

For the Poor Sermons

A BATTLE FOUGHT AND A BATTLE WON!

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A sermon preached by Elder C. H. Cayce, July 28, 1940,
At Sardis Church, near Rolla, Ark.

Brother Clayton quoted an expression from Isaiah which, somehow, arrested my attention. It is found in the sixth verse and ninth chapter of Isaiah. I want to read the fifth, sixth and seventh verses of this chapter, and, if the Lord willing, will try to talk and say some things in connection with the language there recorded. "For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but, this shall be with burning and fuel of fire. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

In the fifth verse we have brought to our attention something about the battles that are fought by men in the wars that are waged here upon earth among human beings. This language was recorded several hundred years before the Lord Jesus made His advent into the world. We have not only here something in regard to the battles that are fought by men in the natural wars, but our attention is called to a battle that is different from any of them. "For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood." No one can comprehend this just like one can who had experience main army in a war. There are very few living today who had experience in what is called the Civil War. Most of those who served in that war, either in the Northern or in the Southern Army, are gone. I have heard soldiers talk, telling some of their experiences, who were' in that war and of the confusion and noise in time of battle and of the garments of the slain rolled in blood. Sometimes the dead lay upon the battlefield so thick you could walk over most of the entire battlefield without putting your foot upon the ground, walking on the bodies of those that were slain. "Garments 'rolled in blood." That war would be considered and has been considered as very light in comparison with what was called the World War about twenty-one years ago. Up to that time, perhaps, that was the worst war of modern times. Great numbers were slain and that war, great as it was, was light in comparison with what has been going on in the old country

in the last several months, We do not know yet whether this nation of ours will become involved in it before it is over. "Confused noise, and garments rolled in blood." In the battles that are fought like that the captain and officers at the head of the army would be and are absolutely powerless without the aid and assistance of the soldiers who are enlisted in the army. The head of the army, the general, the captain, lieutenants, sergeants, all the officers combined would be utterly powerless and unable to gain a single victory over the opposition without the aid or assistance, the bravery, and the valiancy of the soldiers who are enlisted under them. When the world war was fought and the armistice was signed, if General Foch had said, "Boys; I have fought the battle; I have gained the victory, and I, will give you the benefit of it," the last one of them could have said, and doubtless would, "You did not do any such thing. You did not gain the victory. It is true that you were the general who directed the movements as to what should be done, but we did it and had it not been for our going forward carrying out the instructions and orders as given, the victory could not have been won by you or by the allied army. It was by our work and by our fighting and our valiancy in the army that the victory was won, and the glory of it and the praise for it belongs to us, just as much as it does' to you." In battles of that sort, all of them, the victory over the enemy depends upon the soldiers enlisted in the army.

But here is one that is different from that. "For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood." But this is one that is different. Here's one that is unlike any of them. There has never been any other battle just like this and there will never be another just like this. "But this shall be with burning and fuel of fire." Here is a battle that is not fought by the soldiers who might be enlisted under the banner! Here is a battle that is not fought by the multitude! Here is a battle that is not to be fought by the people! The great Captain, the great General is going to fight this battle alone! He is going to gain the victory all of Himself! The victory being gained in this battle will not depend upon the valiancy, upon the bravery, upon the doing of anything by the people. He shall fight the battle alone! He said of the people there was none to help. They did not help him in fighting this battle. They do not help Him now. This is a battle that now has already been fought. That war is over! There are some people who do not know yet that the war is over—but this war is over ! It has been over nearly 1,900 years. After about 1,900 years there are some people so ignorant they do not know it is over. The battle has been fought and the great Captain of your salvation fought the battle alone! There were none to help!

When the time came for this battle to be fought none of the disciples were there to help Him. The apostles had all forsaken Him and fled. The battle was so fierce, it

looks like they got scared and ran. They had all forsaken Him and fled. I guess the last one of them might have been called deserters right at that time, and one of them was so frightened about the matter that when he was accused of being one of this Man's followers he said, "I know not the man." They accused him again. A girl came up to him and said, "You are one of them. Your speech betrays you." He cursed and swore and said, "I know not the man." Denied the great Captain of his salvation.

Sometimes we think we are brave. If we were to have trouble similar to that around us today what would we do? Suppose we knew the authorities in the law would have the right and could arrest us and put us in jail for assembling here today, as we have, to preach the doctrine we try to preach and serve God the way we try to serve Him. Where would you be? Do you think you would be here? I do not know whether I would or not is because I have not been tried. There might be some of us that would say, "we know not the man." But here is the great Captain of our salvation. He fought the battle alone and of the people there was none to help! This battle is different from any other. In order that the victory be won in this battle, it was necessary that the great Captain of your salvation have the power and be faithful and possess the wisdom to know how, and be able and to stay right with it until the victory was won. It has been said that the darkest hour is just before day, and so the darkest hour through which our great Captain went in fighting this battle was just before the day broke. In every natural war we may say that the battle is won, the victory won in the last hour of the battle.

Suppose the last hour just before the surrender of the German Army in the war, the allied forces had turned their back to the enemy and had flown, would they have gained the victory? The gaining of that victory hinged upon and depended upon the final analysis of it in the last hour that the fighting was done. When our blessed Saviour went to the Garden of Gethsemane, just before His crucifixion, He knelt in prayer to the Father three times: "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, let not my will but thy will be done." Suppose He had faltered; and suppose, He had proceeded no further; suppose He had there surrendered and had given it all up, victory would have never been won. The victory was gained in the last hour while He was hanging on the Roman cross—even the Father in glory turned His face away from His darling Son and refused to help Him—He cried out, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me." Then He said, "Into thy hands do I commend my spirit," and bowed His head and gave up the ghost. He was laid in Joseph's new tomb, and at the appointed hour, on the third morning, His body, which had been laid in the tomb, burst the cords of death asunder. He broke open that tomb and came forth therefrom a mighty conqueror over death and the grave.

A battle fought by the great Captain of your salvation alone! Here is a battle that was fought with "burning and fuel of fire," different from any other battle that has ever been fought or ever will be. Now your Captain has fought the battle alone and has gained the victory and gives His little children the benefit of it. "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." He gives you the victory over sin and all that troubles us here in the world.

I grieve many times over the way people do. I grieve many times on account of the way the world does. I grieve many times over the way the Lord's professed followers do when I know that trouble causes division and discord in the church of God. I grieve about it. I mourn on account of it. But what grieves me most and what gives me more sorrow than anything else in the world is my own sin, my own shortcomings, my own misgivings. I get impatient and so many times manifest it, frequently do that, unthoughtedly show my impatience, manifest it. I get impatient at home. I get impatient with our workers in the office. I get impatient with my family. If there is a man in the world that has a woman that is patient, I do. Sometimes I get impatient with her. I confess my own shortcomings, my own misgivings, but thank God, if I am what I hope I am, the Lord will finally give me complete victory over my sins. I cannot gain the victory over them. It has been a battle all of these years. Here is a warfare with the child of God that will continue with him as long as he lives in the world. It is a warfare all along the line. It is a battle. It is a fight every day that we live in the world and we ought to fight that battle valiantly. We ought to be faithful in that.

But, thank God, the victory over sin and over death and everything that is contrary to the happiness of the child of God in the glory land will be given to you and is given to you. Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

"For unto us a child is born." The prophet speaks of this as though it was right then, and yet it was hundreds of years before the blessed Saviour was born into the world. How could he speak of it as present? By revelation and by inspiration of God he could look down through the coming ages and see the event as plainly and as surely and as certainly as though it were already done, and hence he said, "Unto us a child is born." Notice that little word "us." "Unto us a child is born." Not unto everybody, but unto us. Special, in that there is, has never been a child born into the world but what that child was born into a special family. A little girl was born over there in Thornton this morning, and I am grandpa now. That little girl was not born into every family in Thornton. No, she was not. That child born in Thornton

this morning was a girl, but here is a child that was to be a boy. "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." The very first thing that child did this morning was to cry, began to squall, began to cry. If you have ever had a child born into your family, you know when that child cried you were glad. You knew then the child lived. You knew it was a living child and right then rejoicing set up. "Unto us a child is born!" And the child lives!

What family was it rejoiced when that child was born into your home? Would every family rejoice? Other folks might hear about it, and they might have curiosity enough to ask if it were a boy or a girl. But who is it, what family is it, what kinfolks are they that rejoice when they get the news of the birth in that home? Somebody that is kin to other folks? No, those that rejoice are those who are akin to the family. They are the ones who are glad and rejoice when they hear of the news of the birth of that child in the home. "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." Who is it that is made to rejoice and made glad when they hear the news of the birth of this child? It is the kinfolk, It is the family. And this child was born, not to all the families of the earth, but into the family of God. The news brought to the shepherds that kept watch over the flocks by night by the angel, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Now you have got to limit that expression "all people," for it was not glad tidings to King Herod, but to all people that are in that family. "Which shall be to all people." "For unto us a child is born, unto us"—get that, not unto everybody is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord—"Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." He was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem Judea, The angel said unto Joseph concerning this matter, "She shall bring forth a son." "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." "She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus." That word means Saviour. "Thou shalt call His name Jesus." "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." "Thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins." "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." Unto you is born this day. There is fulfillment of it. It is no longer in the future; it is no longer prophetic, but the prophecy has come true; the prophecy has been fulfilled] When? At the right time. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law." To fight the battle, to gain the victory.

"His name shall be called Wonderful." How many names are applied to Him and every one of them are suitable? Never a name applied to Him but what suited. "Wonderful!" That is one name that belongs to Him. So wonderful that His birth in the world was supernatural. Nothing in all the realm of nature before that nor since,

nor ever will be just like it. Born of a virgin who was overshadowed by the power of the most high eternal God. His spirit condescended to come down to Mary of low estate in the world and she was overshadowed by the power of the spirit of the eternal God and brought forth a Son in Bethlehem Judea. Wonderful! He was man. And at the same time He was man, truly and verily man, He was God, God manifest in the flesh, both God and man! "Wonderful!" We cannot explain it! We cannot comprehend it! Our finite minds are too weak. The mind of humanity is too weak to comprehend the great mystery that He was God as well as man. Heaven and earth met together in the person of the Lord Jesus. Wonderful! That heaven would come down, so condescend as to prepare a body in the body of that virgin and combine in Him the divine as well as the humanity and thus make Him a suitable mediator between God and men and lay upon Him the iniquity and sins of all His people, and make Him able to bear them and put them away by the sacrifice of Himself.

He was wonderful in that He was able to manifest Himself hundreds of years before His birth into the world when the Hebrew children were cast in the fiery furnace. It was so hot that those that cast them in were destroyed. Look into that furnace and those that threw them in were burned. The old king looked in and said, "Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" "Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." Wonderful!

Not only Wonderful, but Counsellor, one that gives counsel and He never made a mistake in the counsel that He has given. The mistake that is made in regard to the counsel He has given is by us not following the counsel, nor following the instruction that He gave. How many times are you perplexed? How many times do we encounter things that are puzzling? How many times do we, in our travels along the way, meet with and come in contact with things and we wonder how we should do, the way we should go? Brother, the best thing in the world we can do is to find what the Lord has counselled. A Counsellor that has never made a mistake. He knows all about every trial and every circumstance and every condition that we meet with in life. The counsel He gave and does give is always right! We sometimes get into trouble, and we go to some brother for counsel. He may give you the best advice he can, and yet he may be mistaken about it. Not so with this Counsellor. Oh, how I miss the counsel, the advice of my precious father and mother. Father was called away thirty-five years ago the fourth Sunday in next month. So many times I have gone to him and asked for counsel and advice. I would not know what to do. I would not know what would be best to do. Father always gave good counsel and good advice, the very best he knew. Many times I

went to that precious old mother and asked for counsel and advice. Mother was always ready to give the best counsel and advice she could. But, father and mother might have been mistaken. I miss them yet, and I suppose I will continue to miss them as long as I live in the world. So many times, when I would start away from home to go on a preaching tour, and when I would tell mother goodbye, she would put her arms around me and say, "Be careful what you say and be careful, what you do." Counsellor. But here's a Counsellor that has never made a mistake! Here is one whose counsel is always good and wholesome. If we would always follow that counsel, the counsel He has given, how much better off we would be.

"The mighty God," and yet He died on Calvary's Cross. But let me tell you that He laid down His life, He, Himself. He said, "I lay down my life." "No man taketh it from me, but I lay, it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." Pilate and Herod and all that wicked mob that were gathered together against Him, that desired to take His life, they did not do it. It is true they crucified Him, they nailed Him to the rugged cross between two thieves, one on the right and one on the left, but when they came to the thieves they were not dead, but when they came to the mighty God He was dead already. "I lay down my life." Able to lay down His life and take it again. The very fact that He rose again is a manifest evidence and undisputable fact that He was the mighty God, more than man. God manifest in the flesh, the Son of God! There is not a man in the world, I don't care who he is nor what his attainment may be, nor what his research may have been in the realm of science, there is not a man in all the wide world who can dispute the resurrection from the dead a living man! And He proved He was raised a living man. The mighty God. "Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given." Does the news of His birth bring gladness to you? If so, you are a member of the family. He is given to you, the mighty God, crucified for you, laid down His life for you, went down in the tomb for you, ascended for you and is making intercession for you.

"The mighty God, The everlasting Father." Not just an earthly father, but an everlasting Father. He gives you everlasting life and He said while He was in the world, "Because I live you shall live also." While John was on the Isle of Patmos this mighty God appeared to him and said, "I am He that was dead. Behold I am alive forever more." He arose from the dead, victorious over death and the grave. He fought the battle alone, gained the victory. "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." "The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Peace, peace. Can you tell me what is sweeter and more delightful than peace?

There are some people that are strange folks. It seems the greatest delight they have is when they are in a fuss with somebody. But, there are some of us in the human family that there is nothing greater than peace and quietude. When there is peace in a community, neighbors are not fighting, they are not quarreling with one another. That is a good community in which to live. I delight to live in a community where they are in peace. A home that is in peace is a good home. The furniture may be out of date ; the dishes may be somewhat dilapidated and broken, but if there is peace in that home it is a delightful place. The house may be old; the roof may leak; there may be cracks in the wall where the winter wind comes through so it is hard to keep warm in the winter time, but if there is peace it is home; and it is delightful. You would rather be in that home than any other place in the world. Peace and quietude. How delightful that is! How pleasant it is! It is peace! Peace in the state and peace in the nation and peace in the world. Lord, grant to give us peace. Oh, may the Prince of Peace give peace to the world. May He grant to continue to give peace to our nation. Peace, peace and quietude. "My peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." He is the Prince of Peace, the only one that can give peace that passeth understanding.

When the blessed Saviour found you, the first time you remember to have ever realized in your heart that He was your Saviour and after He has come to you in the person of His Spirit along life's way when dark clouds come to you, what peace filled you, what joy filled your heart! Peace, peace with God. Peace with heaven. Peace with His humble poor. How delighted you were! How happy you were! When troubles come, when sorrows come, when afflictions come, your head swims and you are dizzy and sick and all that, but the blessed Saviour comes in the power of His Spirit and whispers peace to your soul. It is all right. Praise be His name! He is the Prince of Peace!

When you stand around the bedside of loved ones and death is preying upon the moldering frame and hovering, as it were, between life and death, wondering if the Lord will spare the sick one, you are made to feel: "I want to be reconciled to Him. Thy will be done." Peace, Peace. When loved ones are taken away and you follow their bodies to the burying-ground, and we see them confined to the narrow limits of the tomb, we go away from that place, heart-broken and sad, but peace comes. Peace. The Prince of Peace. There will be seasons of peace along life's pathway while you live in the world. Thank God, in yonder world the peace will be uninterrupted—no sorrow and no trouble, no heartaches.

In heaven above where all is love
There'll be no sorrow there.

Peace everlasting. Your voice will be tuned to sing His praise "not unto us but unto thy name." "For thou wast slain, and has redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." May this be your happy ldt. "Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." May the Lord bless you.