

# CHIEF MINISTRIES

April 2012.

Greetings from above the wire!

April is the beginning of the 2nd quarter of the year. Are you closer to God right now than you were the last quarter of 2012? Have you been a student of the word learning something more about your Creator or His son? I hope so! We've just celebrated Easter Sunday, which is the day we choose to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. After his crucifixion, Jesus said in John 11:25-26, *"I am the resurrection and the life, he that believes in me, though he was dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"* I do! We may one day die physically but our spirit will live forever and I want it to be in heaven, rejoicing with loved ones and those who also believed. *Where there will be no more pain, sadness, sickness or tears and certainly no death!* (Revelation 21:4) Peace and safety will abound. No lying, conniving haters or naysayers or whiny lovers of themselves. I can't wait! Unfortunately, we must, so how about we try and bring a little heaven on earth!

Yes, there are some things obviously beyond our control, but we must remember that He is in control! We must stop blaming God for the evil we see around us. For some reason, there are many of us who can't seem to grasp the reality that God knows all things - Yes! That's one of His attributes - omniscient. All - knowing! So some have said, "Why would God allow all of this bad if He knows it's going to happen?" Great Question! Well, for starters, when we think our thoughts are equal with His or we have a right to understand everything that He does; we're out of our minds. God certainly has never been out of His! Trying to handle everything He does, thinking we see 'the BIG picture' of things would certainly lead us to life in a straight jacket, I believe. Just because God already knows what's going to happen does not mean He will interfere. Remember: All things work together for the good for those that please God and those who are called according to His purpose. So...Please Him and do His will and you won't find yourself questioning God. Let's look at Romans 9:14-26.

*"What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "for this very purpose. I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth. So then he has mercy on whomever he wills and he hardens whomever he wills. You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who can resist His will? But who are you, O man to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, why have you made me like this? Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for*

*dishonorable use? What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory - even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only, but also from the Gentiles? As indeed he says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people, I will call my people, and her who was not beloved. I will call beloved. And in the very place where it was said to them, you are not my people, there they will be called sons of the living God.(Romans 9:14-26 ESV)*

When God hardened Pharaoh's heart and the plagues began, it was terrible for those people, but it was so that God's saving power and glorious name would be spread throughout the whole world. If God sees that Jews will be continually rebelling against Him and the Gentiles don't, can He not act accordingly, without being unrighteousness? Yes, He can! Verse 23 says, "*Jacob I loved, Esau I hated.*" What ? Yes, God had to make the choice of Jacob over Esau due to their disposition, actions and lives. So now He has set aside Israel due to its increasing rebellion and use the Gentiles if they will carry out His will. So do you want to continue to rebel or do you want to fall in line and be used for honor? The choice will always be yours (ours), however salvation of anyone at all is due to God's mercy alone. *God is not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23).* God created a world in which both His wrath and His mercy would be displayed. His mercy will shine against the backdrop of His wrath. He tells us 'mercy triumphs over judgment! And many are deceived by the devil into all of the mayhem around them blaming God for it all, worrying about those suffering. Yes, there are things that seem unfair to us, but if you've ever listened or read the testimonies of those who truly have had to suffer; it's amazing how many of them tell of how this suffering led them to a deeper love of Christ rather than a rejection of Him. Get a free subscription by writing to The Voice of the Martyrs, PO Box 443 Bartlesville, OK 74005-0443 and read story after story in their monthly newsletter of the persecuted church. Due to the marvelous love and grace of God, we need to understand that serving may never be easy, but I guarantee it will be the most rewarding. Don't give up or give in my brothers. Allow God to take over a little bit more of your life, day after day. Stop giving place to the devil. I know it's difficult. Every day something else tries to knock me off my feet. So I charge you brothers to pray one for another. The guys you kick it with, pray for them, thank God for them and ask God to help them and you to continue to change for the better. Watch what happens! Keep seeking the truth and don't wander off into myths. Be sober minded and endure suffering. *Keep fighting the good fight of faith to receive the crown of righteousness awarded on that day, not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing!*

Until that day, I'm praying for you.

## **Chief**

*If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part of this, please go to [www.chiefministries.com](http://www.chiefministries.com) and [www.chiefshouse.org](http://www.chiefshouse.org)*

*Christ's*

*Heart*

*In*

*Every*

*Felon*