

Earth's Last War 6 of 12

Two Spirits—Spirit of Prophecy / Spiritualism

#0291

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—March 1960

As we continue our study of earth's last war as foretold in the Revelation, let us repeat together Revelation 12:17:

“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.

Is this a real war? Yes friends, it's a real war, and everybody in this world will soon be in it. You notice Revelation 19:19:

“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.

This whole world is united in a war against God. Revelation 17:14, speaking of the powers of earth:

“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.

Will you be one of those with Him? Thank God you can be. He is training His last legions. And the hosts of this world are in training. They're training for the last great battle.

But this morning, I want to study with you what's behind these visible forces. I want to study with you the two inspirations—the inspiration of the army of hell, and the inspiration of the army of Heaven. I want you to see the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet on one side, and that which inspires them, and the woman and her children on the other side, and that which inspires them.

You see, friends, besides the individuals that you and I see, the human beings, as we go about our work day by day, there are invisible beings all about us. The Bible calls them angels or spirits. The two terms are used interchangeably. For instance, Hebrews 1 gives us the picture of the angels, the angels of God:

“And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire” Hebrews 1:7.

And again, of the angels:

“Are they not all ministering spirits...?” Hebrews 1:14.

Yes, the angels of God are spirits. That is, they are spiritual beings. They can appear to the eyes of men if they wish if it's in the providence of God. In both the Old and New Testaments, we think of many examples of angels appearing to men with messages from God. In fact, this is the way the Bible came to man. This very book of Revelation that we're studying, how did it get here? The very last chapter of the book, the last chapter of the Bible:

“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things...” Revelation 22:16.

And since it's Jesus that is testifying by the angel messenger, what the angel messenger brings is called the testimony of Jesus. In other words, it's what Jesus witnesses, what He wants to say to His church that comes through that angel. And since the person to whom the angel appears is a prophet, and it is the Spirit of God resting upon the prophet that enables him to see and talk with the angel, that message is called the spirit of prophecy.

In Revelation 19:10, we see John, overwhelmed with wonder, falling at the feet of the angel to worship him because of the grandeur of the revelation, the glory of the scene. But the angel says:

“See thou do it not..”

Don't worship me, John.

“...I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” Revelation 19:10.

There we have it. This message which the angel brings from Heaven is the testimony of Jesus because it comes directly from Christ. It is the spirit of prophecy because it is through the gift of the Spirit, called the gift of prophecy, that the prophet is enabled to see, and talk with the angel, and write out, for the benefit of the church, that which the angel brings.

It is this inspiration which nerves the church in her final conflict. Notice again in Revelation 12:17. Together:

“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.

The remnant of her seed, the last of her children, keep the commandments of God—all ten of them, including God's holy seventh-day Sabbath. The flag of loyalty flies over that church, my friends. Around that banner rally the truehearted children of God. But oh, they have something. They have the testimony of Jesus Christ. And what is that? We just read it in Revelation 19:10—the spirit of prophecy. So they have the spirit of prophecy. Christ communicates with that church.

I want you to think for a moment, friends, of what is involved in that expression, "they have the testimony of Jesus." Look at it just as it stands there on the page, without reference, for the moment to Revelation 19:10:

"[They] keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus" Revelation 12:17.

Then Jesus testifies on behalf of, and, to that church. What is a testimony? Well, it is some definite statement from somebody.

Were you ever on the witness stand? I was. I was called as a witness in a case, once. When my turn came, I was put in the witness chair. I had to raise my right hand and swear that I would "tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." Then I was asked certain questions. Did I answer? Surely. That was my business. That's what I was there for. But if I had kept still, I wouldn't have been a witness at all, would I? No.

I want to tell you, friends, it's a wonderful thing to be in a church where Jesus is testifying, where Christ is speaking. Now, the wonderful thing is this: that that which He speaks is in defense of His church, for the protection of His church, and for the guidance of His church. It's no accident that the Laodicean message, which is addressed to this same group in Revelation 12:17, is said to be the message of the faithful and true Witness—Precisely. We should listen carefully to that Laodicean message of Revelation 3, dear friends, and let it do its work in preparing us for this final battle. We shall need all the help we can get.

You and I are familiar with the fact that in this Advent movement, which began over a hundred years ago, God early placed the gift of prophecy, the testimony of Jesus. We're familiar with these wonderful writings, these thousands of pages, this inspired commentary on the Scriptures; given not besides the Bible, the Bible is sufficient as a rule of faith, and given not to take the place of the Bible—No, not at all. We do not take the writings of Ellen G. White instead of the Bible. No. We take the Bible and the Bible alone, as the rule of faith and practice.

But let it never be forgotten, once that it said, that the Bible itself, in the scriptures which we have read this morning, clearly states that the last church will have within it the active exercise of the gift of prophecy. So, when we take the Bible, the whole Bible, we include Revelation 12:17 and 19:10 and say, "If the Bible is true, and we're in the last days, there should be a church, a movement, keeping all the

commandments of God, which has the testimony of Jesus, the spirit of prophecy.” Thank God, friends, we do not have to look around and abroad. Thank God He has led us to the movement which has that message from Heaven.

Jesus speaks from the sanctuary to His commandment-keeping church. I’m thankful to have found that movement, aren’t you, friends? That movement has been guided from its rise and will be guided to its final triumph, by this gift from the skies, the testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy.

If you were the Devil, what would you do about it? Well, this text tells what he’s doing. He’s angry and he makes war. There are two things that make him angry. One is the keeping of the commandments of God. The other is the fact that that little remnant has something which he hates and abhors—the testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy. Do you know why he hates it? Because it unmasks his deceptions. Every snare of the enemy is exposed through the work of this gift.

Take this book, *The Great Controversy*. Do you know how this book, this whole series of books came to be written? Well, back in the 1850s, over a hundred years ago, Sister Ellen White was given a wonderful view of the great controversy that began in Heaven, and that would reach on down to the setting up of the earth made new. And she was bidden to write. The Devil was so angry, my friends, that he caused her to be sick. She was stricken, had a stroke, and for a while she couldn’t do anything. But she began to write just a little at a time. The Devil was angry. She brought out those little volumes called *Spiritual Gifts*.

Later, as her views were more detailed, those visions were expanded into a 4 volume set called *The Great Controversy* or *The Spirit of Prophecy*. Now we have that light in these five volumes of the Conflict Series beginning with *Patriarchs and Prophets* and reaching on down to *The Great Controversy*.

Of all these books, the servant of the Lord said the one she was most anxious to have come before the people of the world, the public, get in their hands, was this book *The Great Controversy*. Do you know why? Because it exposes the snares of Satan. You’ll find a chapter in this book called the “Snares of Satan.” Here you’ll find chapters dealing with what God is doing in Heaven and what Satan is doing on earth. Here you have chapters showing the work of the beast and the image, and the enforcement of the mark. Here you have these wonderful chapters on the agency of evil spirits; spiritualism, which unmasks the deceiver as a wily foe—he who is using his angels, his devils, to speak to his people as Christ is using his angels to speak to His people.

You see, friends, really if we face up to it, all the world will very soon be listening, either to the angels of Heaven or the angels of hell. That’s it. We’ll listen to the Spirit of Prophecy, or we’ll listen to the spirits of devils.

Let us go now to Revelation 16 and see. I want you to notice this vivid picture of the whole world being led to destruction by the spirits of devils, these wicked fallen

angels that joined with Lucifer in his rebellion before the creation of the world, that have been with him ever since. And dear friends, they've lost none of their devilishness in 6,000 years. Their minds are keen as razors. And believe me; they are bringing to bear against the remnant people of God all the subtlety and all the wrath of hell:

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty”
Revelation 16:13–14.

Ah, here it is, friends. What is behind this warfare? The spirits of devils. What do they do? They work miracles. They do great signs. That's the issue. Miracles worked by the prince of demons, drawing men in a war against God.

Already these are coming more and more. A friend of mine over in London, several months ago, was brought directly in touch with some of the mighty miracle-working movements in connection with spiritualism over there. They are holding great meetings there in London. Not in some dark secret chamber, but right out in a well-lighted auditorium. And the spirits are coming and giving messages to people throughout that audience.

Another man, right out in broad daylight, with the news photographers from the newspapers there, challenges them and says, “Now, which of those five clouds up there in the sky would you like to have me remove?”

They select one, and the photographers from the newspapers take the pictures, as gradually the cloud that has been selected disappeared, and the others remain right out in broad daylight, friends.

They have a special message for the children. They have these meetings for children where the children are gathered together, and then, how do you suppose they appeal to the children? Well, there was a little boy that told a story about his pet dog, Prince that was killed six months before, by an automobile. Now, imagine this child's feelings when right in the midst of this children's séance, Prince suddenly appeared, leaping and doing his tricks. The little dog had come back. Now, do you suppose you could get that boy to believe that there's nothing to this thing, after he has played with his little dog that was killed six months before?

You see, the Devil is studying to reach each mind. He has a thousand forms. And as the serpent glides through the grass, he twists and turns. He is seeking to reach every soul.

There was a terrible accident over there, and hundreds of people were killed. The spiritualists brought their séances right to that place. They held public meetings.

They circularized the community and let everybody know they could come and hear from their loved ones that had been killed in this accident. Of course, the people flocked, my friends, to get the messages.

Not only that, but they are conducting healings. They are healing people. My friend saw a woman, all crippled up with arthritis, go up there to the platform. And after five minutes of their spiritualistic healing, she walked unaided back down the aisle.

Yes, we are in the time, my friends, and these wonders are going to increase more and more. But this verse that I have read says that these are the spirits of what? Devils, working miracles.

I want you to notice something very interesting about this verse, my friends. Our power is in the word. It's in the word. Did you notice where these spirits came from? What does that 13th verse say? Out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Do you know who the dragon is? Well, the Devil, of course. He's behind all this. But the dragon, as you know, in Revelation 12, stands for pagan Rome. Pagan Rome is gone. Rome is no longer pagan. It's papal. But paganism is here, my friends. There are millions upon millions upon millions of earth's inhabitants, whose religion is paganism. The dragon is still here.

And do you know what the beast is? Yes, that is the papacy, that leopard beast of Revelation 13, the union of church and state in old Europe. And do you know what the false prophet is? The false prophet is the image beast, the second beast of Revelation 13. If you are not sure exactly of every one of those things, you should study until you know the references for each one. I'm not taking time to go into that fully this morning.

My point is this, friends: there you have the three great divisions of world Babylon. And the thing you want to notice is this: that the spirits are coming out of every one of them. They have a common inspiration, and they lead to a common doom. What does that show? That shows there is a common denominator that runs through all these religions of Babylon, from the extreme paganism of the dragon, to what is called Protestantism (but it is a false Protestantism) on the other side, and the beast in the middle, which is a union of Christianity and paganism.

Now, watch. Do you know what it is, that is the common denominator there? It is a belief in the serpent's first lie. Speaking from the tree, using a serpent as the medium, Satan gave his first spiritualistic séance, there in the Garden of Eden, at the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And Eve, entranced and ensnared, accepted the Devil's lie. And the millions of earth since have followed on believing what Satan said: "Ye shall not surely die. Ye shall be as gods."

Read the wonderful chapter here in *Great Controversy*, on "Spiritualism." It begins on page 551. See how Satan has worked down through the ages.

Do you know, dear friends, that practically every religion in this world teaches that man is by nature immortal? Practically every religion in this world teaches that when man dies, he doesn't die, that his spirit soars off to some other existence, some other plane of life. Usually, it is supposed to be a bigger and better and more wonderful experience. There you have it, my friends. And it is this belief in something, which is essentially a lie that is opening the whole world to the inroads of spiritualism.

And that is why, one of the reasons that God, when He started this Advent movement, back in 1844, put in as one of the great pillars of truth, the facts concerning the nature of man: that when a man dies his thoughts perish—Psalm 146:4. The living know that they shall die, but the dead know not anything Ecclesiastes 9:5. But I'll tell you, friends, man must take his choice whether he will accept that plain revelation from God, or whether he will listen to these spirits of devils.

You'll notice what the book *Great Controversy* says here, speaking of Satan:

“To take the place of the Word of God, he holds out spiritual manifestations” *Great Controversy*, page 557.

See, that's the thing. You can take your choice. You can listen to the angel from Heaven or, you will listen to the messengers from hell.

In San Francisco, years ago, where we were holding meetings, I went one afternoon to call on a woman who had passed in her name for literature. And in the course of our visit, I discovered that she was a spiritualist.

I said to her, “Will you accept the Word of God? Will you accept the Bible?”

“Yes,” she said.

And I had her turn and read Ecclesiastes 9:5, and this is exactly what happened. She turned to the verse and started to read, but she never got through the verse:

“..the living know that they shall die, but the dead know not anything...” Ecclesiastes 9:5.

“Oh,” she said. “That isn't so.”

“Oh,” I said, “But isn't that what it says?”

“Yes, but” she said, “That isn't so. I know that I have seen the dead come back.”

And she started to tell me about the things she had seen and heard. Do you

see, my friends? She couldn't accept the Word of God because she had an experience with spirits.

When millions of this world in paganism, and millions in Catholicism, and millions in so-called Protestantism, have all listened to, and heard these messages from the spirits of devils working miracles, tell me, friends, tell me, what are they going to be ready to do? They're going to be ready to pass that Sunday law, the enforcement of which constitutes the mark of the beast. And they're going to be ready to lead on finally, to a boycott against all who dare to keep the commandments of God, and finally still, in the last point to pass a death decree against those who are determined to stand true to the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

Oh friends, what a world we're in, and what a conflict we are entering into. Do you see why the Devil is going to try to unsettle the faith of God's people in the testimony of the true witness? Let me read a statement here from *Selected Messages*, Book 1. Listen:

"Satan is... constantly pressing in the spurious—to lead away from the truth. The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. 'Where there is no vision, the people perish' (Proverbs 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony" *Selected Messages*, Book 1, page 48.

Do you see that, friends? In different ways, he's working. He's working through what is called higher education. He's working through perversions of the light on health reform and medical missionary work that God gave us years ago. He's working through this hypnotism that he's bringing in wholesale. He's working in many ways.

Tomorrow, God willing, in our lesson, I want to go in further with you to the study of these two great inspirations, as we study the two great revivals. Satan is bringing his revival, and it's on the way, friends. And oh, thank God, Jesus is going to have a revival, the great work of the Loud Cry. And in these two revivals, these two inspirations will come to their fullness. All the world will be inspired by the Devil. And thank God, His true church, His remnant church, will at last, everyone, be inspired by the Spirit of God. The Holy Ghost will be poured out without measure as we listen to the voice from the skies.

Wicked spirits gather round thee,
Legions of those foes to God;
Principalities most mighty walk
Unseen the earth abroad.

They are gathering to the battle,
Strengthened for the last deep strife;

Christian arm, be watchful, ready,
Struggle manfully for life.

It's going to take all we have, friends. But listen, God has all we need. Jesus is more than a match for Satan. The Lamb will win over the dragon. And they also shall overcome that are with Him, called, and chosen, and faithful. Shall we send Him the word that we are with Him? Oh yes.

Let us stand and look to Him in prayer.

Our Father, we thank Thee Thou hast warned us of the battle, not to frighten us, but oh, that we may, as good, sensible people, get ready. Fill us with a love for Jesus, who gave His life for us. Fill us with a love for that law, which He wrote with His own finger upon the stone. And fill us with a love for His testimony, His witness from Heaven, the Spirit of Prophecy. And thus Lord, loving Thee and Thy law and Thy message, may we be strengthened in the inner man, and prepared for the conflict, that we may fight for Thee and with Thee in the last great battle, and stand at last with the Lamb on Mount Zion, having the harps of God. We ask it in Jesus' name, amen.

Copyright 2021. All rights reserved.

W. D. Frazee Sermons
435 Lifestyle Lane, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org