

SWORDS

Text: Genesis 3:24

INTRO: In this lesson we want to look at some swords mentioned in the Bible. The sword, of course, is a weapon, an instrument of death. Had they had bumper stickers in the days of chariots... "Swords don't kill, people do," or "When swords are outlawed, only outlaws will have swords."

I. THE SWORD NO MAN CAN WIELD--THE SWORD OF THE ANGELS. Was used to protect men from themselves.

- A. At Eden. So He drove out the man; & He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, & a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. (Gen. 3:24).
- B. In the case of Balaam. Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, & he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way with His sword drawn in his hand. (Num. 22:31).
- C. When David numbered Israel: Then David lifted his eyes & saw the angel of the Lord standing between earth and heaven having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. So David & the elders clothed in sack-cloth, fell on their faces. (1 Chron. 21:16).

II. THE SWORD NO MAN **SHOULD** WIELD--THE SWORD OF THE EVIL DOER.

- A. The thief, murderer, even the man who takes the law into his own hands, as Peter did in John 18:10.
READ MATTHEW 26:51-54.
- B. A person does not have to commit the act of murder to violate the principle of the law of God.
 - 1. Jesus in the sermon on the mount showed that anger, hatred, disrespect & contempt all involve the same principle as murder.
 - 2. John wrote: Whoever hates his brother is a murderer & you know that no murderer has eternal life

abiding in him. (1 John 3:15).

3. Slander & misuse of the tongue is compared with using a sword.

A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a club, a sword & a sharp arrow. (Prov. 25:18).

The words of [a false friend's] mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords. (Psalm 55:21).

III. THE SWORD CERTAIN MEN **MUST** WIELD--THE SWORD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY.

For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. (Romans 13:4).

- A. Army, police, executioners. The sword in the hands of these authorities is many times referred to as the sword of the Lord.

The sword of the Lord is filled with blood, it is made overflowing with fatness... [Babylonian destruction of Edom]. (Isaiah 34:6).

[Of the overthrow of Babylon by Medo-Persia:] In that day the Lord with His severe sword, great & strong, will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan that twisted serpent; & He will slay the reptile that is in the sea. (Isaiah 27:1).

- B. This civil power is sometimes abused.

1. Persecution, Acts 12:2.
2. Personal gain, increase territory, etc.

Now when Jehoram was established over the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself

& killed all his brothers with the sword & also
others of the princes of Israel. (2 Chron 21:4).

IV. THE SWORD EVERY CHRISTIAN **MUST** WIELD--THE
SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD.
READ EPHESIANS 6:10-20

For the word of God is living & powerful & sharper than any
2-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul & spirit,
& of joints & marrow, & is a discerner of the thoughts and
intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12).

La Porte, TX, February 12, 1984

Exton, PA, March 29, 1987

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, December 15, 1991

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, January 18, 1998