

Cups and Swords

Two Swords

Revelation 9:15

“Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.”

Goliath spoke to the nation Israel. They were terrified by his words and his large sword. David approached this giant and spoke words in the name of the Lord. Goliath did not fear this little man. In the end, David cut off the head of Goliath with the giant’s own sword. Maybe Goliath should have been afraid of little David’s words.

Hebrews 4:12

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

The Bible uses the sword for many things. It’s meant to taunt. It’s used as an analogy for God’s word. It’s also said to come out of the mouth. I love that it says it’s a sharp two-edged sword. Proverbs 12:18 says *“The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”* Cups could contain wrath or healing. They could contain hope or fate. The sword is in anger. It is a word. It could pierce the soul without drawing blood. It could save a nation in battle. The sword is also many things as the cup is.

John 1 says that Jesus was the word. John also called the Spirit the sword which comes from the word of God. The book of revelation says in chapter 19 that the word will slay nations like a sword. I called these two swords because the words from our mouths can bring peace. They can kill people like a fierce weapon. A real sword can do the same thing. It can conquer or protect.

Micah 4:3

“And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

Micah 4:3 mention turning swords into plowshares. The Lord will return one day. In the mean time we fight with words and weapons. Both of these can be swords.

What’s it all mean?

What it all means is that we have a choice. We can take the words we use and say nice things. We can use constructive language. Sadly, it’s seems easier to tear down than build up. For some reason we default to anger. Why is negotiation and compromise so tough to achieve in this world. Nations do not get along. In genesis 11 it says that God confused their language and scattered them all over the world. So many people say those words are myth. This story is not real. Yet, here we stand on an earth that is a mess. Our biggest problems are words and language.

Maybe only Jesus could turn swords into plowshares. Maybe they call him the prince of peace. Since I was a boy of 52 yrs. now. I have been hearing of peace efforts in the middle east. Are we there yet? Is there peace in Russia? Peace in Korea? Peace between races? Is divorce a thing of the past? Yet, words of mistrust, abuse, anger, and threat continue to bombard us. This earth is a mess. Jesus is sometimes called a savior. Save from what?

Usually they say that Jesus saves us from the wrath of God. That wrath comes in a cup or by a sword in the Bible. Maybe, Jesus saves us from ourselves. To be saved means to believe in Jesus. Maybe that is hard because we don't like the words in the Bible. Pride makes it tough to follow someone who is a supposed to be a myth in a book. Yet, over the centuries millions have done so. The words in the Bible have destroyed pride and anger. Is the Word of God a sword? To those who reject God it surely is. People get so offended by God's word.

Maybe Jesus saves us from ourselves by bringing peace in our hearts. I can love people better today since I gave myself to Jesus. At least I try. Before I just threw out words and anger, frustration, and hate. The word of God has turned my plowshare words into compromise, understanding, and hope. Sure, I get mad. But usually I turn that around pretty quickly. What is worse: a sharp word or a cup of wrath? They seem the same to me. Maybe there is another way?