

Study for the Month of November 2009

Spiritual Lessons from Number Two

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This issue is but an overview of the significance of the spiritual lessons and subjects dealing with number two as indicated in God's Word. Detailed treatment of specific subjects as deemed fit and as time and space allows will be discussed in the subsequent issues.

In creation God created **two kinds of light** on the fourth day, “the lesser light to rule the night and the greater light to rule the day” (Gen 1: 15).

It was upon **two tables of stone** that God wrote the Ten Commandments with His own finger (Exo. 34: 1, 4, etc). In the New Covenant God writes them by the willing and intelligent consent of the individual in his *heart* and *mind*. Heb. 8:10; 10:16; Matt. 22:37-40.

There were **two goats** that were used in the closing services of the Day of Atonement. One the Lord's goat which was slain, its blood taken by the high priest into the most holy apartment and sprinkled seven times towards the ark of the testimony; the other called the Azazel or scapegoat that was left alive, upon which he transferred all sins symbolically cleansed from the holy places. Lev. 16: 7, 8.

Joshua sent **two spies** to spy out the city of Jericho in Canaan whom the harlot, Rahab, later hid, and thus saved from being killed. Joshua 2: 1-24. The favor was returned when Israel captured the city later.

The weeping prophet talks of the **two evils** of Israel, ancient and modern, namely, forsaking God the fountain of living waters—God and His Word, and hewing out for themselves broken cisterns that can hold no spiritual water—turning to idols, false gods, false teachers, and false doctrines. Jer. 2: 12, 13.

The **two witnesses, olive trees, anointed ones, and candlesticks** represent the Old and New Testaments. Rev. 11: 1-19; Mal. 4: 11-14; Ps. 119:15, etc. (Much attention will be given to this important prophecy in later issues).

There are **two great principles** that summarize the Ten Commandments “upon which,” Jesus said, “hang all the law and the prophets,” which are: love for God first, and then love for man. The first four clearly define our duties to God, the last six to our fellow men. Matt. 22:35-40. There are those who would make it appear that the Decalogue was done away with and replaced by these “two commandments”—love for God and love for men,—even though Jesus absolutely said nothing to this effect nor do any of the writers of the New Testament. These are the same who readily accept traditions and man-made religious laws, prominent of which is Sunday-keeping, the most pagan of all forms of worship and the belief that the soul is immortal, Satan's first lie made to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. “Thou shalt not surely die.” Gen. 3:1-5; cf. Rom. 12, 14, 17, 19; 6:23, etc.

The **two thieves**, between whom Christ was crucified, represent the two kinds of sinners in the world, the penitent and impenitent. Matt 27:38. Many who deliberately delay accepting Christ, putting it off for “a more convenient time” (cite the experience of the penitent thief. They claim they can be “saved at the

last minute or seconds of their life.” Such misled individuals include those who deny the need of sanctification, the work of a lifetime of Christian growth towards the perfection set by the example of Christ.

Throughout the Bible the term “covenant” most commonly describes the formal relationship that existed between Jehovah on one hand and ancient Israel as the “chosen people” on the other. He Himself determined the provisions of the covenant, made it known to them, and gave them the choice of accepting or rejecting it. Paul refers to the covenant with ancient Israel as the “first” or “old” covenant, and that with the New Testament Christian as the “second” or the “new.” These **two covenants** of the Old and the New are the ceremonial and the moral law, the former provisional and transitory, the other eternal and immutable being the transcript of the character of God, its author. Gal. 4: 24.

More of these two kinds are provided below, alphabetically listed and briefly summarized:

- **Two Adams**

Adam, meaning “man,” and the verb “*adam*” meaning, “ruddy or reddish,” thus a reference to the color of the clay or dust of the ground from which man was formed. Gen. 2: 7. This is the *only* origin and first member of the human family, the first human being, a man, whom the Creator formed with His own hands out of the dust of the ground “after His own image and likeness” and then breathed into this perfect, yet lifeless form the breath of life and “man became a living soul.” So David exclaimed upon realization: “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Ps. 139: 14. Through the sin of Adam *death*, not sin, passed on to the entire human family (Rom. 5: 12-14; Eph. 2:12). Through disobedience, Adam and Eve were banished from Eden and barred from partaking of the fruits of the Tree of Life which were invested with properties to perpetuate life. Fallen man became subject to death, and decay. However, the plan of redemption contemplated a *second Adam*, Jesus Christ, who, by partaking on the human nature and overcoming on the same grounds where the first Adam failed and fell, and by His perfect atoning sacrifice, made possible our redemption from the results of the first Adam’s sin. Rom. 5: 12-21; Heb. 5: 9; 9: 28; 1 Cor. 15: 45-47.

- **Two Angels**

There are the good angels and evil angels, demons. There are at least two orders of good angels, cherubim and seraphim. Angel is the Hebrew *malak*, “messenger;” Greek *aggelos*, “messenger.” These are supernatural beings created by God, superior to man, and act as representatives or messengers of God. There are many passages in the Bible that speak of *malak* and *aggelos* that do not refer to these supernatural beings, but to prophets and others that fulfill the function of a “messenger.” See 2 Sam. 3: 14; Eze. 23:16; Hag. 1:13; Matt. 11:10; Luke 7: 24, etc. The angels of light come from the throne of glory and continuously minister to the needs of God’s people on earth according to God’s bidding. They are called “ministering spirits” (Heb. 1:14) and as created spiritual beings, they are unseen to the human eye though many times they have appeared in the form of man bearing special messages or defending God’s people as man of war.

Two angels came to Lot in Sodom to warn and save him, his wife, and daughters. Genesis 19. Two men in white apparel, angels, stood by as the disciples watched Jesus ascending to heaven, assuring them that the same Jesus they saw ascending, would come in like manner as they saw Him going up to heaven. Acts 9, 10.

Our guardian angels act as our recording angel as well who carefully keeps record of each man’s thoughts and life deeds that are examined during the pre-advent or investigative judgment. Often unappreciated, these heavenly visitants who are charged with “keeping us in all our ways” and to “hold

us up lest we dash our foot against a stone” (Ps. 91: 11,12) are constantly at war with the third of the angels in heaven who joined Lucifer in his defeated rebellion and were cast down with Satan to the earth. Since that time they permanently became the evil spirits, the demons that tempt, harass, annoy, scare, instigate, and do all the evil, destruction, violence, and suffering on earth since the fall. They work through and with the cooperation of wicked men and organizations. They, with Satan, and all the finally impenitent wicked sinners will all burn in the lake of fire after the Biblical thousand years (millennium) in the final cleansing of the earth in preparation for the earth made new.

- **Two Arks**

The Bible mentions two kinds of arks of totally different natures. One is the ark, the giant boat which God instructed Noah to build to take them through the flood. The other is the ark of the covenant or ark of the testimony or ark of God’s testament found in the most holy place of the sanctuary on earth containing the law of God, and earlier, Aaron’s rod that budded and the golden pot containing a sample of the physical manna. The earthly ark of the covenant of “ark of the testimony” is patterned after the great original found in the heavenly sanctuary, and is a sacred symbol of God’s presence (PP 706), and is a type of Christ (4T 120).

- **Two Armies**

The army of God is His church on earth composed of all faithful individuals from the beginning to the end of time. They are also those “who fight the battles of the Lord where the champions are few” who stand in defense of His law and doctrines with the testimony of their words and deeds, and ultimately, with their lives. Constantly arrayed before them are the vast armies of Satan composed of both evil angels and evil men. *At the close of earth’s probation, during the sixth plague*, the battle of Armageddon will be finally fought between these two surviving armies in “the great day of the battle of the Lord.” All the evil angels, described in vision by John as three frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet” will go forth and deceive “all the kings of the earth” or all the great non-religious, civil powers of the earth against a small remnant. It is at this time that God will miraculously and gloriously intervene for His *surviving* spiritual Israel, who, at this time are specifically numbered as 144,000. God’s servant speaks of the army of youth and laymen taking over the work in the end.

- **Two Arms (of strength)**

The arm of flesh versus the mighty arm of God. The prophet says, “Cursed is the man that trusts in man and makes flesh his arm (strength, NKJV), whose heart departs from the Lord. . . .But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord.” Jer. 17: 5, 7.

- **Assemblies**

The assembly of the righteous which the angels in the form of men visit, and the assembly of the wicked. GC 631-2.

- **Two Atonements**

The work of atonement of Christ is in two parts. First was the *perfect atoning sacrifice* He offered as the Lamb of God at Calvary as the Substitute and Surety for repenting sinners. His death as the sacrifice satisfied the demands of His own law that had been transgressed by man. By taking man’s place He became the Substitute and Surety of man. The blood obtained by the death of Christ represents the forfeited life of the sinner and is the means by which man receives forgiveness for sins repented of and confessed. The last part is the *closing work of atonement* performed by the high priest during the Day of Atonement, or the cleansing of the sanctuary which involves the judgment based on the examination of

the books of record and ending with the blotting out of sins of those shown worthy of eternal life, and the blotting out of the names of those shown not worthy.

- **Two Authors**

Author, according to Webster, means “the maker of anything; creator; originator; one who composes or writes something, as a book; composer; writer. Paul says in 1 Cor. 14: 3, “God is not the author of confusion.” 1 Cor. 14: 3. In Heb. 5: 8, 9, “He (Christ) became the author of eternal salvation, the Greek *aition*, causative; causer). In Heb. 12:2, he writes: “Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith,” the Greek *archegos*, a chief leader; author; captain, prince, hence, the Captain of our salvation. Satan is also the author, originator and cause of sin, suffering, and death, the chief leader of sinners, and “the prince of this world” and the air.” John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Eph. 2:2.

- **Two Babylons**

Ancient Babylon, particularly during its most glorious reign under Nebuchadnezzar II, the second king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire (605-562 B.C.) and his conquest of Jerusalem and rebuilding Babylon, is the type of modern, spiritual Babylon--the Roman Catholic Church---as consistently pointed out by the early Protestant Reformers, including Martin Luther. To John in vision at Patmos she was identified as “Mystery, Babylon, the Mother of Harlots” in Revelation 17. The only other “Babylon” referred to in the second angel’s message in Revelation 14, are the Protestant churches that rejected the judgment hour message proclaimed in the Advent Movement of 1840-1844 immediately after the Great Disappointment in the morning after October 22, 1844. Babylon, from the Babel, meaning confusion, is also used to describe the conflicting creeds throughout Christendom despite confessing to be one. Read the classic “The Two Babylons” by the Rev. Alexander Hislop.

- **Two Baptisms**

Baptism comes from the Greek *baptisma* from *baptizo*, meaning, “to immerse.” Jesus explained the basic terms of salvation to Nicodemus: one must be baptized by *water*, as a sign of entrance into God’s spiritual kingdom, and baptism of the *Spirit*. John 3: 1-21. Jesus Himself set the example for all by instructing John the Baptist to immerse Him in the Jordan, and upon emerging from this watery death, He immediately is led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted and tried. Matt. 3: 1-17; 4: 1-11. The term “baptize” is also used figuratively elsewhere. John the Baptist stated that Jesus Christ would baptize “with the Holy Ghost and with fire” (Matt. 3:11; Luke 3:16), surely referring to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost under the symbol of “tongues of fire (Acts 2: 3, 4). At that time the 120 disciples in the upper room were baptized, immersed or filled with the Holy Spirit. Christ’s baptism...with fire may also refer to the final destruction of the wicked after the millennium (Matt. 3: 11; 12). Jesus also spoke symbolically of His death as a “baptism” (Matt. 20:23; Mark 10:37-39; cf. Luke 12: 50). The experience of ancient Israel in the Exodus out of Egypt is also called figuratively in the KJV as being “baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea” 1 Cor. 10: 1, 2.

- **Two Classes of Believers**

It is strange but true that there are two kinds of believers in the Christian world—those who take the name Christian and the distinction of holiness attached to it, in vain, and those who strive to vindicate the character of Christ, which His “name” indicates. The majority are Christians who have either done away with the ten commandments, saying it was “nailed to the cross” but now suddenly claim that they are part of the “Judeo-Christian beliefs and foundation of the American Constitution” but say that the seventh-day Sabbath of the fourth commandment “has been changed to Sunday,” which they erroneously call “the Lord’s day,” etc. The true believers are those that have ever maintained the perpetuity and immutability of the law of God which is as eternal and unchanging as its author, God Creator himself.

They are especially distinguished among and from all Christians by “keeping” or preserving the knowledge of the Sabbath of creation from the very beginning and especially in the last days up to the end of time.

- **Two Brothers**

Cain and Abel, the very first two sons born to Adam and Eve immediately represent the two brotherhoods on earth since the fall. Cain represents the unrighteous line of men, and Abel, murdered by Cain and replaced by Seth, represents the righteous line from which Christ, the “promised Seed of the woman” (Gen. 3:15) would eventually descend from. Cain, as a man, stands at the head of the brotherhood or confederacy of the wicked and rebellious of all ages since then, both religious and civil against Christ, His law, His written Word, and His faithful followers. Christ calls Himself the Elder Brother of the human race having taken on the flesh and blood nature of Adam four thousand years *after* the fall in order to demonstrate the efficacy of the divine plan of redemption. He was to be tempted and tried as all men are,—and in that same nature gain the perfect victory over the same grounds where the first Adam fell. Thus He became the second Adam to which every truly born-again sinner may trace his spiritual genealogy and heritage to. But there is a true basis of the brotherhood of man, as the prophet declared: “*Have we not all one Father? hath not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?*” Malachi 2:10, K.J.V. Christ himself is the Elder Brother of the human race by virtue of His permanent incarnation into the human flesh.

- **Two Characters**

Since the beginning there have been only two classes of moral characters being formed in man—the character of Christ manifested in loyalty and loving obedience to His law of Ten Commandments versus the character of Satan, the great antichrist, manifested especially in disobedience to, and in the counterfeiting of His authority as Creator, Lawgiver, Redeemer, Savior, and High Priest and Mediator of mankind. The followers of Christ love one another, not excluding the deceived followers and victim of Satan. The latter hate and have ever been seeking to eliminate the former. Moral character, which is defined as “the thoughts and the feelings combined,” is the *only* thing we can take from earth to heaven, from this life to the next. Our bodies at death will return to the dust from where it came from and the dust of sinful earth will be eternally burned up in the cleansing of the earth after the Biblical millennium that occurs between the two resurrections.

- **Two Churches**

“Since the beginning faithful souls have composed the church of God on earth.” They are called the “living saints” of God, the yet-imperfect bride, the “apple of His eye.” They are those who have come out of the world---forsaken love of the world and the things of the world, and given up the false doctrines and traditions of men and the apostate churches, and are striving to please God by assimilating the character of Christ. The enemy of God and of all truth also has his worldwide, popular churches which are overwhelmingly superior in numbers and earthly power. United by prominent false doctrines that find their source in pagan beliefs and practices, they are called “the synagogue of Satan.” They are religious and present a public and stately form of godliness expressed through high worship ceremonialism and sacramentarianism. But their special distinguishing mark, like the mark of Cain, is disobedience to God’s law, adding and substituting His plan of salvation with their own doctrines and devices. Having lost the power of the Holy Spirit, they enforce their edicts and decrees through the civil powers. They have been the persecutors of God’s people from the beginning, up to the very last remnant of time.

- **Darkness versus Light**

Since darkness was first upon the face of the deep when the earth was yet without form and void or *abussos*, darkness or nothingness is the beginning of all things. It is in this darkness, *abussos*, that Jehovah the Creator created light by speaking it into existence, "Let there be light and there was light. And the evening (dark portion) and the morning (the light portion) were the first day, and so forth and so on as creation made progress till it ended on the sixth day. The seventh day of creation week was set aside by the Creator as the memorial day of His work of creation. Darkness also is a symbol of sin and ignorance; light, the righteousness and knowledge of God as revealed in Christ in the Word of God.

- **Two Doctrines**

Jesus said, "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak of My own authority. He who speaks for himself seeks his own glory; but he who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him." John 7: 17, 18, N.K.J.V.

The "doctrine of Christ" is what is taught in the Bible by the patriarchs and prophets in the Old and the disciples and apostles in the New Testament--which are unvarnished by men's ideas, additions, subtractions, and suppositions. Such have withstood the test of the ages and the fiercest wars waged against it by Satan and his main agencies on earth. One good test to determine whether the doctrine is from above is if it convicts and kills sin in the heart. Counterfeit doctrines do the exact opposite; they advance turning and twisting arguments and excuses to accommodate and justify the sinful propensities and weakness of the flesh for sin, "the transgression of God's law." These fanciful explanations and theological arguments, verily "the doctrines of devils," are such as "make of none effect the law of God by the traditions of men."

- **Two Generals**

Or captains. Jesus is called "the captain of our salvation." Since there are only two armies, there are only two generals or captains leading them. Christ, as the Archangel, also called Michael, the commander of the heavenly hosts and Commander-in-chief of His spiritual army on earth, His church. On the opposite side is Satan, general and captain of all the evil hosts of angels (1/3 of the heavenly host fallen to earth as devils) and all the wicked people of the earth. The battlefield is the Earth and in the hearts and minds of man. It is a war that has been raging ever since the fall and goes on everyday of our lives, as long as we live. The life-and-death struggle is for the loyalty, devotion, and worship of one or the other. All are ranged on one side or the other. In the time of religious crisis, there is no provision for neutrality in the sight of God. We either choose to be on Christ's side or we are against him and for Satan. And each soldier will eventually reflect the image of his general.

- **Two Laws**

In the great controversy of the cosmic conflict between Christ and Satan there are two laws entirely antagonistic toward each other as their respective authors and lawgivers are. First is the eternal, immutable law of God that is holy, just, good, for it God's standard of righteousness and alone defines sin as its transgression. The other is the law of Satan, the great antichrist that attempts to pass itself off as God's law but is man-made and man-enforced. The Bible mentions as well two laws that God instituted; one that is changeless and eternal, the other provisional and temporary. The former is the Ten Commandments---the transcript of God's character; the other which was provisional and temporary, designed to educate and bring men during the Old Testament or Jewish dispensation in particular, to Christ, who is "the end" or the object of this ceremonial, shadowy law. When type met antitype in Christ, the ceremonial law with its feasts, ordinances, and earthly priesthood was "nailed to the cross," ending its legal significance. To continue observing it after was not only a burden and works of man, it was a rejection of Christ himself.

- **Two Paths**

Also roads or ways. Matt. 7: 13, 14. One is the “strait and narrow way that leads to heaven and few are found in it for it is the difficult, upward way that Christ our Savior blazed in His human nature and walked on earth as our Example. Elsewhere in the Bible it is described as a ladder that must be climbed, rung by rung the top of which reaches to heaven. 2 Pet. 1: 2-12. This Ladder is Christ (Gen. 28:10-22), and Christlikeness is the goal of all who seek immortality (Rom.2:7; 1 Tim. 6:16). The other is the broad and easy way where most are found traveling on for it is the way of the world; it is Satan’s paved, smooth, easy, self-pleasing and self-indulging highway that is angled earthward on a slippery slope, inexorably plunging head first towards perdition.

- **Two Priesthoods**

These two priesthoods are the earthly and the heavenly, the former the type of the priesthood of Christ, the priesthood of believers being distinct and separate. Although a type of the work and priesthood of Christ, the Aaronic priesthood passed away. None of the faithful yet mortal saints, as followers of Christ, regardless of their position, wisdom, or station in life ever take the place of Christ as “the High Priest of our profession” or faith. He is that Priest “who ever liveth,” meaning, unlike the earthly priests who died and had to be replaced, ordained by the oath of the Father after the order of Melchizedek, that is, with no “pedigree,” meaning no predecessor or successor. His priesthood and ministry in the heavenly sanctuary for and in behalf of His people on earth is complete and perfect, at the end of which His ministry and priesthood ends eternally. The power of the great false religions of the world over their countless millions of adherents and devotees is their retention and pretension in various forms and titles to the earthly priesthood of *human* mediators or intercessors, both living and dead, whether beautified or canonized or through ancestor worship.

- **Two Resurrections**

There are two resurrections generally taught in the Bible, the first and the second. Paul and John the revelator speak of the righteous dead coming to life at the second coming of Jesus, ascending with Him and reigning with Christ for a thousand years, the true Biblical millennium (1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:4-6), and of the wicked dead rising at the close of this millennium (vs. 5, 12, 13) to receive the reward of the final disposition of sin and impenitent sinners on earth, before God in the sight of all the saved and the universe assembled. The ultimate effect of sin is death (Rom. 6:23), and ‘all have sinned’ (ch. 3:23). Conversely, the ultimate effect of salvation from sin is eternal life (John 3: 15-17). “But once death has occurred, there must be a resurrection from the dead in order that the one who has found deliverance from sin and its power through Jesus Christ may inherit eternal life which was “promised before the world began” (Titus 1:2; cf. ch. 3:7). Jesus said, “Behold, I come and My reward is with Me, to give every one according to his work. Rev. 22:12. This reward is eternal life for those who come up at the first resurrection and eternal death to those who come up in the second resurrection. The first is “the first death,” the second is the “second death.” We must strive with all the powers given us to be found among the first class.

- **Two Sexes**

When God, in His stated intention to create man “after His own image and likeness,” created man and woman on the sixth day of creation, He formed man first out of the dust and called him Adam. Then He caused Adam to fall asleep, took one rib from his ribcage and formed woman from it calling her Eve. Then He joined them together in the first wedding, saying “They two shall be one flesh.” After that He commanded them to “go forth and multiply and replenish [fill] the earth.” There are only two sexes, male and female—as the difference in their physical reproductive organs graphically reveal. And only the

sacred, intimate flesh and heart union between human beings is the union between a man and woman in holy matrimony. This is the only way true offspring was to be naturally produced as ordained by God. There is only one marriage and one union, and that is, only between a man and woman. It is called sacred and holy for this marriage is a symbol of the union of humanity with divinity. All else is an abomination to the Lord such as was practiced in Sodom and Gomorrah which brought down God's divine wrath with eternal fire. Artificial insemination is *artificial*, and nothing artificial is of God's original design. Adoption is the other way to raise children among childless couples. Homosexuality and lesbianism are absolute abominations in the sight of God, both in the Old Testament and in the New. Gen. 13; Deut 23: 17, 18; 1 Kings 14:24; 15:11, 12; 22: 46; 23:7; Rom. 1: 21-32; 1 Cor. 6: 9, 10; Jude 7.

- **Two Servants**

There are two kinds of servants revealed in the Bible, also called "bond servants" or "slaves." These are those who serve self and Satan, and those who serve God and their fellowmen. To the latter class self is dead and Christ is alive. One is a servant of sin the other a servant of righteousness. See Romans 6.

- **Two Towers**

There are two Biblical towers that have, and will come crumbling down: the first was the literal tower of Babel that the rebellious and idolatrous followers of Cain built on the plains of Mesopotamia as an escape from another flood. God confounded the language of the builders and lightning broke off the top. The second and spiritual modern one is described thus: "There are tower-builders in our time. Infidels construct their theories from the supposed deductions of science, and reject the revealed will of God. They presume to pass sentence upon God's moral government; they despise His law, and boast of the sufficiency of human reason [as in Humanism, evolution, etc.]. . . In the professedly Christian world, many turn away from the plain teachings of the Bible, a build up creed from human speculations and pleasing fables; and they point to their tower as a way to climb heaven. . . . The existing confusion of conflicting creeds and sects is fitly represented by the term 'Babylon,' which prophecy applies to the world-loving churches of the last days." - Patriarchs & Prophets, pp. 123-4.

- **Two Kinds of Virgins**

In the parable of the Ten Virgins (Matt. 25), five were foolish, five were wise. Historically, these ten virgins represented all the churches that were awakened by the preaching of the judgment-hour message in 1840-1843, particularly in the midnight cry proclaimed in the summer of 1844, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him." The difference between the wise and foolish virgins, all the professed churches, was not known till after the Great Disappointment as is also taught in the Wheat and Tares parable. So will it be with the whole Christian world when the final loud cry, the antitypical midnight cry is proclaimed under the power of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. The separation at that time will be final and for eternity.

- **Two Kinds of Weapons**

"Wisdom is better than weapons of war." Eccl. 9:18. God says, "I will turn back the weapons of war." Jer. 21: 4; Eze. 39: 9, 10. Paul says that "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal". . . . 2 Cor. 10:4. Every true Christian becomes a soldier who voluntarily enlists in God's spiritual army under the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel. Each day, before he goes forth to perform his duties in the battle-field of life he carefully puts on the full armor designed by Michael, the commander of the hosts of heaven, divine military Commander and Tactician. He knows it isn't safe to cast away even just one piece of this armor for Satan quickly detects it and trains his fiery darts at this precise weak point with his deadliest weapon. It is not "carnal but spiritual" for it is designed to shield its user from yielding to

temptation, losing faith and becoming discouraged over trials and tribulations, saving other souls, and for “fighting the battles of the Lord where the champions are few.”

As Paul says: “For though we walk in the flesh (the mortal, human nature), we do not war according to the flesh [the deadly wars fought by man and nations against one another]. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for the pulling down of strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” 2 Cor. 10: 4, 5. The apostle describes this full battle gear in Eph. 6: 10-19. For what higher purpose? Paul says: “*That utterance may be given me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel.*” This is what the whole armor of God was designed for those who put them on: to make known the mystery of the gospel to those who do not understand it!

On the opposing side of the conflict, Satan’s army on earth also has specific weapons of warfare, designed *not* for the salvation or redemption of man, but for *deception, destruction, and control over mind and body and earthly resources*. Fallen mankind is more familiar and more adept in using these weapons and implements of warfare that thrives in hatred, conspiracies, lies, bloodshed, conquering and subjugating one another—and extolling its victims as heroes. All the wars that have been fought on earth between nations, causing terrible suffering, desolations, and the death of untold billions of victims are carefully recorded chronicled against the masterminds, perpetrators, and the nations themselves. Thus through the prophet He warned: “The Lord has a controversy with the nations.” Jer. 25: 31. “I will shake all nations.” Haggai 2: 7. To the final overcomers He promises: “I will give you power over the nations.” Rev. 2: 26.

Here’s appropriate counsel from the inspired Pen. (See Deut. 33: 29 first).

“He who serves under the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel often has that to which calls for heroic effort and patient endurance. But the soldier of the cross stands unflinchingly in the forefront of the battle. As the enemy presses the attack against him, he turns to the Stronghold for aid; and as he brings to the Lord the promises of the Word, he is strengthened for the duties of the hour. He realizes his need for strength from above. . . . Relying upon that power, he is enabled to present the message of salvation so forcibly that it awakens an answering chord in other minds.” GW 16.

While Paul possessed high intellectual endowments, his life revealed the power of a rarer wisdom, which gave him quickness of insight and sympathy of heart, and brought him into close touch with others, enabling him to arouse their better nature and inspire them to strive for a higher life. His heart was filled with an earnest love for the Corinthian believers. . . .

He knew that at every step in the Christian pathway they would be opposed by the synagogue of Satan, and that they would have to engage in conflicts daily. . . . But he knew also that in Christ crucified they were offered power sufficient to convert the soul, and divinely adapted to enable them to resist all temptations to evil. With faith in God as their armor, and with His Word as their weapon of warfare, they would be supplied with an inner power that would enable them to turn aside the attacks of the enemy.”- *With God at Dawn*, p. 321 (AA 307).

- **Two Kinds of Wisdom**

The apostle says that there are two kinds of wisdom, the heavenly versus the demonic or devilish. “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing will be there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” James 3: 13-18, N.K.J.V.

- **Two Worshippers**

See Gen. 4: 2, 8, 9, 25; Heb. 11: 4. Luke 18:9-14; DA 604; COL 152-4; UL 285.

The two great classes into which all who come to worship God are found in the **first two sons** that were born into our world---Cain and Abel. Cain is the Hebrew *Quayin*, commonly known as “worker in iron,” or “a spear.” But in Gen. 4:1 it is the Greek *Kain*, meaning, “one acquired.” Abel is the Hebrew *Hebel*, either meaning “breath” or “transitoriness” or in the Greek, meaning, “a son.” Cain thought himself righteous, and came to worship God with a thank offering only coming from the “best of the works of his hands,” making no confession of sin, thus, acknowledged no need of mercy or forgiveness. On the other hand, Abel also came to worship bringing with him the blood of the slain lamb—that pointed forward to the Christ the Lamb of God. Abel confessed to God that that he was a sinner, lost in sin, and that his only hope was in the unmerited love and grace of God. The Bible says God “had respect for his offering, but to Cain and his offering, He had no respect;” and Cain became very angry.” Soon after he killed his younger brother, earning the terrible curse as the first murderer, fugitive, and vagabond on the earth. We are either worshipping God in the spirit of Cain or the spirit of Abel; either with a Pharisaical spirit, which is Cain worship or the spirit of Abel, which is the attitude of the publican.

“The Pharisee and the publican represent two great classes into which those who come to *worship* are divided. . . . The Pharisee is full of self-praise. He looks it, he walks it, [and] he prays it. Drawing apart from others as if to say, ‘Come near unto me; for I am holier than you’ (Isa. 65:5), he stands and prays with himself. Wholly satisfied, he thinks that God and men regard him with the same complacency. ‘God, I thank Thee,’ he says, that I am not as other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican [tax collectors].’ He judges his character, not by the holy character of God, but by the character of other men (see 2 Cor. 10:12). His mind is turned away from God to humanity. [Of such is humanism*]. This is the secret of his self-satisfaction.” . . . But we must have a knowledge of ourselves, a knowledge that will result in contrition [and humility], before we can find pardon and peace. [pardon precedes peace]. *The Pharisee felt no conviction of sin.* The Holy Spirit could not work with him. His soul was encased in a self-righteous armor which the arrows of God, barred and true-aimed by angel hands, failed to penetrate. It is only he who knows himself to be a sinner that Christ can save [from bondage to his sins].

“The prayer of the publican was heard because it showed *dependence reaching forth to lay hold upon Omnipotence. Self to the publican appeared nothing but shame.* Thus, it must be seen by all who seek God. By faith,---faith that renounces all self-trust,--the needy suppliant is to lay hold upon infinite power.” (See COL 152, 151, 155, 156, 159).

However: “It is not only in the beginning of the Christian life that this renunciation of self is to be made. At every advance step heavenward it is to be renewed. All our good works are dependent on a power *outside* of ourselves [there is absolutely no good in us, [see Isa. 1: 5, 6; 53:6; cf. Rom. 5: 23, 24]. Therefore there needs to be a *continual* reaching out of the heart after God, a continual, earnest heartbreaking confession of sin and humbling of the soul before Him. Only by constant renunciation of self and dependence on Christ can we walk safely.” *Ibid*, p. 160.

Jesus warned all His disciples of the similar and unchanging hatred of Cain-worshippers against those who seek to truly worship God in spirit and according to His truth. See John 15: 18- 26; 16: 1-4. Compare to *Great Controversy*, pp. 458-459.

***Humanism**—“The learning or the cultural impulse, imparted by those who brought the Greek or Roman classics into new vogue during the Renaissance; a mode or attitude of thought of action centering upon distinctly human interest or ideals.” – *Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*. Also, according to Wikipedia, “Since the 19th century, Humanism has been associated with an anti-clericalism inherited from the 18th-century Enlightenment philosophes. Twenty-first century Humanism tends to strongly endorse human rights, including reproductive rights, *gender equality*, social justice, and the *separation of church and state*. The term covers non-theistic religions, secular humanism, and a humanistic life stance.”

To those who trust in themselves that they are righteous and despise others, Christ speaks the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Make no mistake; Pharisees are also faithful, visible worshippers.

But they go to church not because they feel and know themselves to be sinners needing and seeking pardon from God, but because they think themselves righteous, hoping to win commendation from the people observing their religiosity and piety. They think that their act of worship will gain for them merits that will recommend them to God. Their worship is motivated by self-interest. They walk, talk, and pray it. They publicly and loudly pray “God, I thank you that I am not like others, or even like this corrupt tax collector.” Then they like to enumerate all their good deeds, anticipate public recognition, rewards, and certificates of appreciation. But whoever trusts himself despises others, and become “accusers of the brethren.” According to the parable such return home from their worship without a divine blessing.

On the other hand this tax collector recognizes that he is a transgressor of God’s law and that his soul is sinful and polluted. He also stands afar off from all the worshippers, not in self-righteousness but because he is ashamed of his condition. He does not expect any pity from anyone around him for he knows he has no merits to commend him to God or his fellowmen. In sheer despair he cries out, “God please be merciful to me, a sinner!” His only desire is for pardon and peace and his only plea is for God’s mercy. Jesus says that such penitent sinners are blessed; they return home pardoned, justified. What kind of worshipper are we?

- **Two Witnesses, Two olive trees (see above)**

Contrary to the teachings of the literalists--both Preterists and Futurists, brainchilds of the two Spanish Jesuits priests, Alcasar and Ribera who have craftily misled countless pastors, theologians, and Bible students on who the antichrist of prophecy is---these “two witnesses who were killed and then rose again after three and a half prophetic days (1793-1797),” are the Old and New Testaments, the Bible, that was outlawed and burned during the French Revolution when atheistical France, the “beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit” declared war on the Bible and on the people of God---the Protestant Huguenots in particular during the Massacre of St. Bartholomew. Many wrongly interpret these two witnesses as two literal persons or deny that it is in the lineage of the beasts of note in prophecy simply on the basis of the “shortness” of the period of its reign, not on the significance of what transpired in France during this period in the unfolding of the true nature of the great controversy. A whole chapter of describes this. See Rev. 11:3-13; Zech. 4: 11-14; Great Controversy, “The Bible and the French Revolution” pp. 265-288 (1911); Vol. 4 Spirit of Prophecy, pp. 188-193 “The Two Witnesses,” pp. 188-193 (1844).

- **Two Kinds of Zeal**

Zeal simply means “ardor in the pursuit of anything; ardent and active interest; enthusiasm; fervor.” But there are two types of zeal, of God the other of Satan. Zealotry is the character and behavior of a zealot; excess zeal, fanatical devotion to certain religious beliefs in particular that are based on feelings, not on the Scriptures. Such zeal is not of God but of Satan for it has been the bane of all genuine reformatory movements since the beginning of the Christian dispensation. Paul had to deal with it. The godly reformers, particularly Luther, found the Munzer fanatical movement as evil as the papal errors and persecution for it resulted in violence and bloodshed that were falsely attributed to Luther and his reformatory teachings. During the grand Advent Movement of 1840-1844, the few fanatics who prepared “ascension robes,” and did other fanatical actions largely contributed to denigration of the movement and its messengers led by William Miller. The churches that rejected the judgment-hour message, the public, and the press joined in publicly excoriating Miller and the movement right after the Great Disappointment, falsely attributing the work of the fanatics to him and the movement itself.

In the end there will only be two classes: *“Each party is distinctly stamped, either with the seal of the living God, or with the mark of the beast, or his image. Each son or daughter of God chooses Christ or Satan as his general. All who place themselves on the side of the disloyal are under Satan’s black banner and stand charged with rejecting and despitefully using Jesus Christ. They are charged with deliberately crucifying the Lord of life and glory.”*- E.G. White, Manuscript 40, 1897.

