

# Holy War

#0067

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—October 29, 1971

I want the Lord to use us to help somebody tonight. Since my dear dad went to sleep, I have another big reason for wanting Jesus to come soon. This service hour tonight is no ordinary time. I wouldn't want to waste a minute of it. I wouldn't want to take your time with anything less than the most important thing. So I invite you to share some thoughts with me. If God can help us as we study these thoughts, somebody is going to go out of these doors really helped.

I pray that where there are scales upon our eyes, they shall fall tonight. Where there is sin in the heart, it will be exposed and taken away by the precious blood of Jesus. Where there are faint hearts, that courage shall be brought. Where there is indecision, firm decisions for Christ and His truth shall be made. And if there is a deceived one here, someone who has thought something that wasn't so, someone who thought you were doing God's will when you weren't, wouldn't it be wonderful if in this hour illumination from the sanctuary should make bare the chambers of the heart? Wouldn't that be wonderful? Do we want it? God grant it.

“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 Jesus, of course. He's the prince of peace. But here He is in a war. Friends, it's a holy war. I say this reverently: God is on the warpath, and you can't calm Him down. You can't buy Him off. You can't suggest a truce or armistice. Nothing of the kind. He's at war. You are either fighting with Him on His side, or you are fighting against Him, and don't forget it.

Following, you read the description of His coming with the armies of Heaven. He is coming for the rescue of His army here in this world, the remnant church:

“And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name  
written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS”  
Revelation 19:16.

“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.

Think of it. All this world in confederation together. You and I wouldn't be caught in that, would we? Ah friend, I read:

“Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men”  
*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, page 81.*

God is in a holy war. A number of years ago, in the Spanish civil war, the expression “fifth column” was born, and has since traveled around the world. A fifth column is a group of men who bored from *within* the army of the enemy. This is what gave success to Franco in his overthrowing of the Republic in Spain.

Today the church is suffering, and this campus is suffering from a fifth column. I challenge you tonight to open your heart to the Spirit of God to see if anything is in your heart or life that would cause you to be an agent of the enemy, to work against Jesus instead of for Him. Let's get another picture of this same war. Speaking of these powers of earth who unite against the Lamb:

“These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. 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 17:13–14.

Those last three expressions are not put in there just to fill up space. Notice that the victorious army who plant the banner of eternal triumph on the heights of victory will be those who are called and chosen and are faithful. Jesus says many are called, but few are chosen, and fewer yet stay faithful. It pains me to see any banner lowered. It pains me to see any standard brought down. It pains me to see men and women and young people who ought to know better engaged in experiences that can only delay the coming of Jesus.

The Lamb is going to win. There's no question about the outcome. Men may delay this victory, but they can never frustrate it. Man may cause Jesus to wait and wait and wait, there in the marriage chamber waiting for the wedding, but the day of the Lord will come. When the hour arrives, and Jesus appears in all His glory as we saw Him pictured in Revelation 19, there will be no question then in anyone's mind as to what is what and who is who. There'll be no question about it at all. There doesn't need to be uncertainty tonight about where God is and what His truth is and what His standards are.

We are in a war, a controversy. This didn't begin yesterday or last week. It started way back before this world was made, in Heaven. Lucifer deceived one-third of the angels of God with his specious sophistries, and many of those bright angels really believed that Lucifer was working for the good of the government of God.

There are people here tonight who think they are working for the good of the government of God who aren't doing it at all. They are allowing the enemy to *use* them by their whisperings to delay the coming of Jesus. Wouldn't that be a sad and

sorry thing to let the enemy use us, and all the while claiming to be those who, with the Master, have been called and chosen and are faithful?

When Christ came into this world to visibly and personally head the battle, the very men who stood closest to Him gave Him some of His greatest problems. And when the crisis came, and the last battle of His earthly career was joined, don't forget it was one very close to Him who double-crossed Him and betrayed Him to His enemies. Judas had come to the place where he thought that in doing what he did, he was opening the way for God's plan to be carried out and Christ to be crowned king there in Jerusalem.

Beware of the sophistries of the Devil. Beware lest you be led to think you are doing God's service when you are really carrying out the plans and mind of the Devil. The issue is an age-old issue. It is the issue of *loyalty*. Loyalty. Judas did not come to the point of being 100 percent loyal to Jesus. He always had reservations. He thought Jesus was a wonderful leader if He would only let Judas teach Him a few things.

There are those today who think this is a wonderful program, but they think some things are too strict, and they are free to ventilate their free and easy ideas with this one and that one. I warn every student, every worker, every visitor, or friend of Jesus here tonight to *beware* of that.

The same enemy that put these thoughts into the heart of Judas came into the Garden of Eden 4,000 years before that and peddled those same wares to Adam and Eve. And do you know that he succeeded? Satan succeeded in getting Adam and Eve to *think* that God did not mean exactly what He said—that it was all right to do what He had said not to do.

No matter what standards you name, what principle you speak of, what law of God you present, there is always someone who can tell you why you don't need to do that. And why is that? Because the Devil has become expert through 6,000 years of experience. He has become an expert in finding ways to evade the requirements of the law of God.

I will give you one sample. A part of the third angel's message is exalting the Sabbath of God, but you will find people who will give you reasons why you don't have to do it. They do not all agree on the reasons you don't have to do it. Some say the Fourth Commandment has been changed. Some say the whole law has been done away with. Some say time has been lost, and you can't keep it on a round world. Some say it really doesn't make any difference which. All are simply different excuses for evading the requirements of God.

And the Devil follows exactly the same policy when it comes to God's standards on diet, on dress, on music, on reading, on association, on courtship, on marriage, on recreation, on amusements, on education, and right straight down through. And if you wait until those who seek to evade the requirements of God admit that they are wrong and that the Lord's instructions mean what they say, you will wait too long. You will wait in vain.

It's true that one day they *will* admit it. When the judgment shall sit and the books are opened, and all who have offered their flimsy excuses and subtle sophistries and their so-called reasonable logic as to why they do not have to obey the standards stand there, not one mouth will open in excuse or defense or alibi. Not one. Not one. The whole world will stand guilty before God.

Oh, I pled with you; do not be so easily influenced by those who can spin their webs of sophistries and excuses and rationalization and disobedience to the plain writings of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

There is a war on. Much of it is an invisible war. And the very people who speak the words of the enemy little dream what they are doing.

When Christ was in the region of Caesarea Philippi, He had occasion to rebuke Peter, and said, "Get thee behind me, Satan." You mean Peter was a mouthpiece for Satan? That's what Jesus said. He had been a mouthpiece for God a little while before: Matthew 16 shows that.

Do not take any man or woman as some *saint* that you can follow. None are your pattern or mine. And any one of them may inadvertently, without knowing it, become a mouthpiece for the Devil on a certain subject, on a certain point.

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" Isaiah 8:20.

If *this* man standing in the pulpit goes along with some double-crossing, it doesn't make it any better. And it won't do at the judgment bar of God for you to say, "It looks like I was mistaken, but I did what Brother Frazee said." That won't help you or me or anyone else. And if Brother Frazee is in his right mind, he will not lend himself to any such program. He will read to you the instructions of the Lord in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, and your conscience will have to answer before God.

If some saint comes along and tries to twist and rationalize the plain word of God, remember that back of him is a devil who knows a thousand times more than you do how to reason in a way to confuse. Our only safety is in saying, "Yes, here is what God says, and I don't want to hear any reason why it's safe to disregard that." I don't want to understand an excuse that will make it possible for me to go the ordinary way. I want a high standard—the very highest. I want to do God's will in every phase of life, no matter how peculiar it makes me, no matter how others reproach me, no matter how others misunderstand.

I repeat, friends, there's a war on. The kingdoms of this world, the people of this world, 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. Have you been called? Have you answered? Have you been chosen? Do you know what it means to be chosen?

Many of the wars of Ancient Israel prefigured this final conflict we are studying tonight. Back there in the theocracy, God was the leader of the armies of Israel. When the call for battle sounded and the able-bodied men answered the trumpet call, a very peculiar word was given to the assembled host.

“And the officers shall speak unto the people, saying,  
What man is there that hath built a new house, and hath  
not dedicated it? let him go and return to his house, lest  
he die in the battle, and another man dedicate it”  
Deuteronomy 20:5.

Wasn't that a strange thing? There is a war on and the men have all gathered to fight. But before the battle is joined, God said to the officers to take the trumpet and tell all the people that if there is any man who has just built a new house, he's free to go home.

“And what man is he that hath planted a vineyard, and  
hath not yet eaten of it? let him also go and return unto  
his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man eat  
of it” Deuteronomy 20:6.

You say that was a queer way to get out of serving in the army. Yes. You will see that God was giving people every opportunity to go home. He was doing this *deliberately*.

“And what man is there that hath betrothed a wife, and  
hath not taken her? let him go and return unto his house,  
lest he die in the battle, and another man take her. And  
the officers shall speak further unto the people, and they  
shall say, What man is there that is fearful and  
fainthearted? let him go and return unto his house, lest  
his brethren's heart faint as well as his heart”  
Deuteronomy 20:7–8.

Think of it. Here they are all gathered together, ready to go to battle. But first the trumpet sounds, and all the people who have just built a new house go over the hill; they're going home. The trumpet sounds again, and all the men who have planted a vineyard and haven't yet eaten of it go back home over the hill. Again the call comes, and anyone who has just married a wife or who is just about to marry, they go. And after all those have gone, the trumpet sounds and the question is asked if there is anybody who's afraid. Yes, I am afraid. After I see all those men go, believe me, I'm afraid. God says, “All right. You can go home too.”

Would there be anybody left? They weren't to make captains until all that testing was done. A man didn't get his commission of leadership until he had gone through those four tests. And when I see young people panting for leadership, I wish they would learn God's way of developing them for leadership. Believe me, young man or women, and older ones too; there is one test after another that you must meet. Mere gray hairs will not prepare you. No.

To put it in very few words: If you have been called to God's army, before you are chosen, God wants to know whether you have anything else you want to do. If you have, He says, "Go and do it." That's right. If you have *anything* else you want to do, you can go and do it. You can be excused. But that wouldn't leave very many. No it won't, friends. Turn to Judges 7 and you'll see what I mean.

Gideon lived in a time of great apostasy. Israel was under the iron heel of the oppressor. They were making life miserable for Israel. God sent His angel to Gideon and said, "Young man, I've got a job for you. I want you to deliver My people."

After a series of interviews with God and providences, Gideon blew the trumpet and 32,000 men answered the summons. But he had between 100,000 and 200,000 of the enemy facing him in the valley. He wondered what he would do with only 32,000 thousand men. God said, "Gideon, your problem is not that you have so few. Your problem is that you have too many."

Oh, I wonder what will happen when this group here tonight goes into the sieve. There may be those who think we're going to need many more. I tell you, what we need is what Gideon had left when he got through this test.

Watch it as we proceed. Gideon knew what I have just read from the book of Deuteronomy. He'd learned it by heart. But when he saw how few he had, he hesitated to give that command that God had said should be given. He said, "My, only 32,000 men against almost 200,000. I can't afford to lose a man."

But God said, "Gideon, do just what I told you to do. Have the trumpeters tell all the ones who meet the conditions to go home. It wasn't a dishonorable discharge. It wasn't AWOL. The man that went home in this thing went home by divine arrangement. God deliberately sifted his army.

When Gideon got through giving the announcement as God told him, you know how many he had left? All he had left was 10,000. Over two-thirds had gone home. I suppose Gideon thought there was no use to have the battle at all.

God said, "Gideon, you still have too many." We see the Lord taking these people down to the water. A brook came from a great spring called the Well of Herod, which means "trembling." These were the waters of trembling, and it fitly represents the shaking that's ahead of this people. God said to Gideon, "Over there is the enemy. Take your men down to the water. Watch them. All the people who lie down and get a good drink from the stream put them over here on one side. The ones who don't do that but just take a little water in their hands, and cup it up as they go through the stream, put them over on the other side."

When they got through the stream, there were only 300 who hadn't gotten down and had a good drink. There were just 300 who were so interested in the battle and in seeing God win the victory that they kept their eye on the enemy and just cupped up a little water in their hands as they went through the waters of trembling.

God told Gideon to tell those 9,700 men to go home with the ones that had left before. There were just 300 left. What made the difference? Remember, these 9,700 had *stayed* when these early proclamations were made. They *thought* they were more interested in the army of God and in the battle than they were in a house or vineyard or wife or home, and that they weren't afraid. But God knew they were more interested in their own comfort than they were in the victory. Let me read you the inspired comment:

“A few hastily took a little water in their hand and sucked it up as they went on; but nearly all bowed upon their knees, and leisurely drank from the surface of the stream”  
*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 549.

Wasn't that all right? Was there anything wrong with lying down there and having a good drink? No. There was nothing wicked about it. But it *revealed* something. What did it reveal?

“Those who in time of peril were intent upon supplying their own wants were not the men to be trusted in an emergency” *Ibid*.

What is your great burden in life? Is it to see that you have a comfortable home, a comfortable bed, a nice car, good furniture, just the kind of food you want? Is that the thing that your heart is set on? And if you have a little time and money left after that's done, you're just glad to work for God?

Listen. You'll be sifted out. You'll be sifted out. You will be sifted out. Jesus has said,

“Seek ye *first* the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you” Matthew 6:33.

There were 300 men who said in their hearts, “My job is to go and win this battle, and whether I get all the water that I'd like right now is secondary.” Those 9,700 men didn't know they were being tested. They did not know why they were sent home. God knew. And so, by the simplest means you and I are showing day by day whether we're men who can be trusted in an emergency.

Jesus was teaching the people. There were thousands of people in the audience. A man pressed his way through the crowd and finally got up to where Jesus was. And now he had a chance to ask Jesus for something; to talk with Christ. What did he do? He said, “Master, speak to my brother that he divide the inheritance with me.” Master, see that I get my rights. See that I get what's coming to me.

Jesus didn't undertake his case. He was neither lawyer or judge in that experience. Oh, my friend, when you have a chance to talk to God, or one of God's representatives, what is it that you're trying to get solved? Your own personal problems of ease, comfort, convenience, security? Or is there a burden on your

heart to see the army of God win the victory and Jesus come and take us home? Which is it? You cannot in the end have both.

Sooner or later, the selfish self-indulgent heart exhibits itself. This was what was wrong with Judas. This is why he finally sold out the Lord for 30 pieces of silver. While I am speaking tonight about some things I know, the Holy Spirit is taking these heart-searching words and applying them to hearts concerning many things I know nothing about at all. I thank God for the *arrows* of the Holy Spirit. Do not put up your shield of self-defense and self-vindication; rather, bare your breast and say, "Lord, strike the arrow home to my heart and help me see what I need to see."

In our opening text, we saw Jesus at His second coming in a holy war. He came 2,000 years ago in a holy war, and He met—don't miss this—the test those men of Israel had met thousands of years before. He, like them, could have gone home, back to His house. He, like them, could have gone back to the vineyard, and what vineyards there are in the upper world. But there was something His heart was set on that He couldn't have until this war was over.

Was Jesus afraid? He could have been. Back there, the summons was to let this man and that man go home because he might die and miss something. Lest he die in battle, let him go. Did Jesus hear the echo of that as He hung upon the cross? Was the suggestion made that He could come down from the cross? Could He? Did He?

Oh, no. Lest He die in battle. He *did* die in battle. And those who follow Him today must, like Him, be expendable.

The Son of God goes forth to war,  
A kingly crown to gain;  
His blood-red banner streams afar,  
Who follows in His train?

Who will go with Him? The only triumphant ones in earth's last war will be the called, the chosen, the faithful—those who have decided that for *them*, nothing else in this world counts. There's only one thing that counts, and that is to share with Jesus in His self-sacrifice. And I can tell you this, friends: if we busy ourselves with God's problems, God will busy Himself with our problems, so far as they need to be solved. [Audience response] Amen.

It's true. It's true. But on the other hand, if we're more interested in getting a drink of water or a new house, or any of these other things, believe me; God will finish His work with Gideon's 300 who have something else on their minds than creature comforts and the satisfying of the desires of the flesh.

Oh, to be a part of Gideon's 300, what do you say? To be men who have met *every* test and come through successfully. Who have gone through the waters of trembling and not been set aside. Men whose eye is on the triumph of the kingdom of God. This is the way this work began with James and Ellen White and Joseph Bates. This is the way it will be finished in sacrifice by men and women who are



willing to make all ordinary human things secondary and way below that, and who say, "For me, this *one* thing I do."

Years ago, a young nobleman was coming through the city of Düsseldorf in Germany with horse and carriage. He was rich and influential and talented. While his horses were being taken care of, he looked around the city and wandered into an art gallery. There he came to a painting by the celebrated artist, Stenberg. It was a picture of the crucifixion. It was Stenberg's own conversion that had led him to paint this marvelous presentation of Christ with the crown of thorns, with love and compassion as well as suffering revealed in His face.

And as the young nobleman stood there, he was fixed. Hour after hour, he stood there and looked at it while the tears ran down his face. He saw the inscription at the bottom of the picture, "All this I did for thee. What hast thou done for me?" And finally, as the evening shadows fell, the man in charge of the art gallery came, touched him on the shoulder, reminding him it was time to close up. He went out.

The young nobleman was Count Zinzendorf. He was headed for Paris for a gay life, but his horses were turned back. He never went to Paris. He went home a dedicated man, and lived to start the great Moravian mission movement, the seeds of which lodged in the heart of John and Charles Wesley, who led in the great Methodist revival. All because a young man was caught with a vision of what it had cost the Savior to make salvation possible.

Oh, my dear friends, if you and I could only come to Calvary, the glitter and tinsel of this world would be spoiled, and the sophistries of the Devil would lose their power. Instead of seeking how to gratify our own carnal desires, and wink and connive at the efforts of others to satisfy their human wishes, we would kneel in penitence and faith at Calvary and say, "Dear Lord, you did all that for me. The least that I can do is to give you everything I have. Confer not with flesh and blood, but let all I have be laid upon the altar."

How wonderful our Lord is. What a privilege it will be to stand with Him on Mount Zion, having the harps of God, a part of the triumphant chorus. But before Mount Zion, comes Calvary. Those who stand with Him there will suffer with Him. And don't forget that He often had to stand all alone.

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