

## **Preparing to be a Martyr**

More than 220 years ago France and England were at war. Britain controlled the sea – Napoleon, leader of the growing French empire, controlled the land. There came a time when British troops, supported by the Prussian Army, began to push back French troops, who were in danger of losing the high ground. Napoleon, desperate to hold the line, asked reserve troops who would be willing to replace weary front-line soldiers. Very few volunteered. The next day Napoleon circulated a message throughout his camp. The message stated that he was looking for the bravest, most noble of men to serve with honor as the tip of the sword – on the front lines of battle and be rewarded as the heroes of France. Many volunteered. Napoleon's forces won the day, and those who fell, like the brave soldiers at Normandy or Thermopylae, were long remembered as courageous heroes.

I share this story because at this crucial time in history, God may be calling you to be among the bravest of the brave. In these dark days, you may be called upon to, like Jesus, make a great sacrifice – for others and for the faith. The prospect is sobering I know, but the possibility is real, and the probability is high. As this is the reality, it is best to prayerfully, mentally, and spiritually prepare to be able to say, as Jesus did, "Not my will Father, but thy will be done."

In a football game, if you have the ball you can expect many members of the opposing team to attempt to tackle you. That's how the game is played. Wise players expect this, put on protective gear, and lean into the hit to mitigate injury. There are spiritual parallels. If you are a believer in these final days, then it is like you have the ball. You should anticipate attack and wear your spiritual armor (Eph. 6:12-18). Believers wear a target on their back – and the more they do for God the more the enemy will try to stop them.

The enemy, whose expertise is to "steal, kill, and destroy." Will, through the Antichrist, attempt to kill as many Christians as possible. Persecution of believers will peak during the last half of the Tribulation period, which Scripture refers to as the "Great Tribulation." Millions will be martyred for their faith.

Those who are martyred will be recognized with honor in the book of Revelation. Those who maintain a strong witness and finish strong for God will inspire others to come to faith. As the terrible trials of the Tribulation will intensify as the day of the battle of Armageddon approaches, perhaps it is a

mercy of God to call many of His brave children home early – to be received warmly into the arms of Christ.

Certainly these words are easier to write than to live out. The I AM A WATCHMAN ministry team does not wish to minimize the difficult challenges ahead – but do want believers to be aware of and prepared for them. Remember, God is faithful. He will stand with you in the fire – He will supernaturally strengthen the faint of heart. The Lord is honored by the sacrifices His people make and will exalt His people in due time.

*"The troubles all around us will soon be gone, but the joys to come will last forever." 2 Corinthians 4:17(GN)*