

DRAWN
THE TWO EDGED SWORD

INTRODUCTION:

I found it most interesting that the word sword -- a sword or the sword appears over 350 times in the Bible. It may have application for a particular use - a man, an angel, or by men. Sometimes it is pictured as a drawn sword - an instrument of warfare.

In the book of Genesis 3:24 we find the first account of the use of the word sword. "At the East end of the Garden of Eden there was the word sword barring the gates."

And it is mentioned all the way to Revelation 21:10, of the 12 open gates of the holy Jerusalem. On the East 3 gates, on the North 3 gates, and South 3 gates, and the West 3 gates - V. 13. And the last use of the word sword was in Rev. 19:21.

Moses said put every man, his sword by his side. Ex. 32:27.

I Sam. 15:33 - Samuel uses his sword to make the victory complete over the Amalekites. "And Samuel said as thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women." ^{H Hewed} Agag in pieces before the Lord Gilgal.

Joshua 5:13-15 - "At the time when God rolled away the reproach of Egypt from his people - he saw a sword. And he came to pass when Joshua was by Jericho he looked and lifted up his eyes and behold there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand. And Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, art thou for us or for our adversaries. And he said, neigh

but a captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face on the earth and did worship and he said unto him, what saith my Lord unto his servant. And the captain of the host said unto Joshua loose thy shoe from off thy foot for the place whereon thou standeth is holy ground. And Joshua did so.

Neh. 4. - When he was rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and re-strengthening those mighty walls used in the fortress he sent the people after their families with their swords. And every builder had his sword guilted by his side.

We find the same thing true in David's prayer - gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most mighty. Psalm 45:3. You know that this is the same Scripture that Charles Wesley used in his song- come thou incarnate word, gird on thy mighty sword, our prayer attend.

Now there was a time when Israel in it's history, when they needed swords and had no swords for defense. I Sam. 13:19-22. The enemy was the Philistines - now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel for the Philistines said lest the Hebrews make them swords or spheres. So it came to pass in the day of battle that there was neither sword nor sphere found in the hands of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan. But with Saul and with Jonathan, his son, was their family.

Now the evil tongue is described as a sword in the Scriptures. Psalm 57:4. David said my soul is among lions and I lie even among them that are set on fire even the sons of men whose teeth are spheres and arrows and their tongue a sharp sword.

David prayed another prayer in Psalm 64:2-3. About those that were wicked who wet their tongues like a sword and bend their bows to shoot their arrows even bitter words.

Solomon asserted that death and life are in the power of the tongue - Prov. 18:21. What terrible swords are the tongues of men and women. They cut to pieces good names, they cut into pieces heart strings, the angels of peace, they take away the joy in human minds, and poison them and they slay with deceit.

We read in 2 Sam. 29:10 that Joab said to Amasa - art thou in health my brother. And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him. But Amasa took no heed to the sword which was in Joab's hand. And so he slew him in the 5th rib. And struck him not again and he died.

No wonder that James wrote that the tongue could set on fire even Hell.

It is interesting and amazing what the tongue can do. It is also amazing when we recognize that the most valuable sword in the world is the one that belongs to Gaikwar - the ruler of Baroda. That sword is valued at (one million, one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars). The hilt and scabbard of it are of gold and are encrusted in most precious stones. It has passed from father to son for 700 years.

It is said that our United States of America does not possess a sword worth more than \$3,000.

But what about the sword of Gen. Robert Edward Lee. The only man in history ever offered the command of both sides in a major war. When he surrendered his sword to General Grant at Appomatax - Benjamin Hill said he was

a foe without hate, a friend without treachery, a friend without cruelty,
a victim without mourning, a public officer without vices, a Christian without
hypocrisy, a man without guilt.

In fact Ryan wrote a poem about the sword of Robert E. Lee -

Forth from its scabbard - pure and bright

Flashed the sword of Lee!

Far in the front of the deadly fight,

High o'er the brave in the cause of right,

It's stainless sheen, like a beacon light,

Led us to victory.

Out of its scabbard, where full long,

It slumbered peacefully,

Roused from its rest by the battle's song,

Shielding the feeble, smiting the strong

Guarding the right, avenging the wrong,

~~Gained~~ ^{Earned} the sword of Lee.

Forth from it's scabbard,

High in the air

Beneath Virginia's sky -

And they who saw it gleaming there,

And knew who bore it,

Knealt to swear

That where that sword led

They would dare, to follow - and to die.

There are a couple of more lines - but in the closing one it says --

Forth from it's scabbard

All in vain

Bright flashed the sword ^{of} Lee;

Tis shrouded now in it's sheath again

It ~~is~~ sleeps the sleep of our noble slain

Defeated, yet without a stain, - proudly and peacefully.

But now let us turn back to the Bible - Gen. 27:40. And by thy sword shalt thou live and serve thy brother, and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion - that thou shalt break his yoke from off his neck. The sword designates judgement many times which God inflicts upon sinners. Deut. 32:41 - "If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me. I will make mine arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh; and that with the blood of the slain and of the captives, from the beginning of the revenges upon the enemy."

The sword is spoken of as an instrument that God uses to inflict judgements against his enemies. The sword oft times in the Bible is spoken of as figurative, as power and authority. Rom.13:3-4 - For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Let us note two or three of these swords in the Bible before we come to dwell upon this two-edged sword.

I / The flaming sword in Eden - Gen. 1:26. And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. The first great thing God counseled together to perform his purpose of creating the human soul. It was to have a direct part upon the act of creation. But God did not make man sinful. Yet the man God made - made a choice. And the choice was sin.

Adam was deceived by Satan and Adam was not deceived by the woman. Being deceived was the transgressor.

Adam acted deliberately and voluntarily. Therefore it was a voluntary transgressor. And he was expelled because of that sin along with Eve, and exiled from their beautiful Eden home.

Gen. 3:24 - So he drove out the man: and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

A flaming sword turned every way speaks of the destruction brought and the sin brought of our first parents.

They heard the voice of God walking in the garden and they hid themselves among the trees in the garden. Sin had destroyed the state of their souls and

it made them legally dead, under the sentence of the law and under the power of sin.

Sin destroys them as to the life of their bodies. For quickly their bodies became mortal and subject to the misereries and to death.

That flaming sword ~~had eaten the~~ ^{the} barred gate speaks of sin. Of a crime of the greatest caliber. That sin was gross infidelity. Believing Satan rather than God who cannot lie. The sin was discontent - the sin was suicide and murder. Wherefore by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin. And so death passed upon all men. For all have sinned. Rom. 5:12.

II. The Angels Drawn Sword

There was a time when the children of Israel set forward to pitch their tents in the plains of Moab on this side of Jordan by Jericho. Moab was afraid of the people because they were many and Moab was distressed, because of the children of Israel. Numbers 22:3. King Balak feared that they would cover the whole face of the earth. He asked Balaam to curse the Israelites saying, come now, I pray thee, curse this people. For they are too mighty for me. And we read that the elders of Moab were interested and they came to Balaam and spake to him in the words of Balak that he might come and curse the people with a curse. Numbers 22:7-12.

Now Balaam is obedient to the command of God and he refused to curse God's people. We see the directive will of God. When this was made known to King Balak, that Balaam refused - this disturbed him and he sent other messengers

and said let nothing hinder thee from coming. I will give thee great honor but Balaam answered and said.

If Balak would give me a whole house full of silver I cannot go beyond the word of God. Numbers 22:18. Balaam waiting to see what God would say more unto him - God came to him at night and said, if the men come, rise up and go with them but yet the word which I shall give thee - thou shall do.

We see there God's will, as Balaam was going to meet and perhaps listen to the pleas of Balak, God's anger was kindle. And an angel stood in the way. He was riding upon his ass - his two servants were with him, and they saw the angel of the Lord standing in his way with the sword drawn in his hand. Numbers 22:23. Balaam's ass left the road and went into a vineyard. Balaam beat the beast to get him back on the road. But with a wall on this side and God's angel stood in the middle of the path of the vineyards, Numbers 22:25-30 tells the story. That the ass, crushed Balaam's foot against the wall and he slew her again. Now the angel of the Lord went further down and stood in a narrow place. And there was no turning around - going to the right or the left. And when the ass saw the angel of the Lord he fell down unto Balaam. And Balaam's anger was kindled and he beat her with his staff. And the Lord opened the mouth of the ass and said to Balaam and said - what have I done to thee. Caused thee to smite me 3 times and Balaam said unto the ass because thou hast mocked me. I would, there were a sword in my hand, I would kill thee. And the ass said to Balaam - am I not thine ass upon which thy has ridden ever since I was thine until this day. Was I ever want to do so unto thee. And he said nay. The angel of the Lord had his sword drawn in his hand. Balaam wished for a sword to kill his beast.

Numbers 22:31 - The Lord opened the eyes of Balaam - he saw the angel standing in the way with his sword drawn in his hand. He bowed his head and fell flat on his face. The conflicting voices that were in his heart. He loved money. Balak's offer staggered him. He refused it but he loved God and yet he was never sure. He stood first on one foot and then on another. His soul was dying because of corruption and temptation. Three times he fought it down with courage.

The drawn sword of the angels hand to deter Balaam. Balaam's heart reached out for a sword to kill the ass that crushed his foot. And yet the speech that God put in the mouth of the mule speaks of a great miracle. When Balaam was rebuked by God's angel for beating the beast and being perverse in his ways.

Man cannot do away with the ways of the Bible. No man can sneer and laugh them out.

In the New Testament 2 Peter 13, 14 - declares that he believes that this miracle took place and that she actually spoke unto Balaam, and what have I done unto thee.

III. Saul's Sword

In the days when Samuel washed the hearts of Israel with high ideals and with faithful service - the people were disgruntled and the conduct of his sons were bad. They walked not in his ways and turned aside and took bribes for we read in I Sam. 8:4-6 that the elders gathered themselves together

and came unto Samuel and said unto him - behold, thou art old. And thy sons walk not in thy ways. Now make us a king to judge us as all nations. But this thing displeased Samuel when they said give us a king to judge us.

Samuel harkened unto them and unto God's will - they had rejected Samuel and they had rejected God who had given them the right to reign over them and the day of the selection of the king came and Samuel discovered Saul. I Sam. 9:17. He was of the smallest of the tribes of Israel.

And we read and Samuel took Saul and his servant and brought them into the place and made them sit in the chief places. I Sam. 9:22. I Sam. 10:1 Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it upon his head, and kissed him and said - is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance. Saul stood high among his people. I. Sam. 10.

Saul mastered a lot of things but he never mastered himself and he died. He had been fighting with the Philistines and he had been wounded with an arrow. And he asked that a sword be thrust through him but was

1 Sam. 31:1-6 refused. Fell on own sword.

IV. The Sword Persecution

Acts 12:2

"Now the King, Herod stretched forth his hands to the church, and he killed James the brother of John with the sword."

Stephen was stoned. Many Christians were burned with fire. Just because they loved Christ. Others said I am ready to die. Others said carry the message inspite of dungeon, fire, etc. Many died at the stake.

We read of a large number who were persecuted because of their willingness to follow Jesus. Matt. 5:10-12, Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness sake. For theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad for great is your reward in Heaven for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Heb. 11:36-38 -

Last V. The Sword of the Spirit

Heb. 4:12

The Word of God.

Eph. 2 - Paul speaks of the sword - take on the whole armour of God. Take the shield and the sword of the spirit - which is the word of God. Now this is the sword which Jesus our Lord and Saviour used when he assaulted Satan. Jesus caught up in this wilderness and had fasted for days and night - 40 days and nights. And he was tempted to turn stone to bread. He said man shall not live by bread alone. But by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. He said it is written - he used the sword.

2- (Pinnacle of Temple)

Cast yourself down - the angels will take charge. And the Devil received their sword that Jesus said - it is written that thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again the Devil took him to a high mountain to show him the kingdoms of the world. Serve me - he said. And Jesus again used the word - *The Sword,* and said you shall worship God. *The Lord thy God & him only shalt thou serve*

Heb. 4:12 The word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword. Even to the dividing of soul and spirit.

The spirit of God is quick. The word is zoon which means to live. It is living. It has life. And our Lord refers to the word that he had spoken as being not a dead word but a word of life.

The word is powerful. The power of the word continues on. It changes

Peter - described - Old & New Nature - Story (Hopi Indian) Giving Testimony, Told - Before Conversion life. go town, get drunk, then his big Black Dog used to bite everybody - Christ come in, gave a great white Dog, which liked to help everybody! - But Now. The 2 Dogs fought against each other. A chief asked, which Dog winning? - whichever dog el feed most! you can chain the old B. Dog " " not feed " " " "

The word is sharper than a two-edged sword. It can be painful as it severs the very being - the joint and the mouth. No word of man is like this. Man's word may be educational, instructive, or destructive but it cannot pierce the soul as the word of God. The divine word is a message of comfort. And it is a divider - it separates light and darkness.

VI. The Prophetic Pathetic Sword

Luke 2:35 - Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also; that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

Words of Simeon - Mary's sword - arrest, crucifixion, etc a sword,

VII. Drawn Sword of Peter

Passover - Last Supper - Synagogue of Olives - Gethsemane Garden -

Matt. 26:45, 47 - Enemies came with swords, staves - lanterns.

Judas - Kiss

Peter drew his sword, & struck a servant of the high priest & smote off his ear.

Jesus - put the sword up. -

Too late to rescue Jesus - Time: No one needs your tears, flowers, sword

Battle is over -

Niagara - Signboard - "Past Redemption Point" - honor, turbulent waters, can not retrace steps Past that Point -