

My Weapons

- Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good. [Ecc. 9:18]
- For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. [2 Cor. 10:3-6]

I must confess—I was raised to be a fighter. My father pursued boxing during his tenure in the military, and when I was very young, he began grooming me for a career in that sport. Interestingly, and providentially, however, I inherited more of my mother’s genes. She was a quiet and humble woman; actually, she was a bit fearful. I recall her taking a baseball bat to a window on one occasion when she spotted a spider. Obviously, her emotions were stirred unconstructively in that situation, and she reacted unreasonably because of her irrational fear.

While I was not so much fearful as was my mother, I was inclined towards avoiding conflict. I felt no desire to hurt another person, though I also retained a fairly explosive temper when provoked at length. Most people attributed this to my red hair, but I never accepted that popular adage. Nevertheless, my weapons were always carnal in nature.

After my father died at the young age of 42, I went to live with my uncle in Montana. I was only 12 years of age when this happened; my mother had previously left home when I was 8, choosing to remarry. During my years of residence in the northwest area of the country, I took an interest in firearms. My uncle and his family were deer hunters, and I was subsequently trained in firearms safety and hunting skills. I learned to kill wild game, but never enjoyed a moment of it.

I was graduated from high school in 1964 during the middle part of the Viet Nam War. Since I took no pleasure in war, I opted to apply my several scholarships to attending university. However, because of various distracting factors, I dropped out of school in the second year and found myself facing induction into military service. As the result, I served in the Viet Nam War theater for over two years. Thanks to the Almighty, I survived the ordeal, and that, without killing anyone.

My release from over four years of active duty in the United States Air Force came in early 1970, and there was a significant downside to my military experience. I was affected quite negatively, though I still did not relish the thought of hurting another person or killing. My conditioning, however, was to fight. My weapons had become more carnal than ever before.

When I was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1974, I seemed to experience a different spirit, but with time, I realized my carnal nature was still holding the mastery within me. I longed to be free from the law of sin and death, but no matter how I struggled, nothing worked for me. My weapons only remained carnal.

It was 1988 when the “most precious message” of “righteousness by faith” was presented to me. Since I had been studying the subject of the 144,000 mentioned in the book of Revelation, the soil of my heart was ready for the gospel seeds. Like never before, those seeds germinated and grew into the wondrous life of “victory over sin.” From that time to the present, I have rejoiced in “the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.” [see Gal. 5:1]

The Bible tells us that YAHWEH will fight our battles for us. “And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will show to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.” [Exo. 14:13, 14; KJV] When you are raised and conditioned to be a fighter, it is difficult to conceive of a way battles can be won without a fight. Humanly speaking, it seems quite impossible. “**With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.**” [Matt. 19:26] “The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes;” “For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.” [Deut. 1:30; 20:4; KJV]

Since my new birth experience in 1988, YAHWEH has been teaching me how He fights our battles. I have been obtaining an experience to understand “the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.”

I can recall a time in Osawatomie, Kansas, when I was visiting a congregation of Creation Seventh Day Adventists that I founded. On this particular Sabbath, an outsider was present who had an agenda to press upon the attendees. It was during the early part of my sermon when this fellow took the floor. I am not recalling exactly how he went about it, but I was rather taken aback. I did not know exactly what to do except pray. As I prayed, the visitor continued to ramble; I spoke not an audible word. Finally, after a considerable time, one of the congregants said, “Brother, why don’t you sit down and let Pastor Chick continue his study?” I perceived that the Spirit of the living God had taken charge of the service and corrected the matter. I then continued to the conclusion of my sermon without any further interruption.

On another occasion, we were hosting the Kansas camp meeting, and one opposer had decided to attend the gathering, seeking to introduce confusion during our meetings. He interrupted during various presentations and was asked to cease such behaviors. He was not satisfied until we offered him a two-hour block of time so he might share his burden—presumably proving Pastor Chick to be a false prophet. After arranging everything properly, the believers gathered and awaited his appearance for the special meeting. We sat patiently for more than one hour, but he never showed. It was later discovered that he had made a date with a young lady and was not able to appear for his appointed time to preach. I perceived that the Spirit of the living God had overruled our enemy’s plans.

There is a wonderful promise in the Word of YAH that always applies. “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD. [Isa. 54:17; KJV] The “Battle of Jehosaphat” is a fine example of how this works.

Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you. And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD. And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high. And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever. And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped. [2 Chron. 20: 17-24; KJV]

Dearly beloved, we need to understand how YAHWEH solves our problems—how He destroys our enemies. *My Weapons* must be *His* weapons. “With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is [YAHWEH] our God to help us, and to fight our battles.” [2 Chron. 32:8; brackets mine] “If God be for us, who can be against us?” [Romans 8:31b]

Christ Himself, when contending with Satan about the body of Moses, "durst not bring against him a railing accusation" (Jude 9). Had He done this, He would have placed Himself on Satan's ground, for accusation is the weapon of the evil one. He is called in Scripture, "the accuser of our brethren" (Rev. 12:10). Jesus would employ none of Satan's weapons. He met him with the words, "the Lord rebuke thee" (Jude 9). [*Reflecting Christ*, page 70]

Our weapons must be the weapons of YAHWEH! “[YAHSHUA] answered, **My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.**” [John 18:36] This is the key to our victory—knowing and choosing which kingdom to dwell in. When we dwell in the “Atmosphere of Heaven,” YAHWEH fights all of our battles without a loss. He destroys all of our

enemies, no matter how mighty they may appear to be. And never forget; “we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” [Eph. 6:12]

Creation Seventh Day Adventists now find themselves “on the wrong side of the law”—that is, the law of human invention. They are called to receive the brunt of Satan’s fiercest attacks in this generation. To bring this about, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has taken advantage of the miscues of men as they seek to cleanse away heretics, employing the strong arm of civil government via trademark law. But can this terrible inquisition succeed at last? It may appear to be a victory on the side of the Plaintiffs, but what is the reality?

... the word of God was not the weapon most convenient for Rome to handle. It was the very thing that they did not want brought to light; for they well knew that the truths contained therein would not only condemn their unrighteous course, but would lay their lofty pretensions in the dust. The only weapons which they could safely use were prisons, torture, and death. [*Signs of the Times*, June 28, 1883]

So it is no different in our day with neo-Rome. Those who have inculcated the mind of Romanism cannot conveniently handle YAH’s weapon—the Word of God. They can only resort to their carnal weapons of court-ordered sanctions, including, but not limited to, fines and imprisonments. “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.” [Romans 8:8] The defense attorney has stated, “A court can put you in jail and essentially give you the keys to the jail-house in your pocket.” This means, under existing law, it is easy to be set free from confinement behind bars when you are ready to recant and obey the Court’s orders. For a faithful Creation Seventh Day Adventist, however, it is impossible to recant and obey any court orders that collide with the requirements of YAHWEH.

A brother in the CSDA faith recently wrote me the following: “Though the world may not see it or recognize it, we are all ‘incarcerated’ by human law, but free from the Law of Sin and Death.” This is very true, and none will recognize it without “spiritual eyesalve” and implicit faith in the Word. “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ [YAHSHUA] hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” [Romans 8:2]

God's everlasting arm encircles the soul that turns to Him for aid, however feeble that soul may be. The precious things of the hills shall perish, but the soul that lives for God shall abide with Him. "The world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." 1 John 2:17. The city of God will open its golden gates to receive him who learned while on earth to lean on God for guidance and wisdom, for comfort and hope, amid loss and affliction. The songs of the angels will welcome him there, and for him the tree of life shall yield its fruit. "The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but My kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee." Isaiah 54:10. [*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pages 99, 100]

As I trust my Father in Heaven for every provision and for every victory, my soul rests in Divine Providential care day by day and moment by moment. I recommend to you, dear reader, “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called.” [1 Tim. 6:12] Let this be your watchword in every trial, “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.” [Zech. 6:4b; KJV] “The end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.” [1 Peter 4:7] “**And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.**” [Mark 13:37]

“**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**” [Matt. 4:4] So, the conclusion of this writing is simply this—*My Weapons* are the words of YAHWEH, and they can never fail me as long as I choose to obey them implicitly. I have made my choice! Hallelu-YAH!

Writing from Africa
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