

DEFILING ONE'S HIGH CALLING

Christian Involvement in the Affairs of this World

By Arlen L. Chitwood

“And he brought us out from thence [the Israelites under Moses, brought out of Egypt, in the type; Christians under Christ, brought out from this world, in the antitype], that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he swore unto our fathers [brought into an earthly land in the type; brought into a heavenly land in the antitype]” (Deut. 6:23).

In the central Old Testament type, alluded to in the preceding reference, having to do with the Israelites under Moses, *earthly Gentile nations dwelling in an earthly land were in view.*

The antitype though, as it pertains to Christians under Christ, has to do with a heavenly land and the rulers therein. Rather than Gentile nations in an earthly land, it has to do with *Satan and his angels in a heavenly land — the incumbent rulers over the Gentile nations on the earth, ruling from a heavenly realm.*

Christians have been called to a heavenly land presently occupied by Satan and his angels. And their warfare is *there*, against Satan and his angels, *not here* against the earthly rulers. As Israel's warfare was against those dwelling in the land to which the nation had been called (*an earthly land*), so is the Christians' warfare against those dwelling in the land to which they have been called (*a heavenly land*).

That's why Eph. 6:12 states:

“For 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 [‘against spirit forces of the evil one in heavenly places’].”

This is a *spiritual battle which is specifically stated to not be against “flesh and blood” opponents, but against the spirit forces of Satan in heavenly places.* And Christians concentrating their efforts in the spiritual warfare against the correct enemy in the correct realm, apart from distraction, is exactly what Paul had in mind in II Tim. 2:4, 5:

“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully [*i.e.*, according to the manner which God has revealed in His Word].”

Lawful, Unlawful Warfare

A Christian expending his time and energy in the wrong realm — which often involves a warfare against the wrong enemy in this realm (*i.e.*, a warfare against “flesh and blood” opponents *on the earth* rather than against “spirit forces” *in the heavens*) — is not striving lawfully. It is *impossible* to overcome in the warfare in which Christians are to be engaged if one becomes wrapped up in “the affairs of this life.”

That's why Christians will not be crowned apart from striving lawfully. They will have separated themselves from *the only place* where one can overcome and gain the victory — *the spiritual warfare*; and if any warfare was carried on at all in their lives, it could only have been against the wrong enemy in the wrong realm (again, separate from the only enemy and realm where one can overcome and gain the victory).

And warring against the wrong enemy in the wrong realm is something being carried out among Christians today on a scale which encompasses, after some fashion, almost the whole of Christendom (*e.g.*, Christians opposing govern-

mental leaders among the Gentile nations, who all hold positions under Satan and his angels in the present kingdom of the heavens [*cf.* Dan. 10:12-20]). Christians, not understanding the true nature of the spiritual warfare have turned things completely around, have found themselves warring against “flesh and blood” opponents, and have placed their crowns in jeopardy.

Why is this the case? Why is something of this nature — completely contrary to the clear teaching of Scripture — so prevalent within Christian activity today?

The answer can be seen through viewing what has happened, *in the antitype*, relative to the commission which Moses gave the twelve elders from the twelve tribes before they were sent into the land of Canaan.

That is, the answer can be derived through:

- 1) Understanding how the elders under Moses were supposed to heed his commission during a past dispensation, *in the type.*
- 2) Then, seeing what has happened when this same commission is supposed to be heeded *after exactly the same fashion* by elders under Christ during the present dispensation, *in the antitype.*

In the type, the twelve elders which Moses sent into the land were told to *go up a certain way*, and that way would lead them *up into the mountain* (Num. 13:17 [“a mountain” signifying a *kingdom* — Isa. 2:1-4; Dan. 2:34, 35, 45]). Then, while in the mountain, they were *to learn everything they could about the land and the inhabitants therein.* And, after learning all they could, they were *to bring back word concerning their findings to the people in the twelve tribes.*

The message of the twelve was to involve the strength of the people dwelling in the land, how the Israelites could move in and overcome them, all the various things about the land itself, etc. In other words, they were to find out everything they could about *the kingdom* — both the present kingdom under Satan and the anticipated future kingdom

under God — and they were to proclaim these things to the people of Israel upon their return.

This message would provide knowledge about the hope set before them — that of going into the land, conquering the inhabitants, and realizing an inheritance therein. And this knowledge would not only provide them with an incentive to move out and be victorious over the inhabitants in the land, but it would also provide them with information concerning how this was to be accomplished.

Then, bringing this over into the antitype, the elders, the pastor-teachers, those whom God has called to lead and feed His flock, all have a *central commission*. They have been commissioned by the Lord to *look to the land and go up a certain way*, which will lead *up into the mountain*. And, once on the mountain, they are to find out *everything they can about the things of the mountain and then proclaim these things to those under their ministry*.

This is *central!* *Everything* in the pastor-teachers' ministry should revolve around this, for it involves the hope set before every Christian, which centers around the very reason for their salvation.

And *the only place* which God has provided for those whom He has called to go up into the mountain and learn these things for this particular purpose is His Word.

Looking to the land and going up a certain way, which will lead up into the mountain, is looking to and delving into those things in the Word having to do with the kingdom. And, so doing, the person is to traverse the Word from one end to the other, learning all he can about the complete scope of the kingdom.

Then he is to take this message to the people, providing them with a knowledge of the hope set before them — that of going into the land, conquering the inhabitants, and realizing an inheritance therein. And this knowledge will not only provide them with an incentive to move out and be victorious over the inhabitants of the land, but it will also provide them with information concerning how this is to be accomplished.

But...

But a major problem exists. The elders under Christ — the leaders whom God has placed among His people, the pastor-teachers — have not followed the command in Num. 13:17. *They have not looked toward the land and gone up a certain way, which leads up into the mountain.*

They, not having followed the Lord's command, don't understand the true nature of the spiritual warfare, how it is to be fought, what is at stake in the fight, and all the various things about the kingdom — both present and future. Not having been there themselves and not understanding these things, they can't bring back a message to those under their ministry concerning that which is there, the hope set before Christians, all the various things about victory over the enemy, etc. *Such would be impossible.*

And the pastor-teachers' failure to heed the Lord's commission after this fashion *has produced far-reaching ramifications seen throughout Christendom.*

Christians, because of the failure of pastor-teachers in this realm, are not knowledgeable concerning the various facets of the Word of the Kingdom. And this is the reason so many Christians find themselves wrapped up in "the affairs of this life" and, within such actions, often also find themselves engaged in *a battle against the wrong enemy in the wrong realm.*

This is the reason that *numerous Christians find themselves involved in the political structure of this present world system, often encouraged by their religious leaders to do so — that is, find themselves involved in Satan's present kingdom rather than looking to the Lord and His coming kingdom.*

Referencing a type in I Samuel, the preceding would be comparable to David's faithful men during his time of exile (19:1ff; 22:1, 2) *leaving their place with David, going back to Saul's kingdom, and involving themselves in his kingdom.*

And what will be the end result of the present state of Christendom (which is not far removed, though after a different fashion, from that of the Israelites at Christ's first coming *after* the Scribes and

Pharisees had finished their work)? It was given by Christ Himself, almost 2,000 years ago, before the Church had even been brought into existence.

Because of the working of the leaven which the woman placed in the "three measures of meal" (apparently very early in the dispensation) — which will work *until* "the whole" has been leavened (Matt. 13:33; cf. Matt. 16:6), resulting in the "lukewarm" condition in Christendom at the end of the dispensation (Rev. 3:14-21) — Christ asked:

"Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith [the faith] on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

The expression, "the faith," is peculiarly related to the Word of the Kingdom (cf. I Tim. 6:12-15, 19; II Tim. 4:7, 8; Jude 3); and the way in which the question is worded in the Greek text indicates that a negative response is anticipated. The Son of Man is not going to find "the faith" on the earth at the time of His return. He will not find the true message surrounding things pertaining to the kingdom being taught among Christians in the Churches at this time.

Why? Again, because the pastor-teachers have not heeded the Lord's commission. They have not *looked toward the land and gone up a certain way*, which leads *up into the mountain*. They know little to nothing about the land and its inhabitants; and, resultingly, the people under their ministry know little to nothing about these things either.

And that's where we are. That's the way matters surrounding the Word of the Kingdom exist during the closing days of the present dispensation.

Will conditions improve? Not according to Scripture! In fact, according to Scripture, *deterioration* will continue. Matters will only become worse, for "the whole" *is to be leavened.*