

**“You will hear of wars and hear rumors of war. Be careful, don't panic. All this must come to pass, but it is not the end yet.”**

Matthew 24:6;

We hear daily about the danger of another world war breaking out. Not only conventional wars, but there is even a danger of a nuclear war. This is what many politicians and various experts write and speak. It is therefore appropriate to recall the words of Jesus, which he said shortly before his arrest. “You will hear of wars and hear rumors of war. Take heed, do not be afraid.” How are we to understand this? We should not be afraid, but immediately Jesus says: “For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.” (Mt 24:7) This is not exactly an encouraging prospect. At the same time, however, Jesus says that this is the beginning of birth pains (Mt 24:8). Only this sentence indicates where we should place Jesus' warning.

We know that the first two world wars are not that warning, because the warning lasting over 110 years contradicts other words of Jesus. **“Amen, I say to you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things take place.”** (Mt 24:34) However, the generation that experienced one or both world wars has almost died out. We must therefore look for a different “beginning of birth pains” From Jesus' words it follows that those rumors of wars will frighten people. Why? People are afraid mainly because they still know from various sources about the horrors of the previous two world wars. Historians say that when World War I broke out, people were initially optimistic and went to war with a light mind, thinking that they would be home in a few weeks. The shock came in a few months when it became clear that the war would be much longer and crueler than anyone had imagined until then. At the end of II. In World War II, the Americans used atomic weapons in Japan. In doing so, they sent a message about what the next world war might look like. No wonder people fear another such war. Jesus warns us prophetically that we should not be so afraid. Not only because fear paralyzes the mind and weakens faith, but also because God will not allow war to thwart his purposes.

One of his purposes is to establish the Kingdom of God, as the prophet Daniel wrote two and a half thousand years ago. In order for God's kingdom to come, the opposer of God and his helpers must be condemned and imprisoned. God must also be cleansed from Satan's slanders and accusations. That is why we pray “Hallowed be Thy name”. And God's government must arise on earth from God's chosen individuals who will stand the test.

A war that would destroy life on earth without the possibility of what is described above would occur would delay the coming of God's kingdom for many more years, perhaps centuries. That's probably why Jesus says don't be afraid. A great war will come, as Jesus' words make clear, but it will not be devastating. It will be part of the opening of the seals (the second seal of Revelation ch. 6). It is during the sealing period that a Great Crowd of people will arise who will prove their faith in Jesus' cleansing sacrifice in trials, will be led by the Lamb to the fountains of the waters of life, and will be protected by God so that nothing will harm them, not even the sun or any other radiation (Rev. 7, 16). This means that they will be protected even during the remaining time if they persevere in faith. Until the kingdom of God comes in power, and with it the Son of Man and our Lord Jesus with the clouds of heaven. Therefore, let us not be afraid of those rumors of war and hold fast to hope and faith in our God the Father and his son Jesus Christ.

**“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me has eternal life.”**