Word of protection and eventually your faith in that protection will become so strong nothing will be able to shake it.

“Well, I don't know, Brother Copeland. That sounds like a lot of work.”

You're right. It *is* a lot of work. But, that's what it takes to walk in the protection of God. It doesn't just come automatically. True, He's already provided it through His Word and it's there for each of us, but it's not going to leap on us from behind. We have to believe for it on a consistent basis or we'll miss it.

You see, even though the Word

of God is powerful, even though it's sharper than a two-edged sword, it can't do anything for you until you activate it. I don't care how many times you've heard the Word preached or how many times you've read it, God says, until you mix it with faith, it profits you nothing! (See Hebrews 4:2.)

God's Word contains the most powerful promises of protection on the face of the earth and it carries within itself the power to fulfill those promises. Yet it won't do a thing in your life about protecting you until you make it the foundation of your faith.

It's like salvation. God has already provided it for anyone who will believe for it, receive it and act on it. But we have to use our faith to get in on it—and like it or not, faith is labor. It's not some passive state you

slide into accidentally. Hebrews 4:11 says we must labor to enter into that rest of faith. We don't labor to fix the problem. We labor to enter into our rest with God.

What does that labor include? Sometimes it includes getting up out of your chair, turning off the TV and saying, "I'm not watching the world's news anymore. I'm tired of seeing this conflict through their eyes." It includes getting out your Bible and saying, "I believe *this*. I don't care what anyone else says. I don't care what the situation looks like. I believe God's Word." It includes putting your faith first and protecting your mind instead of flooding it all the time with the things of the world.

Some people are afraid if they turned off the TV and buried their nose in the Bible, they'd be caught off

guard by world events and unequipped to handle them. But the truth is, they'd be more equipped to handle them than ever before.

You see, the primary battles aren't taking place here on the earth where you can see them and hear them. They're taking place in the heavenlies. They're spiritual battles and you can't fight spiritual battles from a natural perspective. You have to get God's perspective. You have to put the spirit realm first.

What's more, the Bible says when you fight in the spirit realm, you don't fight against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in high places. And the weapon you use to fight with is the Word of God. Ephesians 6 calls it the "sword of the Spirit" and

it will fight the fight if you'll put it out there by speaking it out.

Follow the Rules of Faith

The third thing that will help you avoid the dangers the devil is trying to lure you into is to follow the rules of faith. In 1 Timothy 2:1-2, the Holy Spirit instructs us to offer “first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks... for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority.” That means we're to pray, not only for the good guys, but for the bad guys, too.

If we're going to successfully fight this fight of faith, we're going to have to obey God's guidelines. We can't jump up and start ranting and raving about what a maniac someone is.

Pay attention, now. I don't care what dictator is doing what, keep your mouth shut and quit speaking out against him. Don't sing ugly songs about him or make up stupid jokes.

Do what Proverbs 4:23 says and protect your heart against foolishness like that "with all diligence." I don't care how you feel about it. I don't care if your flesh rears up and gets mad. Put it back down and fight that battle in the heavenlies. Fight it with prayer and the Word, and keep your faith strong by guarding yourself against hate.

Hate will cripple your faith. It will cripple the power of God in you, and you'll lose the spiritual ability to do what's necessary to protect the lives of those who depend on your faith.

That same thing holds true when

you're actually the one doing the fighting. It doesn't matter whether you're in the cockpit of a fighter plane, in a foxhole with a rifle in your hand or engaged in hand-to-hand combat—you have to keep your faith first and stay out of hate.

You can't let hate for the man who's trying to kill you get inside of you. Even in a combat situation, the devil can't get to you if you're abiding by the rules of faith, covering your mind with the Word and declaring the mercy of God. That was one of the secrets of David's success as a combat soldier. He fought his battles with God's power first and then his weapon—sword, or stone and sling. Either one, backed by faith, could not be defeated.

Listen, my friend. No matter how much we try to ignore it...or how despairingly we cry about it, trouble is

coming. It's constantly out there, and it's heading right toward you every day just like Jesus said it would.

But don't let that trouble, trouble you! Instead, chase doubt out and settle the victory in your heart. Speak out the delivering power of the Lord and follow the rules of faith. You'll surely see the salvation of God!

Prayer for Salvation and Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21). I am calling on You. I pray and ask Jesus to come into my heart and be Lord over my life according to Romans 10:9-10: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." I do that now. I confess that Jesus is Lord, and I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead.

I am now reborn! I am a Christian—a child of Almighty God! I am saved! You also said in Your Word, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: HOW MUCH MORE shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13). I'm also asking You to fill me with the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, rise up within me as I praise God. I fully expect to speak with other tongues as You give me the utterance

(Acts 2:4). In Jesus' Name. Amen!

Begin to praise God for filling you with the Holy Spirit. Speak those words and syllables you receive—not in your own language, but the language given to you by the Holy Spirit. You have to use your own voice. God will not force you to speak. Don't be concerned with how it sounds. It is a heavenly language!

Continue with the blessing God has given you and pray in the spirit every day.

You are a born-again, Spirit-filled believer. You'll never be the same!

Find a good church that boldly preaches God's Word and obeys it. Become part of a church family who will love and care for you as you love and care for them.

We need to be connected to each other. It increases our strength in God. It's God's plan for us.

Make it a habit to watch the *Believer's Voice of Victory* television broadcast and become a doer of the Word, who is blessed in his doing (James 1:22-25).

About the Author

Kenneth Copeland is co-founder and president of Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas, and best-selling author of books that include *How to Discipline Your Flesh* and *Honor—Walking in Honesty, Truth and Integrity*.

Since 1967, Kenneth has been a minister of the gospel of Christ and teacher of God's Word. He is also the artist on award-winning albums such as his Grammy-nominated *Only the Redeemed*, *In His Presence*, *He Is Jehovah*, *Just a Closer Walk* and his most recently released *Big Band Gospel* album. He also co-stars as the character Wichita Slim in the children's adventure videos *The Gunslinger*, *Covenant Rider* and the movie *The Treasure of Eagle Mountain*, and as Daniel Lyon in the *Commander Kellie and the Superkids*_{TM} videos *Armor of Light* and *Judgment: The Trial of Commander Kellie*. Kenneth also co-stars as a Hispanic godfather in the 2009 movie *The Rally*.

With the help of offices and staff in the United States, Canada, England, Australia, South Africa, Ukraine and Singapore, Kenneth is fulfilling his vision to boldly preach the uncompromised WORD of God from the top of this world, to the bottom, and all the way around. His ministry reaches millions of people worldwide through daily and Sunday TV broadcasts, magazines, teaching audios and videos, conventions and campaigns, and the World Wide Web.

Learn more about Kenneth Copeland Ministries
by visiting our website at **kcm.org**



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