

# Earth's Last War 3 of 12

## *Two Laws*

### *The Commandments of God / The Commandments of Men*

#0288

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—March 1960

We're continuing this morning the study of the real issue in earth's last war—that war that began before this world began, and that brings us down to the very end of human history, under the reign of sin. This is the war that Lucifer began because he was envious, jealous of Christ. He wanted His place. He wanted to be worshiped. And he's determined to have worship. What satisfaction he has gotten down through the ages, much of it has come through getting individuals, great religious systems, and whole nations to bow down and worship him in one form or another.

He tried it with Jesus, you remember? Did he succeed? No. When Satan offered Him the whole world (you can see how anxious he must have been to offer Him everything he had), Jesus utterly refused to consider. He said:

“...Get thee hence Satan, for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve”  
Matthew 4:10.

I'm so glad, friends, that you and I have been given that example of how to deal with the Devil on this subject. Aren't you? And as we mentioned in our last lesson, very soon you and I will be commanded to worship this very being, won't we? Yes.

Now, we have seen how in the book of Revelation, God unmask's Satan and his plans. He shows us what's coming and how to get ready for it. We've seen how under various symbols He gives us a picture of this mystery of iniquity which figures so largely in the winding up of things in this world's history.

Yesterday, we looked at that symbol of the dragon in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation, the leopard beast in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation, and the scarlet-colored beast with the woman sitting on it, in the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation. You'll notice that in every case, the attention of the people in this world is turned away from God and Jesus Christ, and we have creature worship instead of Creator worship.

Notice:

“And they worshiped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?” Revelation 13:4.

“Well,” somebody says, “what’s wrong with that? Isn’t it all right to worship the dragon? Isn’t it all right to worship the beast?” No, no. Because Revelation 14:9 says:

“...If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God...” Revelation 14:9–10.

Now that wine of the wrath of God is spoken of in Revelation 15 and 16 as the pouring out of the seven last plagues:

“And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues: for in them is filled the wrath of God” Revelation 15:1.

What? What is it in which the wrath of God is filled up? The seven last plagues. Since they're the last plagues, they must come just before the end of time, just before the coming of Jesus. You can see that. That locates their chronology. That tells us where to look for them. They come in that last moment of human history, as it were—the seven last plagues. And in them is filled the wrath of God. And at that time, those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark, those who join in this creature worship instead of Creator worship, are all to drink of the wine of God's unmingled wrath. They're all to receive these plagues as they are poured upon them, unmixed with mercy.

Oh friends, God longs to save and shield everyone who will be willing to be saved and shielded, doesn't He? You remember that when Sodom was about to be destroyed because of its terrible iniquities, God sent two angels down there. And every one who would listen and respond to the appeals of those angels was led out in safety before the storm of wrath broke over the doomed city, weren't they? Yes.

So today, angels have come to earth. Angels have come with a message from Heaven, warning men of the impending doom of a world, and telling them how they may escape that awful destruction. Shall we listen to those angels? Or shall we, like the inhabitants of Sodom, go on the busy ways of pleasure and trade until the storm of wrath breaks? Oh friends, this is the hour of opportunity.

You notice that God not only points out the false worship and warns men against it, He also calls attention to the true worship, for the first of these angel messengers in Revelation 14:6–7, says:

“...Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and...”

Do what?

“...worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters” Revelation 14:7.

Worship the One that made everything. Worship the One that made you. He's entitled to your worship. Isn't He, friends? Yes.

We saw yesterday that this has been the issue down through the ages, and will be the great crucial issue in this closing conflict. I want to notice this morning how that worship is especially indicated, manifested, displayed, revealed,—demonstrated.

You know, there is such a thing as bowing with the knees or giving allegiance with the lips, and the heart is not in it at all, isn't there? Yes. In the book of Ecclesiastes 12:13, we are told by the wise man what it means to fear God, to reverence Him, to worship Him, in other words:

"...Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is..."

What?

"...The whole duty of man" Ecclesiastes 12:13.

This is it. The first angel, as we saw, begins his message:

"...Fear God, and give glory to him..." Revelation 14:7.

How are you going to do that?

"...Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" Ecclesiastes 12:13.

In other words, friends, the worship of the Creator includes doing what the Creator says, keeping His law, keeping His commandments. And that is the real issue. The result of listening to this message in Revelation 14 is stated in plain language in Revelation 14:12. For here, as the result of listening to the message and accepting it, a group of people are brought to view. And what are their distinguishing marks? Let's repeat it together:

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

What do they do? They keep God's commandments and the faith of Jesus. Well, you see, friends then, that to fear God is to keep His commandments, exactly as Ecclesiastes 12:13 says.

On the other hand, those who worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark, break God's commandments. They listen to men instead of Christ. They follow the dragon instead of the Lamb.

You remember that Paul makes it very clear how our allegiance is manifested. Notice here in Romans 6:16. This is the distinguishing sign that shows who we belong to, and whose servants we are:

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness”  
Romans 6:16.

There you have it, my friends. Jesus put it this way:

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” John 10:27.

Those who have visited the Orient, the Near East over there, in the country where Jesus lived, tell us that even now, in some of those places, those shepherds have their flocks, and each shepherd knows his own sheep. A group of sheep may be all pasturing together, feeding together, or resting together, or down by the well to get water, and they may all be there together. A person looking on would say, “Well, how will these shepherds ever get their flocks? They’re all mixed up. How will they know which is which?”

But one shepherd starts off, and he gives his own peculiar call and presently a sheep here and a sheep there, catch that voice, and away they go following him. Another shepherd starts over here. He’s going off on this trail. He gives his call, and all his sheep come running to follow that shepherd, and so with this one. Ah friends, do you see? How is it seen whose sheep and whose shepherd belong together? How is it seen? Ah, as the sheep respond, they demonstrate what flock they belong to. Isn’t that right?

How are men down here in this last crisis going to show who they worship? They will show by this: whom do they obey. That is it. Who are you going to obey, my friends? Are you going to obey Jesus or the dragon? That’s the question. That is the issue. The issue is over the keeping of God’s commandments or the commandments of men.

Now, in Matthew 15, Jesus points out what He says is vain worship. Even though men may claim to worship Christ, even though they may take His name upon their lips, He tells us what vain worship is:

“But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” Matthew 15:9.

Think of it, friends. Jesus says, here are some people that claim to worship who? Worship Jesus, worship Me. They bear the name of Christian, then. They don’t say they worship Buddha. They don’t claim Confucius or Mohammed as their great leader. They claim to worship whom? Jesus. But Jesus says:

“...in vain they do worship me...”

Why?

teaching for doctrines the commandments of men”  
Matthew 15:9.

Now, you watch that point. Jesus does not accept that kind of worship. He says it's vain, empty—valueless. It can't be accepted. He can't put His seal on it. No, it's vain worship.

Do you see then, that no matter how much men may sing about Christ and talk about Christ and preach about Christ; no matter how often they may repeat that name in prayer until it rolls almost as a monotonous repetition, Jesus says it's all vain worship if they teach for doctrines the commandments of men. Oh, that that message might go to every professed Christian heart, my friends. He says:

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things  
which I say?” Luke 6:46.

The issue, the test is this: will men keep the commandments of God, or will they keep the commandments of men? Now, apparently from this, the commandments of God and the commandments of men are in conflict. And that's the problem, my friends. This demon inspiration that has pervaded the great systems of the governments of earth and false religions down through the ages, this demon inspiration is determined to substitute the commandments of men inspired by the Devil for the commandments of God. The issue then is right here. It's over the law of God, my friends.

Will men keep those Ten Commandments written on the stones by the finger of Christ Himself, or will they lay those aside and turn to the commandments of men? It's an interesting thing, friends that practically every church in the world, practically every system of religion in the world, is doing exactly what Jesus said here—teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Do you think it important that every person who expects to stand with Christ in the last battle, review his life and teaching and practice, and know for sure that everything he believes, and everything he does, is based upon a "thus saith the Lord" as found in the Bible, instead of the traditions and precepts of men? Do you think it important in light of this? It certainly is. I think that we ought to take that right to our own hearts, every one of us, personally. It's not enough to accept the truth, even though it be truth, merely because human precept or tradition passes it on to us. God invites us, He urges us, He commands us to search the Scriptures because they are the writings that testify of Him and give us His holy law and the instruction that we need to guide us through.

In Ezekiel 13, we have a most interesting prophecy. You know, we're told that in the Revelation, all the books of the Bible meet and end. In our last two lessons, I've been reading with you some of the interesting verses that speak of the battle in the day of the Lord. Do you know where that expression came from? It didn't originate with the book of Revelation. Oh, no. That's from the Old Testament. Again and again, in the writings of the Old Testament prophets, we read of the visions which God gave those messengers dealing with a great battle in the day of the Lord. Jeremiah speaks of it. Ezekiel speaks of it. Zachariah speaks of it. Other prophets speak of it—the great battle at the close of time. That's the battle that you and I are studying in these lessons.

Now, let us notice:

“Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts. Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD” Ezekiel 13:3–5.

Oh, here's a clear prophecy of the battle in the day of the Lord. And it says that some people in the house of Israel are not going to be able to stand in that battle. Well, if they don't stand, what'll they do? They'll fall. Everybody is either going to either stand or fall.

Now, here God lays His finger upon the problem. He says, the reason that the house of Israel; some of them are not going to be prepared, and they're not going to stand that battle is because some foolish prophets have failed to make up the hedge. They haven't gone up into the gaps. If you notice the margin in your Bible, the marginal reading is breaches.

Now, let me say very simply friends, the hedge about the church of God, the wall around the people of God is His holy law. That protects them from the only thing in the universe which is dangerous, and that is sin. As a great dike says to the waters that roll against it, "Hitherto shalt thou come and no further, and here shall thy proud waves be stayed," so the law of God acts as a great dam, a great negative against the forces of sin. The law of God points out sin, and all who will stay within that protecting wall are perfectly safe.

A number of years ago, I used to live down on the lower Mississippi in New Orleans. And there's a great city, friends, of nearly a half-million people. They live there night and day, week in and week out, at a lower level than the great Mississippi waters that flow by that city all the time. What keeps the water out? The dikes, the levee.

Now, suppose (Watch this point!) some enemy comes along and makes a breach in that dike? What's going to happen? That water is going to flow out of the river. And I'll tell you something about water. If you know anything about it when it gets to running, what'll it do? It'll cut a deeper and wider breach, won't it? Do you remember what James says in James 2:10?

“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in...”

What?

“...one point, he is guilty of all” James 2:10.

How is it, friends? Does it make any difference to the Devil whether men throw the whole law aside, or whether they simply take one precept and put that aside? Do you not see, as James says, that he that breaks one point is guilty of all?

How foolish we would think a man, who, when reproached or indicted for making a hole in the dike, should say, "Well, I only made one hole. I only dug one ditch. After all, the levee stands there as it did before, except for that little place." How foolish it would all be.

Oh, how foolish, how criminal it is for men to teach in the name of Christ, that one precept of that law is taken away, or in any way changed. For Jesus said in His sermon on the mount:

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill."  
Matthew 5:17.

To fully keep, to live out, to exemplify, to demonstrate.

"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" Matthew 5:18.

Oh, my dear friends, do you see that Christ, with prophetic eye, foresaw this closing conflict, and He has urged upon the hearts of the people the solemn truth that not one letter of this law would ever pass away? How dare men teach then, that that law can be changed or set aside, that it can be canceled or nullified? No, this is the teaching of Satan. What for? To make a breach through which the floodwaters of sin, crime, and corruption can pour in upon this world and make of it, my friends, a great sink of corruption and rebellion against God.

Now, listen, if you and I are going to prepare anyone to stand in that battle, what'll we have to do? We'll have to make up that breach, won't we? We'll have to make up that gap. And you know what Isaiah 58:12–14 says about it? Put it down in your notes and look it up—as to who the repairers of that breach are and how they act and how they operate. We shall study that more fully another time.

In Psalm 119:126, and 127, I want you to notice what the Psalmist says here; will be the attitude of the people of God, as men unite to try to enforce lawbreaking, as men unite to try to drive by persecution the remnant people of God, to break His holy law in this closing hour:

"It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law. Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold" Psalm 119:126–127.

In the book *Selected Messages*, Book 2, I read this comment:

"When men press close to the side of Jesus, when Christ is abiding in their hearts by faith, their love for the commandments of God grows stronger in proportion to the contempt which the world heaps upon His holy precepts" *Selected Messages*, Book 2, page 369.

Do you see, friends?

In Revelation 13, you know that the beast and the image are going to combine to try to force men to break God's law and keep the commandments of men. In fact, verses 16 and 17 says that there will be a decree that all must receive the mark or they cannot buy or sell. And the 15<sup>th</sup> says that there will be a law that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

So there you will have it, first facing a boycott and finally a death decree, unless you keep the commandments of men in violation of the law of God. What will the people of God do? Oh, what I've read here in Psalm 119 shows that as the pressure from beneath mounts, love for God and God's holy law will increase in the hearts of His children. Isn't that wonderful, friends? Why, yes.

And friends, wouldn't it be that way with somebody you love? Think of the one you love most dearly. Suppose that opposition should come against them. Suppose persecution should break out against them. Suppose everybody in the neighborhood should begin to say things against them, or to hurt them, or persecute them in various ways. Why, the more other people did that, if you loved them, the more your love for them would be drawn out. Wouldn't it? Yes.

Do you love God's holy law? Can you say with the Psalmist, "Oh, how I love Thy law" (Psalm 119:97)? Friends, let us pray God this day that there will be deepened in our hearts a love for this law.

Now friends, the way to increase our love for the law is to get a deeper love for Jesus. For the law is in His heart (Psalms 40:8). And He says that this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments (1 John 5:3). He says, if you love Me do, what? Keep My commandments (John 14:15). So our love for Him leads to a love for His law. And like the man that is blessed in Psalm 1, we meditate in that law day and night. Our delight is in the law of the Lord.

Is there anything about the law that looks hard and burdensome to you? If there is, oh, go to Jesus and ask Him to give you a different revelation, a different view of the matter; for all who stand for God in this conflict will be those in whose hearts the breach has been filled up, the gap has been made up. There is no break in the levee. Their hearts stand heart to heart with Jesus on every point against the flood tide of sin. As sin comes up, they say, "No." As it comes up again, they say, "no."

I want that law written in my heart. Don't you, friends? Oh, let us pray that God will write that law in our hearts. And thus when all the powers of earth and hell combine to enforce the commandments of men in violation of the law of God, we'll stand unmoved, just like the Rock of Gibraltar, as the waves of the Atlantic beat against it. We'll be just as unmoved, I say it reverently, as God Himself.

Jesus said concerning the temptations of the Devil:

"...the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me" John 14:30.

This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in earth's last war, who shall stand in this great conflict. The law of God must be so fully written in our lives by the love of Jesus that we would rather die than break one



precept of that holy law. Shall we send Jesus the word that we are heart to heart with Him in this? Oh, that He may indeed send His Spirit to write that law in our hearts.

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