

Five Battles

#0641

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—1958

Our text is found in the 17th chapter of Revelation and the 14th verse. There are two expressions in that verse that I want you to notice. Kindly note those two expressions. We shall notice them in other verses.

Will the congregation read with me, please, Revelation 17:14:

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

There’s a war on, then. The Lamb is on one side, and some who are spoken of as “these” are at war with Him. They are spoken of in the 12th and 13th verses as the ten horns which are ten kings. We won’t try to go into that symbolism this morning. It represents, as students of prophecy will recognize, the kingdoms of this world, uniting as the 13th verse says, under the leadership of the beast to make war against the Lamb.

Now, we all know who the Lamb is, don’t we? Who is that? Jesus.

John 1:29:

“...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” John 1:29.

Over a score of times in the book of Revelation, He’s spoken of as the Lamb. It seems strange to make war with a lamb, doesn’t it? Can you imagine anything more strange than making war with a lamb? But that is part of the insanity of this world under the Devil’s delusion. They’re going to make war with the Lamb.

But strange as it might seem, the Lamb is going to win. And of course, the reason for that is that there’s something mightier than force, and that’s love. There’s something greater than weapons. That’s principle. There’s something more powerful than the atom bomb or the hydrogen bomb. And that’s the Spirit of God.

“...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.

The *American Standard Version* on this verse says:

“...The Lamb shall overcome...and they also shall overcome that are with Him, called and chosen and faithful” Revelation 17:14 (*American Standard Version*).

Now, as I shall show, those that are with Him in this last battle comprise people in heaven and people on earth. Concerning the heavenly regiments that fight with the Lamb, for the Lamb, on the side of the Lamb in this last battle, concerning those heavenly battalions, read Revelation the 19th chapter beginning with the 11th verse. And to show that this is the same battle, you’ll note the 19th verse. We’ll notice that first:

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

What are the kingdoms of this world going to do?

“...Make war...” Revelation 19:19.

There’s that expression again, you see:

“...Make war against Him that sat on the horse...”
Revelation 19:19.

Well, let’s see Who that is, the 11th verse:

“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.

There’s the “make war” again. This is a righteous war on the part of God. But it is a most iniquitous and wicked war on the part of those who assault Him and His kingdom. It is a war of rebellion, with no reason whatsoever.

Sin *has* no reason. That’s why it cannot be explained. All efforts to explain sin simply muddy the waters and confuse the issue. There is no reason, there’s no explanation, therefore, sin is insanity, and those who commit sin prove themselves to be insane. Our only hope, dear friends, of quitting sinning is to be restored to our right minds. That’s what God offers to do for all who are willing.

But imagine a whole world so insane as to fight against God. Imagine, if you can, how insane those must be who attempt it. Think of the futility of it; impossible to fight against the Creator and win. And think, as I have said, of the iniquity of it, the unrighteousness of it, to rebel against the Life-Giver.

But the world under Satan reaches the place where, as we see here in the 19th verse, the whole world is united in an endeavor to fight against God. But the heavens open, the white horse appears (the 11th verse), and Faithful and True, Jesus rides forth a mighty conqueror.

The 12th verse:

“His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God”
Revelation 19:12–13.

Now, watch who’s with Him:

“And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations...” Revelation 19:14–15.

Who’s coming with Him to this battle? The heavenly armies, the armies which were in heaven. Will there be very many? Oh, yes, all the angels. How many are they?

Revelation 5:11 says:

“...Ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands” Revelation 5:11.

Yes, there’ll be a large army, friends, a tremendous army, greater than any army that ever fought in this world, millions upon millions of bright, shining angels. You know, one of them is powerful enough to kill 185,000 men in one night. You remember that. Sennacherib found that out when he tried to assault Jerusalem.

You multiply that now by ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands, and you get some idea of the strength of that army which is coming with Jesus. He’s coming to fight.

You know, many people think of the coming of Jesus like this. Have you ever thought of it like this? Many people in the world do, in the popular churches, that everything’s going to go along much as it is now. And that someday out of a clear sky, Jesus will come, take His people. No, no, no. Jesus is coming for His people, friends, but He’s coming to fight a battle. He’s coming to fight a battle. That’s what this says:

“...In righteousness He doth judge and make war”
Revelation 19:11.

He’s coming to fight a battle. And we have been told by the One who knows that we need to know the plan of battle. And I trust that that battle will be very clear in our minds this morning.

But so far, we have this clear, that Jesus is fighting a war. And the reason He’s fighting a war is that the world is fighting a war against Him. They combine,

they consolidate, they confederate under the leadership of the beast, according to the 19th verse, the beast. And we know what that is—the Roman power that has thought to change times and laws, that sits in the place or temple of God, thinking itself to be God on earth. That power is yet to control the forces of this world.

May I suggest to you friends that we're in a most interesting moment in human history? And the Devil, as a master magician, is playing a sleight-of-hand act at the present time. Do you know what it is? Do you know what these sleight-of-hand people do? Did you ever see people do a little sleight-of-hand trick?

The whole secret of it is this, to get you to look at something they're doing over here (which has nothing in the world to do with what they're really after), to get you to look at that, and while you're looking with both eyes at that, they do something that you *don't* notice

And pretty soon, you see the result of that, and you say, "Well, how did that happen? How did he do that?"

Well, he did it all right. And if he's willing to show you, he can do it all over again and tell you where to look, and you can see it plain as day. But you didn't see it. Why? You were looking at something else.

And the Devil has the eyes of all the western world trained today on Moscow, Moscow. Why? Because he's getting something ready in Rome and from Rome, which is yet to deceive and confederate the whole world under Satan's rule. And he's a master magician.

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

They say, "Oh, my. Just think of that awful communism. If it should get over here, wouldn't we be in a terrible fix?"

We would. There's no question about it.

But while Satan gets us being afraid of that, the western world, the European world, the American world, the Protestant world is going to walk right into the arms of the papacy, who will say, "Cheer up. Bless your hearts; we'll help you and keep you from that bad bear over there."

And just the question of whether it would be better to be eaten by a bear or mangled and torn by a beast with ten horns and great iron teeth and brass claws, I don't know, friends. You take your choice. So, watch out for that sleight-of-hand trick.

The great warning of the book of Revelation is against the beast and his image and his mark, is that right? And that's the thing that the people of God need to be on their guard against. *That* is the army which we must meet on the field of

battle in this closing war, the beast and his image and his mark. God help us to know the plan of battle and be ready.

Very well, the armies that are in heaven are going to come with Jesus Christ and fight *with* Him and *for* Him *against* the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies. That's what the 19th verse says.

Now, I want to run clear ahead of my sequence this morning and show you the end of that battle. Because we shall understand some things that precede it better, if we get a clearer view of the battle and its postlude.

Let me take you right now to the close of the battle, how it's going to terminate.

The 17th verse:

“And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great” Revelation 19:17–18.

What a battle, my friends. What a defeat for the hosts of night; what a victory for the legions of light. When that battle is over, what do we see? Why, we see all over this world (in China, in Africa, in Australia, in Europe, in South America, in the islands of the sea, in the United States, all over this world) carcasses, carcasses, carcasses.

And we see the buzzards and the vultures, and all these birds of prey just feasting themselves and gorging themselves. That's the end of the battle for those who fight against God, who make war with the Lamb. It doesn't pay, does it? It doesn't pay, it doesn't pay.

Now, that battle opens—I've shown you the close of the battle, but I want to show you now the beginning of this particular phase of the battle. Perhaps I ought to tell you at this time that really this last great war is made up of five battles, five battles, series of battles. I've just shown you the end of the last one. I want to work back and show you the different ones that come in sequence, in logical and chronological sequence.

This particular battle that culminates in the coming of Jesus and the slaying of the wicked, this particular battle is brought to view in Revelation the 16th chapter beginning with the 17th verse:

“And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air...”
Revelation 16:17.

The Spirit of Prophecy says that we need to study the seventh vial.

“...and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts...”
Revelation 16:17–19.

That’s Babylon that fights against God.

“And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great” Revelation 16:19–21.

What a battle, my friends. Noticing that last point first, did you notice the artillery barrage in this battle?

“And there fell upon men a great...” Revelation 16:21.

What?

“...hail out of heaven...” Revelation 16:21.

Imagine the momentum that those hailstones have as they come hurled through the earth’s atmosphere with the force of angel hands.

“...every stone about the weight of a talent...” Revelation 16:21.

Do you know how much that is? Yes, a little over 50 pounds, a little over 50 pounds. Did you ever lift a 50-pound block of ice? You know about what they look like, don’t you, a 50-pound block of ice? How long do you suppose this building would last if 50-pound blocks of ice were hurled at it from a great height? Not very long.

Were you ever out in a hail storm with little hailstones about this big-hitting at you? What did you want? You wanted shelter. Ah friends, the plagues of God are soon to fall upon the shelterless world, shelterless world. A race that in mad and desperate abandon has lifted its puny hand against its Creator is to meet God over His broken law.

For that’s the question, “Who shall rule this planet?”

Shall God's law be the standard, or will man and the Devil have it their way?

You notice that this battle opens in the 17th verse with a great voice. That's the voice of God sounding down from the temple saying:

"...It is done" Revelation 16:17.

Do you know why God says that? I'll answer that in a moment, the reason for that.

But that great voice coming from the throne saying, "It is done," shakes the heavens and the earth.

And the 18th verse says:

"...There was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake and so great"
Revelation 16:18.

In the great Japanese earthquake in 1923, a hundred thousand lives were snuffed out in one minute, that great quake. But here is an earthquake that shakes not only Tokyo, friends, but all over this world.

It says:

"Every island fled away, and the mountains were not found" Revelation 16:20.

You and I have looked out many a time at that great Lookout Mountain stretching down here on the east of this valley. What will it be to see that mountain change, just sink right down in the earth? Weapons that men have absolutely no idea of, God has in reserve waiting for the day of battle.

So, with hail and earthquake and every element of destruction let loose, the armies of heaven are on the march. And then, while those forces of nature are doing their deadly work, in the east appears the cloud. And as we have already seen, the Son of man rides forth to conquer.

And as He meets the armies of this world, notice the cry that arises from those mustered millions, the 6th chapter of Revelation and the 14th verse:

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

of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”
Revelation 6:14–17.

Oh friends, the cry of the terror-stricken millions falls on the ears of John. In holy vision, he sees that marvelous and awful scene. The millions of earth that have been fighting against God, see their Savior, their Creator, the One who died for them, the one they rejected, coming in the sky. Do they want to meet Him? No, no.

But as they see that sight, they see there's no hope, friends. Fight against that glorified One and all those millions of angels? They run, they cry for the rocks and mountains to fall on them and hide them from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne [a paraphrase of Revelation 6:16].

Now, the question might come up, friends, “Why these expressions, ‘the wrath of the Lamb,’ ‘the great day of His wrath is come’ [see Revelation 6:16–17]?”

Why is God angry? What is this wrath of God? What's it for? Why is God riding forth with an army? Ah, I'll tell you why. This is the secret of it. That's why that great voice says, “It's done.”

The kingdoms of this world, led by that beast power, have decided to kill every one of God's children in this world, kill them all off, all in one night. If they were your children, how would you feel about it? How do you think God feels about it?

Revelation the 13th chapter and the 15th verse, speaking of this apostate power, it says:

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

What?

“...killed” Revelation 13:15.

Do you remember about 2,500 years ago, there was a great king of ancient Babylon that decided that everybody was going to worship an image that he set up? Do you remember about that?

And do you remember that he arranged that everybody, when they heard the sound of the music, must prostrate themselves before that golden image? And they all did it, except how many? Three. What were their names? Shadrach, and Meshach, and Abednego. You all remember that, don't you?

Well, that's a good thing to remember, friends, because that's put in the Bible for a purpose. We've got to meet a similar issue. They met a golden image. We're going to meet a religiopolitical image, in other words, a union of church and state requiring us to worship contrary to conscience and to the law of God, exalting the Sunday law instead of the Sabbath of God's creation.

“...And cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed” Revelation 13:15.

What did Nebuchadnezzar say was going to happen? Read it in the third chapter of Daniel. What did he say would happen to the people who would not worship that golden image?

Did he say, “Well, that’s too bad, but we will reason with you and give you a lot of time to think and study it through”?

Did he say that? No. What did he say?

“Into the furnace, you go. You’ll burn. You’re going to die. We’ll kill you.”

Did that sort of persuasion and argument affect most of the people? Yes. They cooperated very nicely. That’s one way of getting cooperation, you know.

But were there three that said, “No, that isn’t enough inducement to us. We’d rather die than worship that image”?

Did they believe God could deliver them? Yes. But were they willing even to die if necessary? Yes.

And so, into the furnace they went. Did God let them die? No. Is God going to let His children die today? No, He isn’t. He’s going to deliver us as he delivered those three Hebrews in the fiery furnace. And that’s why it’s put there in the Bible—to encourage us as we go into the fiery furnace today.

But I repeat, friends, how do you think God feels when the people of this world have become so intense in their hatred, and gone so far in their rebellion, and are so hopeless in their insanity that they are ready and willing and anxious, and desperately mad about it, ready and willing and anxious to kill every one of God’s children just because they obey Him and won’t bow to that pressure?

Do you believe it’s a righteous war for God to come and deliver His people? Do you? Well, I do, friends. I believe God has a right to do that. He made this world after all, and everybody in it. And this is a righteous war. And that’s the purpose of this battle to deliver the people who are keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

You’ll find them in the 14th chapter of Revelation and the 12th verse:

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that...”
Revelation 14:12.

Do what?

“...keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” Revelation 14:12.

That's right. That's the one. And that they are the ones who are going to meet the brunt of this battle you read about in Revelation 12:17. You see, this whole book of Revelation is written to help us understand about this coming battle and how to get ready for it, and you'll see that. If you notice, I'm going all through the book to get these points.

Revelation 12:17, notice an expression like we have on the board in this verse. Will you read this one with me? Many of you know it by heart:

"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.

Now, in Revelation 19, we saw the heavenly armies that are fighting with the Lamb. But here is the earthly army. Here's the woman and her seed. What's the woman? The church. What's her seed? The children. Are you a child of the church? Well then, you're in this army, you're in this army.

And I'll tell you, dear friends, it's just a remnant. And the men, women and children are all going to be in the battle, every one. It's a total war, total war. It isn't any matter of ages twenty-one to forty-five; old people, little ones, everybody, all in the battle.

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed..." Revelation 12:17.

All that's left, every one, right down to the last.

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

If you're going to keep God's commandments, brother, you've got a war on your hands. That's what this says, doesn't it? You've got a war.

Let me ask you something, friends. If a man really understands this, would it be too much surprise if the Devil would take a little shot at him once in a while now? Just tell me, would he? What a strange thing for us to be surprised if the Devil takes a little shot at us now. He'd do more than that if God would let him.

But God allows him to do just enough to try to keep us in training. He doesn't want to let us get so soft and so flabby that when the real war starts that we won't know what to do. He wants us to develop a little muscle and a little skill so that we'll know how to stand in this battle. What do you say, friend? Are you with Him? Are you with Jesus Christ? He's going to win, and they also shall overcome that are with Him.

"...Called, and chosen, and faithful" Revelation 17:14.

Look at them in Revelation 14:1:

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb...” Revelation 14:1.

Here’s the Lamb again.

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and...” Revelation 14:1.

What are the next two words?

“... with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father’s name written in their foreheads” Revelation 14:1.

Oh, friends, there is the last legion of Christ in this wicked world. And they stand *with Him*. Here are all the forces of the world on one side; here’s that little group standing with the Lamb on the other. And which one wins? The Lamb wins.

Ah, notice the shout of victory in the 15th chapter of Revelation and the 2nd verse:

“And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb...” Revelation 15:2–3.

Thank God, friends, it’s the song of victory. You remember back there hundreds and thousands of years ago that the children of Israel were being delivered from Egypt by Moses, by God of course through Moses. They got out there to the Red Sea, and they looked back, and there was the army of pharaoh on the march coming with chariots and horsemen and spears and swords and all the weapons of warfare to take them captive and make them slaves again. And they wondered what in the world they could do. There they were, men, women, and little children. What could they do, the Red Sea ahead, the mountains on either side, the army of pharaoh behind?

And what did God say?

Oh, He said to Moses, “Tell the children of Israel to go forward” [a paraphrase of Exodus 14:15].

They went right out into that sea, and it opened up and parted, and they went through on dry land. And looked back, and what was that army of pharaoh doing? Trying to do the same thing (poor, insane souls that they were), walking right out there.

And when they got out there, the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your rod over the sea” [a paraphrase of Revelation 14:16].

What happened? Oh, those angry waters closed over them, friends. And when that battle was over, there hadn't been an arrow fired. There hadn't been a sword lifted. There hadn't been a spear thrown. And yet, every one of the enemies of Israel was dead, and not a single Israelite was even wounded.

So, Moses and Miriam and the people of Israel sang that great song of victory on the banks of the Red Sea, the song of Moses. That's the song we're going to sing. It's going to be like that today. The people of God will not fire a single gun. They'll not explode any atom bomb. They'll not use any swords or spears.

The people of God, my dear friends, are not going to fight with carnal weapons. Ah, no. They're going to do what Israel did at the Red Sea. They're going to cry to God, and in obedience to Him they're going to go right through, and God will take care of the enemy as He did back there.

And that song of Moses will resound through the universe as the people of God lift their voices in praise to the One who has liberated them from the armies of Egypt and Babylon, as there they lie, friends.

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

Oh friends, which army are we going to fight in? Which army are we going to fight in? Be real sure of this, friends. We'll be in one or the other. Won't we? There won't be any neutral.

Now, I just introduced the subject this morning. I'll have to finish it another time. But may I quickly, very quickly bring you to something which is far more important than this part of the battle I've studied this morning. I must bring you this part in order for you to appreciate what I bring you next.

But what I'm going to say now, friends, in the next few minutes is the most important part of all. Why? Here's this war that I've studied about this morning right there, but there's a battle that precedes it right there. That's Jacob's trouble. Do you know about Jacob's trouble? You want to study it.

There is something that comes in here, which is another battle. That's the battle of the loud cry. That comes before Jacob's trouble. Do you understand that? That's a battle, too. That's a real battle. Read about it here in the chapter, "The Impending Conflict and the Final Warning," in *Great Controversy*.

Did you know, there are another one, friends, before this? Did you know there's another one right here? One, two, three, four, five, five battles in one great war, the final war of human history.

May I just briefly tell you this morning what the purpose of these different battles is? I can only introduce it this morning with what we've studied. Any of you that can, you want to be sure to be getting that Wednesday afternoon class in coming events. Then, you'll understand this a lot better.

But the purpose of this first battle is to get rid of all the sin in your heart. That first battle is fought in your heart. That's the battlefield. Do you know anything about that battle? That's the one that's going on now.

Then, the next battle, friends, is to purge and cleanse the church, just the same as this first battle is to purge and cleanse your heart. The battle must go on in your heart until the Devil is cast out, just like he was cast out of heaven 6,000 years ago. And then, that purging must go on in the church until the Devil and sin are entirely out of the church.

And then, friends, God can bring in every honest soul from Babylon, probation can close, we can go into the time of the loud cry and Jacob's trouble, and these final events that I've studied with you this morning can all take place. This all can happen oh, so quickly.

But do you see, my dear friends, God can never do the glorious work of the loud cry while we have a church that's lukewarm, made up of part hypocrites and part people that are trying at least to be saints. No. The latter rain is coming upon those who have obtained the victory over what? Every deception.

"Well," we say, "I wish God would hurry up and purge the church then and cleanse it."

Do you? If God was cleaning out the church, where would *you* be this morning? I'm so glad, friends, that God hasn't taken the fan in His hands yet. I'm so thankful for that. I'm just afraid there's too much chaff in my poor life. I need a little time to grow some wheat that's solid and won't be blown out by the winds of persecution and heresy. Don't you?

Do you see what's holding up this whole thing? It isn't Russia. It isn't the papacy. And it isn't the backsliders and apostates, friends, in the church. There's just one thing that's holding up this whole thing, and that is for God to get some people that have won this first battle.

May I read you a statement here in *Volume 5*, page 82?

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

Oh, yes. The battle with what? *The* battle with what? Self. Ah, friends, you can run away from a bear. You can hide from a dragon. What do you do about that battle with self? There's no place to hide. There's no place to run. You'd just as well turn and *fight*.

As I studied with you last time I was with you on Sabbath morning, the strength to resist temptation comes from Jesus Christ, but it must be used by whom? It must be used by yourself. That's right.

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you" James 4:7.

Now, if you want something wonderful on this first battle and into the second, you'll find it in *Early Writings*, pages 269–270, and I commend that to you, my friends, the chapter on the shaking.

Would it be a good thing, friend, for you and me to address ourselves with all our hearts to that first battle? There are some people whose eyes are just on this thing down here [the final conflict], and they're just sitting down waiting.

They say, "Well, someday we're going to have quite a battle on with the world. Someday there's going to be a Sunday law and persecution, someday."

And they think all they have to do is just go along and pay tithe and come to Sabbath school and ride along.

"When the bus gets to that point, why then we'll know what to do."

Brother, sister, never was there a greater delusion than that. The only people who are going to have any part in the loud cry whatsoever will be those who have obtained the victory over every sin, *Early Writings*, page 71. Those are the only ones.

And I want a part in it, don't you? And God is delaying all these other battles till this one gets done. There are people, friends, who would like to start out and just clean up the church and everybody in it right now. They work at it, too. But they don't get it done. Do you know why? Because everything has to come in order. We'd better get the first battle done.

And this says:

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

If we get that battle done, God will order the battles 2, 3, 4, 5, just like that, just as soon as we work with Him to get the first battle settled.

I'd like to ask you this morning, friends, would you like to enlist? Would you like to enlist? You know, in peacetime, soldiers can enlist for two years, or three years, or four years. But in wartime, if you enlist, you know what you enlist for? For the duration, for the duration, for the duration of the war.

And my dear friends, as God's recruiting officer, I invite you this morning to enlist for the duration of the war through these five battles. The first one is on now.

It's wartime. If you enlist, enlist for the duration, and go to work, friends, not on Moscow, not so much on Rome. The first battle that needs to be fought, friend, is in Wildwood right now, where you and I are. That's where the first battle needs to be fought.

If you live somewhere else, then *that's* where it needs to be fought. It needs to be fought where *you* are, the battle with self.

And when, with Jesus' help, you've won that victory completely, then there's no question about all the others. It'll be victory all along the line. The only people who will fail anywhere else will be those who have failed here. And the only people who will win anywhere else are those that win here. Win here, and it's win all the way through. Lose here; you lose all the way through. It's that simple. It's that clear. It's that certain, friends.

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

Anybody here this morning would like to enlist? Do you see, friends, that we're in a real battle, a real war? This isn't any peacetime. The world hasn't had any peace for 6,000 years. But the conflict is to wax fiercer and fiercer and come with a greater intensity with each passing day.

Would you like to enlist with Jesus? Would you like to be one of those that are with Him, "called and chosen and faithful" [a paraphrase of Revelation 17:14]?

You who will, oh, think of it, friends, you who will, won't you stand this morning? If anybody can't stand, hold up your hand. That's right, sister. We want everybody in this. Thank the Lord.

Now, friends, I wish we could sing a grand song of battle, 359 [old *Church Hymnal*, 1941]:

"We are living, we are dwelling,
In a grand and awful time,
In an age on ages telling—
To be living is sublime.
Hark! the waking up of nations,
Gog and Magog to the fray;
Hark! what soundeth? Is creation
Groaning for her latter day?
Seventh-Day Adventist Hymnal, #617, first stanza.

Notice every one of these thrilling stanzas, friends. We'll get more out of it now with this study we've had. And let your mind go out and catch the imagery of each stanza.

"We are living, we are dwelling,
In a grand and awful time,

In an age on ages telling—
To be living is sublime.
Hark! the waking up of nations,
Gog and Magog to the fray;
Hark! what soundeth? Is creation
Groaning for her latter day?

Christian, rouse and arm for conflict,
Nerve thee for the battle-field;
Bear the helmet of salvation,
And the mighty Gospel shield;
Let the breast-plate, peace, be on thee,
Take the Spirit's sword in hand;
Boldly, fearlessly, go forth then,
In Jehovah's strength to stand.

And the prince of evil spirits,
Great deceiver of the world!
He who at the blessed Jesus
Once his deadly weapons hurled,
Cometh with unwonted power,
Knowing that his reign will cease,
When the kingdom shall be given
To the mighty prince of Peace.

Christian rouse! fight in this warfare,
Cease not till the victory's won;
Till your Captain loud proclaimeth,
"Servant of the Lord, well done!"
He, alone, who thus is faithful,
Who abideth to the end,
Hath the promise, in the kingdom
An eternity to spend."
Seventh-Day Adventist Hymnal, #617.

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