

Five Battles

Sermon #0641

Study given by W. D. Frazee—1958

"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful" Revelation 17:14.

There are two expressions in that verse I want you to notice. There is a war on. The lamb is on one side, and some spoken of as "these" are at war with Him. Students of prophecy will recognize they are the kingdoms of this world uniting under the leadership of the beast to make war against the Lamb.

We know who the Lamb is (John 1:29). Over a score of times in the Book of Revelation Jesus is spoken of as the Lamb. It seems strange to make war with a lamb, doesn't it? Can you imagine anything so strange? But that is part of the insanity of this world under the Devil's delusion.

But strange as it might seem, the Lamb is going to win. There is something mightier than force, and that is love. There is something greater than weapons. It is principle. There is something more powerful than the atom bomb. It is the Spirit of God. The Lamb shall overcome them. He is Lord of Lord and King of kings. They that are with Him are called and chosen and faithful. The Revised version says that the Lamb shall overcome, and they also shall overcome that are with Him.

Those who are with Him in this last battle comprise people in heaven and people on earth. Concerning those in heaven who fight with the Lamb read Revelation 19 beginning with verse eleven. And to show this is the same battle notice:

"And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army" Revelation 19:19.

Who sat on the horse?

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon Him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war" Revelation 19:11.

This is a righteous war on the part of God. But it is a most wicked war on the part of those who assault Him and His kingdom. It is a war of rebellion with no reason whatsoever. Sin has no reason. That is why it cannot be explained. All efforts to do so simply muddy the waters and confuse the issue. There is no reason

and no explanation. Sin is insanity, and those who commit sin show themselves to be insane. Our only hope to quit sinning is to be restored to our right minds. That is what God offers to do for all who are willing.

Imagine a whole world so insane as to fight against God. Imagine how insane those must be who attempt it. Think of the futility of it. It is impossible to fight against the Creator and win. Yet the whole world, under Satan, reaches the place where it is united in an endeavor to fight against God. But heaven opens and a white horse appears. Faithful and true, Jesus rides forth a mighty conqueror.

"His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations" Revelation 19:12-15.

Who is coming with Him? The armies in heaven. Will there be many? Oh, yes, all the angels. Ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands (Revelation 5:11). There will be a large army. Greater than any army that ever fought in this world. Millions upon millions of bright angels. And one of them is powerful enough to kill one hundred eighty-five men in one night. Sennacherib found that out when he tried to assault Jerusalem.

Multiply that by ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands and you get some idea of the strength of the army that is coming with Jesus. He is coming to fight.

Many think of the coming of Jesus as everything going to go along much as it is now. Then out of a clear sky Jesus will come and take His people. No. Jesus is coming for His people, but He is coming to fight a battle. That is what this says. "In righteousness He doth judge and make war." And we are told by the One who knows that we need to know the plan of battle. I trust that battle will be very clear in our minds.

Jesus is fighting a war. The reason He is fighting a war is because the world is fighting a war against Him. They consolidate under the leadership of the beast. We know what that is—the Roman power that has thought to change times and laws, and sits in the temple of God thinking itself to be God. That power is yet to control the forces of this world.

I suggest that we are in a most interesting moment of human history. The Devil is playing a slight-of-hand act. The whole secret is to get you to look at something which has nothing to do with what is being done. The Devil has the eyes of the western world trained today on Moscow. Why? Because he is getting something ready in Rome which is yet to deceive and confederate the whole world under Satan's rule. He is a master magician.

Don't misunderstand me. I don't mean there is anything godly about Moscow. It is the same magician who is working that. But he is doing that where everybody can see it and everybody is afraid of it.

If communism could get over here we would be in a terrible fix. There is no question about it. But while Satan gets us being afraid of that, the western world and European world, the American world and the Protestant world is going to walk right into the arms of the papacy who will say, Cheer up. We will help you and keep you from that bad bear over there. And it is a question of whether it would be better to be eaten by a bear or mangled and torn by a beast with ten horns and great iron teeth. I don't know. You can take your choice. But watch out for that slight-of-hand.

The great warning of the book of Revelation is against the beast and his image and his mark. That is the thing the people of God need to be on their guard against. That is the army which we must meet on the field of battle in this closing war. God help us to know the plan of battle and be ready.

I want to run ahead of my sequence and show the end of that battle. We can understand some things that precede it better if we can get a clearer view of the battle.

"And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great" Revelation 19:17.

What a defeat for the host of night, and what a victory for the legions of light. When the battle is over we see all over this world carcasses. We see the buzzards and birds of prey feasting and gorging themselves. That is the end of the battle for those who fight against God and make war with the Lamb. It doesn't pay, does it?

This last great war is made up of five battles. I have shown you the end of the last one. I want to show you the different ones that come in sequence.

This particular battle that culminates in the coming of Jesus and the slaying of the wicked is brought to view in Revelation 16:

"And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the

wine of the fierceness of His wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great" Revelation 16:17-21.

Did you notice the artillery in this battle? There fell upon men a great hail out of heaven. Imagine the momentum those hail stones have. They come hurled with the force of angel's hands. Every stone is about the weight of a talent, which is fifty pounds. Did you ever lift a fifty pound block of ice? How long do you suppose this building would last if fifty pound blocks of ice were hurled at it from a great height?

Were you ever in a hail storm with little hail stones hitting at you? What did you want? You wanted shelter. Ah friends, the plagues of God are soon to fall upon the shelterless world. A race that in mad and desperate abandonment has lifted its puny hands against its Creator is to meet God over His broken law. That is the question. Who shall rule this planet? Shall God's law be the standard, or will man and the Devil have it their way?

This battle opens with a great voice sounding from the temple saying, "It is done." It shakes the heavens and the earth. There is a great earthquake such as was not since men were upon the earth. In the Japanese earthquake in 1923 a hundred thousand lives were snuffed out in one minute. But here is an earthquake that shakes not only Tokyo, but all over this world. Every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

You and I have looked out at Lookout Mountain stretching down here east of this valley. What will it be to see that mountain sink down into the earth? Weapons that men have absolutely no idea of, God has in reserve waiting for the day of battle. So with every element of destruction let loose the armies of heaven are on the march. While those forces of nature are doing their deadly work, in the east appears a cloud. The Son of man rides forth to conquer. As He meets the armies of this world notice the cry that arises from those millions:

"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"
Revelation 6:14-17.

Oh friends, the cry of the terror stricken millions falls on the ears of John. In holy vision he sees that marvelous and awful scene. The millions of earth who have been fighting against God see their Savior, their Creator, the One who died for them,

and the one they rejected, coming in the sky. Do they want to meet Him? No. But as they see that sight they see there is no hope. They run and cry for the rocks and the mountains to fall upon them and hide them from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne.

Why these expressions? "the wrath of the Lamb," "The great day of His wrath is come." Why is God angry. What is this wrath for? Why is God riding forth with an army? I will tell you why. That is why that voice says it is done. The kingdoms of this world, led by the beast, have decided to kill every one of God's children.

How would you feel about it if they were your children? How do you think God feels about it?

"And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed" Revelation 13:15.

About two thousand five-hundred years ago there was a great king of ancient Babylon who decided that everybody was going to worship an image he set up. He arranged that everybody must prostrate themselves before that golden image when they heard the sound of music. They all did it except three. Their names were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. You all remember that, and it is a good thing to remember. It is put into the Bible for a purpose. We have got to meet a similar issue. They had to meet a golden image. We have to meet a political image. It is a union of church and state requiring us to worship contrary to conscience and the law of God; exalting the Sunday law instead of the Sabbath of God's creation. All who will not worship the image of the beast will be killed.

What did Nebuchadnezzar say would happen to the people who would not worship that golden image? That is too bad, but we will reason with you and give you a lot of time to study and think it through. Did he say that? No. He said, In the furnace you will go. You will burn. You are going to die. We will kill you. Did that sort of persuasion and argument affect most of the people? Yes. They cooperated very nicely. It is one way to get cooperation, you know.

But three said, No, that is not enough inducement to us. We would rather die. Did they believe God could deliver them? Yes. But were they willing to die if necessary? Yes. So into the furnace they went. God didn't let them die. God is not going to let His children die today. He is going to deliver us as he delivered those three Hebrews in the fiery furnace.

That is why it is put there in the Bible. It is to encourage us as we go into the fiery furnace today. But I repeat, how do you think God feels when the people of this world will have become so intense in their hatred, and gone so far in their rebellion, and are so hopeless in their insanity that they are ready and willing and anxious to kill every one of God's children just because they obey Him, and will not bow to that pressure? Do you believe that it is a righteous war for God to come and deliver His people?

I do. I believe God has a right to do that. He made this world and everybody in it. This is a righteous war. And the purpose of this battle is to deliver the people who keep the commandment of God and have the faith of Jesus.

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" Revelation 14:12.

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" Revelation 12:17.

They are the ones who are going to meet the brunt of this battle (Revelation 12:17). The whole book of Revelation is written to help us understand about this coming battle and how to get ready for it. In Revelation 19 we saw the heavenly army. But here is the earthly army. It is the woman and her seed. What is the woman? The church. What is the seed? The children. Are you a child of the church? Then you are in this army.

Men, women, and children are all going to be in the battle. It is a total war. It isn't a matter of ages twenty-one to forty-five. Old people and little ones are all in the battle. The dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with all who are left, everyone which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Brother, if you are going to keep God's commandments you have a war on your hands. Let me ask you something. If a man really understands this, would it be a surprise if the Devil would take a shot at him once and a while now? Would he? What a strange thing to be surprised if the Devil takes a shot at us now. He would do more than that if God would let him. But God allows him to do just enough to keep us in training. He doesn't want to let us get so soft and flabby that when the real war starts we will not know what to do. He wants us to develop a little muscle and skill so we will know how to stand in this battle.

Are you with Him? Are you with Jesus Christ? He is going to win, and they who overcome are with Him. Look at them:

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father's name written in their foreheads." Revelation 14:1.

There is the last legion of Christ in this wicked world. They stand with Him. All the forces of the world are on one side. That little group standing on the other side. Which one wins? The Lamb wins. Notice the shout of victory:

"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of

God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints" Revelation 15:2-3.

Thank God, it is the song of victory.

Hundreds of years ago the children of Israel were being delivered from Egypt by God through Moses. They got to the Red Sea. Looking back they saw the army of Pharaoh coming with chariots and horsemen and spears and all the weapons of warfare to take them captive and make them slaves again. They wondered what in the world they could do. There they were, men, women, and little children. The Red Sea was ahead, the mountains were on either side, and the army was behind.

What did God tell Moses? Go forward. They went right out into that sea, and it parted. They went through on dry land. They looked back and saw the army of Pharaoh trying to do the same thing. When that army got out into the sea God said to Moses to stretch his rod over the sea. Those angry waters closed over that army. That battle was over. There hadn't been an arrow fired. There hadn't been a spear thrown. Yet every one of the enemy of Israel was dead, and not a single Israelite was wounded.

So Moses and Miriam sang that great song of victory on the banks of the Red Sea. It is the song of Moses. That is the song we are going to sing. It is going to be like that today. The people of God will not fire a single gun. They will not explode an atom bomb. They will not use any swords or spears. The people of God are not going to fight with carnal weapons. They are going to do what Israel did at the Red Sea. They are going to cry to God. In obedience to Him they are going to go through, and God will take care of the enemy as He did back there. That song of Moses will resound through the universe as the people of God lift their voices in praise to the One who has liberated them from the armies of Egypt and Babylon.

As the children of Israel saw the dead upon the sea, so we shall see those who a few hours before were angry lying dead while the buzzards gather from far and near. And we go in the chariot with Jesus home to the Father's house, and sit down to the great victory banquet, and sing this song of deliverance.

Oh friends, which army are we going to fight in? Be real sure that we will be in one or the other. There will not be any neutral.

I bring you to something that is far more important than this part of the battle I have studied this morning. I must bring it in order for you to appreciate what I bring next. There is this battle we have studied, but there is a battle that precedes it. It is Jacob's trouble. Do you know about Jacob's trouble? And there is something that comes in before Jacob's trouble. It is the battle of the loud cry. It is a real battle. Read about it in *Great Controversy*, the chapters titled, *The Impending Conflict* and *The Final Warning*. And there is another battle before the loud cry.

The purpose of the first battle is to get rid of sin. It is fought in your heart. Do you know anything about that battle? That is the one that is going on now. The next

battle is to purge and cleanse the church the same as the first battle is to purge and cleanse your heart. The battle must go on in your heart until the Devil is cast out. The purging must go on in the church until the Devil and sin is entirely out of the church. Then God can bring in every honest soul from Babylon, and go into the time of the loud cry and Jacob's trouble and the final events.

God can never do the glorious work of the loud cry with a church that is lukewarm, made up of part hypocrites and people who are trying to be saints. No. The latter rain is coming upon those who have obtained the victory over every deception.

We say, I wish God would hurry up and purge the church and cleanse it.

Do you? If God were cleaning out the church, where would you be this morning? I think there is too much chaff in my poor life. I need a little time to grow some wheat that will not be blown out by the winds of persecutions and heresy. Don't you? Do you see what is holding up this whole thing? It isn't Russia. It isn't the papacy. It isn't the backsliders and apostates in the church. It is just one thing, and that is to get some people who have won this first battle.

"There are few really consecrated men among us, few who have fought and conquered in the battle with self"
Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, page 82.

Friends, you can run away from a bear. You can hide from a dragon. But what do you do about that battle with self? There is no place to hide. There is no place to run. You had just as well turn and fight.

The strength to resist temptation comes from Christ, but it must be used by yourself. Submit yourselves to God, resist the Devil and he will flee from you. If you want something wonderful on this first battle you will find it in *Early Writings*, the chapter on the shaking.

Would it be a good thing for you and me to address ourselves with all our hearts with that first battle? There are some people whose eyes are on the final conflict, and they are just sitting down waiting. They say, Someday we are going to have quite a battle with the world. Someday there is going to be a Sunday law and persecution. Someday. And they think all they have to do is pay tithe and come to Sabbath School, and when the bus gets to that point they will know what to do.

Brothers and sisters, there was never a greater delusion than that. The only people who are going to have any part in the loud cry will be those who have obtained the victory over every sin (*Early Writings*, page 71).

I want a part in it. Don't you? And God is delaying all these other battles until this one gets done. There are people who would like to start out to clean up the church and everyone in it right now. They work at it, but they don't get it done. Why? Because everything has to come in order. We had better get the first battle done. And we have read that there are few who have fought and conquered in the battle with self. When we get that done God will order the next battles just like that.

Would you like to enlist? In peace time soldiers can enlist for two or three year. But in wartime you enlist for the duration. And my dear friends, as God's recruiting officer I invite you to enlist for the duration of the war through these battles. The first one is on now. It is war time. If you enlist, enlist for the duration, and go to work not on Moscow, and not so much on Rome, but in Wildwood where you and I are. That is where the first battle needs to be fought. It needs to be fought where you are.

When, with Jesus' help, you have won that victory completely, then there is no question about all the others. It will be victory all along the line. The only people who will fail anywhere else will be those who have failed here. And the only people who will win anywhere else are those who will win here. It is that simple. It is that clear. It is that certain.

Jesus thought enough about this, and is so anxious for us to win that He gave His life upon the cross. He fought the Devil. He gave Himself freely. He invites us to sacrifice ourselves for Him as He sacrificed Himself for us.

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