

# THE TWO EDGED SWORD OF JESUS CHRIST

## INTRODUCTION

<sup>12</sup>And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of the LORD. <sup>13</sup>He gathered to himself the Ammonites and the Amalekites, and went and defeated Israel. And they took possession of the city of palms. <sup>14</sup>And the people of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years. <sup>15</sup>Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, and the LORD raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man. The people of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab. <sup>16</sup>And Ehud made for himself a sword with two edges, a cubit in length, and he bound it on his right thigh under his clothes. <sup>17</sup>And he presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man. <sup>18</sup>And when Ehud had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who carried the tribute. <sup>19</sup>But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." And he commanded, "Silence." And all his attendants went out from his presence. <sup>20</sup>And Ehud came to him as he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber. And Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you." And he arose from his seat. <sup>21</sup>And Ehud reached with his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly. <sup>22</sup>And the hilt also went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not pull the sword out of his belly; and the dung came out. (Judges 3:12-22)

I have written previously about the two edged sword of Jesus Christ, and how it pertains to the judgment committed to the saints of the Most High in the age to come. I would like to examine this truth a little closer in the light of the scripture above from the book of Judges, in which God raised up Ehud as a judge, to slay the pagan king and deliver Israel. The symbolism of this encounter harmonizes beautifully with the other appearances of this sword, providing yet another perspective into the awesome deliverance of the Lord Jesus Christ, and His righteous judgment which is expressed and administered through His own body, by instrumentation of the Word of God.

## THE IDENTITY OF THE SWORD

In the book of His revelation, Jesus Christ is seen multiple times with this two edged sword coming out of His mouth.

<sup>16</sup>He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. (Revelation 1:16)

<sup>12</sup>"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, "These things says *He who has the sharp two-edged sword*..." (Revelation 2:12)

**<sup>16</sup>Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. (Revelation 2:16)**

**<sup>15</sup>Now out of His mouth goes a sharp<sup>[g]</sup> sword, that with it He should strike the nations. (Revelation 19:15)**

**<sup>21</sup>And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. (Revelation 19:21)**

Read from a carnal perspective, these passages in Revelation seem to speak of doom and gloom, as we see the sword being used against both the backslidden people of God, and also the nations outside of the household of faith. It is a sword that is used to *fight against*, to *smite*, and to *kill*. However, when we reference a key scripture from Hebrews, it becomes readily apparent just what this two edged sword is, and we begin to unlock the symbolism behind this judgment:

**<sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:12-13)**

So the two edged sword is nothing other than the Word of God! This explains the vision of the sword coming out of the mouth of Jesus Christ. We see how God's word goes forth in judgment within a man, piercing to the depths of soul and spirit, being capable of pruning and purging so that all ungodliness and fleshliness is cut off, cast into the fire, and thus burned up.

## **THE SON WHO JUDGES**

Thus, we begin to see something of the true nature of God's righteous judgment, and surely all judgment has been committed to the Son:

**<sup>21</sup>For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. <sup>22</sup>For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup>that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. (John 5:21-23)**

We know that Jesus Christ has received all judgment, and he is generally acknowledged as Judge throughout the various facets and factions of Christendom, though His justice is usually believed to be a one time, irrevocable condemnation of unbelievers, rather than an ongoing benevolent refinement of all men. However, what is rarely emphasized, is that as the Father has committed judgment to the Son, so the Son administers that same judgment *through* His own body!

**<sup>2</sup>Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? (1 Corinthians 2:6)**

Paul chides the saints at Corinth in his first epistle because they were willing to be judged, brother against brother, by unbelievers. He reminds them of the great inheritance and heritage that awaits the overcomer of being accounted worthy to judge the world, even angels! This same lack of vision suffered by those in Corinth afflicts us today, as we often fail to see what we are being trained for, disciplined for, and chastised for in the grand plan of God. For it may be accurately said that ‘the Son’ to whom judgment is committed by the Father is the corporate Body of Christ – the Man-Child, with Jesus Christ the Head of all! This truth is confirmed, and converges with the ‘two edged sword’, in the 149<sup>th</sup> Psalm:

**<sup>5</sup>Let the saints be joyful in glory;  
Let them sing aloud on their beds.  
<sup>6</sup>Let the high praises of God be in their mouth,  
And a two-edged sword in their hand,  
<sup>7</sup>To execute vengeance on the nations,  
And punishments on the peoples;  
<sup>8</sup>To bind their kings with chains,  
And their nobles with fetters of iron;  
<sup>9</sup>To execute on them the written judgment--  
This honor have all His saints.  
Praise the LORD! (Psalm 149:5-9)**

Here we see the sword moved from the Lord’s mouth to the hand of His body! And not only this, but we see this “vengeance”, this “punishment”, and this “written judgment” being a cause of great joy among those saints who are appointed to wield the sword! To be chosen as one of God’s judges, and a member of the Great Judge, is shown to be a surpassingly great honor – one which leads those chosen to sing aloud on their beds for joy! This gives us an even greater glimpse of the nature of God’s judgment. For indeed He punishes, and indeed He repays and exacts vengeance, but as the cloak of symbology that veils the truth from the natural mind is removed and explained in the Spirit, we see that His purpose for mankind is always benevolent! For truly it has been said:

**For when Your judgments are in the earth,  
The inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. (Isaiah 26:9)**

In His eternal wisdom, the Father has allowed the precious truth of His word to be hidden in a rough stone shell, which those without understanding twist to their own confusion. But when the shell is cracked and the veil of the flesh is torn, we see the Shekinah glory burst forth, and the reality of Jesus Christ truly dawns in our hearts!

## **BENJAMIN - THE JUDGE WHO DELIVERS**

So let us turn our attention again to the story of Ehud, as the two edged sword makes it’s appearance in the story of Israel’s oppression under Moab:

**<sup>16</sup>And Ehud made for himself a sword with two edges, a cubit in length, and he bound it on his right thigh under his clothes. (Judges 3:16)**

Now it becomes increasingly clear that Ehud is a type of the corporate Man-Child here, both from his use of the two edged sword, but also from the fact he is raised up by God as a judge, to deliver a people in bondage:

**and the LORD raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man.** (Judges 3:15)

Not only this, but the fact Ehud was a left handed Benjamite is also revealing. For if the right hand is the hand of blessing, surely the left hand is the hand of judgment throughout the scriptures:

**<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left...”** (Matthew 25:31-33)

There are many other scriptures that emphasize this meaning of the left hand. Interestingly, Benjamites are again connected with left handedness later on in the book of judges:

**<sup>15</sup>From the cities on that day the sons of Benjamin were numbered, 26,000 men who draw the sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah who were numbered, 700 choice men. <sup>16</sup>Out of all these people 700 choice men were left-handed; each one could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.** (Judges 20:15-16)

This also speaks of judgment, because ‘casting stones’ is also rooted in judgment, both figuratively and literally, throughout the story of Israel, from the laws pertaining to the punishment of stoning given on Sinai, to the words of Christ to the Jews when they desired to do away with the woman caught in adultery:

**<sup>7</sup> So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up<sup>[g]</sup> and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.”** (John 8:7)

Benjamin means ‘Son of my right hand’, and, similarly to Joseph his older brother, is a type of the Man-Child, the corporate Christ that shall arise. Born of the clear-eyed Rachel through great travail, the child that begins as Ben-Oni (“Son of my sorrow”) is ultimately raised up to the right hand of God as the son of his right hand. However, though Benjamin has such a connection to God’s right hand, he is also interestingly connected to the left hand, as the means by which the world will be judged. This being said, lest those being prepared for this honor should be think too highly of themselves, we must also drink the cup of suffering that our older brother Jesus Christ drank.....

**<sup>37</sup> They said to Him, “Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.”**

**<sup>38</sup> But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”**

**<sup>39</sup> They said to Him, “We are able.”**

So Jesus said to them, "*You will indeed drink the cup that I drink*, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; <sup>40</sup> but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared." (Mark 10:37-40)

..... even as Joseph passed on his cup to his younger brother Benjamin:

<sup>12</sup>**He searched, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest, and *the cup was found in Benjamin's sack*.** (Genesis 44:12)

It is interesting to note that in the passage from Mark above, the drinking the cup of Jesus Christ is also related to sitting at His right and left hand. Being seated denotes authority, and surely being seated at the right or left hand of the Lord pertains to being given His authority to bless and judge!

<sup>21</sup> **To him who overcomes *I will grant to sit with Me on My throne*, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.** (Revelation 3:21)

...and thus we again catch a tantalizing glimpse in the Spirit of what wondrous authority awaits those who are adopted by the Father to rule and reign with Christ in the coming age!

## **THE END OF THE RULE OF FLESH**

Returning again to the story of Ehud and Eglon, we go on to learn something very interesting about the pagan king that gives us insight into what he represents:

Now *Eglon was a very fat man*. (Judges 3:17)

The fact that Eglon is explicitly revealed to be a very fat man draws a clear symbol of the flesh, the carnal man. We have the vivid picture of a fleshly king seated on a throne, oppressing the people of God, much as the man of sin takes the seat he ought not, setting up his deceitful throne within the heart of man:

<sup>3</sup> **Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin<sup>[b]</sup> is revealed, the son of perdition, <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that *he sits as God<sup>[c]</sup> in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God*.** (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

But when the righteous judge is raised up by God, He comes forth with the oracle of God:

**And Ehud said, "*I have a message from God for you*." And he arose from his seat. <sup>21</sup>And Ehud reached with his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly. (Judges 3:20)**

The Word of God, that two edged sword, originating from the mouth of Jesus Christ and being wielded by His body, penetrates the man of flesh, utterly destroying him.

**<sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. (2 Thessalonians 2:8)**

## **CONCLUSION**

I hope that some sense of the relevance of the two edged sword has been conveyed through this writing, and revealed to the readers heart through the Spirit. Indeed, I personally think that these two edges of the Word may be the right and left hand of God, or expressed another way, mercy and judgment. I am sure that many of these related subjects, such as Benjamin and the relevance of the right and left hands, could be and have been drawn out in greater depth by more gifted writers. My hope is that the nature of God's righteous, merciful judgments might be unfolded a little more to us through the revelation of this two edged sword, and the joy with which the saints will judge the world, being the hands which wield the sword the comes from the mouth of the Head, even Jesus Christ the Blessed One.