

Christmas and the Drumbeat of War

When we view a nativity scene, we generally think of a baby born to a virgin in a manger. We think of peaceful animals, a humble St. Joseph, and of a bright star. But, something is missing?

It is the drumbeat of war. It is the spiritual battle that rages in places we cannot see with our eyes or hear with our ears. It rages in our hearts.

Even in the peaceful image of Jesus being born, we need to see God warning His people to prepare for war. The victorious king has entered the fray and he calls us to take up our weapon.

All of hell knows there is no hope of final victory, but out of spite, they fight to ruin whatever souls they can. Yet, all of the rest of creation cries out for salvation. The star of Bethlehem is a warning flare that signals the victor is now on the battlefield. The animals in the manger are awaiting the redemption of the rest of the world. The angels are singing songs of a victorious king - "Glory to God in the highest".

Now it is our turn.

If we fail to pick a side in the war, it means we have already chosen - "he who is not with me is against me."

The drumbeat of war is pounding. Pick up your cross - it is your weapon against the enemy - and follow The King of All into battle. He is about to be born as a poor babe to a virgin.

