

Messages from Revelation 16 of 16

Battle Between the Devil and the Lamb

#0477

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—December 28, 1973

One of the greatest evidences of God's love is the Bible. One of the most precious books in all the Bible is the last book, the book of Revelation. Jesus Himself came from Heaven to the isle of Patmos to give this message to His beloved John. He told John to write it out so that you and I could have it down here in this last generation to study. I'm so thankful for this book of Revelation, what do you say?

The great theme of the book of Revelation as we were studying last week is the battle between the dragon and the Lamb. This is an age-long controversy. The book of Revelation focuses especially on the last battle. The dragon, of course, is Satan; that's what Revelation 12:7–9 says. The Lamb is Jesus. Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. This controversy began in Heaven before this world was made. The book of Revelation takes us back to that beginning of sin, the beginning of war, the beginning of strife.

“...there was war in heaven: Michael and His angels fought against the dragon...”

That was Lucifer turned to Satan by rebelling against God and His law.

“...and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” Revelation 12:7–9.

You note in the scriptures that we are dealing with angels on each side; that's what I want you to think of for a bit tonight—the invisible armies. Now there are visible armies of righteousness and visible armies of sin. Christ has His church in the world. Like a mighty army moves the church of God. But there are invisible armies working with Jesus and His church. These are the angels.

“...Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”
Hebrews 1:14.

This room is full of angels tonight. We can't see them, but there are a lot of things we can't see. We can't see radio or television vibrations, but they're around,

aren't they? Some people know how to pick them up. Some people know how to keep in touch with the invisible armies. I hope you are in touch with Jesus and His angels. I hope you're listening to those broadcasts that originate in Heaven. The angels are here to help us understand these messages of the Bible and to work in bringing us illumination, magnification, of Heaven's truth in the Bible so that we can resist all the efforts of Satan.

But Satan has his angels too. And just as the great work of the angels of God is to bring truth to us, the great work of Satan is to bring error, falsehood. He's a liar from the beginning, the Bible says, and abode not in the truth. That's how he became the Devil, is turning to lies instead of truth. But I don't think anybody ever invented a lie that didn't have some truth in it. It's strange that people would argue that because there's some truth in something that it must be valuable. Yet those same people would throw out a whole bowl of soup if they found one fly in it. Strange, isn't it? Yes, Satan and his angels are working to introduce error, introduce falsehood in mixtures of truth.

Both of these invisible armies use mighty miracles. The angels of God work miracles; the angels of Satan work miracles. And according to the book of Revelation, the last hour of human history is the time when all the power of the armies of Heaven on the one side, and all the power of the armies of hell on the other side is turned loose on this world.

In Revelation 18:1–4, we see the mighty burst of glory that fills this world as God's angels, working with the church on earth, reveal the character of Jesus. But in Revelation 16:13–14, we read that there are unclean spirits that come out of the mouth of the dragon and the beast and the false prophet. The spirits of devils working miracles that go forth to the kings of the earth and the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God almighty. The 16th verse says that's Armageddon.

So you and I are living in the time when every one of us is either going to listen to the angels of Heaven or the angels of hell. We're either going to be convinced of the truth and marked for Heaven or we're going to be convinced of error and marked for hell. So in the book of Revelation we see the seal of God in Revelation 7, the mark of the beast in Revelation 13, and everybody will receive the sign of God's creative power, or else the mark of the beast, the mark of apostasy, the mark of rebellion. What an hour to be living in, what a wonderful hour.

I'm glad the invisible armies of Heaven have twice as many soldiers as the armies of hell. Twice as many, and of course, they're mightier in power besides that. Not one of us needs to be afraid. We don't need to run scared. We can advance with confidence, knowing that the church on earth united with the church in Heaven is *invincible*. There's no question about it. There's no question about it.

In this book of Revelation, these angels—the angels of Satan on the one hand and the angels of Christ on the other, are busy bringing their message. They testify. They speak. What for? God's angels to bring truth; Satan's angels to bring error.

And it depends on who we're listening to as to what message we're getting. What broadcast are you tuned in on?

I want you to turn to the last page of the Bible. Revelation 22:16, who's speaking in this verse? Jesus. How do you know? Well, He says so:

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches..." Revelation 22:16.

That angel's name is Gabriel; you'll find that in Luke 1:18–19. He was with all the prophets, read that in Revelation 22:8–9. He's a fellow servant of John and of his brethren, the prophets. This is the right-hand angel at the throne of God, the highest created being in the universe—Jesus' special angel. And Christ has sent him to this world what for? To testify these things in the churches. Have you heard his message? Have you received his testimony? Could it be possible that there *is* a church in this world where this angel has come? Could it be possible that his message has been heard and recorded here in this world?

You see, dear friends, that the angels of God and the angels of Satan are alike in another thing; they don't usually appear to people in general, but they appear to chosen agents. The agent that Jesus uses that His angels appear to is called a prophet (Revelation 22:8–9). A prophet is one who sees the angel of God, talks with him, gets his message, and either speaks it to the church or writes it out for the church. Now the agent that Satan uses that sees and talks with these spirits of devils is called a medium. That's the spiritualistic term. A spiritualistic medium is one who gets the communications from the spirits of devils, and then passes them on to other people. What an awful job. What a terrible responsibility.

But listen: Satan doesn't always put that a label on his mediums. Some of Satan's mediums claim to be prophets, just like God's true prophets. So Jesus says:

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing..." Matthew 7:15.

What does He mean sheep's clothing? That means they look innocent, lamb-like, like Jesus, but He says inwardly they are ravening wolves

A wolf inside with a sheep's clothing covered up. This is a medium of the Devil pretending to be a prophet. Paul says they are transformed into the ministers of Christ. Because a man gets on the radio and claims to be preaching the Gospel and even heals millions of people, doesn't prove that God ever had anything to do with him, because Jesus says:

"Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" Matthew 7:22–23.

So you see, we're dealing here with the possibility of deception. We are dealing here with the possibility of being led astray. And I pray that God will help every one of us here to know that we are listening to the message of God and not to the message of Satan, what do you say? Very important.

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches..." Revelation 22:16.

We saw that he comes to the prophet. I want you to turn to Revelation 19:8. Here, John is seeing this beautiful angel. He is so overpowered that he falls down to worship him. But John is reproved by the angel. Gabriel says, "Don't worship me, John; worship God." This message comes from God. "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches..." So John, don't worship me, the angel says, worship God. The testimony of Jesus is what? The spirit of prophecy. Why is it called the testimony of Jesus? Because the angel got it from Jesus. Why is it called the spirit of prophecy? Because the message is given to a prophet, and it's a gift from the Holy Spirit. Unless the Holy Spirit came upon the prophet, the prophet couldn't see the angel and talk with him, neither would the prophet be inspired to write it out. Peter says:

"...the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" 2 Peter 1:21.

So you see that we are dealing here with a combined work of the Godhead. The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit all cooperate in giving this gift of prophecy. And the angels have their part as messengers. It looks like all Heaven is interested in us getting the message. Let's be interested in receiving it.

Notice, it's called the Testimony of Jesus because the message comes from Jesus. It's called the spirit of prophecy because it's a prophet that sees the angel and talks with him, and the Holy Spirit resting upon him enabled him to get the vision and then write it out for the church. The Testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. You're looking at the text. Will you read those last two lines with me?

"...the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"
Revelation 19:10.

What is the testimony of Jesus? The spirit of prophecy. What's the spirit of prophecy then? The testimony of Jesus. That's right.

Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing, friend, if we could find the place where that angel comes? Turn over to Revelation 12:17, and we'll find it.

"And the dragon..."

Who's the dragon? Satan.

“...was wroth...”

What's wroth mean? Angry. Well, I don't blame him; he's got something to be angry about. You see what he's up against.

“...with the woman...”

That means the church.

“...and went to make war...”

Who?

“...the remnant of her seed...”

The last of her children.

“...which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” Revelation 12:17.

Here are the people who have the testimony of Jesus. Here are the people who get the visits of this angel from Heaven with the message from the throne of God. Where are they John? Right down here in the remnant, the last, and they keep the Commandments of God—all ten of them: the first and the second and the third, and the fourth, and all the last table. They keep them all through faith in Jesus; we've been studying about that—God's mark, His true Sabbath. But these remnant who keep the commandments of God, they have something. Praise the Lord. Here in this world, there is a church that has the testimony of Jesus Christ. And what did we read over in the Bible in Revelation 19:10, the testimony of Jesus is what? The spirit of prophecy. What does this remnant church have then? It has the Spirit prophecy. This same angel that spoke to Daniel that came to John on Patmos is to be with the last church in this world, the remnant, the very last, the *end* of the thing.

Thank God, we need this gift now more than ever because the deceptions of Satan are multiplied. All kinds of problems are getting worse all the time. But God's remnant don't need to be afraid. They have light from the skies. They have illumination from the sanctuary. Jesus has sent His angels to testify, and the testimony of Jesus is what? The spirit of prophecy.

Back in 1844, when Christ entered the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary, when He appeared there at the mercy seat to enter into the work of judgment preparatory to His second coming, He sent this mighty angel, His personal representative down to this world. And in a little home in Portland, Maine, he gave a vision to a young woman of 17, Ellen Harmon, in fulfillment of the prophecy that you and I are reading right now. She was shown things that helped the people of that time to understand where they were in history, and what the next steps were in getting ready for the coming of Jesus.

She was told to write the vision, but her hand was weak and trembling. She was an invalid. Due to an accident in her early life, she'd not been able to get much of a formal education. She was nearly dead, scarcely able to speak above a whisper. But Jesus gave her the commission to speak and to write the things that the angel would bring from Heaven. And in obedience to that command, that trembling hand took up the pen, and for 70 years, she wrote the messages that Gabriel brought from Heaven—the testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy.

We have these books now in an inspired library totaling tens of thousands of pages. They're a divinely inspired commentary on the Bible—not to take the place of the Bible, but to help us to better understand the Bible, and its applications to the problems of modern life. These books are a magnifying glass on the Bible. They bring out truth beautifully and clearly. They're like a telescope scanning the heavens. The telescope doesn't make stars but enables us to see the stars that are there. So through this wonderful gift, praise God, we had the magnifying glass of Heaven on the wonderful truths of the Bible that we may make no mistake and not be taken in by the delusions of this time.

In 1 Thessalonians 5, the apostle Paul says:

“Quench not the spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good”
1 Thessalonians 5:19–21.

Notice, we're not to quench the spirit. How might we do it? The next verse shows that we might do it by despising prophesyings. So he says, don't quench the spirit, don't despise prophesyings, but don't swallow everything that claims to be this gift, but what shall we do? Prove all things. Hold fast that which is good.

How do we prove this gift? We prove it by examining it, examining the writings of the prophet, watching the fruit of her ministry in the church. You and I are living in a time when, for over a hundred years, there has been an opportunity to examine the fruits of this gift in the writings and the influence of the gift in the remnant church.

Let's take a few minutes tonight and examine some of the evidences that this gift is indeed what it claims to be, the spirit of prophecy, the testimony of Jesus, the messages that Christ has sent from Heaven.

In Daniel 10:17, we have a very interesting statement about the condition of the prophet in vision under some circumstances. Here Daniel was talking with this same angel that came to Ellen Harmon, after her marriage, Ellen White. I want you to notice the condition of the Bible prophet in vision. Daniel is speaking:

“For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me”
Daniel 10:17.

How could a man talk without breath? That’s what Daniel said, “How can I?” Obviously, it’s a miracle to talk without breath. And here is a prophet in vision talking without breath. How does he do it? It’s a miracle. In many of the visions of Sister White, this miraculous experience was manifested. In visions lasting a few minutes, 10 minutes, 30 minutes, and some for over two hours, she was without breath in her body. Sometimes physicians were present when she had a vision; it might be in a home; it might be in a prayer meeting; it might be in an audience of hundreds, perhaps thousands of people. God selected the time; man had no control over it. When physicians were present, they sometimes examined her, and we have signed statements testifying to the results of these examinations. They all pronounced her without breath in her body. They made various tests, and yet during the vision she might speak, she did from time to time, describing the things she was seeing. Many of the things she later wrote out in these visions, in these books we have.

I want to tell you one very interesting vision early in her experience. This vision was given in the state of Maine. During the vision, she went over to the side of the room where there was a family Bible weighing 18 lbs. She took this Bible, put it on her left hand, and extended it. Then she passed from person to person in the room and turned the leaves of the Bible with her right hand. And while not looking at the Bible as she turned the leaves, she pointed to various texts with her right hand on this Bible she was holding in her left hand and gave different texts to different people in the room, guided by the Spirit of God. She continued this for 30 minutes without breath in her body, holding that 18 lb. Bible in her left hand. And she was just a frail girl of only 70 pounds.

I’ve held this Bible in my hand. I’ve watched as other people, some of them strong, athletic men have held it. The most I ever saw anybody hold it in the position she held it, was two minutes. She held it for 30 minutes without breath in her body. You can readily understand that those that had the opportunity to witness these experiences were convinced that here was something beyond the human. Here was a marvelous work and a wonder. Here was a prophet in modern times, having experiences like the prophets of old times had.

Let’s notice some of the blessings that came through this gift. In a little farmhouse in Connecticut, Sister White was given a vision in the late 1840s. She was told that our people were to begin to print a little paper. At that time, there were less than one hundred Sabbath-keeping Adventists in all the world. Begin to print a little paper, the message said. It will be small at first. But from this small beginning, it was shown to her to be like streams of light that went clear around the world.

So Elder James White began to write and print a little paper. In July 1849, this first little periodical called *The Present Truth* came out. When the sheets came from the printer, they carried them home, knelt down and prayed, wrapped them up

and addressed them to all they thought might read them, and carried them to the post office. Thus the publishing work of Seventh-day Adventists began. Jesus had said to His prophet the work would be small at first, but from this small beginning, it would be like streams of light that would go clear around the world.

This is what has happened. Today in every continent of the globe, Seventh-day Adventist presses are turning out the message of the true Sabbath and the soon coming of Jesus, the work of Jesus in the Heavenly Sanctuary, and how to get ready to meet Him. It is a wonderful message. The prophecy has been fulfilled. This gift fills up the church. I thank God for it.

In 1863, the Lord came near in Michigan and gave His prophet a vision on health reform. She said it was at the house of Brother Hilliard at Otsego, Michigan, June 6, 1863. There, at the beginning of the Sabbath on a summer evening, the prophet of God engaged in prayer at family worship and was given a wonderful vision on the great subject of health reform. James White was sick, and they were praying for him that night. But God answered it in an unusual way. Instead of healing James White, God gave instruction not only for him but for everybody, how to get well and keep well. As the result of that vision, the health habits of millions of people have been changed.

Take the matter of diet. That vision led our people to emphasize the importance of natural foods, fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and the importance of whole wheat bread. These things have made Seventh-day Adventists health-minded people for over a hundred years. As a result of following that vision, Seventh-day Adventists live six years longer than the population at large, according to the statistics covering tens of thousands of cases.

This has interested the United States government so much that a new investigation is now being launched at the school of health at Loma Linda to study the lifestyle and life habits of over a hundred thousand Seventh-day Adventists in California. The government is interested in why Seventh-day Adventists live longer than other people.

One reason is that they don't smoke or chew tobacco. Another reason is that they don't use alcohol. Another reason is the matter of diet. There are other reasons. But it all comes from that vision of 1863 with related visions following, giving our people this wonderful message of health and healing. You can get it in these books, *Ministry of Healing*, *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, *Counsels on Health*, and many other precious pages.

A little later, the vision was given calling our people to establish a health institution. Why do Seventh-day Adventists have sanitariums? Because God told us to. In a vision of December 25, 1865, in Rochester, Sister White was visited by the angel and told that there are people who should establish a health home where people could learn how to get well and learn how to keep well. The very next year, in Battle Creek, Michigan, the first sanitarium was established and carried on by

Seventh-day Adventists. It was a converted farmhouse, with a few additional rooms, and thus the sanitarium idea was born. And it has spread all over the world.

We are happy to have one here. You who have come here to be patients are interested to know tonight how it happened. It came by revelation from the sky. And the doctors who serve in this sanitarium are guided by the visions that came from Heaven. They have scientific training. They respect what science can teach. But thank God, they have revelations from Heaven in these wonderful books. I thank the Lord for this gift and what it has done. From that humble little home in Battle Creek where the prophet wrote *Great Controversy*, to her last home in Elmshaven, the prophet was writing. Ellen G. White, God's special messenger to the remnant, was writing what the angel brought from Heaven—the testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy.

Now, I want to tell you what I think is a most interesting prophecy. We turn to the starry heavens. This was a vision that was given to the prophet of God early in her ministry, dealing with a particular part of the heavens, the constellation of Orion. It is clear that in the eastern sky, you will observe this constellation. There are four brilliant stars at the corners, and three stars across the middle called the belt of Orion. Three fainter stars hanging from the belt called the sword of Orion. The middle of those three stars is seen to be a nebula. But notice what the prophet said about it in a book, *Early Writings*, that was first published in 1851. Then I want to bring what astronomers said 60 years later.

“Dark, heavy clouds came up and clashed against each other. The atmosphere parted and rolled back; then we could look up through the open space in Orion, whence came the voice of God. The Holy City will come down through that open space” *Early Writings*, page 41.

I have an original article published by Doctor Edgar Larken, the director of Low Observatory in California. This is what he said in 1910:

“Recent photographic transparencies made on glass plates at the Mount Wilson Observatory revealed the optical property of perspective. What has all along appeared to be a flat service of nebulae matter, beautiful shimmer and sheen in the great nebula in the sword of Orion, is shown in the central regions of these negatives to be the mouth of a cavern, a deep opening receding a mighty distance beyond.”

The astronomer who wrote this was not a Seventh-day Adventist. As far as I know, he had never heard of Ellen G. White. He was simply writing down what he had discovered in his scientific investigation. Then he proceeds to tell us about the distances:

“The opening of the cavern is sixteen trillion miles, the width of the opening leading into the cavern. The distance through is at least three times as much.”

Nine years later, the *National Geographic* magazine came out with most beautiful pictures of the heavens. One of them is the great nebula of Orion. It says:

“The nebula is no longer a flat surface. One looks into a chasm before which all powers of imagination are submerged, and feasts the eye with supernal splendors. It is like looking in at a door, and to the rear of a cave, deep within glittering nebulousity. The chasm is the most beautiful object visible to human sight.”

I want to see it, don't you? The Holy City is coming down through that open space. The astronomer didn't tell me that. The prophet told me that. And 60 years after the prophet said that the Holy City was coming down through Orion, the astronomer discovered that there was an open space in the nebula of Orion. And when you think of all the distances in the spreading sky, how is it that a young woman in New England knew, 60 years before astronomers knew, that there was an opening there? Ah, friends. This is one more of those wonderful evidences of which there are dozens and scores.

I am so thankful for the wonderful volumes that have come from this inspired pen. The book, *Great Controversy*, deals with the great controversy through the ages between Christ and His angels and Satan and his angels. We have been studying from week to week from the book of Revelation, that is here in this book illuminated and magnified. This wonderful book sheds light on the road ahead. It was written a hundred years ago. And you will be amazed at how many things written down here are being fulfilled before our very eyes. And this tells us the future of things in America and the whole world.

There is the book, *The Desire of Ages*. It's a wonderful volume on the life of Christ. He is our great example, our atoning Sacrifice. The testimony of Jesus uplifts the gift of love He made to the world. This is one of the greatest evidences that this gift is indeed the gift of the Spirit of God because it exalts Christ. It came from Him. It leads to Him.

Then there is a little volume, *Steps to Christ*. Millions of copies of this book have been circulated. It has been translated into language after language. The last printing order was two million copies.

I have introduced these books for a particular reason. I want everyone to be alerted to the fact that our brethren in the General Conference and publishing department have gotten out these books to make available to us to be circulated far and wide. I hope every one of you will secure for yourself dozens of these books and give them and loan them to your neighbors. We have a wonderful gift, but we

are in debt to the One who trusted us. He wants us to share these books with everyone.

What light on the road ahead. Praise God for His wonderful love.

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