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WOLVERINES

A photo of a damaged Russian armored vehicle in Ukraine, spray-painted with the word “Wolverines” in English, has begun to circulate on Twitter. The image is a direct callback to the 1984 film “Red Dawn.” The film centers on a fictional Soviet invasion of the United States. Playing on fears in the Cold War context of the mid-1980’s, the film follows a group of high school students living in Calumet, Colorado, dedicated to defending their hometown at all costs. The group’s high school mascot, a wolverine, provides the name for their insurgent force. There is a scene in the movie where you can see the “wolverine” logo spray-painted onto various enemy military vehicles. The parallels between “Red Dawn” and Russia’s present invasion of Ukraine seem to have caught the notice of many who are familiar with

the film. The photo of the damaged Russian armored vehicle with the word “Wolverines” spray-painted across draws attention to those similarities, pointing to the bravery and sacrifice of the resisters to Soviet aggression such as the “Wolverines” who are able to turn the tide of the conflict. It’s a stirring call to the sober parallel of local, everyday people trying to make a difference by taking the fight directly to the Russians. There also seem to be parallels to our current spiritual battle we find ourselves entangled in. I find it interesting that in much the same way, Jesus chose the average, every-day common citizen to be called as Apostles and join Him in bringing the fight against Satan directly to him, by actively spreading the gospel of Truth to disarm the devil’s advances throughout this

world. Jesus didn't choose specially trained Rabbi's or scholars of divine scripture, but rather the common men from among the Jewish community who nobody would have had any special fondness or confidence in. "And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, and to have authority to cast out the demons. And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), and James, the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, 'Sons of Thunder'); and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him," (Mark 3:13-19). You'll notice the complete absence of any great names of notoriety inserted to give any of these names any kind of connection in reference to any position of prominence or importance of any kind is what makes their obscurity stand out even that much more. It is the complete opposite of various texts like the one we find in the gospel of Luke where there is a

barrage of high profiled names given in reference to each other to put in context the level of importance assigned to them. "Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas..." (Luke 3:1-2). The list of the names of the twelve men selected by Jesus to be Apostles has absolutely none of this. If the Red Dawn movie reference were to be given to the work of the Apostles, we might imagine the word "Wolverines" scrawled across every synagogue they essentially turned upside down through their bold preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, drawing reference to the fact that this revolutionary spiritual revolt against Satan and sin was the work of everyday common individuals who were bold and courageous enough to take up the fight. "As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

And they laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. On the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; and Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent. When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, ‘By what power, or in what name, have you done this?’ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers and elders of the people, if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead – by this name this man stands here before you in good health. He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief corner stone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.’ ***Now as they observed the confidence of***

Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus,” (Acts 4:1-13). Let all of us, likewise, in our common status in this world, have the courage and confidence and sacrifice to take up the fight against the influences of Satan in our world today and boldly spread the gospel throughout our communities. “For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God,” (1 Cor. 1:26-29). “At that time Jesus said, ‘I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight,’” (Matt. 11:25-26). “Wolverines.” – Daniel Ruegg

People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



1st Jerusalem Evidence of Quake From

Archaeologists excavating in Jerusalem, near the Temple Mount and a First-Temple-era wall unearthed evidence of an 8th century BC earthquake. The earliest floor of the southernmost room of a building bore evidence of destruction, but not by fire, and was dated to a time period when no known conquest of Jerusalem occurred. Stones from an upper part of the northern walls had collapsed, shattering a row of vessels that had been along the wall beneath. The excavation directors from the Israel Antiquities Authority, Dr. Joe Uziel and Ortal Chalaf, believe this corresponds to the great earthquake which occurred in the days of [King Uzziah](#), and is mentioned in Amos 1:1 and Zech. 14:5. Archaeological evidence for “Uzziah’s earthquake” has been found at other sites in Israel, including at Hazor and Tell es-Safi/Gath, but this is the first time archaeologists have identified evidence of this earthquake in Jerusalem. A similar 8th-century destruction layer was noted in a collapsed building 100 meters south of the current dig, which was excavated by Yigal Shiloh in the 1970’s, but it was not associated with Uzziah’s earthquake at that time. The multi-year coronavirus pandemic is now firmly branded as a benchmark in modern memory. Likewise, in the first verse of the Book of Amos, the 8th century BCE biblical prophet referred to “two years before the earthquake” as an anchor to the events he was about to relate. Two centuries later, the prophet Zechariah again referred to this destructive earthquake period, so deeply was it ingrained in the collective psyche. Now, for the first time, a team of Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologists in Jerusalem’s City of David report that they have found unprecedented concrete evidence of this 8th century BCE earthquake in the ancient capital. In an upcoming research paper, the archaeologists chart, for example, that in one particular 8th century BCE structure the destruction layer did not show signs of fire, yet other factors suggested the building had been damaged in a traumatic event, apparently in an earthquake. “This was most notable on the earliest floor of the southernmost room,” they write. “In this room, a row of smashed vessels was uncovered along its northern wall, above which fallen stones had been found. It appears that these stones were the upper part of the walls of the room, which had collapsed, destroying the vessels which had been set along the wall.” Until now, the earliest destruction layer of Jerusalem comes from the Babylonian conquest of 586 BCE. For archaeologists, an earlier historical anchor — if proven through hard, securely dated evidence — serves as an important stratigraphical benchmark for scientific excavations in Jerusalem.

